

Project Update: March 2006

February 23rd to 10th March, 2006, the project team conducted environmental education and awareness campaign in 28 villages of the 42 that border Lake Chilwa and its wetland. This was achieved by organizing several activities like public environmental talks, lecture, drama, traditional songs and dances (See photo). These activities were organized to take environmental messages to the end users. The activities have assisted many people to fully understand the importance of preserving water birds and other natural resources. Further, the activities have also helped them to understand socio-economic problems that arise as a result of over-exploitation of natural resources.

Further, 1,000 leaflets and 350 posters containing environmental messages in both local and official languages (Chichewa and English) were distributed to local communities, school pupils, fishermen, bird and mammal hunters, teachers, forestry staff, farmers, fisheries staff and agricultural aid workers in the project area. The activities have resulted in the increase in the number of people participating in the implementation of the project activities and many people have expressed interest to join the natural resources management committees be formed whose objectives will be to conserve and manage the threatened bird species and restore their degraded habitats.