

Project Update: September 2006

I am pleased to report that from 8th to 17th August 2006 and again from 18th to 27th September 2006, the project team comprised of Dr. Stella Sofasi, Mr. Sululu Makina and Mr. Daniel Liwewe conduct five sensitization meetings in 42 villages around Lake Chilwa Wetland. The main objective of the meetings were to mobilize local communities, bird hunters and subsistence farmers to form groups so that they could be trained on viable income generating activities such as bee keeping, guinea fowl rearing but also to train them on management of their enterprises, processing of their agro-produce and marketing skills. In total, 25 groups were formed in the area and 215 (100 women and 115 men) people were trained in bee keeping and guinea fowl rearing. These groups were also trained on how they could construct wooden bee hives and small houses for their guinea fowls.

The groups trained were very much pleased with this project and assured the project team that water bird poaching and destruction of other biological resources will eventually stop because people in the area have been economically empowered as a result of the introduction of these alternative income generating activities.