

Project Update: July 2009

Lake Natron offers goods and services for support of Masai livelihoods and it supports more than 70% of the world Flamingos. In the efforts to ensure constant flow of environmental services under the support of Rufford Small Grant for Nature Conservation, we continued to mobilize Masai communities for conservation and management of the threatened Lake Natron. During the period April -July 2009 we managed to conduct a number of activities guided by the approved work plan and the allocated budget. These activities included in-depth training of educators, field schools to school children and their teachers, school presentations and lobbying for establishment of school classes for environmental education. The educators were identified last year from education, natural resources, livestock, land planning, traditional leaders and pastoralist's communities sectors. Women are marginalized in Masai communities but we included them in the training team. Primary school children with their teachers had the opportunity to have study tours to Lake Natron and learn on hands skills for conservation of wetland and its resources. The schools presentations were in form of songs, drama and essays competition. It was very promising to see school children presenting contemporary issues of the environment. Best schools were awarded the prizes. We also discussed with the education persons to lobby for establishment of special informal classes to impart environmental education. We agreed in principle to have at least twice per month such classes and trained educators will be responsible to educate the pupils.

