

REGIONAL CROSS VISITS

OSIENALA under the COSMER-LAV program gives community members involved in the development and conservation of Lake Victoria an opportunity to learn from one another by touring the region. In the month of September 2010, community members will visit sites in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania to share their experience on the construction and use of ecological sanitation (Ecosan) facilities. This will give the community members an opportunity to gain hands on experience on the value and use of Ecosan facilities. They will also learn about land rehabilitation procedures and the effort that individuals and groups can put in to prevent soil erosion and conserve water. About fifty people from all the five east African countries will take part in the cross visit.



PATIENT UNDERGOING SURGERY AT IKSDC IN NYANDIWA SUBA DISTRICT

Inside this issue

- Improving Vision
- Environmental Education collaborates with CBCF
- Parent and Teachers welcome OSIENALA bus
- Eco-system and community based adaptation to climate change
- Integrated Lake Basin Management

IMPROVING VISIONS

BY DR. GODFREY OGONDA

Vision impairments are common especially today. Treatment of eye infections and correction of the defects is not only expensive and unaffordable to the fisher folk but the services are also inaccessible. Health facilities that offer these services are many miles away making it difficult for the low income community members to access them. It is for the above reason that OSIENALA organized a free eye clinic in Gwass Division in partnership with Green Forest Initiative, Lions Club and Sabatia Eye Hospital.

A team of qualified opticians camped in Italian-Kenyan Scout Center – Nyandiwa from 10th to 13th August 2010 to deliver the rare services.

Men, women and children thronged the center many hours before the beginning of the exercise. Majority of the patients were old men and women who came from all over the entire Suba District. The following ailments/defects were treated/ corrected.

- Cataracts
- Trachoma (a localized problem),
- Glaucoma, macular degeneration, and

Turn to page 2



From left; A patient undergoing an eye operation, Dr. Ong'ang'a introducing one of the doctors, queuing for vision for both the old and young, Guiding the aged

EYE CLINIC

From pg.1

- Severe refractive errors follow cataract as leading causes of blindness in the better eye
- Trauma, corneal scars of various causes, phthisis, and staphyloma are important causes of monocular blindness.
- Nutritional eye disease does not appear to be a problem of any magnitude in rural Kenya non was reported during this exercise.

Individuals with eye defects were treated and given glasses. A total of 500 pairs of glasses were given out during this exercise.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COLLABORATES WITH CBCF

OSIENALA's environmental education center is set to start using community-based biodiversity conservation films in promoting environmental education in schools and the community. This follows an intensive training on the use of films, film series and the 'mix and match' concept in creating a maximum impact on environmental education and outreach programs which was organized by Community Based Biodiversity Conservation Films (CBCF).

The films produced by CBCF cover various topics such as fisheries, lakes, rivers, wildlife, farming, birds etc.

Apart from the environmental education lectures, Schools and colleges visiting the environmental education center will now have an opportunity to watch the films to enable the learners have a real picture of the interaction among the life forms.

PARENTS/HEAD TEACHERS WELCOME OSIENALA BUS

Parents and teachers from various schools have expressed deep joy at the initiative taken by OSIENALA to provide cheap transport to schools going on learning excursions. The TEACHERS SAID, through the introduction of OSIENALA bus, the schools have managed to save a lot of funds that will now enable them to cater for other learning activities. Last month, OSIENALA acquired a 51-seater capacity bus to serve schools that do not have their own means of transportation. The cost of hiring the bus has been heavily subsidized by OSIENALA thus schools only pay Kshs. 5, 000 per day. The Executive Director of OSIENALA, Dr. Obiero Ong'ang'a has however urged schools to make early bookings for the bus so as to avoid any unnecessary inconveniences.



ECOSYSTEM AND COMMUNITY-BASED ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

BY NICHOLAS OMONDI

The Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute in collaboration with Wetlands International, Africa Regional office, organized training on Ecosystem and community based adaptation to climate change. OSIENALA was duly represented by Mr. Nicholas Omondi, the Environmental Education Officer. The training was conducted in Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute, Naivasha, between August 22nd to August 29th 2010. This was part of the Wetlands and Livelihood Program of the Wetlands International. The training program covered the following thematic areas:

- i. Wetlands and ecosystem services for climate change adaptation
- ii. Vulnerability assessment and strategic environmental impact assessment
- iii. Ecosystem-based adaptation and hybrid engineering
- iv. Community-based adaptation approaches
- v. Disaster risk reduction in a changing climate
- vi. Innovative financing for adaptation to climate change

These skills will be transferred to the larger community especially through the learners who visit OSIENALA for environmental education. OSIENALA has thanked KWSTI and Wetlands International for such training opportunities due to their direct relevance to the community.



TRAINERS DURING A FIELD TRIP TO MARULLA ESTATES



INTEGRATED LAKE BASIN MANAGEMENT (ILBM)

BY MOSES OYIER

Solving the problem of pollution on the Lake Victoria and its environs requires extensive and intensive collaboration and corporation. A team of professionals under the auspices of International lake Environment Committee (ILEC) visited OSIENALA offices to team up with the organization to conduct research on solid waste treatment plants and the level of pollution in Lake Victoria adjoining rivers.

ILEC has examined Lake Basin management experiences around the world with a goal of developing an effective, scientifically- sound integrated approach to Lake Basin management. This approach, designated integrated lake basin management (ILBM) is a way of thinking that assists Lake Basin managers and stake holders to manage lakes and their basins for sustainable use and particularly to sustain ecosystem regulating services. This effort is to help provide a sustainable solution to Lake Victoria and its basin.

After a fruitful discussion it was agreed that OSIENALA team will collect basic data on the sewage treatment plants in Kisumu City and forward the same to Japan for analysis. Currently two students from Japan are on their internship at OSIENALA conducting research on ecological sanitation.



THE ILEC AND OSIENALA MEETING IN THE BOARD ROOM

