

## SYNOPSIS REPORT

### FIX UP OUR WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE: MABAMBA CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN 2008

**'Start today ... Save tomorrow – Clean Up Our Climate'**



#### Background Information

The Clean Up event is part of a world-wide campaign coordinated by Clean Up the World, an International Environmental Agency. The Clean Up the World weekend (19-21 September) celebrates and culminates the many important environmental actions and achievements of the year. The Clean Up Campaign 2008 organised by Nature Palace Foundation was a one-day sensitization and media campaign involving volunteers (Community members, schools, local leaders, district officials, civil society organisations and political leaders). The event took place at Mabamba Bay Ramsar Site on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2008. About 500 people participated and it also coincided with the official opening of Mabamba Eco-tourism Information Centre. This year's theme was **'Start today.. Save tomorrow – Clean up Our Climate'**.

#### Outputs

Three Important outputs from this year's campaign were: a) Improved knowledge about the importance of our Ramsar Sites – their Relevance and Our Duty to Conserve Them; b) Improved awareness about Climate Change – It's Manifestation, How It Is Affecting Us and collective Obligation to guard against it; and, c) Publicity of Mabamba's tourism potential.

#### The Chief Guest

The Chief Guest was Hon Miria Mutagamba, the minister of Water and Environment. In her remarks she appreciated the work of civil society organisations and supporters like Rufford Small Grants for Nature Conservation in conserving and protecting biodiversity. She recommended that the current Mabamba Eco-tourism information centre should be developed into a centre of excellence in Education and Research. She pledged her ministry's support of grassroots initiatives and said she had talked to her colleague in the Ministry of Trade and Tourism Industry about how they can support eco-tourism initiatives at Mabamba.

#### Official opening of the Eco-tourism Information Centre:

The minister officially opened the Mabamba Eco-tourism information centre an Initiative of Nature Palace Foundation working in collaboration with Mabamba community through their association (Mabamba Wetland eco-tourism Association) with support from Rufford Small Grants for Nature Conservation.

## Picture Gallery



*The Minister arrives*



*The Minister officially opens the Eco-tourism Information centre*



*The Minister Plants a tree at the Eco-tourism information centre*



*School Children participating in the activities*



*The Minister in clean Up activities*



*Enthusiastic community Members who participated*



*The Secretary for Production, Wakiso District*

