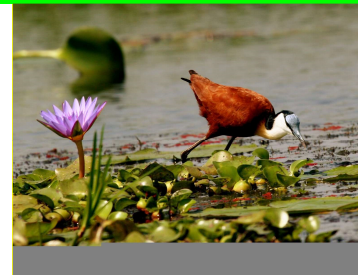


## FIX UP OUR WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE: MABAMBA CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN 2008

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



### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Clean Up Campaign 2008 organised by Nature Palace Foundation is a one-day sensitization and media campaign involving volunteers (Community members, schools, local leaders, district officials, civil society organisations and political leaders). This year's event will take place at Mabamba Bay Ramsar Site on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2008. About 500 participants are planned to participate. The Minister of Water and Environment, Hon M. Mutagamba, is expected to be the Guest of Honour. The Clean up Campaign 2008 is part of a world-wide campaign coordinated by Clean Up the World, an International Environmental Agency. This year's theme is 'Start today.. Save tomorrow – Clean up Our Climate'.

### WHY MABAMBA?

Wetlands are very important resources for controlling Climate Change through their climatic regulatory attributes.

Mabamba Bay Wetland system The wetland is one of the Ramsar sites gazetted in 2006. Mabamba is an important breeding ground for migrant bird species and is home to globally threatened species like the Shoebill (*Balaeniceps rex*). Because of this Mabamba is growing into one of the most interesting and spectacular sites for bird watching in Uganda. Apart from Murchison Falls National Park, Mabamba bay is the only place and site where the elusive Shoebill can be spotted at any one time of the day, approximately 38% of the global population of the Blue Swallow (*Hirundo atrocaerulea*), and the globally-threatened Papyrus Yellow Warbler plus other birds of global conservation concern. Mabamba is also a habitat to rare plant species like *Scadoxus species*. Apart from these conservation values, wetlands are very important resources for controlling Climate Change through their climatic regulatory attributes.

Mabamba is located in Wakiso District, Kasanje sub-county, about 50km south-west of Uganda's Capital city, Kampala.

The Main Activities will include Clearing Waterway (Mabamba – Bussi), General Clean Up Of Mabamba Bay Gateway; and Planting Of Indigenous Tree Species to protect Mabamba Bay catchment area.

### Expected Outputs

Three Important outputs for this year will be improved knowledge about the importance of our Ramsar Sites – their Relevance And Our Duty To Conserve Them; improved awareness about Climate Change – It's Manifestation, How It Is Affecting Us and collective Obligation to guard against it; and, publicity of Mabamba's tourism potential.

## ABOUT NATURE PALACE FOUNDATION

Nature Palace Foundation (NPF) is a Civil Society Organization, a Community-Development and Human Well-being-focused organization that operates on the principle of blending Conservation with Development. Our Vision is *Empowered Communities with Sustainable Livelihoods*, and Our Mission is *Integrated Community-Development and Human-well-being through transforming traditional survivalist tendencies into those that make Optimal and Sustainable use of Natural Resources*. NPF is a member of Cleanup the World, Environmental Liaison Centre International and Wakiso Environmental CSOs Advocacy Coalition (WECAC). NPF also represents Civil Society Organizations on the Local Environmental Committee (LEC) for Kasanje Sub-county. Our projects include facilitating a community-driven eco-tourism project at Mabamba and a Botanic Garden (Nature Palace Botanic Garden-NPBG) that focuses on conservation of medicinal plant species that are very essential to the welfare of poor communities in terms of known medicinal values. NPBG is a registered participant in the world-wide implementation of the *International Agenda in support of Plant Conservation, Environmental Awareness and Sustainable Development* coordinated by Botanical Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) based in UK. For more information please visit our website at [www.naturepalace.org](http://www.naturepalace.org)

With support from the Rufford Small Grants Programme, Nature Palace foundation is implementing the Promoting Community Participation and Support in Conservation and Wise use of Mabamba Bay Wetland of International Import: Uganda. The project aims at promoting local Community members' participation and to kindle their support in Conserva and wise-use of Mabamba protected area, through community organizing; sustainable resource-based and alternative inc generating activities; and, an effective information system.

## A CALL FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION AND PARTICIPATION

We take this opportunity to call for your contribution and participation. Please see tentative program.

### TENTATIVE PROGRAM

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
8:30 – 9:00	Registration of all participants	Mabamba Wetland Eco-tourism Association(MWETA)/Supervisors
9:00	People Assemble at Tourist Information Centre	Supervisors
9:00 – 9:15	Short briefing	Nature Palace Foundation
9:15 – 9:30	Official Opening of Mabamba Eco-tourism Information Centre	
9:30 – 9:45	Guest of honour plants a tree, kicks off clean-up campaign	Mabamba Bird Guides Association
9:45 – 12:00	Clean up exercise	Bawunguzi (Boat transporters)/Supervisors
12:00 – 1:00	Short speeches	Nature Palace Foundation
	Sub-country Admn. Sec. (SAS, Kasanje)	
	Local Council 111 Chairperson, Kasanje	
	Local Council V Chairperson, Wakiso District.	
	Green Ambassador	
	Guest of honour	
1:00 – 2:30	Refreshments	MWETA/ZIWEMA/BIRD GUIDES
2:30	School songs, poems, other forms of entertainment and departure at leisure	MWETA/ZIWEMA/BIRD GUIDES

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