**Water Week Report**24 March 2005

INTRODUCTION

Water Week is a worldwide week in celebration of water and evaluation of water related activities. During this week, people are sensitised on various water issues, including challenges on water and environmental conservation for sustainable water resources development and management. Therefore, with FORS Environmental Education project water related issues were discussed and activities highlighted at nine villages in Idodi Division.

METHODOLOGY

The world message for the Water Week this year was ‘Water for Life’. The week was at the end of FORS’ Water topic where students had already received Environmental lessons concerned water conservation.To mark this important week, FORS showed an educational film called ‘*Maji ni Uhai*’ to all nine schools. Brock Initiative created ‘*Maji ni Uhai’* in Idodi. The film was shown to the schools in the morning and later in the evening the villagers had the chance to see the film as well.Before the film, the environmental teachers led a brief discussion on water: the water cycle, importance of water and water conservation. World Water Day, March 22 was publicly announced. Every school prepared an activity to mark the celebration. The activities included: class visit to a water sources, cleaning of taps, songs, students marching within the sub villages holding posters with different water messages etc.

 FILM ACTIVITIES

The film, which took about 42 minutes, was then shown to all standards in nine schools. Questions and answers followed after the film section.Some the questions were: What is water, where can we find water, uses of water, why celebrate World Water day? What activities cause sources destruction and different stages of water cycle etc? The teachers recorded the students while answering the questions, using FORS’s tape recorder.At night the *Great Ruaha River* and *Maji ni Uhai* films were later shown to crowd of villagers.

FINAL REMARKS

Water Week celebrations in schools show the impact of the Environmental Education in schools. Every school was creative and eager to celebrate. The *Maji ni Uhai* film summarized the events and activities done by the schools. Makifu, one of the best school did an amazing job, they had students marching and singing different songs with water messages. Students started from different sub-villages heading to their school where they watched the film. The event ended by a brief speech given by a village chairperson whom later asked few questions about the film. Young students explained clearly about water cycle and its processes which impressed the crowd of village leaders, students and others. The film was also fun as students saw themselves in the screen: singing, flying over Usangu and performing different water conservation messages. The following are some comments and feedback from teachers and students: The film was easy to follow as it was in Swahili. It is a useful tool for teaching because it has lots of information about water in general. The film also has simple examples that can be found in there daily lives. The usage of local schools, students’ participation in the film made the film self-explanatory. In this case, while teaching in the class we can refer to the film.The content of the film shows the relation between between water, soil, forest wildlife and weather. It has lots of details about Ruaha area like the history of the river, the flow pattern, drastic changes, ecosystems, people activities, causes and sources of environmental destruction in the areas and lastly some simple measures towards environmental protection. Students were also exposed to some activities that take place in towns and municipals. They only read these in textbooks but this year they had a chance to see how they look like. Chemical pollution from industry activities that lead to water pollution was one of the examples.After the film show, every school were able to sing the songs that were in the film.The film left several challenges to the students as to why concrete measures are not taken to people in Usangu area. During the question and answers, students asked several questions like ‘ What measure have been taken by the government to rehabilitate Usangu?, There are so many game scouts in Ruaha National Park, why haven’t they gone to protect Usangu area? The film was a perfect tool for spreading conservation education to the community. The World water day was published, this year’s message was announced, and therefore it was a good idea to have the film show for the community as well.