



African Center for Aquatic Research and Education

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Lake Malawi/Nyasa/Niassa Basin Fisheries and Aquaculture Network

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07-11-2017



Presentation Outline

- (1) Purpose of the Network;
- (2) Network Structure, Roles, and Leadership;
- (3) Resources Needed;
- (4) Next Steps
- (5) Priorities

Purpose of the Network

Main Objective of the “Lake Malawi/Nyasa/Niassa Basin Fisheries and Aquaculture Network”:

To enhance communication and collaboration among its members in order to conduct research and address issues that impact the health of the lake and surrounding communities, **with respect to fisheries and aquaculture development and management.**

Purpose of the Network ... cont.

Specifically, we will undertake the following tasks:

- (a) Determine the current the status of the lake through baseline surveys, which may entail desk reviews and field surveys;**

- (b) Share knowledge and experiences about best practices for fisheries and aquaculture management in the basin;**

Purpose of the Network ... cont.

- (c) Positively influence the development of fisheries and aquaculture in the basin using science, stakeholder consultations, civic education, community engagement and other strategies; and

- (d) Propose measures for building resilience of the local communities to adverse impacts of climate change.

Purpose of the Network ... cont.

(e) Prioritize research focus and needs on Lake Malawi/Nyasa/Niassa Basin fisheries and aquaculture development and management; and

(f) Establish collaborative, cross-basin projects between lakes and across sectors, e.g., Lake Tanganyika Advisory Group, Lake Victoria Advisory Group.

Network Structure

The Lake Malawi/Nyasa/Niassa Network will comprise three Lake Basin Committees, one for each country.

Each of the Lake Basin Committees will comprise the following people: Chair, Vice, Secretary, Members, and Coopted Members, depending on the nature of the issue under consideration.

Network Structure ... cont.

Malawi

(a) **National Water Resources Authority (NWRA):** Water resources assessments and monitoring (both surface water and groundwater resources), catchment protection through catchment management committees, and issuance of water rights (e.g., water abstraction, effluent discharge);

(b) **Fisheries Department:** Fisheries and aquaculture management and research;

Network Structure ... cont.

(c) **Department of Land Resources:** Catchment protection, promotion of good land husbandry practices in the basin of Lake Malawi/Nyasa/Niassa, including soil and water conservation. Note that Malawi now loses about **29 tons of soil per hectare per annum;**

(d) **Environmental Affairs Department:** Protection of the environment, conducting Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) of developmental projects;

Network Structure ... cont.

and promotion of climate change resilient communities;

(e) **The Academia and Research Institutions:** University of Malawi, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), Monkey Bay Fisheries Research Center, etc. These institutions will be responsible for conducting fisheries and aquaculture research.

Network Structure ... cont.

Tanzania

(a) **Director General of TAFIRI:** Advise on research matters;

(b) **Representative of the Lake Nyasa Basin:** Advise on catchment management, and hence the health of the lake;

(c) **Representative of the Academia:** Advise on research;

Network Structure ... cont.

- (d) Representative of the Regional Secretariat;
- (e) Co-opted Lake Nyasa Expert;

Network Structure ... cont.

Mozambique

- (a) **Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries:** Management of water and fisheries resources;

- (b) **Fisheries Research Institute:** Research;

- (c) **National Directorate of Environment of the Ministry of Land and Rural Development:** Environmental protection and management of land resources;



Network Structure ... cont.

(d) **Water Resources Administration:** Management of water resources;

(e) **Representative of the Local Government.**

Network Structure ... cont.

Co-opted Members

These will join the network as and when the need arises:

- Local communities* (may be should be included in the main committee?);
- Mining Department Representative;
- Department of Tourism;
- NAIP (National Agriculture Investment Plan); etc.

Resources Needed

Resources required include the following:

Financial resources; communications tools (e.g. information platform such as a website); office space for the Secretariat (Malawi Govt.); hiring venues for meetings; a small token of appreciation for the individual who will “manage” information; and air time for mobile phones; etc.



Next Steps

- (a) Informing selected individuals about the network, and convening a briefing meeting;
- (b) Setting up the Secretariat within three months;
- (c) Undertaking activities at national and lake-wide level;
- (d) Establishing linkages between activities at national lake level to the lake wide level;



Next Steps ... cont.

(e) Coordination of the three national contact persons through ACARE;

(f) Sharing, harmonizing and implementing research priorities among the nations.

Next Steps ... cont.

Country Focal Points:

- (a) **Malawi:** Associate Prof. Geoffrey Chavula;
- (b) **Mozambique:** Director of Fisheries Research Institute;
- (c) **Tanzania:** Director General of TAFIRI

Next Steps ... cont.

Each of the three Lake Basin Committees will be anchored at the country secretariat, housed in a government ministry/department in order to strengthen their operations and visibility/impact.

Additional Issues

It was noted that all the three riparian countries support the idea of inter-jurisdictional cooperation. And this cooperation is guaranteed by the SADC Water Division through the SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses of 7th August 2000, and the Zambezi Water Commission (ZAMCOM), established in 2014.

Additional Issues ... cont.

Although the SADC Water Division and ZAMCOM were mentioned as neutral institutions which would facilitate the process of inter-jurisdictional cooperation, the group agreed to include ACARE as a key facilitator in establishing the network.

Additional Issues ... cont.

The group noted that members of the network needed to meet regularly in order to discuss issues pertaining to the management and operations of the Lake Malawi/Nyasa/Niassa Basin Fisheries and Aquaculture Network.



Thank you very much!