



African Center for Aquatic Research and Education

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LAKE VICTORIA ADVISORY GROUP: LAKE OVERVIEW

Strengthening Capacity in Research, Policy and Management through Development of a Network of African Great Lakes Basin Stakeholders

Entebbe, Uganda, November 5, 2019



Kenya



Tanzania



Uganda

Lake Victoria Advisory Group

Lake Victoria Overview



DESCRIPTION OF LAKE VICTORIA

- Lake Victoria is the second largest in the world covering 68,800 km².
- The lake is shared by Kenya 6% by area, Uganda 43% and Tanzania 51%.
- It has a mean depth of 40 m, maximum depth of 80 m
- The Lake has a catchment area of 193,000 km², which extends into Rwanda and Burundi

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES

- Lake Victoria fisheries is of economic importance to people living in the Lake basin
- It provides freshwater, transport, income, employment, source of animal protein, source of revenue and foreign Exchange to government.
- It is an important moderator of regional climate.



Fishery

The Original Fish Fauna



Haplochromines



Brycinus sp



Protopterus



Bagrus docmac



Schilbe intermedius



Synodontis victoriae



Oreochromis variabilis



Mormyrus spp



Rastrineobola



Barbus spp



Labeo



Clarias gariepinus



Oreochromis leucostictus

➤ From multispecies fishery to one dominated by 4 major commercial stocks;

- Nile perch
- Nile tilapia
- Dagaa
- Haplochromines



Key Players

- EAC (LVFO and LVBC)
- Ministries in charge of fisheries management and development
- Local/devolved governments
- Fisheries research institutes/universities
- Beach Management Unit (BMUs) Networks
- Fishers
- Fish Traders and Processors
- Civil Society Organizations
- Other relevant Stakeholders

Lake Victoria Advisory Group Issues on the Lake Victoria

- **Stresses within the Lakes** - unsustainable fishing practices and pollution.
- **Stresses from outside the basin** – Atmospheric deposition and climate change
- **Stresses from the basin** – eutrophication, inflow of water hyacinth, increased watershed degradation
- **Stresses on the littoral zone** - result from conversion of shoreline wetlands for urban and agricultural development and reduced buffering capacity.
- **Inadequate fisheries governance**-the non-harmonization of laws, regulatory standards at regional level; low compliance to fisheries laws and regulations and inadequate enforcement; and limited effective involvement of stakeholders in the fisheries management process.

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Challenges to addressing Issues

- Increased population coupled with limited livelihood options
- Inadequate human and institutional capacity to manage the complexity of resource uses and pressures
- Non- effective involvement of all stakeholders in the management process
- Limited harmonization of laws and regulations
- Low compliance to fisheries laws and regulations and inadequate enforcement
- Fragmented data and information to guide management
- Limited funding

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Current collaborative efforts

- Collaborating efforts to manage the fishery of Lake Victoria dates back to late 1920s when the Lake Victoria Fisheries Service (LVFS) was formed and conducted the first fisheries survey (Graham, 1929).
- During the colonial era in 1947, LVFS was replaced by the East African Freshwater Fisheries Research Organization (EAFFRO). After independence EAFFRO was strengthened with the formation of EAC in 1967 that however collapsed in 1977.
- The three riparian Partner States, with support from the Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa (CIFA) established the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) in 1994.

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Current collaborative efforts

- International agencies-FAO
- Continental bodies-AU, ACP
- Regional Bodies-LTA, LVBC
- Universities both within and outside the region
- Partners-GLFC, ACARE, Development partners

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Challenge to current and past collaborative efforts

Overall solutions that need to take place to protect these lakes

- Promote alternative livelihood options and upscaling successful Community Demand Driven (CDD) commercial intervention in fishing communities
- Strengthen human and institutional capacity
- Strengthen Co-management and effective involvement of all stakeholders
- Build capacity for climate change interventions
- Reduce point source-pollution to address eutrophication and proliferation of water hyacinths

Thank you for your attention

