

PROJECT PROFILE

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| <u>Sector</u> | Natural Resources |
| <u>Sub-sector</u> | Environment |
| <u>Code</u> | NR 44 (A & B) |
| <u>Title</u> | Lake Victoria Environmental Management (Secretariat) |
| <u>Implementing Agency</u> | Ministries of Lands, Water and Environment and Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries. |
| <u>Location</u> | Lake Victoria Basin |
| <u>Total Plan Exp.</u> | US\$ 7.63m |
| <u>Funds Secured</u> | US\$ 5.40m |
| <u>Funding Gap</u> | US\$ 2.23m |
| <u>Start Date</u> | 1997 |
| <u>Completion Date</u> | 2002 |

Background

Lake Victoria is the world's second largest body of fresh water and the largest in the developing world. The lake is both of great economic worth to Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda (which control 64% and 45% percent of its surface respectively), and of scientific significance to the global community because of its unique water-borne biodiversity.

People use Lake Victoria as a source of food, energy, drinking and irrigation water, transport, and as a repository for agricultural and industrial waste. One-third of the people of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda live in the Lake Victoria Basin, and more than one-third of the combined GDP of the three countries comes from the lake basin's agriculture, fisheries, tourism and urban industries.

Human activities have caused substantial and accelerating changes in Lake Victoria's ecosystem over the past three decades that seriously threaten the lake, its resources, and its biodiversity. Overfishing and oxygen depletion at lower lake depth threaten fish stocks and biodiversity, with over 200 indigenous species facing possible extinction. Lake fisheries, with an estimated export value of US\$ 320 million per year, are at risk of collapse if action is not taken to reverse the present trend.

Also, large blooms of algae have developed and are increasingly dominated by the potentially toxic blue-green variety; the incidence of water-borne diseases has increased; and water hyacinth, absent as recently as 1989, has begun to choke important waterways and now costs local economies an estimated US\$10 million annually.

The Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project will tackle specific environmental threats and implement effective management of Lake Resources.

Objectives

- to rationalise use of Lake Victoria Basin resources.
- to maximise the sustainable benefits to riparian communities from using resources within the lake basin to generate food employment and income.
- to conserve the biodiversity and genetic resources for the benefit of the present and future generations
- To foster maximised but rationalised utilisation of the Lake basin resources for sustainable development in a clean, healthy and harmonious environment in order to ensure food sufficiency and security and provide employment and revenue to the riparian states and their communities.

Expected output

- water hyacinth removed
- improved water quality
- conservation of bio-diversity
- enforced laws to prevent fish depletion
- improved land use systems surrounding the lake basin
- micro projects implemented

Performance Indicators

- reductions in the nutrient and fecal coliform counts from towns bordering the lake;
- reductions in sediment and phosphorus loading in rivers flowing into the lake;
- reductions by at least 50 percent over five years in significant industrial pollutants entering the lake; stabilising the Nile perch catch at least at current levels, and increasing the recovery of other species;
- measurable reduction in the infestation of water hyacinth; and
- stabilisation of areas retained as wetlands.

Technical Description

The project is implemented under two main components, namely:- the "Fisheries Management and Control of Water Hyacinth", (implemented by (MAAIF), and the "Management of Water Quality and Land Use (including Wetlands)"(implemented by WLE). The Biodiversity conservation, Aquaculture, Social economics and Database, Stock Assessment; and Fisheries Extension monitoring and enforcement Policies and laws for the establishment of closed fishing areas, strengthening of Extension Services, reduction of post harvest reduction, micro-Projects, establishment of a Fish Levy Trust, and Water Hyacinth Control.

The Water Quality and ecosystem management component consists of one core project, namely Management of Eutrophication; two pilot projects, sedimentation studies and Hydraulic conditions in Lake Victoria; and construction of a model of water circulation and quality of the Lake, designed to help manage the problems.

Feasibility Study

During the preparatory phase studies were carried out through consultancies and a number of proposals were formulated under specific programmes in form of a report. It was on the basis of such a report that the project was developed.

Financing

The project which is estimated to cost US\$ 27.8m is funded by IDA, GEF and GoU.

Plan of Operation

- To establish and operate the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation;
- To improve fisheries research and information base for fisheries;
- To strengthen national fisheries extension services;
- To manage and control the water hyacinth infestation;
- To reduce lake pollution and manage water quality;
- To establish lake-wide water quality monitoring system;
- To improve the waste management system;
- To put in place a pollution disaster-contingency planning mechanism;
- To improve on soil conservation and management of wetlands and wetland products;
- To carry out an afforestation program within the Lake Victoria catchment;