



INTERNATIONAL WATERS RESULTS NOTES

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Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project (LVEMP)

GEF Agency Project ID#: P046870, P046871, P046872; Project Status: Closed



Cultivation and Farming on previous dried up wetlands areas

1. This project, including Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, was the first of its kind in the region, and supported many knowledge-building activities that advanced the understanding of the Lake Ecosystem, particularly in the areas of biodiversity of fish (establishing a baseline), levels and sources of pollution, fish stocks, and hydrology.

2. Regional planning and implementation a great success. The LVFO (Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization) was operationalized, fisheries sector frameworks were harmonized, regional information exchange was strengthened and the East African Community (EAC) was re-established

3. Significant work of the fish quality lab resulted in lifting of the temporary European Union (EU) markets' ban on import of fish from the lake.

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PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The LVEMP project including Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda was conceived as a contribution to a regional program (based on the *August 5, 1994 Tripartite Agreement*) implemented as three national interlinked projects in Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda, with common objectives and initially identical components,

The objective was to (i) provide the necessary information to improve management of the lake ecosystem, (ii) establish mechanisms of cooperative management by the three countries, (iii) identify and demonstrate practical, self-sustaining remedies, while simultaneously (iv) building capacity for ecosystem management.

RESULTS: PROCESS

INDICATOR 1. **Establishment of the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO)**

The project resulted in the LVFO being active and coordinating regional activities.

INDICATOR 2. **Harmonization among the three countries legislation addressing management of fisheries and environment variables important in the lake basin, and improved enforcement of this legislation.**

Notable success in harmonizing the fisheries legislation and regulatory frameworks among the three countries and enforcement of the fisheries legislation was initiated in all countries. The LVFO was established to play a crucial role in the implementation and enforcement of the legislations in the fisheries sector. The project also supported the development of co-management institutions or Beach Management Units (BMUs) and this institutional change helped improve the effectiveness of fisheries extension and strengthen fish quality assurance.

RESULTS: STRESS REDUCTION

INDICATOR 1. **Completion of gazettement and regulating fish landing sites within pilot zone areas and enforcing acceptable fishing practices within a 5 km radius of fishing villages within these areas, with full participation of lakeshore fishing communities.**

Gazettement of landing areas was successfully undertaken. Co-management through 51 active Beach Management Units (BMUs) was noted. And overall illegal fishing reduced in all countries.

INDICATOR 2. **Establishing sustainable long-term capacity for management and control of water hyacinth and other invasive weeds in Lake Victoria Basin, through integrated weed control methods and community involvement**

Even though the component sought primarily to strengthen capacity, implementation was able to move further and address the problem itself. Water Hyacinth infestation was reduced to biological equilibrium levels representing an approximately 85 % reduction of the previous levels. There was strong community involvement in control activities.

RESULTS: WATER RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

INDICATOR 1 **Establishing a lake wide water quality and rainfall monitoring system with agreed parameters to generate information on eutrophication management and pollution control.**

The project activities led to determining a network of monitoring spots in the lake and rivers in all 3 countries. 19 Weather stations measuring dry and wet deposition were established. A substantial baseline information was established. An average of 500 annual water quality profiles in the lake were established through 25 lake cruises and significant data collected on 15-20 nutrient and biota parameters. A "Water Balance Model for Lake Victoria" was established, data analyzed and water balance of the lake was estimated.