

- Inadequate flow of information within the communities.
- Inadequate sensitisation and mobilisation of migratory fisherfolk communities.
- Delayed release of implementation funds by the LVEMP Secretariat.

Recommendations

- Based on these findings, it is recommended that before such projects are introduced to the communities, the latter should be provided with skills in planning, budgeting and financial accountability.
- Efforts should be channeled into encouraging communities to contribute to community projects in form of labour, cash, and materials.
- Local government (councils) should be involved in project monitoring and find ways of ensuring sustainability of project facilities.



Poorly managed Rubbish skip

- The managers / implementers of projects should ensure proper monitoring and supervision of community projects.
- Institutions involved in provision of funds, management of funds, monitoring and quality control should harmonise their activities and reduce beurocracy and red tape so that micro projects implementation can be done within planned time.

Acknowledgement: -

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IMPROVING THE LIVELIHOOD AND WELFARE OF FISHING COMMUNITIES THROUGH MICRO-PROJECTS



March 2003

Introduction:

Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project (LVEMP) is a Government of Uganda Project. It is co – funded by the World Bank and Global Environment Facility (GEF). It was started in 1997 by the three East African countries (Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania) that share Lake Victoria. It aims at conserving and preserving the state of environment within the Victoria basin by addressing the constraints to increased and sustained fish production such as;

- Collapse of the native fishery.
- Potential collapse in the current fishery.
- Deteriorating aquatic environment and
- Declining socio – economic benefits from the fisheries.

In order to meet its objectives, the Project had a number of components which included Fisheries management. Under the fisheries management component, a micro projects sub component was introduced to provide communities with socio-economic infrastructure in form of schools, Health facilities, fish handling systems, water supply system, and road and bridge construction. The micro projects aim at improving the livelihood of the poor communities around the Lake's basin by empowering them to construct and rehabilitate their basic socio – economic infrastructures from which they can benefit. It also aims at empowering them to safeguard their resources.



Mukene racks for improved fish handling

Study Area

The Fisheries Resources Research Institute (FIRRI) implements the Fisheries Research Component of LVEMP. FIRRI conducted a study in the districts of Rakai, Masaka, Mpigi, Kampala, Wakiso, Mukono, Jinja, Mayuge, Bugiri, Busia and Kalangala. The study aimed at examining the process of micro projects identification and implementation, benefits and constraints to implementation and completion of the micro projects. It also sought views on how best to sustain the micro projects.



Map of Lake Victoria showing some of the districts in which micro projects were established

Findings

The study found out that:

- Communities were involved in identifying and implementing the various micro projects which instilled a sense of ownership.



Toilet facility: One of the micro projects identified by the communities

- Basic social services such as education, health, sanitation, access to clean water and quality of fish improved as a result of micro projects. These contributed to the improvement of the livelihood of lower income groups.

Shortcomings:

Micro projects had the following shortcomings:

- Substandard structures.
- Lack of transparency in implementation.