LAKE VICTORIA

Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda

2018-2021

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Boosting food security by rehabilitating 1,000 hectares of agricultural land with climate-smart agriculture, and increasing fish by strengthening water catchment management.

Building local communities' resilience to climate change by providing 120 policymakers and experts with 'downscaled' climate forecasts, training community members on adaptation technologies, and carrying out ecosystem-based adaptation

Restoring at least 500 hectares of woodland in Lake Victoria's catchment area to improve soil fertility and increase fish stocks (using an ecosystem-based adaptation approach)

UN environment programme

ADAPTATION FUND

PROJECT TITLE:

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN LAKE VICTORIA BASIN (ACC-LVB)

EXECUTING ENTITY:

Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LCBC)

KEY TARGETS:

1,000

Hectares of agricultural land and woodland rehabilitated

1,500

Individuals benefitting from small-scale community based projects

500

Community members trained on climate change adaptation technologies

FUNDING:

USD 5,000,000

from the Adaptation Fund

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Ministry of Water, Environment, Lands and Urban Planning (Burundi); Ministry of Environment and Forestry (Kenya); Ministry of Environment (Rwanda); the Vice-President Office (Tanzania); Ministry of Water and Environment (Uganda); East Africa Community; Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)-Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC); Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNET); and SERVIR-East Africa/ Regional Centre of Monitoring for Regional Development (RCMRD).

INTRODUCTION

- Lake Victoria is the largest lake in Africa, and its basin extends into five countries - Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, and Rwanda.
- Funded by the Adaptation Fund, this project is reducing the impact of climate change on local communities and water-dependent sectors in the region, especially by building the capacity of the five governments to establish a regional framework to guide adaptation actions.
- Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) is central to the project's activities. EbA is a nature-based solution that harnesses nature and ecosystem services to build resilience to climate change.
- Other approaches of the project involve training in adaptation solutions, water catchment management, water conservation techniques, climate-smart agriculture, and the production of detailed and 'downscaled' climate information and forecasts.

CLIMATE IMPACTS

- Climate change in the Lake Victoria Basin (LVB) has led to higher temperatures and increased variability in rainfall. In dry seasons, there are droughts and low flows in the rivers, while in rainy seasons there are devastating floods.
- These changes are causing a decrease in water quality and availability for many communities and industries around the LVB.
- Rural communities, who depend on farming and fishing, are seeing a reduction in fish stocks and the productivity of agriculture around Lake Victoria. This increases the pressure on subsistence livelihoods, commercial activities, and food security.
- The unsustainable use of natural resources, exacerbated by a rapid population growth, degrades the woodland and wetland ecosystems around the lake, which leads to soil erosion and low water quality.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project was implemented in two Provinces of Burundi (blue), one District in Rwanda (red), one district in Tanzania (yellow), two counties in Kenya (green), and two districts in Uganda (black).

TECHNOLOGIES & METHODS

- The project is increasing climate resilience through the **transfer and implementation** of adaptation technologies and the improvement of adaptation knowledge in the region.
- This includes introducing **climate-smart agriculture,** which sustainably increases productivity, enhances resilience, and increases local incomes.
- The project is applying EbA approaches through **ecosystem restoration** and conserving **woodland and wetland habitats,** which helps control soil erosion, extends the lifespan of water reservoirs, and improves water quality.
- EbA techniques are also being transferred to local communities through **'home gardens'** - small household plantations that contain a variety of crop species - and **agroforestry**, whereby trees are grown among crops to increse or protect crop yields.
- To promote innovative adaptation approaches, **community-based projects** are being established. Their objective is to address climate impacts by drawing on **indigenous/ local knowledge and technologies.**
- The project is creating a climate-resilient approach to **water catchment management,** notably through strengthened institutional coordination mechanisms, capacity-building exercises, and access to knowledge products.
- Local communities, civil society, private sector and government officials also benefit from **training** at the local and regional level. These trainings increase the **technical capacity** of local communities to carry out adaptation practices.
- Government staff and national experts from all 5 countries are being trained on '**downscaling' of regional climate information** into more precise areas. This helps local communities enormously in their preparations for extreme weather.

"This downscaling technology will impact my work a lot moving forward. Different climate impacts are experienced in different parts of the country, so we can now have more targeted information for communities on the ground."
- Pamela Agaba, Project Coordinator for Uganda

Read the full story about the project's work in downscaling climate information here.

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