

**MERZ-GNF GOOD PRACTICE
PROJECT
UGANDA CHAPTER**

Lake Wamala

6th APRIL - 10th JULY 2010

Introduction

- Initially Kateregga Dennis of Youth Watch identified Lake Wamala as one of the lakes in East Africa which is threatened by degradation, over exploitation and drying-up
- General survey was conducted by Uganda coalition for sustainable development under the Fresh water management thematic group which National Association of Professional Environmentalist and Youth Watch are participating organisations. which identified a CBO called Kikandwa Environmental Association(KEA) working in the area.

MERZ-GNF Good Practice Project

Uganda Chapter

- In Uganda, it was coordinated by Rashida Nakabuga, Kateregga Dennis and implemented by KEA at Lubajja A on the shores of Lake Wamala.
- KEA carried out survey in order to choose the best site where to start the Project. On six fishing villages of Lubajja A, Lubajja (B) Katiko, Nkonya, Bukanaga and Butebi.
- The analysis and easy coordination Lubajja A landing site was chosen to begin with.

MERZ-GNF Good Practice (Cont...)

- Dr. Ogonda told the Community and the Implementer , that the Project was to be implemented in three phases;
 1. It was agreed that the first phase be at Lubajja A for vegetable growing
 2. The second at Lubajja Primary School for vegetable growing
 3. The third phase at Lubajja B for Bee Keeping
- It was further agreed that each phase will take three months.

MERZ-GNF Good Practice (Cont...)

- The first workshop was carried out on 8th May 2010 where locals chose cabbage, green vegetables known as Nakatti. The community provided one acre of land on which the project was implemented.
- The project was introduced to Maanyi Local Government on 11th May 2010.
- After the visit by Dr. Ogonda there was a suggestion of restoring the tourism site known as Nakyegalika sacred site a cleaning exercise was carried out on 19th May 2010.

MERZ-GNF Good Practice (Cont...)

- Six model farmers were selected and demonstrations were made in the compounds of their homes.
- Community members were sensitized and trained on the wise use of the lake for sustainability and this attracted 25 participants
- On 21st May 2010 Mr. Stefan Mielke from Global Nature Fund made a monitoring tour of the Project and appreciated the developments so far made, he also visited the cultural site of Nakyegalika which he advised would be good to promote tourism in the area with its unique feature and history.

Achievements

- Opening and preparation of the demonstration plot measuring one acre has been done and a nursery bed established and seeds were planted.
- Cooperation has been created among the district and community leadership.
- Regional and international recognition of Lake Wamala.
- Refurbishment of the cultural site has attracted people from outside the district hence an increase in tourism.
- Although the Project is still in its early stages but there has been feasible change within the community.

Challenges

- The Project was started when the rainy season was coming to an end.
- Some few Community Members have not been cooperative in the implementation of the Project.
- The drought season prolonged, Irrigating the Nursery beds was a big challenge
- The soils in the area are a sandy type and semi fertile, which called for application of fertilizer which was expensive.
- Inadequate funding

Recommendations

- Clear memorandum and terms of reference between the donor and the implementing organization should be drawn for better implementation
- Replication of a similar project to other sites is a must to reduce pressure on the lake and improve people's incomes and livelihoods.
- Other programmes to promote proper maintenance of the lake and sanitation would blend well with this project like ECOSAN toilets
- Exchange visits should also be encouraged among inhabitants of lakes in the region to learn through experience sharing

END

The report was prepared by members of
Kikandwa Environmental Association with the
help of Rashida Nakabuga