

**UGANDA FISHERIES AND FISH CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (UFFCA)**

1. **who we are**

Uganda Fisheries and Fish Conservation Association (UFFCA), is a country-wide development and advocacy NGO operating around Uganda’s Lakes Victoria, Albert, Kyoga, Edward and George, and rivers; Semiliki, Albert Nile, Lower Victoria Nile (LVN), Upper Victoria Nile (UVN), Nsio and Kagera. The organization was founded in 1994, with an aim to build and strengthen capacities and abilities of women fish workers, youths and fishers and groups engaged in small-scale fish harvesting, artisanal fish processing and marketing, to participate actively in sustainable fisheries and development processes for the sustenance of their livelihoods.

UFFCA has overtime gained extensive experience working with fishing communities in sustainable fisheries programming and livelihood interventions of small-scale women fish workers and fishers in Uganda for close to 25 years. The organization plays a major role in rural development and in decentralization and fisheries governance reforms as process facilitators, power-brokers or mediators between fishing communities and government and its agencies.

1. **what we do AND WHY**

UFFCA” s mission is to improve the lives of fishing communities through enhancing their capacities and opportunities in aquatic resource management and stewardship, fisheries value chain systems and marketing and the realization of their fundamental human rights.

1. **how we do it, WITH WHOM and where**

Since 2002, UFFCA has designed and implemented a number of sustainable fisheries projects across the country. All of its projects/programs are implemented and managed in genuine partnership and collaboration with government and other local NGOs/CBOs with the focus being primarily on those highly vulnerable and marginalized sections of the fisherfolk- women fish workers, youth and fishers living along the shores of Lakes Victoria, Albert, Kyoga, and Edward and George around issues of ***Building Resilience in Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods and Food Security*** under six key components that support and revolve around the following program strands:

* 1. Capacity and Responsibility Building in Community-based Fisheries Management (CBFM).

An open access nature of fisheries in Uganda has in the past and until now led to over-exploitation, overfishing and degradation of the lake resources and its ecosystem resulting in a worst-case scenario. The fisheries resource base from which fishing communities derive their livelihoods has been threatened by increasing encroachment, heavy overfishing or overexploitation, leading to declining fish stocks hence poor daily landed catches and environmental degradation resulting in alarming levels of poverty, food and nutritional insecurity and joblessness in fishing communities.

This program seeks to establish an effective system of local community property rights over proposed district and municipal fishing grounds, with a core strategy to facilitate the institutional development of the fisherfolk organizations. This program puts more emphasis on the process of developing fisherfolk participation in a co-management system or merely the process of building fisherfolk capability in acquiring user-based ownership or stewardship over the resources.

It entails building the opportunity, capacity and responsibility of fishing communities to make decisions on the management of the fisheries resources their livelihood depends on. Strategic interventions under this program will focus on developing and strengthening community participation in co-management- a fisherfolk participated management of fishing grounds through a multi-phased approach including; **(i)** Community mobilization and organizing; **(ii)** formulation of area specific Community Fishing Area Management (COFAM) Plans with fishing communities’ wishes to restore their fishing grounds; **(iii)** COFAM – plan and organizational capacity developments; **(iv)** establishment of the Community-based co-management system; **(v)** supporting fisherfolk in obtaining the legal right to initiate and implement the management of district and municipal fishing grounds through the development and passing of District and Municipal Ordinances to conform to the wishes of the fisherfolk and lobbying/mobilizing for financial support; **(vi)** implementation of the COFAM-plan; and **(vii)** besides the resource management efforts, strategies on economic development, general community development and institutional development of the newly established community based organizations will also be undertaken and/or integrated within each program.

* 1. Fisheries Value Chain and Rural Enterprise Development,

This program seeks to promote Sustainable Technologies and Marketing Strategies to increase incomes and reduce food losses in Small Fish Systems with an aim to promote production for Food Security, Nutrition and Income Generation. Program outcomes will be achieved through undertaking a number of strategic interventions including; **(i)** training fishermen in better on-board handling and more consistent supply as demanded by markets in the region; **(ii)** organizing refresher courses for fish traders and their groups on fish hygiene and good handling; **(iii)** improving the knowledge and skills as well as demonstrable uptake and benefits from using appropriate improved small fish handling and processing technology and solutions; **(iv)** training fish processors and traders in improved handling, packaging and marketing to increase the groups incomes and promote the consumption of value-added small fish products in the EAC region and beyond; **(v)** launching ***Fish Producer to School Program*** through the promotion of market linkages and in collaboration with government and other stakeholders; **(vi)** capacity building of the groups in improved fish handling, and processing techniques and skills and knowledge through training sessions; **(vii)** organizing and formation of groups of fishermen, fish processors and traders associations/cooperatives including value-chain enterprises; and **(viii)** designing and supporting group-based income generating programs through provision of training and credit, and promote savings. Other strategies include providing opportunities for communities to venture into other diversified or supplementary income generating activities/enterprises such as poultry and piggery raising, cage fish farming and other value-adding activities so as to raise their incomes.

* 1. Lacustrine and Riverine Ecosystems Management for Food Security and Resilient Livelihoods.

This new program has been included as it seeks to support fishing communities, indigenous communities and their grassroots groups to develop and implement management measures in specific lacustrine and riverine ecosystems focusing not only on fisheries but also other uses of the areas in order to contribute to environmental conservation and stewardship of those aquatic ecosystems and subsequently to the health of local aquatic environments and biodiversity.

Program’s strategic interventions include supporting community-based approaches- in establishing and/or managing closed areas or protected areas such as fish breeding and nursery grounds including protection of already threatened migratory fish species that are nearing extinction including the protection of their routes or path ways, sacred sites and/or implementing other ecosystem conservation measures.

Other strategies include; Lake habitat protection and rehabilitation through a three- pronged approach involving; **(i)** demarcation of areas and the enforcement of the regulations in close coordination with local and national government authorities; shoreline habitat rehabilitation and management; **(ii)** collaborating with Ministry of Water and Environment in implementing the stewardship scheme for the protection and sustainable use of shoreline or terrestrial ecosystem; **(iii)** organizing community groups for purpose of replanting and managing tree and papyrus habitats for the benefit of the communities. This will be reinforced with the setting up of a general land use zonation plan to clarify or identify appropriate land uses of the shoreline area. This will require the mapping of various zones to determine land uses and avoid conflicts.

Because water pollution problem originates from upland, inland and shoreline activities which cause chemical pollution and siltation particularly in bays, a good water quality in the bay may be achieved by improving land use and agricultural practices to minimize pollution. Community-based activities to improve water quality focusing on the formulation of guidelines of proper garbage disposal and minimizing water pollution from sewers and garbage will be supported. Severely deforested areas in the upland and shoreline will be identified for immediate reforestation.

* 1. Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Fisheries Livelihoods

Changes in global as well as regional weather patterns due to global warming – a change progressively apparent since the late 20th century and attributed largely to anthropogenic activity – has direct impact on the lakes’ shorelines. Climate change is now affecting lacustrine and riverine ecosystems through lake/river level rise and its associated impacts including more frequent storms and flooding, higher rates of beach erosion, submergence of shoreline areas, etc. Human activities along the shorelines (land reclamation, factory and hotel development, construction) in combination with river catchments and watersheds (river damming and diversion); and, offshore (dredging, sand mining) in combination with these natural forces often exacerbate shoreline erosion in many places and jeopardize opportunities for shorelines to fulfil their long-term ecological and socio-economic roles.

Presently, most of our beaches are experiencing signs of slow erosion followed by landward ingress driven by lake/river level rise. Lake/river walls and groynes are showing signs of restricting the natural course of sand flow along the shoreline, accumulating large quantities of sand on one side of the structure and causing erosion on the other side. Further, effects of lake level rise and the unpredictability of extreme weather events necessitate that local communities play an active role in creating the knowledge base that will form the baseline for appropriate action towards disaster risk reduction and for recreating a healthy shoreline.

Given the natural and man-made causes that threaten shoreline dynamics - preventing it from fulfilling its ecological and socio-economic function to the full, it becomes essential for resident communities to understand the dynamics of their beaches and closely monitor any changes. This would help them take the necessary steps and informed measures to safeguard the beaches from ill effects that prevent the beaches from fulfilling its ecological and social function.

This will assist community members to monitor changes in the profile of beaches using simple low-cost techniques through a community led and community owned voluntary Beach Profiling and Community Beach Monitoring and Restoration System which uses the Adapted Emery Method of Beach Profiling, to generate timely evidence based on observed and recorded data of the shoreline changes through conducting sand grain size analysis and photo documentation on a monthly basis. The analyzed, interpreted and archived data would then be used to inform the community and decision makers about the changing profile of the shorelines. Equipped with this knowledge, a community supported by its decision-making authority would then take the necessary steps to plan and implement community preparedness, mitigation and adaptation protocols to safeguard their lives, livelihoods, ecology; and ultimately leading to a resilient, safe, vibrant and thriving shoreline community and ecology.

This program therefore seeks to launch a Beach Profile Monitoring Programme in fishing communities by employing barefoot technology combined with a citizen’s science approach that will offer scientifically generated accurate data while at the same time encouraging volunteerism and building stewardship for local action. It is envisaged that this information would assist in the following ways;

* Equip community members to put in place preparedness, adaptation, mitigation practices and safety mechanisms to tackle shoreline hazards;
* Help communities and government in designing locale specific disaster preparedness protocols;
* Encourage communities in developing a habit of being vigilant, alert and sensitive to the changes in their immediate and adjacent natural environs and in turn empowering them to take informed decisions to maintain and improve the affected environs;
* Can as an early warning system to safeguard shoreline communities from shore-based hazards, irreversible impacts on the natural shoreline ecosystem, safeguard their lives, livelihood and property.

The program will at the time support and conduct trainings of community members so that they acquire the necessary skills and competence to co-design a locale specific Community Beach Monitoring System that would equip them with adequate evidence and knowledge for informed decision making and as an early warning system in order to safeguard life, livelihood and property in the context of natural and man-made disasters. Beach profiling data could supplement existing meteorological data collected by current meters offshore.

* 1. Climate-Smart Fisheries

This program seeks to support Sustainable Environment – by promoting green energy for fish harvesting and preservation by fishing communities in Uganda lakes. The program will support the development, pilot-testing and transfer as well as promotion of sustainable technologies, principally solar-based, and innovative marketing strategies to improve incomes and reduce food losses in particularly small fish species system in Uganda’s fisheries sector.

Despite their importance, small pelagic fish species get low priority in development considerations and services, and thus suffer from high post-harvest losses, estimated variously at 30-50% of the production. Due to poor handling and low quality, up to 70% of small fish species produced is sold off as animal feed, which fetches a lower price than for direct human consumption. Besides, it denies especially the low-income consumers the nutritional benefits of these fisheries. Use of kerosene fueled lamps in harvesting small fish species is itself an environmentally unsustainable practice, contributing to carbon emission and risks of water pollution from spillage.

The program’s targeted interventions will include promoting sustainable fishing methods and fish preservation, using solar technology to replace kerosene lamps and to improve drying of fish and reduce post-harvest losses. It will give attention to producing high quality value-added products from small fish species and incorporating marketing strategies to get such products into high-end markets. Related to this, attempts will also be made to divert fishermen away from the daily use of petrol as fuel for their outboard motor engines to using wind energy for propulsion of their fishing boats as the former poses a major threat to the environment in terms of risks of water pollution from daily petrol spillage, besides being costlier in terms of operating a fishing trip and/or business.

3.6 Policy Research, Advocacy and Community Human Rights Enhancement

In the recent past, UFFCA has put much emphasis on policy analysis, and undertaking sustained advocacy and campaigns for the promotion of integrated ecological wellbeing of the fisheries resource and wellbeing of fishing communities, an approach that ensures that social and equity dimensions are incorporated within the policy and legal frameworks.

This program is cross-cutting to all other five programs. So, it seeks to undertake policy assessments and analysis in order inform and influence policy- shaping the design and implementation of the laws and policies so that they remain coherent, focused and responsive to the needs of the poor and vulnerable sections of the fishing communities.

Strategies will be designed in supporting targeted interventions towards assessing and addressing the human rights impact and implication of Uganda’s Fisheries and Aquaculture sectors on fishing communities and using the study recommendations to advice government.

Under this program, deliberate efforts will be undertaken to train fisherfolk and their organizations, government (central and local government officials) and its agencies on a human rights-based approach to fisheries development. Besides, the program will support and build sustained advocacy stance of civil society geared towards empowering fishing communities in advocating for the realization of all their human rights including; the right to food, right to work, right to organize, right to be heard, and right to equality and equity, right to social protection, right to decent working and living conditions, right to basic social services including electricity, road networks, clean drinking water, improved hygiene and sanitation, right to education, right to health (medical) services with particular reference to accessible and quality HIV and COVID prevention services

1. **SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND RELATED PROJECTS SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED BY UFFCA IN THE PAST**

The Organization has implemented a number of projects across Lakes; Victoria, Albert and Edward and George. Such projects have also included strategies on economic development, general community development and institutional development of Beach Management Units (BMUs), as community institutions for fisheries management.

**4.1 Small Initiative Lake Victoria Joint regional NGOs Advocacy Network Campaign (SLIVAN)**

**Project**

Focusing on advocacy and awareness raising efforts by highlighting fisheries and other non- fisheries related issues and concerns impacting on the region’s fishing communities in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania around Lake Victoria through campaign actions targeting East Africa Community (EAC) high-level decision makers and those at country level from EAC partner states of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The three-year campaigns were launched around the shores of Lake Victoria in Kenya (at Dunga Beach, **Nov.** **2006**), Tanzania (at Bukoba Beach, **Nov**. **2007**) and Uganda (at Lutoboka Beach- Kalangala, Ssese Islands, **Nov.** **2008**) funded by **Oxfam-NOVIB and CORDAID**, **The Netherlands**,

**4.2 BMUs Capacity Strengthening for Livelihoods Improvement and Sustainable Fisheries**

**Management and Development Project.**

Emphasis was on Strengthening capacities of fisheries organizations - Beach Management Units (BMUs) and their leadership (Committees) for collective action in fisheries and HIV Prevention around Lakes Victoria and Albert, funded by **Oxfam-NOVIB, The Netherlands**, from **2005-2008**

**4.3 UFFCA’s National Fisheries Policy Analysis, Advocacy and Rights Awareness Raising**

**(PAARA) Project**

Assessment and Engagement of the National Fisheries Policy (NFP, 2004): Implementing NFP through Field Lessons and Experiences learnt from establishing fisheries co-management structures in realizing improved fisheries management and governance, sustainable fisheries, poverty alleviation, food security, collective action and accountability in fishing communities living around Lakes Victoria and Albert, funded by **DFID/UKaid-Uganda**, from **2005-2008**

**4.4 Lake Victoria Fisheries Management and Community Development Support**

**(LAVCODMAS) Project**

Improving livelihoods of lake dependent communities through improving the management and governance of Lakes Victoria and Albert fisheries resources by developing community institutions through supporting the establishing 19 Model/functional BMUs in selected districts of Rakai, Masaka, Wakiso, Kampala and Busia and other 7 Model BMUs in Buliisa district for fisheries co-management around Lakes Victoria and Albert funded by **Oxfam-NOVIB,** **The Netherlands,** from **2002-2005**

* 1. **Conservation of the Endemic/Endangered fish species of Lake Albert Project**

Building andstrengthening community participation and stewardship in the conservation of endangered Lake Albert fisheries resources in selected gazetted or protected areas of Wanseko, Bugoigo and Butiaba fishing bays, lagoons and river sections in Buliisa district waters, funded by **UNDP/GEF**, from **2000-2005**

* 1. **Lake Victoria Fishing Community-Rural Radio for Research and Development Project.**

Collaborative Fisheries Research between UFFCA and National Fisheries Research Institute **(NaFFRI)** in generating relevant scientific knowledge and information to assist in sustainable fisheries management**,** funded by **EU-** supported regional Lake Victoria Fisheries Research Project (LVFRP-Phase I&II)**,** in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, from **1999-2003**.

1. FISHING COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS ALREADY IMPLEMENTED BY UFFCA

5.1 Reducing HIV and TB Transmission among fishing communities, along the Shores of Lake Kyoga,

in Soroti, Serere, Kaberamaido, and Kumi districts, TESO sub-region (Eastern Uganda region),

funded by The AIDS Support Organization TASO & **US -based Centre for Disease Control**

**(CDC),** from **2017 and 2018**

5.2 Comprehensive HIV Prevention among Fishing Communities living around Lakes Edward and

George, in the districts of Kasese, Rubirizi, Rukungiri and Kamwenge, in South-Western Uganda

region, funded by **UKaid**, under its CSCF, from **2012 to 2015**.

5.3 Strengthening Social Cohesion and HIV Prevention among Fishing Communities living around the

shores of Lake Victoria, in the three partner States of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania – “Jaboya

Project”, funded by **UKaid** under its CSCF, through a Joint Regional NGOs Consortium, (**UFFCA**-

Uganda-based NGO; **ELCI**, Kenya- based NGO and **Kivulini Women’s Rights Organization**,

Tanzania-based NGO), from **2006 to 2010**.

1. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY UFFCA

6.1 Construction of Misonzi Community ECO-SAM Toilet for improving hygiene and

sanitation conditions among the fishing community living around Lake Victoria, in Kalangala

district, Ssese Islands, funded by the **WB-funded** **Lake Victoria Environmental Management**

**Project** **(LAVEMP), 2004**

6.2 Construction of Butiaba Community ECO-SAM Toilet for improving hygiene and

sanitation conditions among the community living around Lake Albert, in Buliisa district, funded

by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 2001**

1. FIELD STUDIES/ASSESSMENTS ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY UFFCA
   1. Study of the Human Rights Implications and Impacts of Marine Fisheries and Marine Aquaculture Sectors of Kenya and Madagascar along the Coast of the South-Western Indian Ocean (SWIO), supported by **DIHR/SIDA, January – November 2020**
   2. Study on Fish Trade-related Communication Strategy for fishing Communities on Lake Victoria supported by **COMPETE**-**USAID** funded project in Uganda, in the year **2005**.
   3. Facilitating a Multi-Stakeholders’ Consultative Process for Lake Albert stakeholders on the development of The Fisheries Strategy for HIV/AIDS (FISH) and the Implementation Plan through a joint partnership between UFFCA and Marine Resources assessment Group (MRAG) UK, supported by the **Department for International Development (DFID) 2004**
   4. Study of the Impact of EU Ban on Uganda Fish Exports conducted through joint collaboration between UFFCA, Private Sector Foundation-Uganda and Nathan Associates of Arlington Virginia, USA, supported by **Unites States Agency for International Development (USAID), 2001**
   5. Pre-Implementation Assessment for the Establishment of Beach Management Units (BMUs) for future fisheries co-management on Lake Victoria, funded by **FAO**, in the year **2000**
   6. Study of the Community-based organizations for future Community-based resource (fisheries) management of Lake Kyoga, funded by **DFID** under its **supported Care International/ MRAG/UK -funded** **Integrated Lake Management (ILM)** project, in the year **1999**
2. COMMUNITY TRAININGS **ALREADY** UNDERTAKEN BY UFFCA
   1. Training on improved fish quality, marketability and product development to increase fish product prices through training of fishers, women fish processors, traders/sellers on better fish handling on board at the lake, at landing and during processing, storage, transportation/distribution around Lake Albert, supported by **Oxfam-NOVIB**, **August -September, 2019**
   2. Empowering Fishing communities through a National Fisheries stakeholders’ consultation on the review of Uganda’s Fisheries and Aquaculture Amendment Bill, 2018, funded by the **GIZ-funded Responsible Fisheries Business Chain (RFBC)** project**,** held in Jinja town, Uganda, **December 2018.**
   3. Training fishing community members on improved fish quality, marketability and product development to increase prices through training of fishers, women fish processors, traders/sellers on better fish handling on board at the lake, at landing and during processing, storage, transportation/distribution around Lake Albert, supported by **ADB** funded regional Lakes Edward and Albert Fisheries **(LEAF)** project for Uganda and DRC under the Nile Basin Initiative/Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NBI/NELSAP), **May-July, 2018**
   4. Training of Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project (LVEMP)-supported 10 Community Micro-project Implementation Committees on Lake Victoria in Simple/basic Book-keeping and Financial accounting Principles and Systems, supported by **WB -funded LVEMP**, Entebbe, **1999**
   5. Training Beach Management Units (BMUs) committee members around Lake Kyoga in Sustainable Fisheries -Leadership and Organizational Management, Good Fish Handling Practices (GFHP), Good Fishing Practices (GFP); Conflict Management, Participatory Fisheries planning and management, Participative monitoring and evaluation; BMU Roles clarification; and basic Aquatic Biology and Ecology; supported by **SIDA-funded Export Promotion of Organic Products of Africa (EPOPA)**, **1999**

**Contact us at:**

**HEAD OFFICE:**

Kamwokya off Kiira Road

Plot No: 1601/1247

Biika House, 2nd Floor Suite No.2

P.O Box 11516,

KAMPALA, UGANDA.

Regional Field Offices:

Lake Victoria Field Office: Ggaba Fish landing Site, Kampala district - Central Uganda Region

Lake Albert Field Office: Butiaba Fish landing Site, Buliisa district, North- Western Uganda Region

Lake Kyoga Field Office: Soroti Town, Soroti district, Eastern Uganda Region

Lakes Edward and George Field Office: Kasese Town, Kasese district Local Government -South-Western Uganda region