



ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA

Zambia:

**Overview of the Lake Tanganyika
Biodiversity Project**

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) will be meeting in Malawi from the 14th to 15th days of January 2000. The meeting will review and take stock of the progress in the management and conservation efforts of the rift lakes of East Africa. The purpose is to exchange implementation experiences and to explore ways of integration of these into the design and implementation of the projects.
2. This paper is prepared for presentation at this meeting. The paper elucidates the broad objective of the Lake Tanganyika Biodiversity Project (LTBP) while emphasizing its significance to the Zambian circumstances. Of particular importance to the STAP meeting is an inventory of project achievements at both regional and national level.
3. The paper presents an overview of Lake Tanganyika Biodiversity Project (LTBP) focussing on aspects that are necessary to sustainable regional co-operation in the management of Lake Tanganyika.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

4. The aim of the LTBP is to **help establish** a sustainable regional programme for pollution control, conservation and maintenance of exceptional biological diversity in Lake Tanganyika into the foreseeable future.
5. The best alternative to achieving this objective is to encourage and achieve the participation of the people whose livelihood directly or indirectly depends on or is associated with the lake. These are the nationals of the riparian states at all levels social strata. The strata referred to include lakeshore communities, government institutions and

other interested parties¹. The involvement of these parties should be at all levels of management of the project.

6. Participation is effective and meaningful only the riparian states demonstrated both the willingness and ability to co-operate in the sustainable management of Lake Tanganyika. This involvement should start early enough during the project design stage.

7. To date Zambia has responded to this requirement by exploring ways and means to speed up the attainment of national and regional co-operation in the management of Lake Tanganyika. This has been the operational objective for Zambia.

METHODOLOGY

8. For the purposes of simplicity and for the sake of this presentation, the project uses the national and regional approaches in order to realise its goals.

9. There is the regional approach, which is in effect the scientific method relying on special studies¹. This method utilises the services of regional facilitators with support from national counterparts. The national counterparts are the National Special Study Co-ordinators. Together, they conduct special studies and produce national and regional reports on their findings.

10. The aim of the scientific approach is to improve the understanding of complex social and scientific issues related to conservation of the lake and the immediate environment.

¹ **In the context of this paragraph, legal personalities are also embraced in the term party**

¹ **In the current set up the special studies include Sedimentation, Socio-economics, Pollution, Fishing Practices, Biodiversity, Environmental Education and Training and, Legal and institutional.**

11. There is also the national approach, which in effect is the project administration method. In this approach the National Coordinator *coordinates* the project activities in the country. The purpose is to perform all administrative functions with special emphasis on liaison with partner institutions² (including government departments, private environmental consulting firms and non-Governmental organisations), National Special Study Coordinators and Regional Facilitators.

12. Both the Regional Facilitators and National Co-ordinators Report to the Field Project Co-ordinator in Dar es salaam. The National Co-ordinator has an added responsibility of reporting and receiving guidance from the State.

13. The Zambian strategy to the achievement of the objective has been a co-ordinated approach of the identified partner institutions³. The coordination of the national activities in Zambia is mandated to the Environmental Council of Zambia. The Director of the Environmental Council of Zambia is the National Coordinator of the Lake Tanganyika Biodiversity Project in Zambia.

² A complete listing of active partner institutions is provided on the next page in footnote number 3 under the discussion of the methodology.

³ Partner institutions in this project in Zambia include, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Fisheries & Technical Departments), Ministry of Tourism (National Parks and Wildlife Services & National Heritage and Conservation Commission), Ministry of Energy and Water Development (Department of Water Affairs), Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Ministry of Transport and Communications (Maritime Department), Ministry of Legal Affairs (Drafts Department), Office of Vice President (Provincial Planning Unit), Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (Department of Community Development), Non Government Organisations (WWF, Wildlife Conservation Association of Zambia), Food and Drugs, National Institute for Industrial and Scientific Research), The University of Zambia and Denams Consultancy Limited.

THE RESULTS

14. The results are presented in conformity with the methodology described earlier.

Regional

15. **Regional Steering Committee Meetings:** The project has had five regional steering committee meetings. Delegates have shown willingness to co-operate in the regional management of the lake. The riparian states have in fact agreed that there be a next phase or a new project after the end of the current funding.

16. **Status of Special Studies:** Generally speaking, the special studies are on course. They will be completed before the end of the current project phase in July 2000. More specifically, the special studies will be concluded between March and May 2000.

17. **Capacity Building:** This has been achieved through specialised training of nationals working with special studies. They have accumulated enough knowledge that empowers them to undertake any form of project activity on the lake now and beyond the current project phase.

18. **Regional Communication:** The communication equipment installed in Zambia and Tanzania has greatly improved communication between Mpulungu and Kigoma. This makes exchange of experiences ideas and other project related matters easy. The equipment will be of great use even in the post project phase.

19. **Strategic Action Programme (SAP):** The production of the regional Strategic Action Programme is on course. A full draft report will be ready after the SAP drafting meeting of January 2000. The SAP is a crucial output of this project phase as it states the programmatic

areas for co-operation of the riparian states in the management of Lake Tanganyika.

20. **The Legal Convention:** The final draft of the convention on the sustainable management of Lake Tanganyika has been prepared. It will be presented to the sixth Regional Steering Committee for Adoption in January 2000.

National Results

21. The National Coordination Office (NCO) of the LTBP has recorded the following achievements since the project was incepted.

22. **The National Working Group (NWG):** The NWG is in place and has so far met seven times in two years. The NWG is a 15 member⁴ national technical grouping drawing membership from senior personnel representing partner institutions. It provides advice and instructions to the National Co-ordination Office (NCO) on how well to conduct the activities of the project.

23. The NWG has deliberated on important issues such as the legal convention, SAP, capacity building and the need for broader national participation in project matters.

24. The NWG in Zambia is a symbol of project continuity. The partner institutions belonging to the NWG have same mandates on the project as their national mandates. In this regard, continuity is therefore assured.

⁴ **Members of the NWG are drawn from partner institutions; these are Environmental Council of Zambia, Denams Consultants Limited, WWF, Wildlife Conservation Association of Zambia, Departments of Fisheries (2), Technical, Water Affairs, Drafts, Maritime, National Parks and Wildlife Services, Provincial Planning Unit, National Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research, Food and Drugs, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. All except the Department of Fisheries have one representative.**

25. **National Workshops:** Zambia managed to host both national workshops as prerequisites to the SAP. These are:

1. National Sectoral Problem Review Workshop,
2. National Environmental Priorities and Strategies Review and

26. And a report titled Conclusions of the National Consultation Process for the Regional SAP was produced. This contributed significantly to the production of the regional analytical framework that effectively defined the framework for the Trans-boundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA).

27. **Special Studies:** Notable achievements have so far been registered in Legal/institutional, Sediments, Environmental Education and Training, and Biodiversity special studies.

28. Cardinal achievements are from the Legal and institutional study team which in collaboration with legal consultants have produced a final draft of the convention. The other one is the production of the final national sedimentation report.

29. Equally important are the Environmental Education Awareness campaigns that saw the lakeshore communities form 60 functional Village Conservation and Development Committees (VCDCs) and 10 Stratum Conservation and Development Committees (SCDCs). The committees work under guidance of the Department of Fisheries, Local Councils, and local chiefs in order to monitor and curb the use of unsustainable gear for catching fish in the lake.

30. Enough technical personnel resources have been mobilised. They are capable of carrying out project activities independently. The following table is a summary of technical personnel working for the project both permanently and on part time.

Name of Special Study	Number of National Staff
Biodiversity	5
Environmental Education	4
Legal and Institutional	4
Fishing Practices	5
Socio-economics	8
Sedimentation	7
Pollution	6
Total	38

Comments on the Results

31. For projects of LTBP nature, it is vital that they generate interest among local nationals and institutions. Local interest is crucial; it has serious connotations on the continuity of the project. The more the locals are interested, the higher are the chances that the activities would be carried forward beyond the project span.

32. This project has generated that kind of interest. There are more than 15 institutions that are currently collaborating with the project. Besides, other projects have indicated willingness to co-operate. The fact that there is great exchange of information between this project and the Lake Mweru Co-Management project means lots of lessons can be learned either way.

33. The project has gained approval of the local community support who, now are grouped into development committees. Therefore, some components of this project have great potential of actually being demand driven by the lakeshore communities themselves.

34. Quiet a lot of effort, time and resources have been committed to the development of capacity. A number of workshops and training sessions have been conducted for this purpose. There is now a pool of 38 competent technical staff across the special studies that can

perform the functions that the facilitators have provided before with same and even better competence.

35. The national and regional approach in the implementation of the project has its negative sides. The majority of these emanate from the manner in which the project was designed. The design of the project did not involve the riparian states. Therefore lots of issues of interest to riparian states were left out. An example is in the manner that contractors are engaged. Ideally, the riparian states would be on the negotiations but they do not.

36. Financing of special study activities conducted by the national coordinators has been irregular particularly those without regional facilitators. One wonders whether national coordinators are not the best drivers of the project activities for and on behalf of their states.

CONCLUSION

37. Finally, the project has lived to fulfil the aspects of the objective towards a regional management of Lake Tanganyika. This is physically demonstrated by the ability to have the final draft of the legal convention and the draft SAP months before the project span ends.

38. It however recognised that the achievement of these results has not been as expected largely due to inefficiencies in the project design.

RECOMMENDATION

39. Acknowledging the success scored so far, a recommendation for continued support is made perhaps through alternative funding. It would be prudent for the project momentum not be broken. Therefore, a new project phase is proposed as a matter of urgency.

40. Cognisance is thus made that the national experts have enough technical competence and local knowledge that they deserve a chance to develop the project document for the next phase. It would give more impetus and sense of ownership if nationals of the riparian states design the next project.

41. It is further recommended that in developing the next project document the experience so far gained be used. Reference should be made to the SAP, legal convention, reports of the special studies and reports from related projects on shared fisheries. National workshops of experts associated with similar projects could be convened to allow even for wider participation.

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