

# Partnership Interventions for the Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for *Lake Tanganyika*



## UNDP/GEF Project on Lake Tanganyika Zambia Component – Sustainable Catchment Management

The Zambian shoreline of Lake Tanganyika is characterised by impressively steep walls of the southern Rift Valley. It includes Kalambo Falls<sup>1</sup>, which is one of the tallest waterfalls in Africa. It also encompasses several river deltas and wetlands, as well as Nsumbu National Park, which are vital areas for biodiversity conservation.

Although the Zambian part of Lake Tanganyika is relatively small (16.000 km<sup>2</sup>, which is 7% of the total catchment area), rivers in the southern basin are estimated to deposit up to 1500 tonnes of sediment into the lake per day.

The excessive sedimentation is caused by environmentally unsustainable utilisation of land and forestry resources in the catchment, particularly in the Kaputa and Mpulungu Districts. Local communities largely depend on subsistence agriculture and fishing for their livelihoods. They have no means or capacity to diversify into other livelihood systems, and often end up in a vicious circle of land degradation and increased poverty.

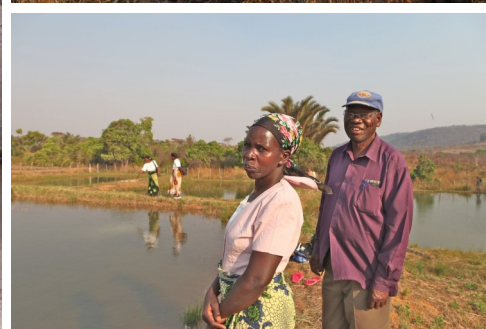
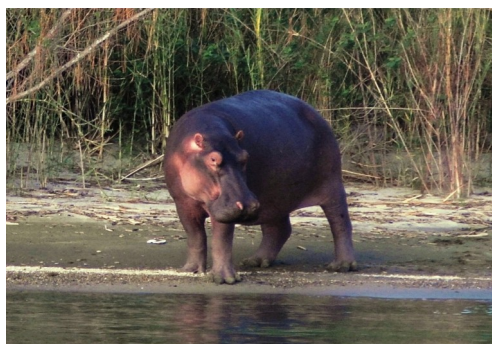
The UNDP/GEF Project on Lake Tanganyika aims to pilot innovative strategies for sustainable catchment management in the Kaputa and Mpulungu catchment areas, diversify livelihood options, and strengthen local governance capacity.

[www.lta.iwlearn.org](http://www.lta.iwlearn.org)

<sup>1</sup>The Kalambo River drops 235 meters from the Rift wall at Kalambo Falls. It is also one of the most important archeological sites in Africa, and has produced a sequence of past human activity stretching over 250.000 years







The Zambian Component of the UNDP/GEF Project on Lake Tanganyika is implemented by a national Project Management Unit (PMU), under coordination of the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources (MTENR).

A total of 11 sites were identified for catchment management demonstration sites in the Kaputa and Mpulungu Districts, and in total 44.5 hectares of agroforestry and native trees have been planted. The PMU facilitated the establishment of Village Conservation Development Committees, and the formulation of Natural Resource Management Plans and functional by laws to promote sustainable agriculture and forestry management.

Capacity building and training sessions were organized, covering subjects relevant to low input agriculture, mitigation measures against sedimentation, business and leadership skills. In total, 1853 individual farmers received training. As a result of project activities, increasing numbers of households are practicing sustainable land use (currently 46% of households within the project area).

Furthermore, the project is successfully engaging stakeholders in alternative Income generating activities aimed at reducing environmental stress. In total, 837 households are involved in activities such as bee keeping, aquaculture with native fish species, and vegetable gardening.

A revolving fund was successfully established to allow diversification of livelihoods. During the 2009-2010 agricultural season, 100% of loans provided under the fund were repaid. Average annual income of women who participated the revolving fund increased from USD 157 to USD 3,125.

For more information, see Lake Tanganyika Authority web site:  
[www.lta.iwlearn.org](http://www.lta.iwlearn.org)

The UNDP/GEF intervention is part of a multi-partner programme that is implemented with support from African Development Bank, Nordic Development Fund, ICRAF, IUCN, WWF, FAO, UNEP/NIGLAS, and the Governments of Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Tanzania and Zambia.

We work in close collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, including fishermen, farmers, industry, the private sector, management, research and educational institutions as well as governmental institutions.

Together we take a basin-wide, integrated approach to environmental management, uniting people to build sustainable livelihoods and protect their environment.

## UNDP/GEF Project on Lake Tanganyika

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**Front, clockwise:** Shoreline of Nsumbu National Park; Project stakeholder in a field of an improved cassava variety; Farmers at a community tree nursery (photos by Saskia Marijnissen). **Back, clockwise:** Hippos are becoming increasingly rare in Lake Tanganyika (photo by Harald Pokieser); Steep walls of the southern Rift Valley; Beekeeping as an alternative livelihood option; Aquaculture using native fish species; Women are important stakeholders of the project (photos by Saskia Marijnissen).