



Liquid soap making under the project

LEAF 11 Project supports Livelihood Income activities in 25 districts

For about five years, 25 districts within the Western, West Nile and Midwestern Uganda will be benefiting from Lake Edward Albert Integrated Fisheries and Water Resources Management Transboundary (LEAF11 Project).

This is aimed at reducing pressure on the Lakes Edward, George and Albert through provision of livelihood income generating activities to the communities surrounding the shores.

The Project coordinator, Eng. Stephen Ogwete, LEAF 11 is the Multinational Lakes Edward & Albert Integrated Fisheries and Water Resources Management (LEAF II) transboundary Project shared between Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Uganda.

It is being coordinated regionally by Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP).

The Project is financed by the African Development Bank and Global Environment Facility.

With two main thematic components of fisheries resources development and management, and integrated water resources management, the Project is expected to close in June 2021.



LEAF 11 Project has equipped beneficiary communities with soap making skills



Mahyoro Investments Group manufactures chalk with support from LEAF11 Project

The component of Fisheries Development & Management aims at promoting sustainable management and productivity of the various species of fish in the Lakes Edward and Albert Basin.

How does this project relate with the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE)?

The LEAF II Project is aimed at addressing major environmental threats to the shared transboundary lake ecosystems, with a sector goal of poverty reduction and sustainable livelihoods for men and women in the local fishing communities and global environmental benefits in sustainable management of the natural resources.

What is the coverage of this project?

In Uganda, the project covers areas of Lakes Albert, Edward and George Basin in 25 districts.

They include Bulisa, Bundibugyo, Bunyangabu, Bushenyi, Hoima, Kabarole, Kagadi, Kakumiro, Kamwenge, Kanungu, Kasese, Kibaale, Kikube, Kyegegwa, Kyenjojo, Masindi, Mitooma, Mubende, Nebbi, Ntoroko, Ntungamo, Pakwach, Rubirizi, Rukiga and Rukungiri.

What are some of the achievements of this project?

The project has registered a number of achievements which include; Harmonization of Fisheries Legislative positions between Uganda and DRC and signing of a Bilateral Agreement on the Fisheries Management and Development by the two Governments.

As support to the joint surveillance operations on the lakes, two high speed high capacity surveillance boats have been procured with support from NBI/NELSAP.

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Ready soap made under the project

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The construction of 5 landing sites are ongoing i.e Kitebere in Kagadi District, Mbegu in Hoima District, Dei in Pakwach District, Rwenshama in Rukungiri District, and Mahyoro in Kamwenge District).

These comprise of fish processing handling facilities, new feeder road of 21.4km, sanitation facilities and 5 water supply systems for the communities.

In order to enhance local communities, capacities to adopt responsible alternative sources of income that reduces the strain on the lakes, the project delivered starter kits to communities in Ntoroko and Kamwenge.

Of these 78% were women and this acted as an incubator for alternative sources of income like making of liquid soap, bar soap, disinfectant, hair shampoo, school chalk, cake baking among others?

Fisheries Catch assessment surveys, Lake Frame surveys and hydro-acoustic surveys began and are currently ongoing.

A number of achievements have been registered under the component of Integrated Water Resources Management which is aimed at promoting integrated management of the water and its allied natural resources within the catchments of the two Lakes.

The construction of an office block and regional water quality laboratory in Fort Portal is completed.



With support from LEAF 11 Project, Peace Women's Group Project makes Vaseline and liquid soap

As support to water quality monitoring in the region, mobile water quality laboratories for Uganda have been delivered to Fort Portal with Support from NBI/NELSAP.

The project has drilled 20 boreholes and constructed 20 community sanitation facilities in various districts a means of ensuring appropriate access to water and sanitation within the lake's basin.

The development of the Lakes Edward and Albert Integrated Lake Management Plan is ongoing.

Community based integrated catchment management plans are being prepared for Rivers Nyamwamba, Mitano, Nkusi, Muzizi and the transboundary Semliki.

Implementation of catchment restoration interventions are ongoing in Ntoroko District, River Semiliki, Bundibugyo District, River Tokwe and Kasese District, River Sebwe.

What plans does the Project have towards Vision 2040?

The area that the Project is operating in holds significant opportunities for transboundary and in-country development that could enhance food production, energy availability, transportation, industrial development, environmental conservation and other

related sustainable development benefits.

Transboundary cooperative and sustainable natural resources management offer unique opportunities as catalysts for equitable and inclusive economic development, and thereby eradicate poverty and minimize the potential for community conflicts.

What challenges has the project faced and what are some of the lessons learned.

Some of the Project challenges include:

Insecurity in the Lake Edward part of the project, emergence of Ebola that has prevented Project staff from reaching some project sites, and refugees' crisis that has increased the social and economic challenges within the Project area.

Lessons learnt to date include:

Capacity building of communities is very successful when exposure exchange visits are used as a key ingredient in project success and sustainability.

Sustainability strategies should be prepared at project interventions start-up and Business plans and gross margins are very vital for the success of livelihoods interventions.

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