

Improved and sustainable income and food security through fisheries development



There are two main fisheries in Luapula: (1) Lake Bangweulu and associated Swamp areas in the south east and the (2) Lake Mweru-Luapula Fishery in the north.

Fishing and agriculture are the biggest income sources and employers in Luapula Province. A vital source for combating malnutrition, as fish provides an estimated 75 percent of animal protein to communities. About 30-40 percent of Zambia's total fish production comes from Luapula.

Unsustainable fishing practices, however, severely threaten the viability of the fishing industry as well as household food security in the province. Fish stocks are overfished. Long-term interventions are needed to reverse the process towards sustainable development.

The Programme for Luapula Agricultural and Rural Development (PLARD) addresses problems related to the depletion of fish stocks, poor post-harvest techniques and underutilized aquaculture potential.



Fisher folk returning from Lake Mweru to sell their catch.
Photo by G. Mickels-Kokwe

Objective

The goal of PLARD Fisheries component is to improve and sustain income and food security through fisheries development.

The specific objective is to increase fish output in terms of yields, value and food security as well as strengthen the capacity of the sub-sector to manage the fisheries resources in an ecologically, economically and socially acceptable manner.

Target Groups

- Fishers, traders and marketers, entrepreneurs and traditional leaders
- Local government, provincial authorities, government departments, other service providers and development organizations.

Key Result Areas

- Sustainable fisheries collaborative management supported.
- Fish value chains developed.
- Aquaculture production and productivity enhanced.

Expected Outputs

- Collaborative management regime supported in one fishery (Mweru-Luapula)
- Innovative fisheries extension methodology developed and piloted
- Increased quality and quantity of traded fish
- Enabling environment established at fishery level
- Pond aquaculture successfully integrated in upland farming systems on a pilot basis

Continuous support to co-management advocacy at provincial and national levels as well as other fish policy issues are on the component's agenda. These are undertaken in close collaboration with the Fisheries and Institutions and Policy components.



**PROGRAMME FOR LUAPULA AGRICULTURAL
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

*Fisheries officer
consulting fish
mongers. Photo by
G.Mickels-Kockwe.*



Target Areas

Fisheries collaborative management and value chain development focuses at present on the Lake Mweru-Luapula Fishery.

On the plateau, the aquaculture sub-sector has the potential to contribute to improved livelihoods. The development of effective and efficient commodity markets is needed to ensure the sustainability and feasibility of fish farming.

Implementing organization

The Department of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MACO) leads the implementation of the Fisheries component activities. Work is done in collaboration with fishers' associations, fish traders and marketers, and NGOs supporting agricultural and rural development in Luapula Province. The World Fish Center provides technical backstopping to the component.

*Fish farming has
potential to improve
food security in
Luapula. Fish ponds at
Hopeways Cooperative
near Mansa. Photo
by M.Komulainen*



Major achievements to date

Institutional framework for Mweru-Luapula fishery's co-management is in place.

- 77 Village Management Committees and 14 Zonal Management Committees established.
- The establishment of the Fisheries Management Committee is underway.
- Further sensitization and capacity building on the roles, rights and responsibilities of the various actors will be done in 2009.

It is envisioned that the sustainability of the institutional framework, in terms of financial independence and operational capacity, will be ensured, as the setup is supported by the Amended Fisheries Act of 2007.

Capacity among extension staff has been developed by strengthening participatory extension and PRA skills. A provincial team, after being trained, carried out a PRA around Mweru-Luapula, complementing the PLARD baseline data collection.

Ten landing and market sites have been identified for upgrading, which is due to commence early 2009 to enhance fish trade and its profitability.

To develop aquaculture, a survey of fish farms was carried out in all the districts. Forty-five farmers with proven potential were selected to an activity aiming at income generation and food security through well managed fish farming.

The impact of **climate change** is addressed by partnering with IUCN. Adaptation measures are put in place to raise awareness on CC among fisher communities and to give guidance, where the need to clear land for cultivation has become crucial due to depleted fish stocks.

Two **frame surveys** were conducted in Bangweulu and Mweru-Luapula fisheries in collaboration with PLARD Institutions and Policy component. The surveys captured data on fishers, fishing gears and catch volumes. In addition, regular meetings with the Democratic Republic of Congo authorities were initiated, focusing on **trans-boundary issues**, i.e. joint policing operations around the fish ban as well as illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
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