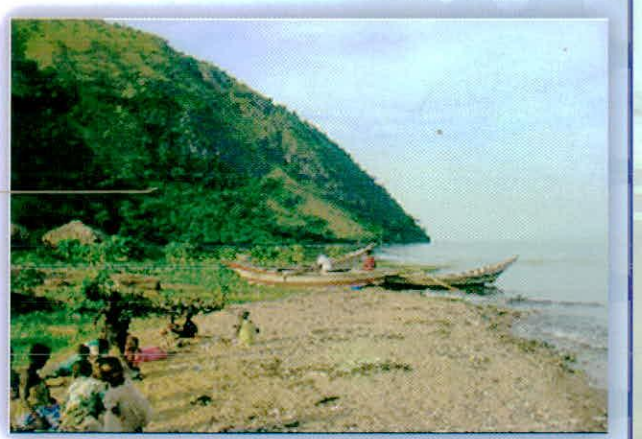
Recommendations

- Sustainable harvesting of B.nurse and haplochromines so that enough is left to sustain the fishery of Nile perch and other predatory species.
- Clearing of shoreline macrophytes should be prohibited.
- Control of fishing effort for sustainable harvesting of the fishery resources
- Fishing in critical fish habitats should be prohibited

Critical Habitats

Habitat	Role
Lagoons	Breeding and nursery grounds, refuge from predation & fishing
River mouths	Important nursery grounds,
Large (vegetated) Bays	Breeding and nursery grounds,
Rocky	Refuge from predation



Rocky Shorelines



Vegetated Shorelines



Sandy/Open Water Habitats

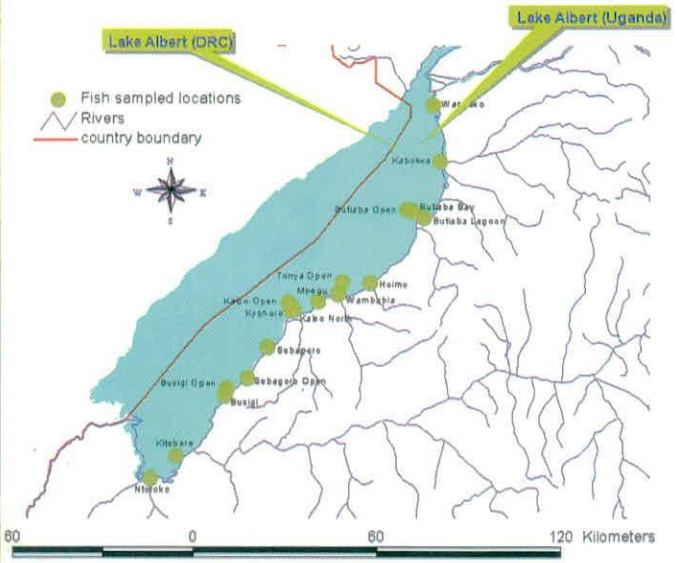


Lagoons

NARO
NGETTA ZARDI
LIBRARY

National Fisheries Resources Research Institute

Sampled stations



Fish Species Diversity, and the biology and ecology of common fish species in Lake Albert

NaFIRRI

2010

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Located on Nile Crescent, Plot 39/45,Jinja
opposite the wagon ferry terminal.

Introduction

- Lake Albert contributes about 10% to the national fish production
- It supports a multi-species fishery based on endemic species
- To local fishermen, Lake Albert is a lifeline providing food and income

Fishes of Lake Albert



***Lates niloticus* (Mputa)**



***Neobola bredoi* Mukene/Muziri**



***Distichodus niloticus* (Wachone)**



***Synodontis frontonsis* (Kwoke/Nkolongo)**

The haplochromines of Lake Albert



Troracochromis loati



Thoracochromis avum



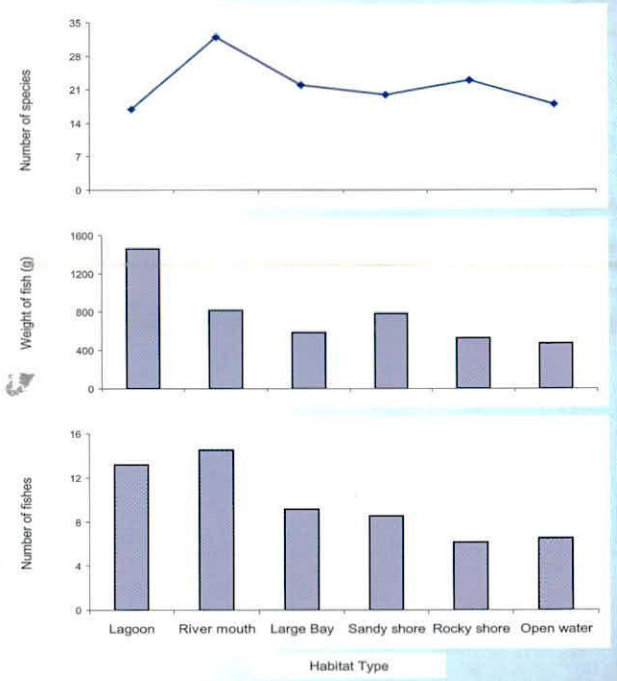
Haplochromis "zebra"



Neochromis sp

Major observations

- The number of fish types has declined and some species, especially the moon fishes represented by *Citharinus Citharinus* (Mpoi) are threatened with extinction
- A total of 40 fish species belonging to 12 families was recorded
- The highest number of species (34) was recorded from the river mouth and the lowest (18) from open water
- Catches are dominated by *Brucinus nurse* (Ragoge) and *Neobola bredoi* (Muziri) caught by light fishing
- Other species of importance include the *Hydrocynus* (Ngassa), Nile perch, and *Alestes baremose* (Ngara)
- Both species of Lates were dominated by juvenile immature individuals (more than 80% by weight), an indication of increased recruitment to counter intensive fishing pressure on the lake
- Habitats critical to survival of fish species include lagoons, river-mouths, large (vegetated) bays and rocky shores. These habitats serve as fish breeding and nursery grounds
- Fringing macrophytes in the inshore zones of the lake are important habitats for the macro-invertebrates on which fish feed, and also provide protection cover for small and juvenile fishes
- Nkejje and *Brucinus nurse* (Muziri) which are being harvested for bait and animal feeds respectively, are important food items for the commercially important *Hydrocynus forskali*, *Lates spp* and *B. bayad*



Graph of Catches by Habitat Type

Threats to the fishery and species diversity

- **Over-fishing:** The number of crafts increased from 764 in 1965 to 5700 in 2007
- **Bad fishing gears and methods** i.e. Beach seines (*kokota*), hitting of water (tycoon), extended stay on the lake (*salacio*) and under-sized gillnets



Salacio fishing method