

FISHING IN UGANDA

FACTORS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FISHING SECTOR IN UGANDA

These are divided into physical and human factors

Physical factors

- Presence of a wide variety of valuable commercial fish species. This has facilitated the carrying out of fishing activities e.g. Nile perch, tilapia, etc in lakes like Lake Victoria, L. George, etc.
- Presence of several fishing grounds which act as sources of fish thereby leading to development of fishing activities e.g. rivers like R. Vitoria Nile, R.Kafu, R. Semuliki, etc., lakes like L. Victoria, etc.
- Presence of adequate planktons in the water bodies which act as food for the fish hence leading to development of fishing activities e.g. in L.Victoria, R.Semuliki, etc.
- Presence of forests which provide timber for boat construction and wood fuel for fish smoking e.g. Mabira forest and Budongo forest near Lake Victoria and lake Albert respectively.
- Presence of numerous islands within the water bodies which act as breeding grounds for fish hence favouring fishing activities e.g. Ssese and Koome islands in Lake Victoria.
- Nature of relief; for example the existence of basins which led to formation of lakes that act as fishing grounds e.g. L.Victoria, L.Kyoga, etc.
- Nature of the water bodies; that is the existence of indented shorelines which favour the establishment of fish landing sites e.g. Kasenyi & Masese fish landing sites on lake Victoria, Kagwara on lake Kyoga, etc

Human factors

- Availability of adequate capital provided by government in form of loans to investors which is used to purchase fishing gears, construct & rehabilitate infrastructure at major landing sites e.g along lake Victoria, lake kyoga, etc.
- Availability of a wide market for fish both domestic and foreign e.g. in Kampala, Jinja, etc & European countries like Sweden, Japan, etc where Nile perch and tilapia from Lake Victoria, Lake Albert is sold.
- Existence of relative political stability in many parts of the country which has encouraged investment in the sector e.g. around Lake Victoria & Lake Kyoga where UPDF marine patrol boats have been stationed.
- Existence of well developed transport routes like roads, water & air transport which have enabled easy marketing & distribution of fish e.g. from Lake Albert, Lake Edward, etc.
- Favourable government policy; the government policy is supportive towards the development of fishing where by government has encouraged foreign investors to invest in the sector through maintaining political stability & giving loans.
- Introduction of modern fishing methods; this has led to increase in the fish catch in Uganda's water bodies e.g. the use of gill netting on Lake Victoria.
- Improved research through different organisations like NARO which has greatly helped to discover better fishing methods and fish markets e.g. along Lake Kyoga & Lake Victoria.
- Constant power supply in form of HEP which has facilitated fish preservation e.g. the use of deep freezing at Kasenyi fish landing site on Lake Victoria.

- Increased fish restocking especially in Lake Victoria which has led to increased fish catch.
- Introduction of modern fish preservation facilities like refrigerators, refrigerated trucks, etc which has facilitated the marketing & distribution of fish e.g. from Lake Victoria.
- Development of fish landing sites which have better fish handling facilities hence leading to increase in fish catch e.g. on Lake Victoria, Lake Albert, Lake Kyoga, etc

CONTRIBUTION /IMPACT/ IMPLICATIONS/EFFECTS OF FISHING SECTOR TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF UGANDA.

Positive contributions

- It is a source of employment opportunities to the people of Uganda. People like fishermen, fish transporters, etc have been employed in the sector which has helped them to improve on their standards of living e.g. at fish landing sites like Kasenyi on Lake Victoria.
- It is a source of food for the people of Uganda. This is in form of fish which is an important source of proteins hence improving people's diet e.g. in Kampala, Jinja, etc near Lake Victoria.
- The sector is a source of foreign exchange. This is through exportation of fish and fish products to neighbouring countries e.g. fish from Lake Victoria is exported to countries like Kenya, south Sudan, etc. This has created unity between Uganda and these countries.
- It has helped to diversify the economy thereby reducing over dependence on agriculture whose profits are unpredictable.
- It has led to development of several infrastructures e.g. transport routes linking to landing sites e.g. Nabaggereka road linking to Kasenyi fish landing site on Lake Victoria.
- It has led to development of international relationships between Uganda and other countries especially those to which she exports her fish. This has led to development of trade eg. Fish from Lake Albert is exported to DRC.
- The sector has also promoted development of agriculture. This is through provision of fertilizers got from fish bi products and using of some fish species like silver fish in the manufacture of poultry feeds.
- It has stimulated industrial development. This is through provision of fish which is used as a raw material in the fish processing industries like Green fields Uganda ltd in Entebbe near Lake Victoria.
- It has led to development of tourism/ education/ research. This is because the fishing grounds and fish landing sites established near them act as tourist attraction hence increasing government's foreign exchange earnings.
- It acts as an alternative activity in areas where agric cannot be carried out e.g. areas along Lake Albert which are found in the rain shadow.
- It has led to development of labour skills especially of the fishermen.
- It is a source of government revenue. This is through taxes imposed on the various fishing companies.
- It has led to development of towns. These provide social services to the people e.g. Entebbe near Lake Victoria.

Negative contributions

- It has led to pollution. This through dumping wastes from the fish processing factories into the waters, on land, etc.

- It has led to massive deforestation. This is due to the need of wood fuel for fish smoking and timber for boat construction e.g. Budongo forest and Bugoma forest near Lake Albert.
- It has led to diversion of labour. This is mainly because in some areas it acts as an alternative activity hence neglecting others e.g. near Lake Albert.
- Over fishing has led to depletion of aquatic bio diversity.
- It has led to profit repatriation. This is due to increase in the number of foreign owned fishing companies.
- It has led to urbanisation with its associated problems
- It has led to increase in the number of school drop outs e.g. at Masese fish landing site on Lake Victoria.
- It has resulted into loss of lives thru accident.
- It has led to inter territorial conflicts due to the shared water bodies e.g. Lake Victoria & Lake Albert.

PROBLEMS FACING FISHING IN UGANDA/ FACTORS LIMITING DEVELOPMENT OF FISHING/ CHALLENGES OF THE FISHING SECTOR

Physical factors

- Relief; some fishing grounds are located in areas which are inaccessible due to poor transport routes caused by steepness hence limiting fishing activities e.g. Lake Albert, Lake George, etc.
- Un favourable climatic conditions; these have greatly hindered fishing activities in several ways, e.g. heavy rainfall received in some areas has led to increase in the water levels within the water bodies causing flooding in the nearby areas e.g. Lake Victoria. The hot temperature on the other hand have led to reduction in the water levels hence limiting fishing activities e.g. on Lake Wamala, Lake Opet, etc
- Presence of the water weed/ hyacinth; this has limited fishing activities in several ways, e.g. it has blocked the penetration of sunlight which is needed for the growth of planktons and fish metabolism, it has also deprived the waters of the oxygen needed for fish to survive in the waters. It also affects the use of some fishing methods since it traps and tears the nets.
- Presence of strong winds; these have led to tearing of nets, drowning of fishermen and capsizing of boats hence limiting fishing activities e.g. on Lake Victoria and Lake Albert.
- Existence of waterfalls & rapids; these limit navigation and hence limit fishing activities on the water bodies especially rivers like R. Nile, R. Sezibwa, etc.
- Presence of rocks within the water bodies which interrupts fishing activities since they cause accidents and also trap and tear the nets e.g. on Lake Victoria.
- Presence of predators; these feed on the fish hence reducing their quantity e.g. crocodiles in Lake Albert, Lake Kyoga, etc.
- Presence of disease causing vectors like snails which cause bilharzia & mosquitoes which cause malaria, tsetse flies, etc hence affecting the ability of the fishermen to carry out fishing activities e.g. near Lake Albert.
- Presence of strong moonlight which makes the fish detect the fishing gears and therefore dodge them hence affecting fishing activities.
- Siltation of the lakes and rivers thereby limiting fishing activities e.g. on Lake Kyoga, Lake Bisina, etc.

Human factors

- Competition with other countries/ limited market/price fluctuations; the fishing industry faces a problem of competition with other countries carrying out the same activity which leads to price fluctuations & limited market for the fish and fish products e.g. from Lake Victoria, Lake Kyoga, etc.
- The industry also faces a problem of competition with other sectors of the economy in terms of labour supply , market, etc which has affected fishing activities e.g. on Lake Kyoga, Lake Victoria, etc.
- Over fishing/ indiscriminate fishing/ use of poor fishing methods; this is mainly due to the increase in demand for the fish which is as a result of high population. This has led to reduction in the quantity of fish hence affecting the incomes of the fishermen e.g. on Lake George, Lake Edward, etc.
- Inadequate capital for investment. This has limited the use of modern fishing & preservation methods leading to low fish catch.
- Fish smuggling; this is mainly done on water bodies found along the borders e.g. fish from Lake Victoria is smuggled into Kenya & TZ.
- Unfavourable government policies where by government over taxes the fishing companies which affects their profits and hence limits fishing activities.
- Political instabilities/ insecurity; this has hindered fishing activities by discouraging investors e.g. the existence of the ADF in Kasese has hindered fishing activities on Lake Edward.
- Pollution of the water bodies especially from chemicals, oil spills and industrial waste products dumped into the water bodies which has led to death of the fish e.g. in Lake Victoria, R. Victoria Nile, etc.
- Poorly developed transport routes; this limits the marketing & distribution of fish e.g. from Lake Albert, Lake Kyoga, etc.
- Poor preservation methods/ storage facilities; this has led to increased post harvest losses to the fishermen.
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STEPS TAKEN TO DEVELOP THE FISHING INDUSTRY IN UGANDA

- Regulating the sizes of nets is being done by government to solve the problem of over fishing as well as indiscriminate fishing. This is being done on Lake Victoria and Lake Kyoga by BMU.
- There is introduction of modern fishing gears e.g. use of motorised boats in order to increase the fish catch e.g. on Lake Victoria.
- Modern fish preservation methods have been adopted e.g. the use of refrigerated trucks e.g. at fish landing sites like Kasenyi on Lake Victoria.
- Fish processing plants have been established to reduce on the post harvest losses due to poor storage facilities e.g. green fields at Entebbe & Uganda marine products in Kampala near Lake Victoria.
- Modern transport mean have been developed through constructing more roads and up grading some of them leading to the landing sites to ease the marketing of fish e.g. from Lake Victoria.
- Sensitization of the masses is being done especially in the fishing communities about the importance of fishing. This is thru seminars, magazines, news papers, etc.

- Modern infrastructures have been set up along fish landing sites e.g. weighing shades, cooling stores, etc e.g. at Masese on Lake Victoria.
- Fish farming is being encouraged in order to increase on the fish catch e.g. thru the establishment of ponds in Mbale, Pallisa, etc.
- Fish restocking is being done in some rivers and lakes in order to increase the quantity of fish with in the waters e.g. Lake Victoria
- There is strengthening of security along the water bodies by deploying security personnel e.g. along Lake Victoria, etc.
- There is removal of the water weed from the water bodies thru using both mechanical and biological means e.g. from Lake Victoria, Lake Kyoga, etc.
- There is formation of small groups of fishermen to help them mobilise & access credit facilities from financial institutions e.g. near Lake Victoria & Lake Kyoga.
- There is training of labour to increase on the supply of skilled labour needed to carry out fishing activities.
- The public is being discouraged from carrying out swamp drainage to reduce siltation and loss of fish. This is being done by NEMA in areas near Lake Victoria, Lake Kyoga, etc.
- There is promotion of research which has helped in the discovery of modern fishing methods, fish markets, etc.
- Treatment of industrial wastes is being done to reduce pollution of the waters.
- Some fishing methods have been declared illegal e.g. poisoning.
- Establishment of the IGG to fight corruption and embezzlement of funds.

FISH FARMING