



Press Statement:

October 29, 2021

RE: Management plan for Lake Nyaguo launched

Lake Nyaguo is one of the satellite lakes of the Lake Kyoga basin. The lake is rich in diversity of native Nile crocodiles, reptile and fish species, some of which have disappeared from Lake Victoria and Kyoga. Lake Nyaguo is also habitat for globally threatened bird species such as the Grey Crowned Crane, Shoebill and Papyrus Gonolek. The lake is not only a potential tourist destination, but a catchment area for the districts of Ngora, Kumi and Pallisa as well.

As such, the state minister in charge of fisheries Hon. Hellen Adoa recently approved the Management Plan for Lake Nyaguo at a function in Ngora district; and a copy of the plan was handed over to the NEMA Eastern Regional Office for the purpose of monitoring and implementation.

Despite Lake Nyaguo's socio-economic and conservation value, the lake has been under threat from unsustainable exploitation manifested through the use of gill and seine nets to capture immature fish; unregulated rice farming by neighboring communities and hunting down of crocodiles because of the threat they pose to fishermen. These activities prompted the decision to develop a sustainable management plan for the lake and its resources.

The Management Plan is a timely intervention to provide strategic direction, define management objectives and interventions for the sustainable management of the lake. The plan provides for local community participation and proposes actions intended to decrease conflict between users and reduce degradation.

An interdisciplinary team comprising representatives from Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Directorate of Fisheries Resources (DiFR), Department of Wetlands Inspection Division (DWD), District local governments of Ngora, Kumi and Pallisa and local communities participated in development of the management plan. The activity was funded by Rainforest Trust in partnership with the National Fisheries Resources Research Institute (NaFIRRI).

Uganda is blessed with abundant fresh water bodies including lakes, rivers and wetlands. These aquatic areas account for approximately 17% of Uganda's total surface area, and provide a vital source of livelihoods for many people in the country. Sustainable use and exploitation of these water resources is important for economic development and NEMA is required to collaborate with the relevant lead agencies to ensure that natural lakes and rivers are conserved for the common good of the people.

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