



NILE BASIN INITIATIVE

NELSAP

Nile
Equatorial
Lakes
Subsidiary
Action
Program

BUGESERA PROJECT

Bugesera Transboundary Integrated Water Resources Management Project



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project area covers the Akanyaru marshland, the Lakes Cyohoha and Rweru and their watersheds shared by Rwanda and Burundi. It is located in the Akanyaru sub-basin and the downstream Nyabarongo sub-basin, both being part of the Kagera sub-basin shared by Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and Tanzania.

The Akanyaru marshland is a vast drowned valley which forms a natural border between Rwanda and Burundi. The marshland is characterized by waters highly loaded with suspended matter due to mechanical erosion from river banks, deforestation and environmental degradation of the watersheds. The Lakes Rweru and Cyohoha are also located at the border between Rwanda and Burundi, and they cover over 80 km² and 60 km² respectively.

The project area has experienced a steady decline in the level of ecosystem services from being the food basket of Rwanda and Burundi in the 1960s with widespread forest area and plenty of rainfall to its current status of frequent drought, soil erosion and lack of grazing land. The project objective is to have a coordinated and sustainable development, management and utilization of the Lakes Cyohoha, Rweru, Akanyaru marshland environment, including water and fisheries resources production.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to poverty reduction and reverse environment degradation in the Bugesera natural region shared by Rwanda and Burundi, especially on the Rweru and Cyohoha lakes basins and Akanyaru marshland.

KEY OUTPUTS OF THE FIRST PHASE

- Three Diagnostic Analysis
- Three integrated Management plans with a strategic environmental and social
- Project Concept Note with bankable investments proposals
- Operational hydrometric and meteorological stations on the three water resources
- Training of key actors in IWRM, fishery law and environment conservation.

SUB-PROGRAM

Water Resources Management and Development

EXECUTIVE AGENCY

NBI/NELSAP in collaboration with Government of Rwanda and Burundi

PROJECT DURATION

2010 – 2012 (Preparation)
4 years (Implementation)

BUDGET

The 3 year first phase of the project received a grant from the AWF/AfDB for a total of Euro 770,000 and 93% of it was spent in defined activities

The implementation phase of the project needs 40 Million USD and will be articulate in three components:

Component 1: Agriculture Development

Component 2: Watershed Management

Component 3: Fisheries Resources Development and Management

Component 4: capacity building and project coordination

PARTICIPATING MEMBER STATES

The project covers three Provinces in Burundi and four Districts in Rwanda.

KEY COMPONENTS AND EXPECTED IMPACTS

The implementation phase of the project have been articulated in four components for a total cost of 40 Million USD

Component 1. Integrated Agriculture and Watershed Development and Management	Near 2,000 ha of irrigated land set up with hillside irrigation techniques and effective marshland management, more than 6,500 farmers with improved capacities on improved seeds, dairy cows and post-harvest infrastructures.
Component 2. Watershed management	Mechanisms and capacities for joint water monitoring and management in place and operational Protection of 765 ha of lakeshores and Akanyaru riverbanks with fodder grass, agroforestry, fruit, bamboo and indigenous tree species
Component 3 Fisheries Resources Development and Management	Restock of the 2 lakes with 1,000,000 tilapia fingerlings, support construction of fishery infrastructures and strengthen capacities of 9 fishermen cooperatives and key stakeholders for sustainable fishery development
Component 4. Capacity building and Project coordination	Capacity building for alternative livelihood and by commodity chain of 4,500 beneficiaries from fishery, farmers and agriculture cooperatives, 50% being women

IMPACTS STATEMENT

The long term impacts expected from the project are:

- i) Contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable livelihoods in Burundi and Rwanda by increasing fisheries and agriculture contribution to the GDP of Burundi and Rwanda.
- ii) Improved Management of Lakes Rweru and Cyohoha as well as of the Akanyaru marshland

KEY EXPECTED OUTPUTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE:

- ❖ **Regional Integration and peace building** through harmonized policies frameworks, set up of regional institution and collaborative fishermen organizations;
- ❖ **Conservation of aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity** through restoration of lakes shores, spawning sites and catchments and joint mechanisms for fishery and water resources monitoring and management
- ❖ **Poverty reduction and improvement of food security** through development of fishery sector whereby near 4,000 jobs on both sides will be directly and indirectly created with about 50% of these benefiting being the women.
- ❖ **Capacity building and Knowledge generation:** empowerment of local fishermen communities and women as well as other marginalized groups for sustainable management and utilization of natural resources; knowledge generation and dissemination and systems to monitor specific risks and threats e.g. climate variability.

NEXT STEPS

NELSAP in close partnership with the Governments Rwanda and Burundi are actively working on mobilizing resources for the implementation phase.



NILE EQUATORIAL LAKES SUBSIDIARY ACTION PROGRAM – COORDINATION UNIT

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Mission: To contribute to the eradication of poverty, economic growth, and reversal of environmental degradation in the Nile Equatorial Lakes

