



OVERVIEW OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE RESOURCES:

UGANDA*

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Introduction

Water covers **18%** of Uganda's total surface area and major lakes include **Lake Victoria, Kyoga, Albert and George/Edward**.

There are also over 160 minor lakes and many rivers, floodplains and swamps all of which are critical fish breeding and nursery grounds. Currently fish production is estimated at **416,000 tons** per annum and fish export has risen from 4,751 tons (1991) tons to **36,600 tons** (2005) worth USD 5,308 million and **USD 143,168 million** respectively.

Key areas of fisheries contribution in the economy

Exports: Fish exports continue to grow and contributed US\$143 million to Uganda in 2005; the highest foreign exchange contribution to the economy of any commodity.

Employment: Nearly 300,000 people, including the majority of poor men and women, are directly involved in fishing, fish processing and trading.

Income: More than 1.2 million people are directly dependent on the fisheries sector as the main source of household income.

Food Security: Fish feeds up to 17 million people [69% of total population] within Uganda annually, providing critical nutrient as well as food protein.

GDP contribution: PEAP indicates that fisheries contributes 6% of the national economy although only 2.4 is captured in the national accounts by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) while other studies including Banks (2003) have demonstrated that it goes as high as 12% if properly valued.

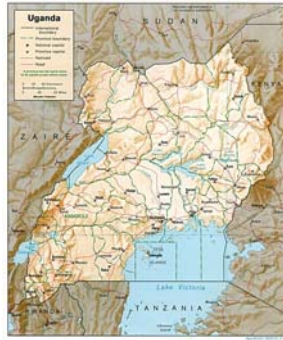


Figure 1. Uganda country map

Capture Fisheries Production

Fish production from the natural water bodies is currently the main stay of the fisheries industry with **Lake Victoria being the main source of fish** followed by **Lake Albert and Lake Kyoga**. Fish is also caught from a number of minor lakes and rivers. The estimated production for the last 10 years is provided in Table 1 while the main commercial species are presented in Table 2.

Table 1. Estimated Quantity of Fish Landed by Lake Region in Uganda Waters 1995-2005 ('000 mt)

YEAR	VICTORIA	ALBERT	KYOGA	EDWARD	WALALA	ANILE	OTHERS	TOTAL
1995	103.0	18.0	30.0	9.0	-	0.0	0.0	222.0
1996	106.0	22.0	37.0	8.0	-	0.4	0.0	216.0
1997	106.0	29.0	30.0	8.0	-	3.4	0.0	219.0
1998	106.2	19.1	30.2	5.6	-	3.5	3.5	217.0
1999	106.2	28.1	31.1	7.4	-	3.5	6.2	229.3
2000	134.4	19.4	25.5	8.2	5.8	-	8.6	219.5
2001	131.8	19.6	28.4	8.4	2.6	-	-	220.0
2002	136.1	19.4	25.6	9.2	9.0	-	-	221.3
2003	175.3	19.5	32.8	8.3	8.3	-	-	241.8
2004	250.3	18.4	28.8	9.6	6.4	9.0	3.4	402.8
2005	250.3	16.4	28.5	9.6	6.4	9.0	17.9	416.8

Table 2: Main Fish Species Caught (2005)

Family	Scientific Name	English Name	M. Tonnes
Cetostomidae	<i>Lates niloticus</i>	Nile Perch	176,204.0
Cichlidae	<i>Oreochromis sp</i>	Tilapia	168,576.0
Cyprinidae	<i>Melanotilapia spilargenteus</i>	Engavulopyrus	25,872.0
Cyprinidae	<i>Lates niloticus</i>	Shad	11.0
Lepidosteomidae	<i>Protopocheilus aethiopicus</i>	African Lunar fish	14,503.14
Characidae	<i>Hydrocorax</i>	Tiger fish	19,293.94
Characidae	<i>Alestes</i>	Tiger fish	4,167.07
Blenniidae	<i>Bogrus boopis</i>	Cat fish	9,169.89
Lepididae	<i>Cyprinus</i>	Shad fish	9,199.07
Mormyridae	<i>Mormyrus</i>	Elephant-snout fish	1687.03
Cyprinidae	<i>Cyprinus</i>	Shad	9,199.14
Total			416,758.99

Aquaculture

Over the last 5 years, the Department of fisheries Resources has taken deliberate efforts to revitalize aquaculture production in the country. Currently there are **8000 subsistence fish farmers, 3500 small scale commercial farmers and 500 emergent commercial fish farmers**. Estimated production for 2005 was **10,000 mt**.

Table 3: Aquaculture in Uganda, data from 2004

No. of fish Ponds	18,152
Pond Surface area	582.6 hectares



Table 4: Aquaculture production of major species in Uganda, data from 2004

Common name	Scientific name	Total production (mt)
Tilapia	<i>Tilapia Zillii</i>	1,660
Cat fish	<i>Oreochromis niloticus</i>	3,827
Mirror Carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	50
Fresh water prawns		1.5

Policy

The National vision for Fisheries in Uganda is "an ensured sustainable exploitation and culture of the fishery resources at the highest possible levels, thereby maintaining fish availability for both present and future generations without degrading the environment"

Summary

Fisheries resources are among the most significant natural endowments of Uganda not only because of their magnitude and diversity, but also because they represent a major source of protein in the diet of most Ugandans, in addition to employment and income for over one million people.

Policy and Legal Framework

Fisheries development and management is guided by the **Constitution of Uganda** and other policies. A **Fisheries Sector study** was under taken in 1997 resulting in the preparation of a **Fisheries Master Plan**. This was followed by preparation of the **National Fisheries Policy and Fisheries Sector Strategic Plan**. A **new Fisheries Bill** is under preparation.

The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995

The overall policy framework for the National Fisheries Policy is provided by the National Constitution of 1995. Article XIII of the National Objectives and directive Principles of State Policy places an obligation on the State to protect important Natural Resources..

Inter-sectoral policies that are relevant to the National Fisheries Policy Include:

- The National Environment Management Policy (1994)
- The Wildlife Policy 1995
- The National Wetlands Policy 1995
- The Water Policy 1995
- Public Sector Reform (Decentralization)
- The Plan for the Modernisation of Agriculture

The National Fisheries Policy 2004

The Overall fisheries sector goal is to ensure increased and sustainable fish production and utilization by properly managing capture fisheries, promoting aquaculture and reducing post harvest losses. The policy has 13 policy areas each with its policy objectives and policy strategies.

The Fisheries CAP 197

- Operationalises the policy
- Provides for enactment of various statutes for effective management of the fisheries resources.
- A new fish bill is awaiting cabinet approval.

Fisheries in Uganda's Poverty Eradication Plan (PEAP)

The PEAP is Uganda's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). The PEAP which was first developed in 1997 was last revised in 2004. Fisheries is covered in the PEAP as a key sector that can reduce poverty and contribute to economic growth. The PEAP indicates that over the last decade, fish have become one of Uganda's major export commodities.



Government Institutions

Government Institutions involved in the Fisheries Sector include:

Institution	Responsibility
Department of Fisheries Resources	Fisheries Management
National Fisheries Resources Research Institute	
-FIRRI	Capture fisheries research
-Kajjansi	Aquaculture research
Makerere University	B.Sc. in Fisheries and Aquaculture
Fisheries Training Institute, Entebbe	Diploma and Certificate courses in Fisheries Management, Fish Technology, Boat and Yacht Building

Department of Fisheries Resources

The **Department of Fisheries Resources** is in the process of transforming into a **Uganda Fisheries Authority (UFA)** which represents a new vision for the fisheries governance and fisheries management in Uganda. It will be an autonomous and self funded organisation, operating in a business-like manner, seeking to promote, support, guide and regulate the sector, while working closely with and being answerable to all relevant stakeholders.

Organizational Structure of DFR

The Department of Fisheries Resources currently has a staff of forty five. Below is an organigram of DFR.

