

DR CONGO NCU ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTATION

The activities achieved are presented under the four project components, namely: Component A: Institutional Capacity Building; Component B: Fisheries Management and Environmental Protection; Component C: Rural Infrastructure and Local Development; and Component D: Project Management. The report also presents the progress of the implementation of goods, works and services and their respective modes of acquisition.

1 COMPONENT A: INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity building aims to achieve good response abilities at the national and regional levels for sustainable and integrated management of Lake Tanganyika and its natural resources. Activities implemented under this component include:-

- Rehabilitation of two administrative buildings common to agriculture and environment departments in Uvira and in Kalemie.
- Training 6,000 people in the fishing industry of which 53% are women.
- Acquisition of assets: computer equipment, office furniture and boats equipped with two 45 cv engines.

The achievements include:

(i). Administrative Buildings:

The Joint Administration Building for the Fisheries Department and Tanganyika Environment District rehabilitated in Kalemie and equipped with furniture was completed and occupied in the last quarter of 2012. The one in Uvira Territory, which was built by NOVEL CONSULT company, has been approved, equipped and occupied in the first quarter of 2013.

(ii) Training and Mentoring:

The main training and sensitization activities conducted by the NCU for the local community and public service agents include:-

- 6,000 people in the fishing industry including 3180 women trained on responsible fishing, fishing profitability, processing and conservation, micro-enterprise management and health standards.
- 55 Agriculture and Environment agents including 30 women were trained on the participatory approach, monitoring, control, protection of the environment, the fishing economy, the fight against pollution and good farming practices.
- 630 specialized local association members including 385 women were trained on the control of free access to resources, the collection of statistical data, destructive devices and reducing post-harvest losses.
- 60 local community agents, including 24 women were trained on gender, the participatory approach and monitoring of community micro-projects.



Photo showing fishermen using a beach-seine, an illegal fishing gear

(iii) Acquisition of assets and services:

In 2013, the following assets were acquired by the Project:

- ✓ IT equipment,
- ✓ Cold storage rooms,
- ✓ Ice mills,
- ✓ 45 KVA power generator,
- ✓ Office furniture for surveillance buildings.

These assets were supplied by SACO and IMP Company. Office furniture was respectively installed after receipt in each surveillance building in Uvira, Fizi, Kalemie and Moba.

(iv) Policy and regulatory frameworks:

Two national workshops were organized by the Directorate of Fisheries and FAO and facilitated by national experts in order to review and adapt the pending draft legislation for approval by the Parliament.

(v) Monitoring and communication system

The regional monitoring and communication system falls within LTA's responsibilities; a monitoring manual had been developed and implemented by NCUs. However, there was no capacity building for NCUs monitoring and evaluation officers on how to use this manual.

Regarding communication, the DRC NCU has already completed the creation of its web mail address and those of its staff.

2 COMPONENT B: FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

This Component aims to ensure sustainable and responsible fisheries management and to contribute to the preservation of the quality of Lake Tanganyika aquatic ecosystems.

The activities cover:

- (i) framework plan for fisheries management;
- (ii) development of co-management mechanism;
- (iii) fisheries statistics;
- (iv) fisheries surveillance;
- (v) landing sites improvement;
- (vi) environmental protection; and
- (vii) studies and back-up research.

The achievements include the following:-

(i) Framework Plan for Fisheries Management:

The task of updating the framework plan for fisheries management developed since 2000 lies within LTA's responsibilities through the collection and processing of additional information on the system of fisheries production, marketing, anthropogenic activities in watersheds as well as institutional and socio-economic aspects.

The Framework Plan for the Fisheries Management was updated at the national level by the Fisheries Directorate in Kinshasa in May 2012 and validated by the national delegates of the four member countries in October 2012 in Nairobi, Kenya, during a regional workshop organized by LTA.

In 2013, from May 29 to 30, another workshop was organized by LTA on the development of the Regional Action Plan for the Management of Fishing Capacity on Lake Tanganyika in order to better understand this Action Plan development process.

(ii) Fisheries Monitoring

Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) relate to fish production, fisheries monitoring, the control of fishing capacity, fishing effort, illegal fishing, fishing authorizations, spawning areas surveillance, water pollution and gear movement control on the Lake.

(iii) Co-Management Mechanism Development:

In view of the development of co-management mechanism, a series of meetings with management committees pilot villages newly established had been made by the NCU in Uvira and Kalemie in April and July 2013, with the objective: Strengthen the capacity of these committees on the management of micro-projects, the management of community infrastructure and practice of responsible fishing.

(iv) Fisheries Statistics:

A 2-day regional workshop was organized by LTA on fisheries statistics in Kinshasa from 21 to 24 January 2013 with the objective of analyzing and discussing the reliability of the fisheries statistical data collected from February to August 2012. In May 2013 The NCU had received the FAO Biostatistician Expert for a ten-day mission to design and develop a program (MS ACCESS) for fisheries statistical data processing and analysis.

The NCU, in collaboration with the Inspectorate of Agriculture and representatives of fishers' associations, are now going on with fisheries statistical data collection along Lake Tanganyika coast, including Uvira, Fizi, Kalemie and Moba. The data that have been collected since June 2013 have been entered into the processing and analysis software.

(v) Landing Sites Improvement

• Integrated landing sites

The in-process actions here aim to make available to fishing communities marketing infrastructure (five concrete areas, 5 piers, 10 warehouses, 4 cold storage rooms and 4 ice makers) as well as community infrastructures (latrines and water points).

Construction activities of these facilities within 5 landing sites are about to be completed. It should be noted that the installation of 4 cold storage rooms 4 ice mills is to be achieved between February and April 2014. Regarding ten fish storage sheds, construction activities have so far reached an implementation rate of 80%. As for piers and concrete surfaces, the file for the recruitment of a consultant to undertake technical studies and works supervision is being prepared.

• Fisheries Surveillance

The construction works for 4 surveillance buildings to be conducted in Baraka (Fizi) Fisheries in Kalemie, Moba and Uvira are highly advanced. In Kalemie and Uvira, these buildings have been provisionally approved and equipped with office furniture. Those in Baraka and Moba, including finishing work, are still in process and they will be received and equipped in February 2014.

Regarding communications equipment and patrol boats, the contract has been awarded to the French firm SEE MERRE and UCN expects delivery before September 2014.

(vi) Environmental Protection:

This activity involves the setting up, in sensitive watershed areas, of physical and biological developments on 80,000 ha, including the planting of community forests. After identifying 65 denuded areas in danger to erosion and deforestation, during the rainy season of 2011, the NCU reforested a total of 84 ha at 7 ha for each of the 12 Coastal CAPs. Reforestation activities produced more than 1000,000 seedlings that were further distributed in three Territories, namely Uvira, Fizi and Kalemie. In Uvira, the lake belt of Bavira community and Uvira city had benefited from reforestation actions with 300,000 seedlings. A Fizi, Tanganyika sector had benefited 200,000.

In Kalemie, 500,000 seedlings were produced and used for reforesting sites in SNCC, in and Rugumba and Mahito camps. From January to December 2012, the project went on planting seedlings in various target sites considered as sources of erosion and sedimentation for Lake Tanganyika.

In 2013, in addition to sensitization campaigns on the importance of trees, the NCU conducted maintenance activities for seedlings in the reforested sites.

(vii) Studies and back-up Research:

Under back-up research activities, in 2010, the NCU had participated in a meeting to identify and prioritize research topics in Uvira. The partnership agreement with Uvira Research Center in Hydrobiology had not progressed owing to the fact that the manager rather requested rehabilitation and equipment, which had not been included in the evaluation report. However, as harmonized back-up research priorities had to be identified at LTA level, a regional collaborative research program meeting was held in Kigoma from 4 to 5 April 2012, in order to examine riparian countries' fisheries research proposals. LTA had defined the themes and the budget for the implementation of the following by the NCUs:

- ✓ Study on fish migratory movement
- ✓ Survey on lake riparian population's nutrition

3 COMPONENT C: RURAL INFRASTRUCTURES AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

This component includes implementing activities aimed at improving sustainably the livelihoods of Lake Tanganyika riparian populations, funding community projects through the establishment of a Local Development Fund, infrastructure and economic equipment rehabilitation as well as and health education and prevention.

A. Components

- Community infrastructures: schools, health centers, water points and public latrines;
- Rural Infrastructures: Rehabilitation of 400 km of rural roads and construction 5 rural markets.

B. Achievements

1. Community Infrastructures:

The distribution of community infrastructures per territory is as follows:

- (i) school: 1 at Kalemie and 1 at Fizi;
- (ii) health centers: one at Kalemie, 1 at Moba 1 and 1 at Uvira;
- (iii) latrines: 2 at Kalemie, 3 at Moba 3, 4 at Uvira and 7 at Fizi 2; and
- (iv) water points: 3 at Kalemie, 4 at Moba, 5 at Uvira and 7 at Fizi.

As part of the project activities within this framework, the NCU had previously funded - from national counterpart resources - the construction of a 7-cabin latrine in Kalemie on the fishing beach of Kamkolobondo.

This latrine, which is managed by the Kalemie Project Welcoming and Facilitation Committee, was inaugurated by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development in June 2013. It should be noted that it is managed by a management committee consisting of 4 people.

It is worth mentioning that the construction of a six-classroom school at Rutuku (Kalemie) has reached a 60 percent implementation rate. Provisional approval should take place in May 2014. Furthermore, after awarding other markets (mentioned above) to different local suppliers, the NCU plans to launch construction in the first quarter of 2014.

2. Rural Infrastructures

• Rehabilitation of rural tracks and works of arts

The rehabilitation of 13 km of tracks and bridges on the Uvira-Fizi section have reached a 70 percent implementation level, and the construction of 9 scuppers and 2 bridges is being completed.

Tracks rehabilitation works in Kalemie shall be launched shortly.

• Construction of rural markets

The construction of five covered markets in Kilomoni II and Tala in South Kivu, Kauka, Tembwe and Regeza in Katanga have been completed.

Provisional receipt of these infrastructures should take place in the first quarter of 2014.

4 COMPONENT D: PROJECT MANAGEMENT

A. Components:

- Administrative management
- Infrastructures and equipment
- Project monitoring and evaluation
- Financial management

A. Achievements:

1 Administrative Management:

The LTA Secretariat is entrusted with coordination responsibility at the regional level, while the National Coordination Unit, based in Kalemie, Katanga province, is responsible for implementing the project. The latter has an appropriate staff with the required profiles, namely a National Coordinator supported by 6 officers including a fisheries expert, a Civil Engineer, an Environmentalist, a Socio-Economist, a Procurement officer and an Accountant with a management degree. The latter is supported by Assistants and support Staff, namely 1 Assistant to the Accounting Manager, two secretaries, a cashier, 1 IT assistant, 2 drivers, 1 receptionist, 45 technical mentors including 4 antenna heads and 1 cleaner/courier. It is worth noting that in 2013 the number of technical mentors was significantly reduced from 45 to 11, and the staff is going to be further downsized to optimize the necessary human resources for the extension period.

2. Infrastructures and Equipment

In 2013, the NCU acquired: (i) cold storage rooms, (ii) computer equipment (iii) power generators and (iv) ice mills (v) office furniture (vi) four (5) 45 KVA generators for surveillance buildings.

Regarding community infrastructure amenities, namely health centers and schools, the competitive bidding documents are being prepared.

Concerning infrastructures, the Uvira administrative building (South Kivu) has been approved, equipped, and occupied by the Fisheries and Environment departments.

Construction of covered markets and surveillance buildings are about to be completed.

Construction of ten storage sheds, as well as the rehabilitation/construction of rural tracks and bridges continues.

3 Project Monitoring and Evaluation:

With LTA's support, a short-term consultant had produced a program monitoring and evaluation system manual which, unfortunately, has not been disseminated till now.

The year 2013 was marked by the visit of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and two visits by the African Development Bank supervisory mission in June and December, conducted by the Agronomist Expert in charge of Agriculture and Natural resources Management, Mr. Kadiata BAKACH. On this occasion, the Minister celebrated with the NCU and Kalemie fishermen the National Fish Day on 24 June. In addition, he visited the different field achievements of PRODAP project, including the National Coordination Unit headquarters building, the fisheries surveillance building, the landing site, Kamkolobondo modern latrine as well as the reforestation sites. The building rehabilitated by NCU with ADB funds had been officially inaugurated by the Minister.

5 Financial Management

During the third quarter of 2013, NCU staff received payment of part of their salary arrears. As a matter of fact, of the USD 1,219,500 of outstanding national contribution for the operation of LTA and NCU, the Congolese government had disbursed a sum of USD 350,000 in September 2013. The NCU benefitted from retrocession of 65% of this amount, that is, \$ 227,500 by LTA.

(a) ADB funds

The NCU received from ADB disbursements for a total of USD 2,040,247.68 distributed according to the following disbursement methods:

- Special account: USD 596,925.00
- Direct payments: USD 1,443,322.68

This brought the disbursement rate of 50% by the end of 2012 to 70.06% by 31 December 2013.

(b) Accounting

In 2013, the delay in TOMPRO software data entry was recovered. As a matter of fact, due to the late acquisition of the financial management and accounting software, we had to record operations for the 5 past financial years (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013).

(c) Accounts Auditing

Despite the effort of the Project to invite Audirex Cabinet to start since May, 2012 financial year accounts auditing did not take place till September 2013. This delay resulted in funds disbursement delay for the Project.

(d) Government contributions

The situation of contributions from the Government to date displays a considerable delay which is detrimental to the implementation of the project.

Indeed, this weakness in contributions to LTA brought about serious salary arrears to DRC NCU workers. It is worth noting that these arrears severely cut down the ADF funds allocated to project activities.

(e) Counterpart Funds

Since the project started, DRC never provided its contribution to the counterpart funds till January 2011 for an amount of \$ 200,000 instead of \$ 250,000 annually due to PRODAP.

This money made it possible to construct a public latrine at Kalemie, to get 5 computers for the framework survey and a Jeep assigned to the liaison office in Lubumbashi. This jeep was recently recovered for Kalemie.

(f) Beneficiaries' contributions

Sensitization of the beneficiaries and the local authority has already been conducted so as to get them involved in the project and cover their 15% contribution for the activities implementation.

The Lake Tanganyika riparian communities actively participate in the construction of community and commercial infrastructures through transport of sand, stones, water, gravel, and so on.