

Project Update: March 2016

Logistical meeting:

The project was introduced to the district authorities by elaborating the aim and expected output. With assistance from district authorities, logistical meeting was arranged and conducted at Tulya ward comprising of Tulya and Doromoni villages. Two primary schools *i.e.* Tulya and Doromoni, one secondary school *i.e.* Tulya secondary and two fish landing sites *i.e.* Doromoni and Migilango in the same ward were identified as the starting point.

Social economic survey:

The conducted survey showed that fishing is the major economic activity that supports the livelihood of the people living around Lake Kitangiri. Sometimes they engage in unsustainable small scale agriculture, livestock keeping, collecting firewood and burning charcoal. It was also identified major environmental threats affecting Lake Kitangiri ecosystem and fish species including endangered *Oreochromis amphimelas* are:

- Illegal fishing gear *i.e.* rampant use of beach seine and small sized fish nets.
- Clearing of the Lake vegetation that reduces availability of food for the inhabiting fish species.
- Illegal ownership and establishment of human settlements within the lake.
- Overfishing due to large numbers of migratory fishers from Lake Jipe, Mtera Dam, Nyumba ya Mungu Dam, Lake Eyasi and Lake Burunge.
- Decline in the level and size of the lake due to siltation.
- Changes in the quality of breeding grounds due to habitat destruction and modification as a result of clearing of near shore vegetation and sedimentation.

Environmental Education:

Formal meetings and workshop training was conducted by involving standard four and five primary pupils from Doromoni primary school and students from Tulya secondary school. The trainees suggested planting trees and grasses in degraded areas to reduce siltation, abolishing of illegal fishing gear, practising proper agricultural methods and reducing herd size. After education and awareness meetings, school environmental clubs were established in each school. In facilitating both school eco club, members were given a strategic work plan which included tree planting within and outside school boundaries and poem competition.

In addition, we conducted a training meeting with Lake Kitangiri stakeholders including fishers, fish brokers, middlemen, fish processors, boat owners and boat and gear markers. The following were suggested:

- Protection of the remaining natural vegetation in both terrestrial and within the lake.
- Establishment of the beach management units (BMUs).
- Law enforcement with regard to buffer zones and Lake Ecosystem management.
- Tree planting in the degraded buffer zone and adjacent areas.

It was agreed that Lake Kitangiri beneficiaries in collaboration with village executive and agricultural officers should implement the above suggestions.



Left: Catch of different fish species in the Doromoni fish landing sites. Right: Lake Kitangiri Tilapia *Oreochromis amphimelas* (10 cm total length) caught from one of the breeding ground in the northern part of the Lake.



Left: One of the breeding ground of *Oreochromis amphimelas* invaded by floating weeds. Right: Secretary of Doromoni Primary school Environmental Club Ms. Betsheba demonstrating the importance of Lake Kitangiri conservation to the Club members.