

Project Update: April 2017

Activity 1:

Work package 1: Detailed monitoring and surveying of endangered fish: nets were set by designated fishermen and their catch time and date recorded. The number and species of each catch was carefully recorded for each of the sites. During January and February 2017 the catch was lower compared to end of March and April. Numerous catfish were also collected from the sites closer to the papyrus swamps.



Figure 1: Community members being shown part of the catch and description of different fish species from L. Kanyaboli

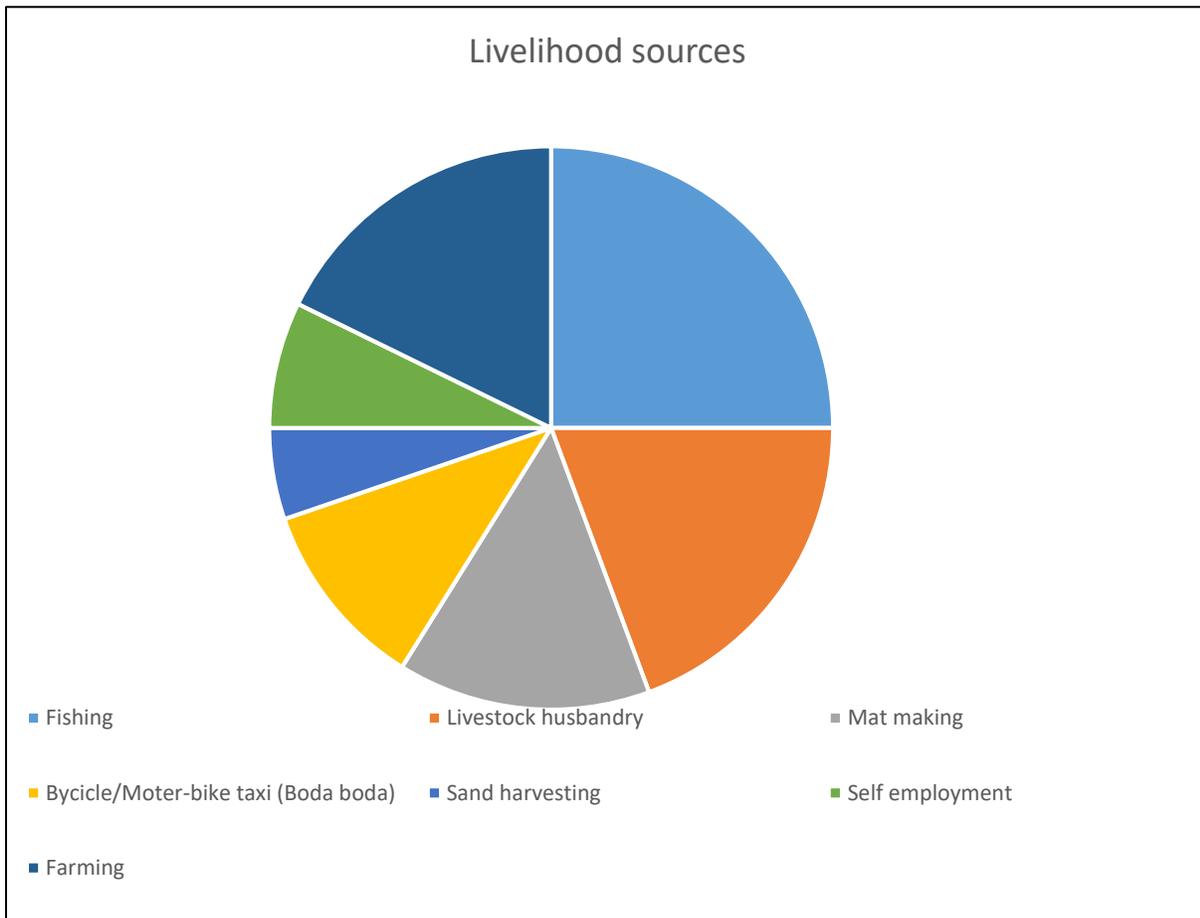


Figure 2: Populations involved in different economic activities in Kanyaboli, Siaya

Outcomes:

- i. We were able to identify many common fish species and some rare ones too. Below is a list of the fish species identified and counted.
- ii. The fish species and number caught seemed to have reduced compared to the last monitoring. After the survey the following reasons were discussed by the team as some of the factors leading to the low fish species count

Table 1: Some species that were caught during the first monitoring period

Species	Common name	Frequency
<i>Oreochromis esculantes</i>	Singida Tilapia	4
<i>Haplochromis spp</i>	Haplochromines	27
<i>Xystichromis phytophagous</i>	Christmas fulu	3
<i>Xenoclaris spp</i>	Lake Victoria Deepwater catfish	8
<i>Rastineobola argentea</i>	Sardines	120
<i>Schibe mystus</i>	Silver catfish	33
<i>Bagrus docmac</i>	Sudan catfish	12

The team is continuing with monitoring the fish catch and analysis will be done at the end of the second monitoring period.

- iii. Mounting pressures on fish stocks has caused dramatic reductions of certain species. These reductions give rise to concerns about the ability of near shore fisheries to continue to produce an adequate yield for human dietary purposes as well as concerns about conserving biodiversity. For example the *Orreochromis esculantes* (a mild and tasty fish) has nearly disappeared in the near shore waters while stocks seem to have dropped in other sites.
- iv. Fishing was more intense from January to March as rains were very low in most of the country. This had an effect as it led to lack of other activities such as farming and livestock rearing. Many locals were forced to concentrate in fishing and this could have also led to the eventual low fish catch.
- v. The co-management by the Fish Conservation Committee and fishmongers, has been very effective as they have been able to meet every month to deliberate on possible ways to reduce the pressures during the high fishing season. They were able to restrict all fishermen into using the recommended net sizes and hence allowing only mature fish to be caught.