

Project Update: May 2017

Activity: Determining Lake Kanyaboli water quality parameters.

Assessment of water quality parameters was performed by measuring and recording average water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, common nutrients and turbidity. The sampling points were identified and coordinates recorded on GPS. Dissolved oxygen concentrations in sampled sites ranged from 2.88 to 5.54 mg/l having a mean of 4.21 mg/l. many of the sites had concentrations above 3.5mg/l. The water temperature ranged from 25°C to 29 °C measured at 11 am in all the sites.

Activity: Assessment of phytoplankton in the Lake Kanyaboli

We also briefly assessed the phytoplankton abundance and found that *Microcystis* and *Anaebena* spp were the most abundant and dominating in the open waters. The high phytoplankton abundance in the gulf could be attributed to high nutrient loading. The corresponding distribution pattern indicates or is associated with the changes of various environmental factors in play within the lake

Activity: Establishment and promotion of stakeholder's forum.

Different stakeholders including; Siaya County Government, Concern Africa, WaterSan, KEMFRI representatives from schools and local community leaders. The forum addressed a lot of issues including:

1. Development of a Lake Kanyaboli community action plan.
2. Revisiting and amending the fishing quotas within Kanyaboli fishing community.
3. Setting up a stakeholders working group to oversee the environmental challenges in the community.
4. Assessing opportunities for funding local community in integrated farming ventures.
5. Inclusion of six more schools into the outreach programme and also ensuring the upstream communities are aware of the projects around Lake Kanyaboli.

Outcomes:

- We were able to assess all the water quality and phytoplankton parameters as set. These parameters are very important when correlating with the fish trends.
- We managed to have very elaborative community and stakeholders' forum where many issues were addressed and raised as highlighted above.
- An agreement amongst all stakeholders that there have been already positive changes in the attitude of most fishermen regarding the need for sustainable fishing and conservation of the lake.



First Stakeholders forum and community meeting



Sun drying as one of the fish preservation methods



School education on fish management and fish types