



BUILDING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE MALAWIAN FISHERY SECTOR

Fish are a primary source of protein for many Malawians. Fisheries are also crucial to livelihoods and, where fish are not available, nutritional deficiencies are widespread. Understanding the fisheries sector is important in Malawi, where few livelihoods alternatives exist. In southern Lake Malawi and Lake Malombe, overfishing is rampant and fisheries resources are facing increasing pressure from climate change. Within this context, the project aimed to strengthen sustainable fisheries management, support the resilience of fisheries to climate change and improve national food security.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

Through strong collaboration, fisheries research units in Monkey Bay and Salima conducted feasibility studies, value chain analyses, socioeconomic baseline surveys and studies on limnology, fish stock assessment, bathymetry and benthic habitats. Ten fisheries research officers and officers from the hydrographic survey unit were trained in data analysis and the writing up of results. Crucial environmental and social considerations were identified, and aquaculture zoning, site selection for fish cages and pond aquaculture interventions were planned. A vessel monitoring system (VMS) for fisheries surveillance was procured, and a fisheries monitoring centre was initiated. Capacity was enhanced to mainstream climate change adaptation in policies affecting the fisheries sector. Further recommendations were provided for potential fisheries management interventions, including community-based fisheries management approaches and fish stock recovery.

IMPACT

The VMS will increase compliance within established fishing zones and constitutes an incentive for obtaining fishing licenses, which will help ensure more sustainable production of fisheries resources in the longer term. Artisanal fishing communities were also engaged to play an important role in the conservation and management of fisheries resources. Through the involvement of stakeholders, including artisanal fishing communities and staff from the fisheries research units of the DoF, project participants were provided with the technology and know-how to improve the management and conservation of fisheries in Malawi, as well as provide inputs to an annual forum to exchange ideas. With the aim to improve national food security, these activities strengthened sustainable fisheries management and contributed to mainstreaming climate change adaptation in fisheries sector policies.

KEY FACTS

Contribution
USD 470 000

Duration
June 2016 – December 2017

Resource Partner
FAO

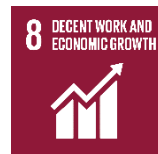
Partner
Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR)

Beneficiaries
Department of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture (DoF), Irrigation and Water Development; Artisanal fishers; Trawler operators



ACTIVITIES

- Fisheries Monitoring Centre initiated for Southern Lake Malawi.
- Knowledge generated and provided to DoF on vulnerability of Lake Malombe.
- Feasibility study conducted on stocking Lake Malombe with hatchery-reared Chambo.
- Environmental risks of artificial reefs in Lake Malombe assessed.
- Recommendations provided for aquaculture zoning and site selection for fish cages in Lake Malawi and Lake Malombe.
- Protocol developed for estimating the carrying capacity of cage culture sites in Lake Malawi.
- Comprehensive environmental monitoring programme for cage aquaculture in Lake Malawi created.
- Two-day training course designed and facilitated.



Project Code

TCP/MLW/3504

Project Title

Increasing resilience to climate change in the fishery sector of southern Lake Malawi and Lake Malombe

Contact

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