

## Climate change in the Lake Victoria basin

Effects of climate change have already been noticed by fishing communities, including:

- Increased frequency of droughts / floods
- Increased erratic storm events
- Changes in wind patterns
- Unpredictable seasons

Other environmental changes include:

- Deforestation of wooded areas
- Destruction of wetland habitat
- Rapid human population growth



### Effects on fishery-based livelihoods

These changes negatively affect livelihoods of people who are dependent on fisheries.

- Changes in fish abundance
- Reduced income
- Food insecurity
- Crop failure
- livestock death
- Damage to infrastructure
- Increased competition
- Increased disease



**These effects will worsen as time goes on**

### Vulnerable groups: women and youth



Both groups are marginalized, poor, and not diversified

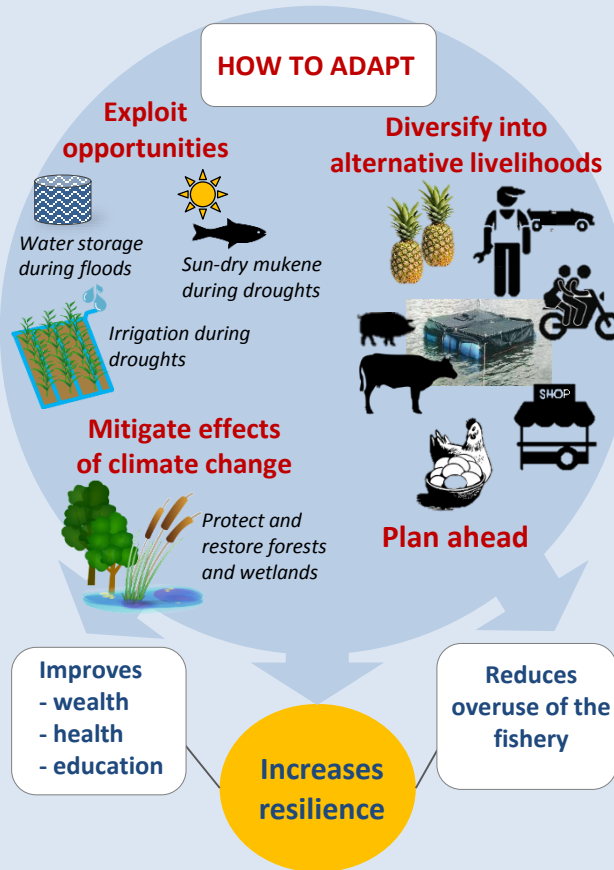
Youths are untrained, migratory, and lacking in community

Women are unpaid or in low-paying jobs, are responsible for childcare, and have poor fish handling facilities



## Fishers must develop adaptive strategies to maintain resilient livelihoods

Adaptive capacity will depend on the ability of communities to plan ahead for changes, explore alternative livelihoods, or take advantage of opportunities arising from climate change.



### Barriers to adaptation

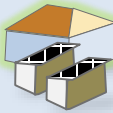
- Poverty, lack of access to land
- Lack of education or training
- Lack of trust within community
- Lack of motivation
- Unpredictable seasons
- Lack of enforcement, poor governance

## Solutions for the future

- Improve access to low-interest loans or asset-based support to reduce financial risks of diversification.
- Promote saving culture and supply business training to ensure success of interventions.



- Improve post-harvest facilities to reduce losses and store products.
- Develop within-home diversification options for women



- Provide access to land for group-based agriculture or livestock projects



- Sensitization, training, and education for youths about HOW and WHY to diversify.

- Build community cohesion to facilitate knowledge sharing, reduce risks of diversification, learn new skills.
- Return to traditional agricultural practices (build trenches, cassava around edge, avoid chemicals, cultivate far from wetlands), AND use new innovations (small-scale irrigation).



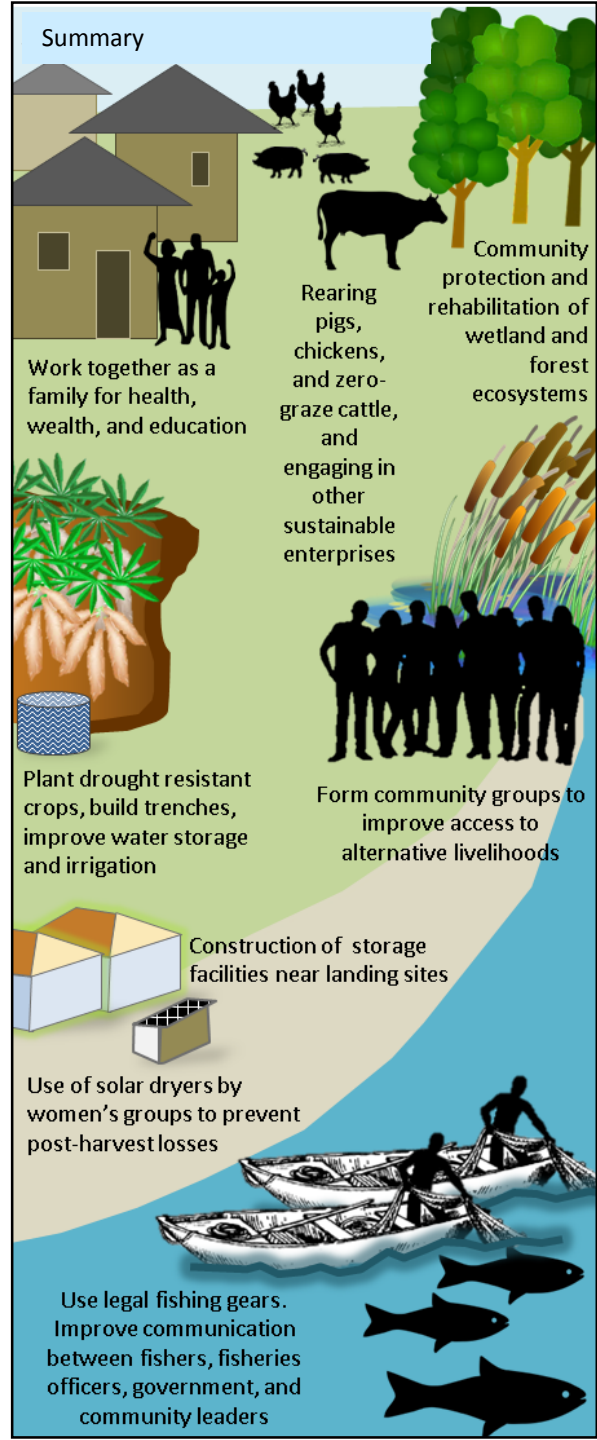
- Stay in one village to build community, make investments, and accumulate assets

- Promote community agency thru better governance to increase motivation to care for the fishery.

- Improve knowledge sharing among fishers and governing bodies to avoid misunderstandings.



## Summary



Rearing pigs, chickens, and zero-graze cattle, and engaging in other sustainable enterprises

Community protection and rehabilitation of wetland and forest ecosystems

Work together as a family for health, wealth, and education

Plant drought resistant crops, build trenches, improve water storage and irrigation

Form community groups to improve access to alternative livelihoods

Construction of storage facilities near landing sites

Use of solar dryers by women's groups to prevent post-harvest losses

Use legal fishing gears. Improve communication between fishers, fisheries officers, government, and community leaders



Map of the five landing sites on Lake Victoria and Lake Nabugabo, Uganda, where this study was conducted



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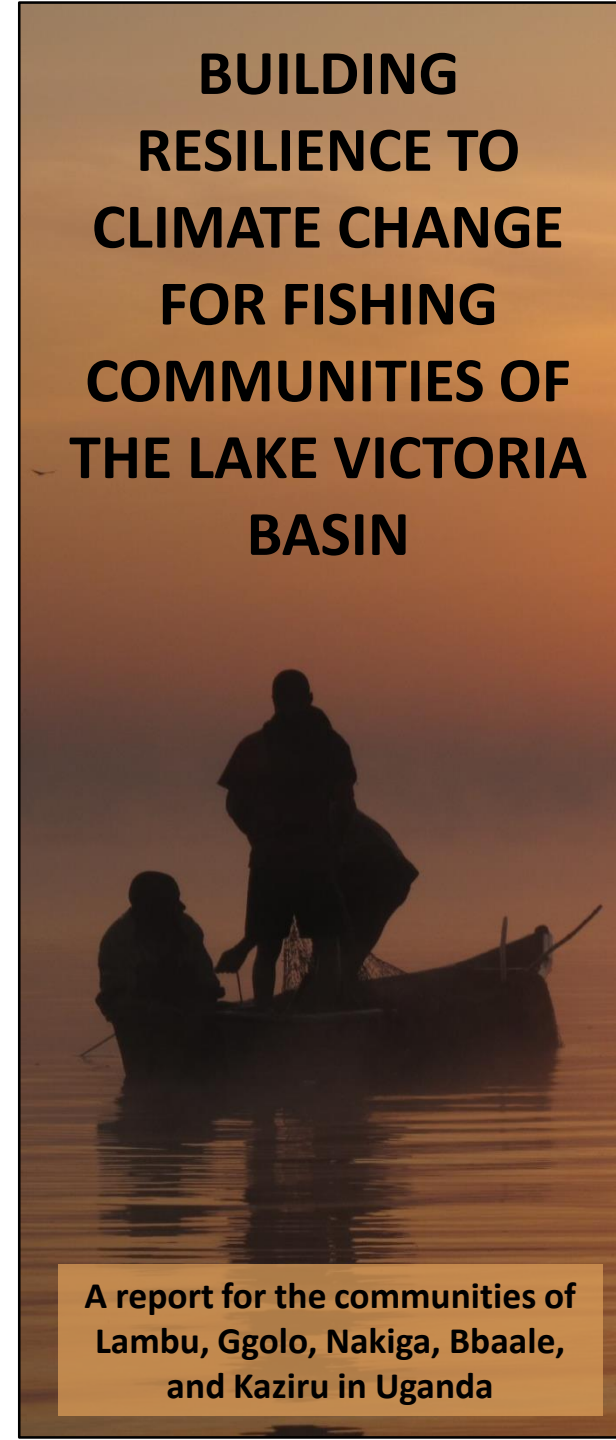
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# BUILDING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE FOR FISHING COMMUNITIES OF THE LAKE VICTORIA BASIN



A report for the communities of Lambu, Ggolo, Nakiga, Bbaale, and Kaziru in Uganda