

LAKE RUKWA – WATER USERS ASSOCIATION ESTABLISHMENT PROCESS

Introduction

Water Users Associations (WUAs) in Tanzania have grown to become essential governance structure to link national policy makers and local water users. These relations are with regard to water availability, water allocation, conflict management, and conservation/protection purposes. Having realised the potential of WUAs in the Water Resources Management sub sector, the Ministry of Water (MoW) drafted guidelines to assist relevant players to facilitate establishment of WUAs (Box 1).

In July 2013, the LRBWB began the process to facilitate establishment of two WUAs at Shongo and Katuma River Catchments. The jurisdiction of Shongo WUA is spread across 5 riparian villages within Ikukwa and Ifumbo Wards in the administrative districts of Mbeya Rural and Chunya. On the other hand, Katuma WUA spreads within 8 villages falling in Sibwesa, Mpanda ndogo, Sitalike, Kabungu, Kakese and Katuma Wards in the Administrative Districts of Mpanda, Nsimbo and Mpanda City Council. The association serves a population of about 25,000 people.

BOX 1: Summary of Guiding Steps for WUAs Establishment – MoW, 2013

- (1) Identification phase; Catchment delineation, baseline data collection, identification and analysis of stakeholders.
- (2) Mobilization; awareness creation and mobilization
- (3) Organizing; Participatory assessments for water resources and adoption of plans, problem analysis and action planning, constitution preparation, WUA formation and the association's registration
- (4) Capacity building; institutional and human capacity building through training other interventions aimed at the WUA's strengthening and sustainability
- (5) Registration and continuous monitoring

Table 1: Population in Katuma River Catchment

Village Name	Total Population			Idadi ya Nguvukazi		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Kapange	1200	1600	2800	800	1200	2000
Katuma	1133	1219	2352	327	373	700
Mnyagala	930	1210	2140	165	118	283
Nkungwi				501	702	
Mwamkulu	1485	1849	3334	283	295	578
Kabage			13,987			3500
Bugwe	2807	2984	5791	744	831	1575
Sitalike	1528	1632	3160			700

Source: Village Noticeboards - July, 2013

Comment [OS1]: Take a corresponding table in the combined doc

The Process on Ground

The establishment of WUAs' passed through participatory approaches where public meetings, key informant interviews, focused group discussions, community dialogues and questionnaires were applied to understand the magnitude of water resources issues and challenges encountered by the communities in managing and utilizing the resources (Table 2).

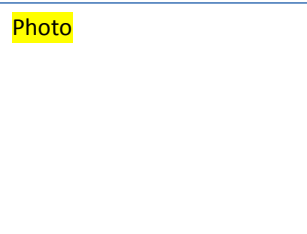


Table 2: State of Kituma River Tributaries

No	Village Name	State of Tributaries	
		Declines Flow	Dried Rivers
1	Kapange		Mwakabaga na Musere
2	Bugwe	Mto Lunwa	
3	Katuma	Mto Lwanyo	Mkuwa ,Mugona
4	Mnyagala		
5	Nkungwi		
6	Mwamkulu	Mpanda	
7	Kabage		
8	Sitalike		

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Source: Participatory Assessment of River Katuma April, 2012

Challenges encountered during the process

- Existing conflicts among villages limits supports from riparian village governments,
- Contribution to WUA suffers due to a famous myth that water is a gift from God,
- Inadequate socio-economic and water use data from the respective villages impended proper planning,
- Communities' expectations of water supply rather than WRM proved a difficult start for the awareness meetings,
- Lack of skills on communication, documentation and conflict management among the DFTs resulted to prolonged time of the process.

BOX 2: Some Key WRM Issues

- 1) Farming on river valleys,
- 2) Livestock watering,
- 3) Sand mining,
- 4) Brick making,
- 5) Deforestation,
- 6) Afforestation of poor species,

Way Forward

- The Basin should build on existing water or environmental committess in respective villages,
- There is a need to engage influential and religious leaders to help change people's mind-set on water resources and enhance awareness raising in the three villages,
- DFTs should be capacitated with relevant knowledge to manage communities.