

Bank promoting sustainable land use

Impact. Under the Lake Victoria Environmental Management project, the bank is training communities living around the lake in proper land management.

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Uganda's rapidly expanding population is putting pressure on land usage, especially in urban areas. Current land policies have not supported efficient planning and development of urban areas and hence limited the pace at which the country can increase its productivity.

Against this background, the World Bank has invested in ensuring sustainable land use management in Uganda.

Under the Lake Victoria Environmental Management project, the bank is training communities living around Lake Victoria in proper land management.

Mr Sowed Ssewagudde, the national project coordinator, says the World Bank has injected Shs6.5b to help the communities in nine districts around L. Victoria to adopt sustainable land management.

The nine districts include Mubende, Mityana, Gomba, Kalangala, Mpigi, Kalungu, Masaka, Rakai and Namayingo.

"With this support, farmers have adopted sustainable land management, 4,034 have been trained in sustainable farming practices, 486 hectares of wetlands have been restored and demarcated. A total of 2,283 hectares of land have been brought under sustainable land management through tree planting," says Mr Ssewagudde.

The World Bank also provided additional financing for the second phase of Lake Victoria Environmental Management for Africa to contribute to the East African Community Lake Victoria Basin development vision and strategy of having a prosperous population living in a healthy environment and providing equitable opportunities and benefits to the riparian communities.

"The additional financing is for



World Bank Country Manager Christina Clavo Malmberg joins residents in a garden in Nwoya District recently. COURTESY PHOTO

implementation of expanded activities that scale up the project's impact such as additional watershed management sub-projects in existing focal areas, construction or expansion of sanitation and sewerage facilities that were designed but not implemented under the original project due to funding constraints, expansion and deepening cleaner production programmes," he adds.

According to the World Bank Website, the additional financing represents about 20 per cent of the original project financing but is expected to increase most of the key quantitative results by 30 per cent or more. These additional investments will occur primarily in Kenya and Tanzania, while Uganda will continue to implement and complete its existing work programme having previously suffered implementation delays.

The other support from the World

Bank went to identification, preparation and implementation of selected priority investments through a participatory planning process in the Kyoga and Upper Nile Water Management Zone (WMZs).

This sub-component supports the preparation of WMZ strategies and capacity building for the Kyoga and Upper Nile WMZs and the establishment of consultation

mechanisms via stakeholder catchment management organisations to prepare integrated catchment action plans in these WMZ as a basis for identifying and implementing investments; and priority investments in related infrastructure, catchment management and development measures.

About \$16 million has been earmarked for catchment investment grants to support priority investments identified by stakeholders. The second subcomponent is improving the national water resources monitoring and information system. The third sub-component is Kalagala offset sustainable management plan.

This sub-component will support priority investments related to implementing the Bujagali Hydro-power Project.

The second component is infrastructure investments in urban water supply and sanitation/sewerage

and catchment/source protection. This component includes two sub-components. The first sub-component is town water supply and sanitation under National Water and Sewerage Corporation.

The objective of the agricultural technology and agribusiness advisory services project for Uganda was also established to increase agricultural productivity and incomes of participating households by improving the performance of agricultural research and advisory service systems in Uganda.

Mr Stephen Ojangole, the project coordinator, says the project includes five components. The first one is developing agricultural technologies and strengthening the national agricultural research system with the objectives to develop agricultural technologies through research and to strengthen agricultural research institutions.

The second component is enhancing partnerships between agricultural research, advisory services, and other stakeholders. Mr Ojangole says the objectives of component two are to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of technology development and dissemination by supporting closer linkages between the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), the National Agricultural Advisory Services (Naads), and other stakeholders.

Component three involves strengthening the national agricultural advisory services.

"The objectives of component three are to support improved delivery of demand-driven and market-oriented advisory services to farmers to promote their progression from subsistence to market-orientation and component four: supporting agribusiness services and market linkages," he adds.

The objective of component four is to integrate smallholders in value chains by supporting collaboration between farmers, advisers and researchers.

Component five includes programme management through supporting NARO and Naads secretariats.

With the fast growing urban population, Uganda needs to enforce the existing policies to promote better urban land management that will allow them to build livable cities. Key among these would include land value capture to finance urban infrastructure."

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