

Project Update: September 2014

Increased pressure on the fishery resource in Lake Kanyaboli and the destruction of the aquatic environment requires the establishment of participatory management which will be implemented through the formation of Monitoring Control and Surveillance Units (MCSUs) and Beach Management Units (BMUs)

It was agreed that co-management of Lake Kanyaboli will be an arrangement where resource users and the government share the responsibility in the management of the resource or a partnership arrangement in which government, the community/local resource users (fishers), external (non-governmental organisations, academic and research institutions) agents and other fisheries stakeholders (boat owners, fish traders, money lenders, tourism establishments among others) share the responsibility and authority for decision making over the management of Lake Kanyaboli

Monitoring Control and Surveillance Units

The stakeholders agreed that the MCSU mandate requires:

1. Monitoring of fish inputs, fishing outputs and various physical and water parameters in terms of research.
2. Control of fishing efforts, fishing capacity and fish catches.
3. Surveillance to inspect legislation and ensure compliance of existing fisheries rules and regulations.

The local government through the Siaya County Government and the Lake Kanyaboli Reserve has already decided to involve the local communities in fisheries management through the BMUs since:

1. Local communities are the beneficiaries
2. Local communities have vast experience and indigenous knowledge on the behavior of the fishery resources.
3. They are the first to suffer when the resource is depleted.
4. It brings advantage to them in managing the resource, protect, conserve, utilise in a sustainable manner and involve in decision making.