

Project Update: April 2017

Progress Report for period May 2016 to January 2017

1. Field survey was conducted in the lake to determine the population status and identify breeding/nursery grounds of Lake Jipe Tilapia and associated fish species. The study observed high abundance of Jipe Tilapia in three main zones; the northern and southern part of the Lake and downstream river Ruvu mouth. GPS point for the species critical habitat was recorded and geo-reference map will be available in the detailed report of the project. The breeding grounds were mainly observed in near-shore areas in areas infested by *Typha* weeds. The field survey observed that the breeding grounds of Jipe Tilapia overlap with *Oreochromis esculentus*; indicative of spawning sites competition. With consultation to the District Fisheries Officers and the community, meeting was conducted to disseminate the results and mobilize formation of 'Local Conserved Areas'. In collaboration with the 'Beach Management Units' one 'Local Conserved Area' has been established in the northern part of the lake. Regulations for the management of the Reserved Areas are underway for logistical reasons.
2. Three workshops were conducted in the villages around the wetlands to raise community awareness on the sustainable practices for the forests and protection of lake buffer zones and river banks. The community agreed to comply with National Environmental Regulations with regard to buffer zones. The community agreed to participate in protection of the buffer zones through planting of elephant grass in areas around the Lake and rivers so as to reduce siltation. Meeting was conducted with village leaders on the importance of law enforcement with regard to the protection of the lake habitats and species for improved community livelihood.
3. In an effort to reduce pressure to the fisheries resources, the project has supported local community residing around the lake with improved alternative income generating activities. Following training on improved local chicken keeping and beekeeping, a total of 890 month chicks and 45 hives were provided to the respective groups.
4. Training workshops was conducted to educate local communities on the best soil conservation practices by practicing agro-forestry, promote zero grazing and cattle dairy farming.



Left to Right: Training of BMU members on the management of Locally Conserved Areas in Lake Jipe; Fishers training on the environmental friendly fishing gears in Lake Jipe & Fish species caught in the Locally Conserved Areas in Lake Jipe.