

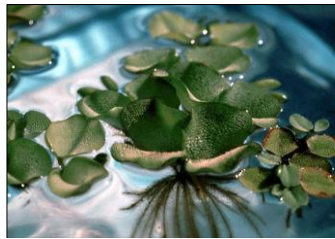
A Monthly from the East African Sustainability Watch Network founded by Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD), Tanzania Coalition for Sustainable Development (TCSD) and SusWatch Kenya

## **Kariba Weed - Another Threat to East African Waters!**

Uganda's Lakes Albert and Kyoga, and River Nile have since 2013 been invaded by a new aquatic weed termed as the 'Kariba Weed' (*Salvinia Molesta*). The cover and spread of the Kariba weed has reached alarming levels continuously affecting fish breeding and nursery grounds, water quality and quantity that in turn effect drinking water supply, hydro power generation, tourism and water transport.

The weed has also been reported in the Lake Victoria basin (Lake Kimira in Bugiri District), some fish ponds and currently the blockage of Port bell in Luzira-Kampala and other sheltered areas.

According to the Invasive Species Agriculture and Bioscience agricultural and environmental free-floating aquatic plant native to spread widely throughout the world invasive in a variety of aquatic rice paddies.



Compendium of the Centre for International (CABI) that focuses on issues in the developing world, is a south-eastern Brazil. It has been during the past 50 years and is habitats, including lakes, rivers and

Based on the environmental, economic and human health impacts, Kariba Weed ranks a close second behind water hyacinth on a list of the world's most noxious aquatic weeds. It has also been recently added onto the list of the world's 100 most invasive species!

It can now be found in Africa, the Indian subcontinent, southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, southern USA and some Pacific islands. CABI warns that Kariba Weed is spread within an aquatic system by the movement of plants by wind, water currents, floods and animals. Spread between aquatic systems is assumed to be mainly by humans moving plants intentionally (as ornamentals), unintentionally as a hitchhiker on boats, or in shipments of aquatic plants and fish. Increased transport of commodities in international commerce will increase the movement of Kariba Weed around the world.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries (MAAIF) working with other Ministries, Departments and Agencies have implemented manual, mechanical and biological control since 1992 and reduced weed infestation to manageable levels by 2005. In addition, maintenance control has been on to-date and to manage the current resurgence like the one at Port-bell and other parts, MAAIF has sensitized communities in District Local Governments and distributing manual control equipment including wheel barrows, pangas, forked hoes, forked spades, life jackets, hip waders, hand gloves, gumboots and rakes to 23 affected districts on Lake Kyoga, Albert and Victoria. In late February 2017, the National Agriculture Research Organization (NARO) imported the initial batch of weevils that are specific biological control agents for Kariba weed. These, though few, have underwent quarantine and host-specificity tests on a range of crops and other plants. The weevils have been deployed to control Kariba weed on Lake Kyoga.

Egypt has committed USD 230,000 for a one year pilot phase project to control the Kariba weed. This will contribute to MAAIF's efforts to modify the existing hyacinth project equipment to suit the mechanical control of the Kariba weed; to procure manual removal equipment and to pilot biogas production in Bugondo on Lake Kyoga and Wanseko on Lake Albert.

## NatureSmart Conservation Museum to Promote Conservation Education Through a Historical Lens



Nature Palace Foundation's NatureSmart Conservation Museum is located at Mabamba bay Ramsar Site in Wakiso district. Photo: Nature Palace Foundation

Conservation of natural resources as deterrent factors like population growth, agricultural expansion and political influence take centre-stage. This calls for innovative approaches that can get, especially the young generation, interested in conservation efforts.

NatureSmart Conservation Museum initiated by Nature Palace Foundation (NPF), is one of those innovative approaches aimed at promoting conservation and getting the young generation get interested in conservation issues while linking conservation with Tourism. The Conservation Museum is part of the NPF Climate smart Agro-ecology Project supported by UNDP Small Grants Program to enhance adaptation capacity of small-holder households by reducing their vulnerability due to land degradation and climate change, while contributing to safeguarding the ecology of Lake Victoria and Mabamba Bay Ramsar Wetland Site of . The Museum is located at Mabamba Bay Ramsar Site area in Kasanje Town Council, Wakiso District. Some of the museum collections are categorized as follows:

**Indigenous Production Methods:** Demonstrating how our forefathers have produced various items to meet their needs like clothing (bark cloth); cutlery (pottery) and food. Many of the indigenous production methods were sustainable. Displays aim to answer the question: 'What can the present generation learn from this indigenous knowledge in addressing current challenges like Climate change?'

**Sustainable Use of Natural Resources:** How our forefathers sustainably utilized natural resources like fisheries using methods that ensured only mature fish were harvested and fish breeding ground were always protected. Here one gets lessons from sustainable utilization of resources that ensure continuity.

**Products from Wetlands:** Demonstrates various products made out of wetland products, especially plants. Highlights the importance of wetlands to riparian communities, hence a case for their conservation.

**Uganda's History and Cultural Diversity:** Displays and collections about cultural leaders, cultural diversity and past leaders of Uganda – and their landmark achievements. Culture plays a big role on how people utilize and conserve natural resources. However, some cultural practices can be negative and therefore need to be discouraged.

**Traditional Games:** Games that have been enjoyed by people for generations like 'Mweso', 'Kigwo' (wrestling).

For more information about the NatureSmart Conservation Museum and Nature Palace Foundation's work: <http://www.npfug.net/index.php>

## UNDP holds a regional Lake Victoria Basin Strategic Foresight Workshop in Entebbe



UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa (RSCA) and UNDP Country Offices in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, mirroring the regional and national partners, have embarked on a Project Initiation Plan (PIP) for the Lake Victoria Basin. As part of this process a strategic foresight process with over 50 technical experts and other relevant participants from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda was held in Entebbe, from January 23 – 25, 2019.

Speaking at the Opening session of the workshop, Ms Almaz Gebru - the UNDP Country Director noted that Lake Victoria is a great economic importance to Uganda, Kenya & Tanzania. However, rapid population growth, increased land cultivation around it, mining & intense fishing plus climate change, have placed the lake's ecosystem in danger. She added that the Regional Project for Lake Victoria Basin will respond to crucial aspects of sustainable development in the region, such as transparent natural resource management, the creation of climate-change-resilient livelihoods & access to clean energy.

According to UNDP, Strategic Foresight enables planners and decision makers to use new ways of thinking about, talking strategic plans that are future. Strategic Foresight innovative strategic and solution design forecast the future, but alternative futures. By helps leaders make better decisions that in turn, help them regain the initiative and manage the future.

**Strategic foresight: innovative strategic planning, policy formulation and solution design methods that do not predict or forecast the future, but allow planners to work with alternative futures.**

about, and implementing compatible with the unfolding is the umbrella term for those planning, policy formulation methods that do not predict or allow planners to work with doing so, Strategic Foresight

The Foresight and Scenario Workshop focused on the five key drivers of change that were identified during the Inception and methodology workshop and the Horizon Scan and Trends Analysis held in 2018. These are Population Growth, Biotechnology, Infrastructure Investments, Demand on Natural Resources and Regional Governance Frameworks. The Workshop had the objectives to identify and explore alternative (possible, probable, preferable) futures for Lake Victoria, Lake Victoria Region and key development issues (within the broader framework of the SDGs); capture these alternate futures in comprehensive scenarios and narratives, and; surface the emerging challenges as well as the opportunities for pro-active policy development

Speaking at the close of the Workshop, the Permanent Secretary in Uganda's Ministry of Water and Environment – Mr. Alfred Okidi, called for more engagement of actors in this intervention. He expressed concern on the unregulated extraction of resources for example fishing, sand mining and water, which are stressing Lake Victoria across the entire region. He advised that since the Lake Victoria catchment covers 5 countries, Rwanda and Burundi that provide substantive inflows into the Lake need to be considered in this intervention. He further expressed confidence that foresight planning that differs from the usual planning tools could ably address Lake Victoria's current challenges. 'Uganda is committed to the remaining steps of the project development process,' he concluded.

The workshop outcomes will inform the scenario narratives step, where cross-sectoral impact of priority areas will be explored, tradeoffs and synergies will be identified while strategic opportunities will be emphasized.