
**THE STATE OF BIODIVERSITY IN LAKE TANGANYIKA - A
LITERATURE REVIEW**

**Pollution Control and Other Measures to Protect Biodiversity in Lake Tanganyika
(RAF/92/G32)**

**Edited by G. Patterson
Natural Resources Institute
UK**

Contributions by (in alphabetical order): E. Allison, T. Bailey-Watts, J. Bennett, C. Cocquyt, P. Coveliers, L. De Vos, I. Downey, R. Duck, C. Foxall, K. Goudeswaard, M. Holland, K. Irvine, K. Martens, J. McManus, G. Patterson, I. Payne, L. Risch, J. Snoeks & N. Wiltshire

June 1997

INTRODUCTION

The aim of the Lake Tanganyika Biodiversity Project is to help the riparian states produce an effective and sustainable system for managing and conserving the biodiversity of Lake Tanganyika into the foreseeable future.

Among the principal objectives of the project is the establishment of a sustainable regional management plan for pollution control, conservation and maintenance of biodiversity in Lake Tanganyika. This will be founded upon the results of a series of multi-disciplinary studies aimed at improving understanding of the complex scientific, technical, legal and socio-economic issues related to conservation of the lake and its immediate environment.

There are five nominal study components to the project. These are: biodiversity, to find out exactly what species and combinations of species and habitats are under particular threat; pollution, to identify the sources, evaluate the consequences and find preventative measures; sedimentation, to monitor the movement and impact of soil entering the lake; socio-economics and environmental education, two interlinked programmes intended to raise awareness of critical environmental issues among user groups, and facilitate translating the scientific studies into locally acceptable practices and policies in which local people are able to play a much greater part in conservation and development. Incorporated under these headings are studies on fishing and agricultural practices, merits of sites for underwater national parks, the relevance of the legal systems of land ownership, lake conservation and developmental needs considering all the problems associated with the huge distances and poor communications involved.

As a first stage to this project a team of National Experts and/or Consultants were appointed to compile and review all existing information on all aspects of the project. This task was completed in January 1996 and included 5 separate Baseline Reviews which were presented to the Project Steering Committee and discussed at the Project Inception Workshop which was held in March 1996. In light of these discussions, some minor changes were made.

These 5 baseline reviews were:

- Biodiversity
- Pollution and its Effects on Biodiversity
- Sediment Discharge and its Consequences
- Social, Economic and Sectoral Features
- Legal and Institutional

They included literature reviews of the individual topics as well as preliminary plans of the special studies based on identified gaps in knowledge, and an assessment of the physical and human resources available to the project in the region.

This publication is a compilation of the literature review section of the three technically-oriented baseline reviews - 'Biodiversity', 'Pollution and its Effects on Biodiversity' and 'Sediment Discharge and its Consequences'. It was decided to compile and publish this separately as it is felt by the project that this forms an excellent recent literature review of the current state of Lake Tanganyika. Wider distribution of these literature reviews have therefore been considered desirable and would meet one of the principal aims of the project - to provide resource material to the institutions who have a research interest in Lake Tanganyika and its catchment.

Many people contributed to this report and they are acknowledged in each chapter. Special thanks, however, should go to Muriel Dahan who undertook the task of translation.

G. Patterson
NRI