Role Of Beach Management Units In Implementing Fisheries Policy. A Case study of two BMUs in Lake Victoria, Tanzania

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Background information

- The challenges of centralized fisheries management system led to efforts to reform management hence establishment of fisheries co-management where the government and the fisheries communities through Beach Management Units (BMUs) share authorities and responsibilities in the management (Medard and Geheb, 2000; Ogwang' et al., 2009)

- Co-management began in Lake Victoria, Tanzania in 1990's where a committee of 5 people formed at each landing site in Mwanza gulf (Hoza & Mahatane, 2001)

- Around 2006 BMUs reformed and have clear operational and institutional framework stated in the National BMU Guidelines.

- These BMUs have undergone various trainings to build their capacity in fisheries management.

- However, few investigations have been conducted on fishers attitude towards the performance of BMUs in implementing fisheries policy - particular regulating fisheries and reducing fishers poverty.

Some key BMU roles

- Assist in the collection of fisheries data on catch, effort and socio-economic

- Propose bye-laws for endorsement by the District Authorities and enforce them;

- Undertake Monitoring, Control and Surveillance in collaboration with the relevant authorities to reduce harmful and illegal fishing practices

- Identify wider development interventions or plans and make financial proposals for their support by the BMU.

- Ensure that the Beach, together with any structures or buildings situated thereon, is kept in a safe, clean and hygienic condition

Why the study

- Examine fishers attitudes on specific functions and activities of the BMUs that regulate fisheries and focus on poverty reduction among the fisher communities.

Key research Questions

i.   Do the BMUs have rules/by-laws that regulate the fisheries?

ii. What development programs have the BMUs initiated?

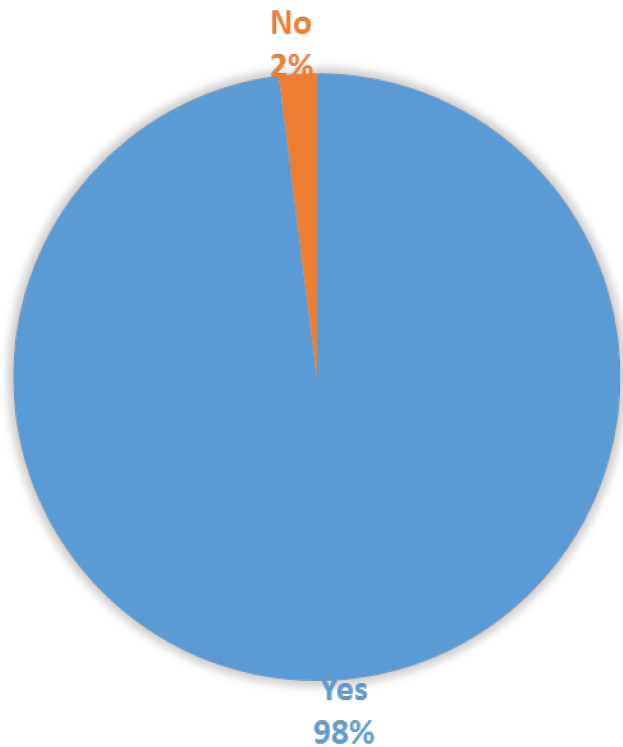iii. How do fishers rate performance of BMUs in fisheries

management?

Study methods and area

■ Review of published and unpublished documents

■ Field survey

• Two BMUs in Magu and Ilemela districts sampled

• Questionnaire and KIIs

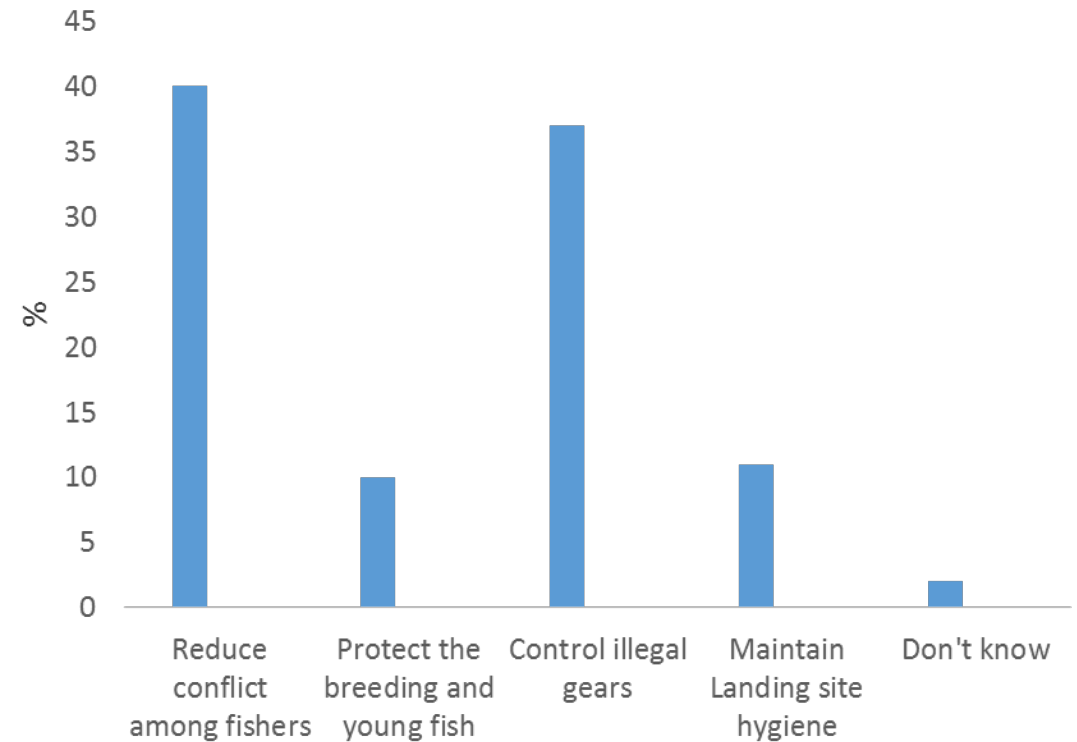• A total of 70 respondents interviewed
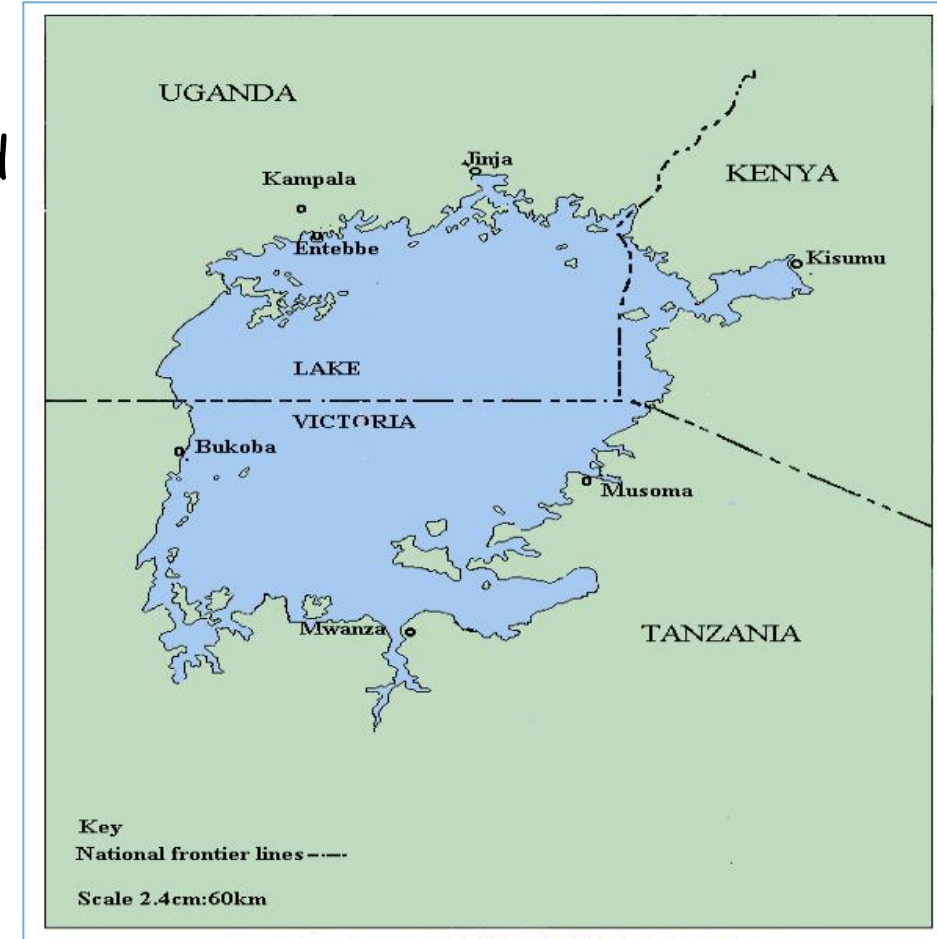
Respondents believe BMUs have rules/by-laws

Does the BMUs have rules/by-laws (N=68)

Reasons for having by-laws/rules

Responses on BMU performance

Activities/functions	Very effective	Somehow effective	Not effective
Formulating by laws	90	10	0
Patrolling fishing grounds	18	44	38
Prosecuting offenders	76	22	2
Confiscating bad gears	61	31	8
Resolving conflict	95	5	0
Arresting offenders	79	18	3
Collecting revenues	63	21	16
Conducting meetings	10	73	17
Data collection	27	60	13
Keeping inventory	81	16	3
Initiating project	16	57	27

Rating: >50%- Not effective; 50-75%-Somehow effective; >75% Very effective

Chi-square test –comparing BMUs performance

Based on:

If P ≤ 0.05(There is a difference)

If P ≥0.05 (There is no difference)

Hypotheses

H_0 There is no difference between BMUs in undertaking the activities

H_1 There is difference between BMUs in undertaking the activities

Activity	P-value
Formulating by laws	1
Patrolling fishing grounds	0.037
Prosecuting offenders	0.313
Confiscating bad gears	0.641
Resolving conflict	0.072
Arresting offenders	0.151
Collecting revenues	0.006
Conducting meetings	0.003
Data collection	0.449
Keeping inventory	0.151
Initiating project	0.000

Social status Vs attitudes towards BMUs

Activities/functions	Gender	Boat owner	Crew	No schooling	Primary education	Pseudo R square
Formulation of by-laws	17.965	-17.818	-0.797	1.928	0.623	0.165
Patrolling fishing ground	-0.434	1.285	0.514	-0.355	-0.984	0.13
Patrolling fishing ground	17.942	0.409	-0.976	-15.689	-1.206	0.189
Prosecuting offenders	-34.285	3.626	3.246	-33.326	-33.82	0.152
Arresting offenders	44.689	-41.279	-78.317	14.083	-26.334	0.248
Resolving conflicts	-34.585	37.396	18.109	-29.941	-18.471	0.208
Collecting revenues	19.13***	-20.28***	21.793***	-20.143	-0.981	0.179
Conducting meetings	-0.192	16.45***	16.052***	-18.188	-1.082	0.084
Data collection	-1.146	16.674***	16.697***	-1.63	-2.742	0.159
Keeping inventory	-0.261	15.165	-118.02	76.75	-101.198	0.248
Project initiation	-1.252	16.771***	17.4***	-0.939	-2.55*	0.262

Note: *** for p-value <0.001, ** for p-value <0.01, * for p-value <0.05

What the findings imply!

- BMUs have by-laws/rules that regulate fishery and significant percent of fishers are aware of these management measures.

- BMUs have not been effective in carrying out all the activities as stipulated in the National BMU guidelines.

- There is different levels of performance between BMUs in implementing fisheries policy.

- Very little have been done to address the challenge of poverty among fishers.

- Social status influences fishers attitudes towards BMUs performance.

Challenges impacting BMUs

- Inadequate support from other stakeholders
- Inadequate capacity to carry its activities as required by law
- Insufficient funds for sustain BMU activities
- Limited autonomy in fisheries management
- Illegal fishing

What policy issues can improve BMU performance

- Property rights- Address the question of ownership.

- Control access-Rethink open access of the Lake

- BMU sustainability- Fish levy, Income generating activities etc.?

- Governance- Need to address power relations, interactions, negotiation and decision making btn co-management stakeholders

Acknowledgement

The leadership of the two BMU

Ahsanteni sana