



Socio-economic   of the Lake Victoria Fisheries





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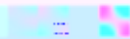
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The emergence of the new
world order in the 1990s
was a result of the
collapse of the Soviet
Union and the
end of the Cold War.
This led to a period of
relative peace and
cooperation between
major powers.

The world has
become more
interconnected
than ever before.
Globalization has
led to the spread
of ideas, culture,
and technology.
This has created
new opportunities
for growth and
development.

The world is now
a global village.
We are all
connected in one
way or another.

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Methods for Data Collection

The information presented in this publication is based on material collected from a number of field

The reports summarise the group discussions and individual interviews conducted with fishermen,





... export and fisheries, but
... mainly soaked and dried fish from other parts of the country



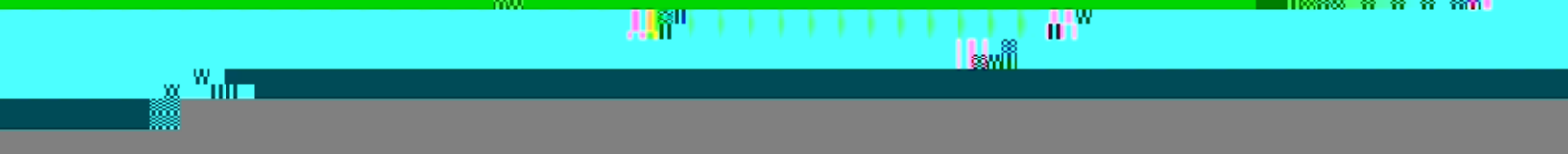
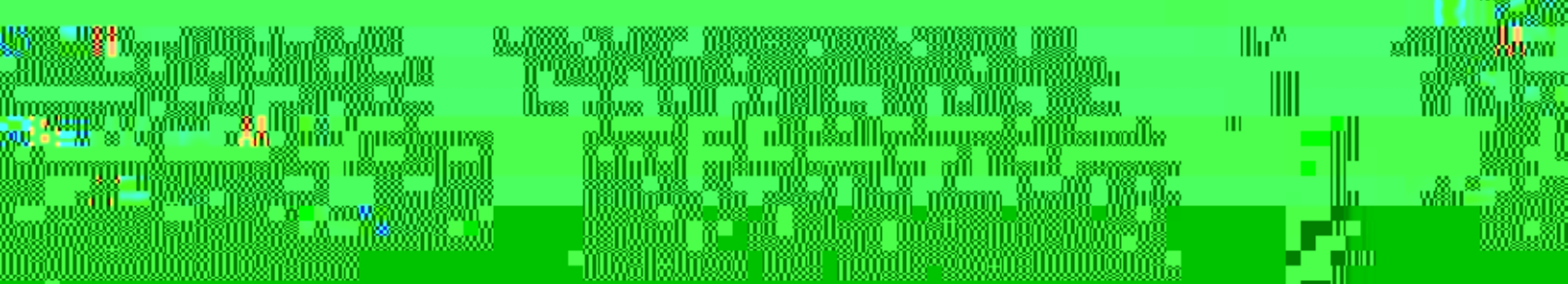
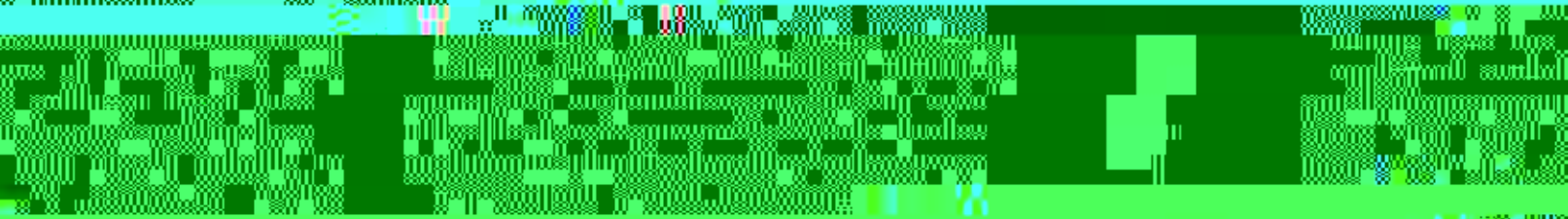
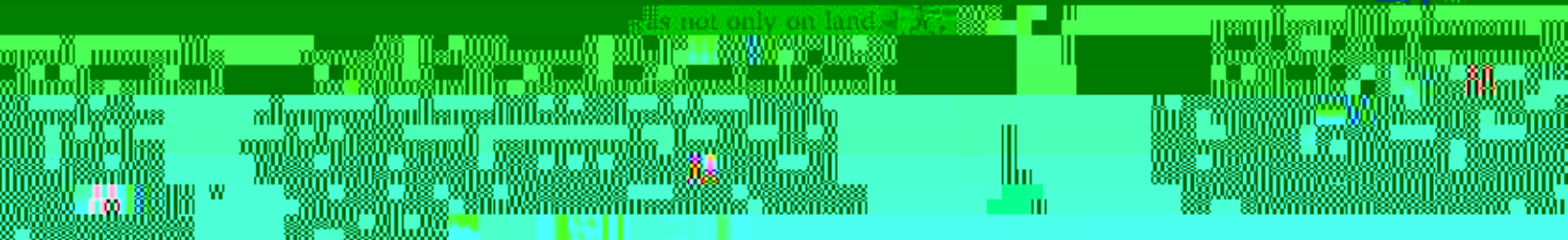
... export and fisheries, but
... mainly soaked and dried fish from other parts of the country

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COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

In the past, fishing in the lake was based on territoriality

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ownership and fishing gears, only two fishermen were allowed to own and operate boats in

communities.

Even as late as the 1970s important aspects of the

through users' resources

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these activities have been carried out leaves a lot to be desired.

only one fish scout per gazetted beach. In fact, there are approximately 256 such beaches and in each beach



men interviewed felt that this
has been taken away from them

and responsibility, not users
(fishermen), to manage the fisheries. Their
responsibilities are therefore broken, their responsibilities in
fisheries with the government's laid down conditions

Many of fishern
responsibilit

"We are
of fisher



has been carried out for commercial purposes under the pretext of research (Siwo *et al.*, 1998).

There has been stiff competition between the local fishermen who use simple methods of fishing and the trawlers. This competition has occasionally generated into physical confrontation between trawlers and local fishermen being reported in the daily press. Some of the places where such fights have been reported are: Muhuru, Karungu,

beaches in Kenya indicated that, depending on the season and location of the beach, 10-35% of the Nile perch landed could be juvenile fish (Abil and Jansen, 1997). In the same report, it is quoted that the average mesh size used in the lake has reduced from 12 inches in 1981 to 6 inches in 1996.

2) Prohibition of fishing in fish breeding areas, spawning grounds and river outfalls

from Asaf beach. They often get chased away

which have before become alternative fishing grounds. During the survey it was established that the following illegal fishing methods are being

All of them are operating and have settled at this beach

using 'ommo', 'nanduwa', 'chanda', 'chunaki', 'sesi', 'soko' and 'aseta' (Annex 1). The names vary from

Trawling is also very common



Figure 1: A grid of small images, likely representing different experimental conditions or time points. The grid is organized into several rows and columns. The top row contains a few larger images, while the subsequent rows consist of many smaller images. The images appear to be micrographs or similar biological data visualizations. The overall layout is dense and structured, suggesting a systematic experimental design.



Between 1984 and 1993, the beach leader at Tako
developed a custom to

The immigrant fishermen maintained that the lake





- The emergence of fish agents and middlemen linked to the fish processing factories, has undermined the effectiveness of the co-operatives since these middlemen can buy fish directly from the fishermen without going through the co-operatives (Abila and Jansen 1997).

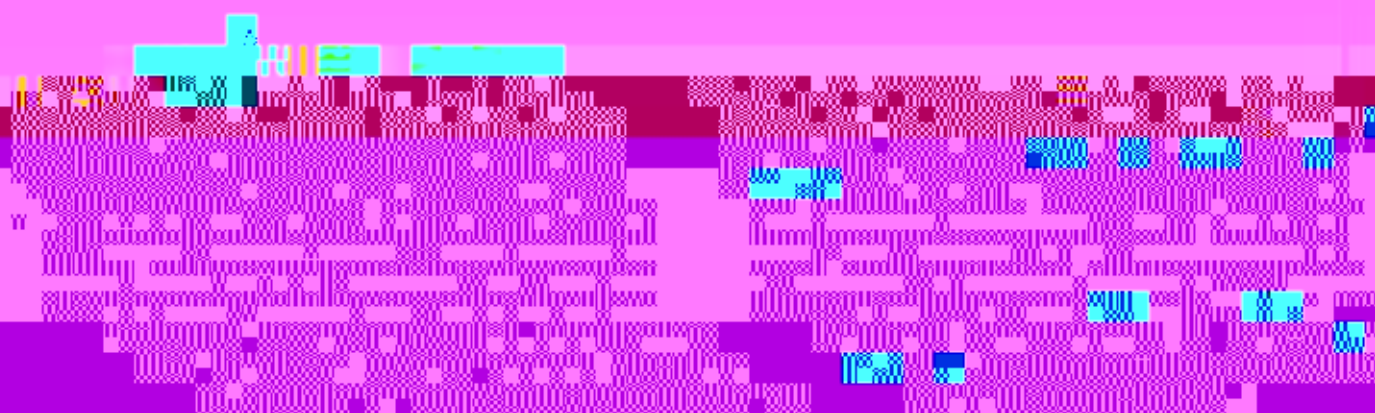
• Due to too much government interference and

• bribe the Government fish scouts in order to be allowed to go on with illegal fishing practices.

Similarly, many of the immigrant fishermen have joined the local co-operatives and some have been elected to the management committee of the co-operative. Often, this has happened with the active support

important role in organizing fishermen and even

with the



places where there are many agents

provide them with fishing equipment

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participation in the marketing of the

interviewed
prefer some agents to others

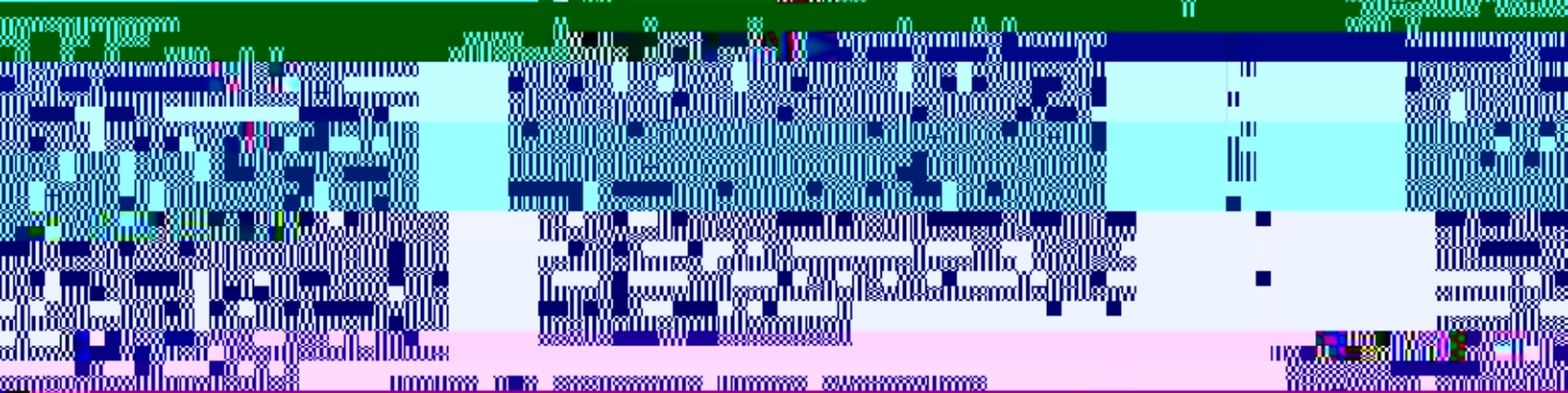
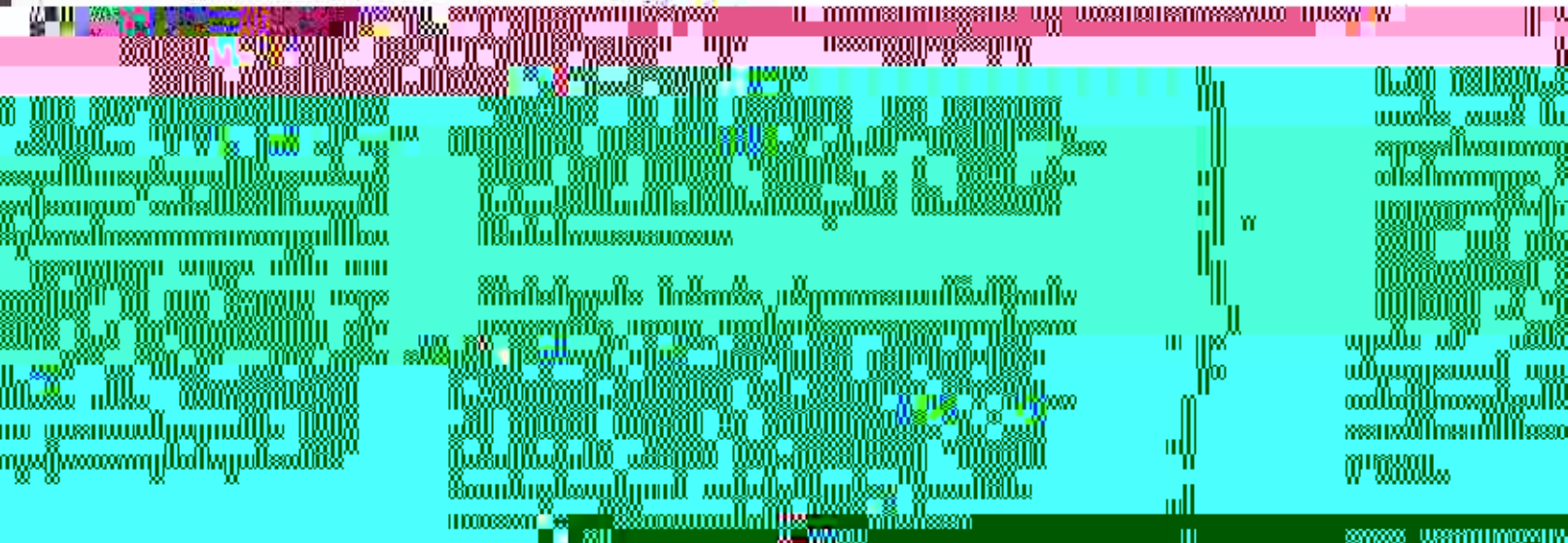
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beaches. This imbalance therefore made the chairmanship position vacant in August 1977.

training the fishermen co-operative officials and





CONCLUSIONS

The management of Lake Victoria fisheries has been based on traditional management systems, based on the clear institutions, provided a sound management for Lake Victoria fisheries. The management framework was based on the territorial user rights, with enforceable clear rules and regulations on who could fish where, when and how.

The Government has played a role in fisheries development since colonial times. However, it is mainly since the 1960s Nile perch boom that the government activities have affected the development of the fisheries and undermined the traditional management system. The rules and regulations for fisheries made by the government

are being implemented at the local level. Almost all people interviewed emphasised that the behaviour of the Government officials in the field has changed for the worse during the last decades. Instead of managing the fisheries resources sustainably, they have focussed on exploiting the fishermen for their (officials') economic advantage. This has thrown Lake Victoria fisheries into a management crisis hence compromising the resource base and, by extension, the living standards of the fishing community.

In response to these frustrations, and given the importance of Lake Victoria fisheries in terms of employment generation, income and food security, the fishermen are committing their own institutions, the self help groups, which they would like to operate without any intervention from the government.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The views expressed by the Lake Victoria fishermen as outlined above suggest that it would be beneficial if the government played the role of creating a conducive environment, through policies and legislation, which institutionalized community participation in Lake Victoria fisheries management.

The self-help groups, which the fishermen themselves have formed, provide an opportunity and a basis for community participation and hence should be encouraged to operate. Their capacities should be strengthened to take on tasks related to both the management of the fish resources and

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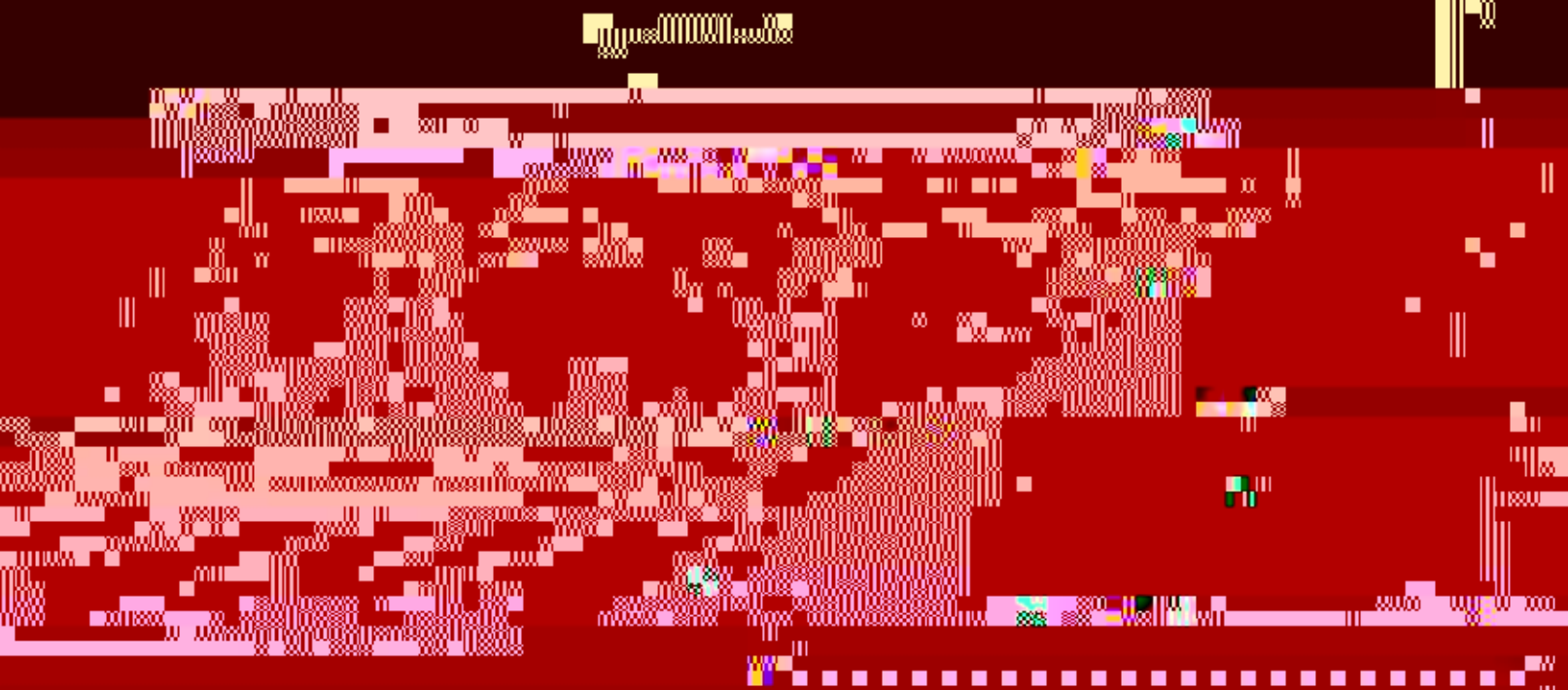
impacts in Kenya
R.O. Abila, Nairobi

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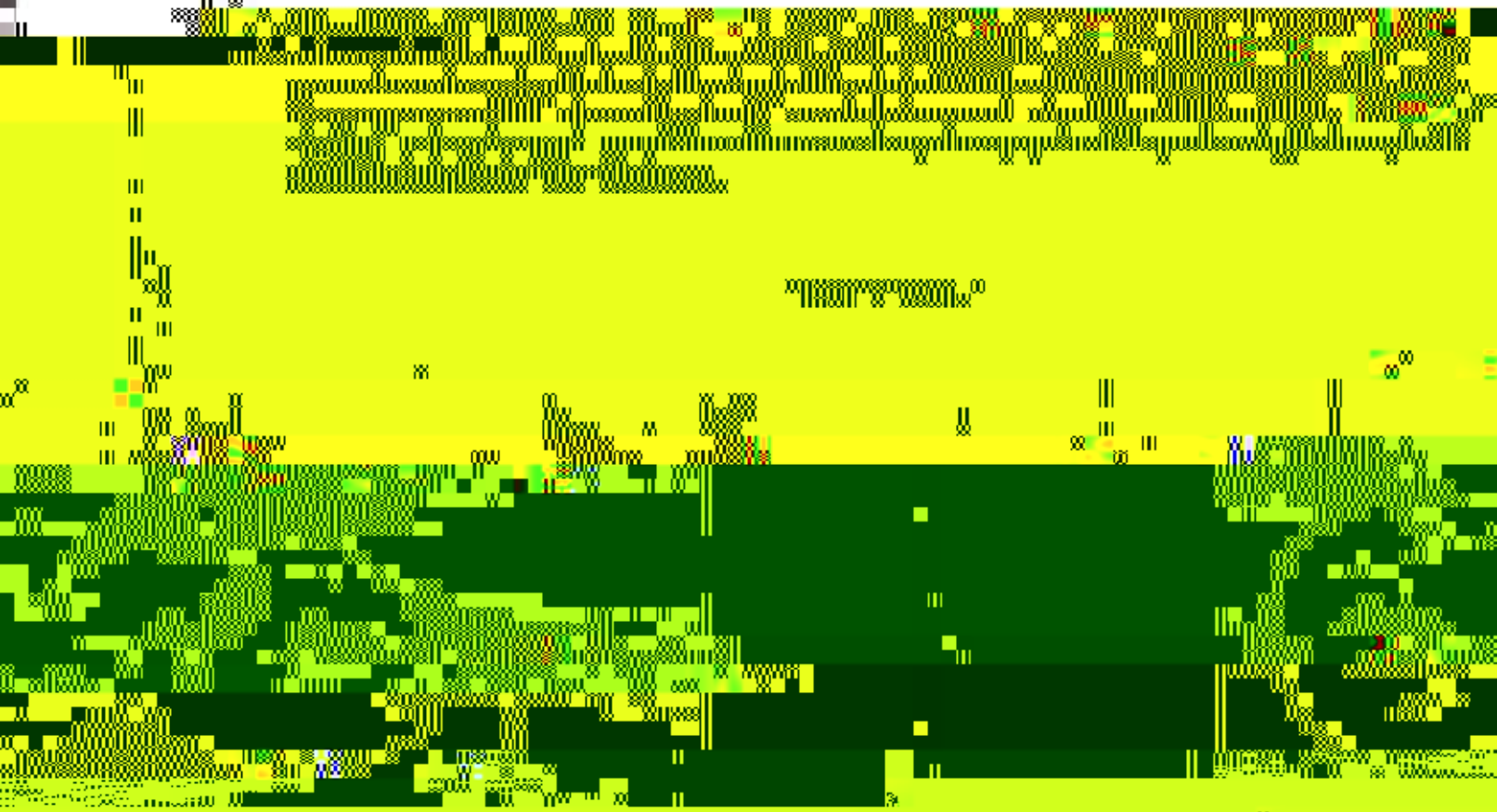
ANNEX 1

Odundo'

'Odundo' is a form of a beach seine which is less than 2" and is different from other beach seines.







Wetlands



Wetlands of the Americas

Wetlands of the Americas provides technical assistance throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable. The Union has helped many countries to prepare National Conservation Strategies, and demonstrates the application of its knowledge through the field projects it supervises. Operations are increasingly decentralized and are carried forward by an expanding network of regional and country offices, located principally in developing countries.

The Executive Affairs Regional Office

The Executive Affairs Regional Office (EARO) is located in Washington, D.C. and is responsible for the overall management and coordination of the Union's activities in the Americas. It provides technical assistance to the regional and country offices, and is responsible for the preparation and implementation of the Union's policies and programs in the region.

The EARO is currently working on a number of projects, including the preparation of National Conservation Strategies for several countries in the region. It is also providing technical assistance to the regional and country offices in the implementation of their programs.

The EARO is also responsible for the preparation and implementation of the Union's policies and programs in the region. It provides technical assistance to the regional and country offices, and is responsible for the preparation and implementation of the Union's policies and programs in the region.

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