

Lake Victoria Hyacinth Extraction Project – Uganda



The water hyacinth invasive plant presents huge problems to L. Victoria, Africa largest fresh water body. It doubles in sizes every 2-3 weeks covering 5–10% of the lake with no natural predators. The weed poses environmental crisis and has become a challenge to Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania with negative impact on the fisheries industry, human health, water transport, water supply chain, and energy or hydro power supply due to blocked turbines among others.

Therefore, Kampala University given its location along the shores of L. Victoria came up with this initiative to complement Government's efforts in conserving the lake by extracting this huge floating water-weed island. Unlike in the past where Government's response has been simply to dump the weed lakeside, the proposed project will involve extracting and processing the weed into fertilizers, animal feeds, composite, etc.

So far, the University working in collaboration with its international partners based in United Kingdom and Holland is trying to secure all the necessary machinery & equipment, and technical personnel needed for the project to kick-start.