

News

Articles

Videos

Images

Books

• Mind & Brain

• Plants & Animals

• Earth & Climate

• Space & Time

• Matter & Energy

• Computers & Math

 [Print](#)  [Email](#)  [Bookmark](#)

'Boutique' Fish Farms Created for Ugandans to Combat Lake Victoria's Depleted Fish Supplies

ScienceDaily (Feb. 9, 2010) — In a unique project to combat depleted fish supplies in Lake Victoria, researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Makerere University in Kampala, have established 'boutique' fish farms in small villages around the Lake's shore in Uganda.

Predators

See Also:

Plants & Animals

- [Fish](#)
- [Marine Biology](#)
- [Zoology](#)

Earth & Climate

- [Environmental Policy](#)
- [Exotic Species](#)
- [Water](#)

Reference

- [Perch](#)
- [Fish migration](#)
- [Carp](#)
- [Trout](#)

Local fishermen used to fish carp and perciform fish near the shores of the lake, as food for their families. But fifty years ago, the Nile Perch was introduced into Lake Victoria in order to increase local fisheries. The Nile Perch is a predator and it started to eat most of the other fish.

While the Nile Perch became the primary export of the countries around the lake -- namely Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania -- depleted supplies over the last ten years of the smaller fish around the shores of the lake on which local fishermen subsisted meant that the local population was deprived of their main source of protein.

Furthermore, fishing the larger Nile Perch was unfeasible for local fishermen as the fish resided in the

middle of Lake Victoria and larger fishing boats were required in order to fish them.

The solution: 'Boutique' fish farms

To combat this increasing problem, Prof. Berta Levavi-Sivan of the Hebrew University's Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment found a way to spawn several species of African carp and cultivate them in fish farms around Lake Victoria in Uganda. The project was initiated five years ago and has been financed by USAID-CDR (US Agency for International Development), in collaboration with Dr. Justus Rutaisire from Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda.

Last year, the developers of the project began establishing ponds in small villages around the shores of Lake Victoria, stocking them with fish from the fish farms -- thus enabling the local population to eat carp. The project has since developed and now, four large fish farms, whose owners were trained in Israel, produce enough fingerlings to populate small ponds in villages around the lake. The people of each village, and especially their children, consume the project-fish as their main source of protein.



Prof. Berta Sivan in Uganda (Credit: Image courtesy of Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Related Stories

Do Hydroelectric Dams Pose A New Threat To Lake Victoria? (Feb. 3, 2008) — Two hydroelectricity dams appear to be threatening the health of Lake Victoria -- and of the people living along its shores who depend on the lake for food. A new study suggests that the dams' ... [> read more](#)

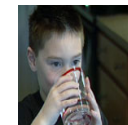
Surprisingly, Harvesting Prey Boosts Predator Fish (June 25, 2007) — Cod, salmon, and salmon trout have in many cases disappeared from our seas and lakes because of overfishing. New research findings show that these predator fish would be able to recover if both ... [> read more](#)

Lakeshore Development Reduces Food Supplies For Fish (Aug. 4, 2009) — Freshwater fish, especially stream fish, rely on terrestrial insects as a portion of their food supply. But little is known about their importance to fish in lakes, where the size and shape of a lake ... [> read more](#)

Choosy Females Make Colourful Males (May 12, 2006) — Female fish prefer brightly coloured males because they are easier to see and are in better shape concludes Dutch researcher Martine Maan

Just In:

Science Video News



Small Fish Detect Big Problems
Researchers are using bluegills to detect industrial and agricultural spills in water supplies. Changes in the environment cause the fishes' behavior. ... [> full story](#)

- [Chemist Invents Fishing Line that Changes Color When Damaged](#)
- [Food Chemist Develops Protein-Based Batter for Healthier Frying](#)
- [Engineers Design Two Piece Magnetic Aquarium Pump](#)
- [more science videos](#)

Breaking News

... from NewsDaily.com

- [Researchers find sex-specific lung cancer genes](#)
- [Study shows why it is so scary to lose money](#)
- [Scientists find gene variant link to aging cells](#)
- [Shuttle Endeavour](#)

REUTERS 

Prof. Levavi-Sivan hopes that soon, every village around the shores of Lake Victoria will have its own 'boutique' fish farm and that the project will be expanded to include other countries in Africa. "We succeeded in inducing spawning in the carp -- and these 14 villages are the success story of this project."

Helping her in this initiative is a group of students from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda, who came to the University's Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food & Environment as part of a program organized by Mashav (Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation) and the Hebrew University's Division of External Studies to study inland water aquaculture and help develop the existing project in Uganda.

A new challenge

However, Prof. Levavi-Sivan and Dr. Justus Rutaisire are now facing another challenge. With the depletion of the smaller fish in the Lake, now the Nile Perch have nothing to eat and are themselves becoming depleted. Prof. Levavi-Sivan and Dr. Justus Rutaisire are therefore beginning a new project. Financed by the World Bank, they are working on finding ways to cultivate the Nile perch in aquaculture -- thus helping to boost Uganda's fish export industry, as well as the nutrition of the local population.

Email or share this story: | [More](#)

Story Source:

Adapted from materials provided by [Hebrew University of Jerusalem](#).

Need to cite this story in your essay, paper, or report? Use one of the following formats:

APA

MLA

Note: If no author is given, the source is cited instead.

Search ScienceDaily

Number of stories in archives: 81,147

Find with keyword(s):

Enter a keyword or phrase to search ScienceDaily's archives for related news topics, the latest news stories, reference articles, science videos, images, and books.

following her study of fish speciation in the East African ... > [read more](#)



Midge Bones In Lake Sediments Reveal Fish History (May 21, 2009) —

The mouth parts of the phantom midge are microscopic. But in the hands of scientists these midge bones become a time machine that can document 200 years of acidification and fish elimination in ... > [read more](#)

[blasts off for space station](#)

❏ [Arctic climate changing faster than expected](#)

❏ [more science news](#)

In Other News ...

❏ [Google Gmail tweak challenges Facebook, Twitter](#)

❏ [Second big snowstorm hits East Coast](#)

❏ [Obama says world moving quickly on Iran sanctions](#)

❏ [Inside Toyota's epic breakdown](#)

❏ [Taiwan drops request for U.S. military subs: source](#)

❏ [Toyota recalls new Prius in latest safety fix](#)

❏ [Ukraine's Tymoshenko girds to contest result](#)

❏ [NATO to Afghan assault villagers: keep heads down](#)

❏ [more top news](#)

Copyright Reuters 2008. See [Restrictions](#).

Free Subscriptions ... from ScienceDaily

Get the latest science news with our free email newsletters, updated daily and weekly. Or view hourly updated newfeeds in your RSS reader:

❏ [Email Newsletters](#)

❏ [RSS Newsfeeds](#)

Feedback ... we want to hear from you!

Tell us what you think of the new ScienceDaily -- we welcome both positive and negative comments. Have any problems using the site? Questions?

Your Name:

Your Email:

Comments:

Click button to submit feedback: