



OSIENALA (Friends of Lake Victoria) Profile

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1.0 INTRODUCTION



Figure 1 OSIENALA's Center for Research and Development at Dunga Beach in Kisumu

OSIENALA (Friends of Lake Victoria) was established in 1993 as a national NGO with its head office in Kisumu City in Western Kenya. OSIENALA's has created awareness locally and internationally about the problems facing Lake Victoria while at the same time creating structures that would support local communities to become responsible custodian of their environment and the lake. OSIENALA endeavours to strengthen capacities within the communities for sound management, optimization of resource utilization and improvement of the social and economic status in the region

Over the years, OSIENALA has repositioned and restructured its services to allow it to engage in regional management and conservation of Lake Victoria resources. OSIENALA works in partnership with other organisations both within the Lake Victoria basin and internationally. In

addition, OSIENALA enjoys co-operation and support from several government departments, Non-Governmental Organizations and regional and international agencies. OSIENALA's collaboration with other partners in environment and development issues such as Global Nature Fund (GNF), Living Lakes Network, and OSRAM in Germany and the International Lake Environment Committee (ILEC) in Japan have further strengthened it's role in the region.

Vision: A sound Lake Victoria's environment that sustains equitable livelihood of communities.

Mission: To empower Lake Victoria communities to become key participants in the management and equitable utilization of resources for sustainable livelihoods through capacity building, research, policy advocacy, education, information dissemination and networking.

Lake Victoria Center for Research and Development

The Lake Victoria Center for Research and Development hosts the headquarters of OSIENALA including the broadcasting studios for Radio Lake Victoria FM and Lake Victoria Television, Environmental Education Center and a Research Institute. Several OSIENALA programmes are also hosted at the center. The construction of this center was funded by OSIENALA development partners, mainly the African Fund for Endangered Wildlife (AFEW), USA. The center is located in Dunga Beach, Kisumu.



Figure 2: Front view of the Research Center at Dunga Beach Kisumu

The specific objectives of the OSIENALA include:

- Create and develop interests among primary school children and their teachers on the importance of conservation of the lake and its surrounding.
- Cultivate interests on water quality, environment, fisheries and the lake's ecological research among secondary school students with a view to motivating them to pursue courses and studies related to the lake and its resources at higher levels of learning.
- Serve as a regional center for information on Lake Victoria and its resources, as well as an advance center for research, education and training in the Lake Victoria region
- Host fruitful exchange of academic programs within the Lake Region of East Africa, Africa and the rest of the world.
- Promote applied research in the fishing industry in order to improve the lives of the people living along the lake
- Create awareness among the people living around the lake region on the resources in and around Lake Victoria, with a view to establish ways and means of utilizing these resources profitably and in a sustainable manner.
- Encourage developments that would promote ecotourism in the region.

2.0 PROGRAMMES

OSIENALA is implementing various donor funded projects through partners in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania Rwanda and Burundi. Some of the programs that have been implemented in the recent past or are currently being implemented by OSIENALA include:

- Community-based Strategies for the Management of the Environment and Resources of Lake Victoria (COSMER- LAV)
- Radio Lake Victoria (RLV) FM
- Lake Victoria Television Network
- Green Forest Social Investment Initiative - (a Social Agro-Forestry Programme)
- Environmental Education
- First Source Agri-business Kenya Ltd
- Health of People and Environment within Lake Victoria (HOPE-LVB)
- Installation of Water Purification Systems in schools in collaboration with GNF
- Integrated Lake Basin Management (ILBM) and African Sanitation Project (AFSAN)
- Devolution and Climate change Adaptation (DaCCA)

OSIENALA, also has a pool of experts in various fields and as such operates consultancy services in various areas. In the period we have been operating, we have established numerous reliable client contacts in the region. Our large clientele base includes and is not limited to the following:

- HOMA BAY AND KISUMU COUNTY GOVERNMENTS
- MIGORI AND SIAYA COUNTY GOVERNMENTS
- GREEN FOREST SOCIAL INVESTMENT LIMITED
- INTERNATIONAL CHILD SUPPORT
- LAKE VICTORIA BASIN COMMISSION
- LAKE BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

ASSIGNMENT UNDERTAKEN TO VARIOUS CLIENTS

- CONDUCTING BASELINE SURVEYS
- MAPPING OF CSO WITHIN EAST AFRICA
- SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDIES
- SITUATION ANALYSIS OF THE INFLUENT/EFFLUENT AT THE OLD AND NEW SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS (STPs) IN KISUMU
- TRAINING ON CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

OUR KEY PARTNERS

- UNDP
- AFEW (USA)
- MS-Kenya
- SIDA
- GLOBAL NATURE FUND (GNF)
- DANIDA
- WORLD LIVIING LAKES
- INTERNATIONAL LAKE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (ILEC)
- UNIVERSITIES (JOOUST, MMUST, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, INDIANA UNIVERSITY)

4.0 Conclusion

OSIENALA believes in empowering the community, through sustainable livelihood for a better life tomorrow. An empowered community is able to access facilities that can contribute

immensely in the development process of the Lake Victoria region. OSIENALA also believes that working with likeminded partners and stakeholders to boost income generating activities within communities will go a long way in improving the living standards of the communities as well as their environment.

For sustainability of the organization, OSIENALA conducts consultancy services as well as operate Radio Lake Victoria and Lake Victoria Television Network as income generating activities. OSIENALA remains open for further partnership and hope that the facts and ideas presented in this report are informative enough as an eye opener to our activities.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Figure 3: Board of Trustee and Directors members pose for a photo after meeting

THE OSIENALA MANAGEMENT TEAM

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Dr. Obiero Ong'ang'a | Executive Director |
| 2. Mr. Opiyo Oduwo | Deputy Director, Finance and Administration |
| 3. Dr. Godfrey Ogonda | Deputy Director, Programmes |

DEPARTMENT HEADS

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Radio Lake Victoria and LVTV | |
| • Mr. Seth O. Mbaka, B.Ed | Manager |
| • Mr. Fofona Bangali, MA | Deputy Administrator-Marketing |
| 2. Education and Environment | |
| • Georgette Imbaya B.Sc (Env) | Head |
| 3. Land Use Management | |
| • Peter O. Mireri B.Sc | Head |
| 4. Finance and Accounting | |
| • Rebecca Nabututu B.Com | Head |
| 5. COSMER-LAV | |
| • Professor Herick Othieno, PhD | Programme Coordinator |
| • Moses Oyier, Msc | Programme Officer |



Figure 4: Students visiting OSIENALA



Figure 5: Presenters at our RLV(92.1FM) studio