



What is driving Lake Jipe into extinction

Janet Murikira

<https://barakafm.org/2020/09/04/what-is-driving-jipe-tilapia-fish-in-lake-jipe-into-near-extinction/>



**A photo of Lake Jipe
taken from the
Kenyan side with the
Pare Mountains in
Tanzania in the
background**

Facts about Lake Jipe



- Lake Jipe is a shallow inter-territorial lake shared by Kenya and Tanzania in Taveta and Kilimanjaro regions.
- Fed by the Lumi river on the Kenyan side and outflows through the Ruvu river which flows to the Nyumba ya mungu Dam in Tanzania
- Only lake in the world where the Oreochromis Jipe(Jipe Tilapia) is found
- The fish has been listed as Critically endangered by the IUCN since 2016

Jipe Tilapia extinction

- Lake Jipe was listed as Critically endangered by the International Union of Conservation of Nature(IUCN) back in 2006.
- This means there is a 50% chance that the fish will become extinct within 20% years
- Invasive fish species have been cited as one of the causes contributing to the near extinction of the Jipe Tilapia in this case the Singinda Tilapia and the Nile Tilapia
- The Nile tilapia was introduced both intentionally and unintentionally
- Destructive fishing nets



Jipe Tilapia



- In the months of April, May, and June 2020, out of the 15.7 tonnes of fish caught in the lake, Jipe Tilapia made only 5% of the catches with the Nile Tilapia being the dominant catch.
- Communities living near the lake state that their catches have improved since Nile Tilapine fingerlings were introduced in the Kenyan side
- This highlights the challenge faced by efforts to balance species conservation and livelihoods of fishing communities

Lake Jipe threats



Unsustainable farming and irrigation methods blocking the Rumi river which is the Lake's main inflow.

Heavy siltation In the lake. The lake which was 100km sq is now 30 Square kilometre

Kenya and Tanzania implementing different conservation efforts due to the lack of a framework on joint conservation and cooperation

The Sourthern Cattail weed(*Typha Domogenis*) which the IUCN estimates has covered almost 60% of the lake

Progress on the Lake since I covered the story

- KMFRI and the Taita Taveta county government deployed a unit to patrol the lake to curb the use of outlawed fishing nets
- Taita Taveta county government officials started unblocking blocked canals that were blocking the river's inflow to Lake Jipe

The story

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By Janet Murikira - Sep 4, 2020



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Any questions

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