

BACKGROUND

Lake Victoria is the second largest fresh water body in the world. It is considered one of the most important shared natural resources of the East African Community (EAC), which have declared the lake and surrounding basin a regional economic growth zone.

Lake Victoria and its basin continue to face challenging management issues including overfishing, species introduction, loss of habitats and biodiversity, siltation from erosion of deforested watersheds, polluting through municipal wastewater and industry, lack of water storage, runoff from agricultural areas and solid waste. Environmental problems are exacerbated by the growing population pressure in the basin, which has increased competition over the use of scarce shared transboundary natural resources.

The Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), an institution of the EAC, is intensifying its efforts on integrated water resources management to address the urgent need for regional coordination among the five Partner States in the basin.



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Lake Victoria Basin Integrated Water Resources Management Programme

-LVB IWRMP-



THE LVB IWRM PROGRAMME

aims at improving water quality and availability through strategic and sustainable management of the Lake Victoria Basin.

1. Strengthen the capacity for crossboundary integrated water resources management at LVBC **THROUGH** the establishment of a mutually approved and legally anchored IWRM strategy for the basin as well as the establishment of a Water Information System (database/model). This supports a pipeline for prioritized investment projects for subsequent financing phases. (Joint Venture SWECO)

2. Rapidly improve the water quality of the Lake **BY** reducing effluents into Lake Victoria through the implementation of four High Priority Investments (HPI) in Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda, identified during a previous study phase. (Joint Venture CES-AKUT & MIBP)

The first phase of the LVB IWRMP runs until February 2023.

VISION “EU MEETS EAC”

Pollution originating from one of the countries impacts the others since it spreads down rivers and within the lake where it does not observe political boundaries. This is reflected in the coordinated cross-border approach of the Programme, implemented by the LVBC. The goal is to harmonize policies and to contribute to a common strategy for integrated water resources management in the five states of the basin. This supports the long-term goal of the EAC to increase regional integration.

The European Union (EU) can play an inspiring role in this process: The European Water Framework Directive is highly relevant in this respect. With the implementation of this Directive, water management and water quality have improved vastly throughout the EU. The experience and lessons learnt in Europe will be applied in the Programme and the selected High Priority Investments (HPI) will inspire these new standards.



UGANDA - Kampala
Construction of a wetland



KENYA - Kisumu
Construction of public ablution blocks in informal settlements, linking to the central waste water treatment plant



TANZANIA - Mwanza
Increase the number of household connections and network extension according to the Master Plan



RWANDA - Kigali
Construction of a central faecal sludge treatment plant

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES



Regional economic integration is enhanced and a contribution to preservation of biodiversity and to conflict prevention is provided through established water resource management.



Water quality and availability are improved through strategic and sustainable management of the LVB.



Long-term strategic and regional water resources management function of the LVBC Secretariat is strengthened.



Effluents into Lake Victoria are reduced through targeted infrastructure investments in solid waste and waste water management; beneficiaries are sensitized.



KEY FIGURES LAKE VICTORIA BASIN



Basin covers 180,950 sq. km



Lake surface 68,870 sq. km



Basin population 44,9 million

Three main transboundary river basins **KAGERA** (Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania) **MARA** (Kenya, Tanzania) **SIO-MALABA** (Kenya/Uganda)