

# LAKE VICTORIA BASIN INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (LVB IWRMP)

## BACKGROUND

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

Transboundary issues make the water management of Lake Victoria Basin (LVB) challenging and sometimes delicate. Over-fishing of the lake, species introduction, loss of habitats and biodiversity, siltation from erosion of deforested watersheds, industrial pollution, pollution through municipal wastewater, lack of water storage and runoff from agricultural areas and solid waste are amongst the most pressing issues in water management of the basin. Environmental problems are exacerbated by the growing population pressure in the basin, which has increased competition over the use of shared trans-boundary natural resources.

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

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The LVB IWRM Programme aims at improving water quality and availability through strategic and sustainable management of the LVB.

The first component is to strengthen the capacity for cross-boundary integrated water resources management at LVBC. This shall be achieved through the establishment of a mutually approved and legally anchored IWRM strategy for the basin as well as the establishment of a merged database and calibrated IWRM model at the LVBC. Moreover, based upon data and model analyses, thematic priorities and projects for subsequent financing phases of the Programme are to be developed. The general Programme management and specifically the implementation of this first component are supported by an IWRM Programme Consultant (Joint Venture SWECO).

The second component has the goal to rapidly improve the water quality of the Lake by reducing effluents into Lake Victoria through the implementation infrastructure. To this end, four High Priority Investments (HPI) in Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda had been identified during a previous study phase. These investments will have a significant regional impact on the water quality of Lake Victoria Basin and will set new benchmarks by exceeding existing discharge regulations and practice. The HPI will be implemented by designated National Project Executing Agencies (NPEA). This second component is supported by a Project Implementation Consultant (Joint Venture CES-AKUT with MIBP).

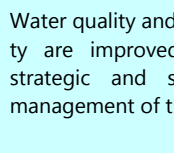
It is envisaged that the activities of the first phase of the LVB IWRMP will be carried out until February 2023.



## PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES



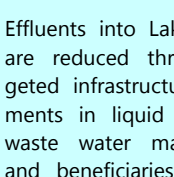
Regional economic integration is enhanced and a contribution to preservation of biodiversity and to conflict prevention is provided through established water resource management.



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 liquid and solid waste water management and beneficiaries are sensitized.

## HPIs

During a study phase in 2016, four pre-selected High Priority (and no regret) Investments in solid and/or liquid waste water management in four towns along the lake and catchment area were preselect, which are now under revision:



**Uganda - Kampala**  
Construction wetlands.

### Rwanda - Kigali

Construction of a central faecal sludge treatment plant.



### Kenya - Kisumu

Construction of public abolition blocks in informal areas as well as their linking to the central wastewater.

### Tanzania - Mwanza

Increase the number of household connections and network extension according to developed Master Plan.



## VISION "EU MEETS EAC"

Due to its transboundary characteristic pollution created in one of the countries is the negatively impacts in the others directly. This is reflected in the coordinated cross-border approach of the Programme. The goal is to harmonize policies and to contribute to a common strategy for integrated water resources management in the five states of the LVB. In this way, through the implementation of the Programme the LVBC is supporting the long-term goal of the EAC to increase regional integration. The European Union (EU) can play an inspiring role in this process. Especially the European Water Framework Directive is in this respect highly relevant. With the implementation of this Directive, water management and water quality have improved vastly throughout the EU. The selected HPI shall inspire these new standards. The experience and the lessons learnt in the EU will be utilized in the LVB IWRMP.



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## KEY FIGURES LAKE VICTORIA BASIN



Covering  
**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)

### Contact

Lake Victoria Basin Commission

13th Floor, New Nyanza Reg. Headquarters,

P.O.Box 1510 - 40100, KISUMU - KENYA

Email: [lvbc@lvbcom.org](mailto:lvbc@lvbcom.org)

Website: [www.lvbcom.org](http://www.lvbcom.org)

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