Permanant and Principal Secretaries in the ministries of Environment, Water and East African Community affairs from the East African Partner States have endorsed the three broad priority areas proposed under the Multisectoral Multiphase Programme for Lake Victoria Basin.

The priority areas include strengthening the stabilization of the Lake Victoria Basin ecosystems (including water quality), sustainable development of transport infrastructure and support the development of the Blue Economy and Agriculture. They also approved the roadmap for preparation of the proposed Multisectoral Multiphase Programme and directed Lake Victoria Basin Commission Secretariat to coordinate its implementation and regularly report progress.

The PS’s further directed LVBC Secretariat to incorporate inputs from the Partner States on the proposed Programme Concept Note and share the updated Concept Note with Partner States by 30 June 2024 and thereafter organize a regional validation meeting by July 2024.

During the high level consultative meeting for potential long term cross sectoral investments to address development challenges in Lake Victoria Basin that was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania between 23rd – 24th May, the permanent secretaries also directed LVBC Secretariat to continue coordinating the engagement with the World Bank on preparation of the Proposed Multisectoral Multiphase programme.

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Partner states were also urged to make formal requests to the World Bank through Ministries of Finance to support the preparation of the proposed Multisectoral Multiphase Programme for Lake Victoria Basin by August 2025 once the World Bank’s IDA 21 envelope is confirmed.

The session of the Permanent and Principal Secretaries was chaired by Hon Peter Mahal Akat, Undersecretary Ministry of water resources and irrigation from the Republic of South Sudan.

Republic of Burundi was represented by Hon. Emmanuel Niyungeko, acting permanent secretary Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock while Hon Edith Mwanje, Permanent Secretary Ministry of East African Community Affairs represented the Republic of Uganda.

Ms Agnes Ksaka, deputy permanent secretary ministry of water represented the United Republic of Tanzania while Mr Julius Mwabu, Director productive services ministry of East African Community, the ASALs and Regional Development represented the Republic of Kenya.

Republic of Rwanda was represented by Mr Chrsitian Fighter Manzi, program manager, climate resilience partnership development in the ministry of Environment.
UGANDA’S 1ST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER COMMENDS LVBC

The first Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for East African Community Affairs in the Republic of Uganda Rt Hon Rebbecca Kadaga has commended Lake Victoria Basin Commission for the implementation of projects and programmes in the Lake Victoria Basin. Hon Kadaga said the projects have had significant impact in the lives of millions of people living within the East African Community region.

The Deputy Prime Minister made the remarks during her visit at the commission’s headquarters in Kisumu on 3rd May 2024. She was on a working tour to discuss the progress of implementation of projects and programmes implemented by LVBC across the region.

Hon Kadaga said, “I am glad to be here today to discuss about the implementation of various projects and it is very pleasing that LVBC has been in the fore front in ensuring that the people of the East African Community benefit”. Hon Sam Cheptoris, Minister of Water and Environment, Republic of Uganda also accompanied the Deputy Prime Minister. The Minister said “I am happy to state here that LVBC’s presence in the Republic of Uganda is widely felt as a result of many projects that you have done which have changed the lives of millions of people”.

Lake Victoria Basin Commission has implemented several projects in the Republic of Uganda under the Adapting to Climate Change for Lake Victoria Basin (ACC-LVB), Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRMP), and Multinational Lake Victoria Maritime Communication and Transport (MLVMCT) projects. Executive Secretary Dr Masinde Bwire reiterated the institution’s commitment in delivering its core mandate. He said, “I wish to confirm that this commission will continue to mobilize resources from various development partners to implement projects that will definitely change the lives of the people of East African Community”.

The first deputy prime minister also inspected the new Lake Victoria Basin Commission currently under construction and commended the executive for its progress. Hon Edith Mwanje, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of East African Community Affairs, Republic of Uganda and Directors and officials from her ministry also accompanied the deputy prime minister.
KENYAN FARMERS ARE BURSTING OF BUMPER HARVEST COURTESY OF ACC-LVB PROJECT

Farmers in Kanyibok Village, West Yimbo ward, Siaya County in the Republic of Kenya are bursting of bumper harvest of Capsicum following successful implementation of the Adapting to Climate Change project in Lake Victoria Basin (ACC-LVB).

The farmers are smiling all the way to the bank after selling several kilograms of the produce they harvested in the green houses which were constructed by the project.

Julius Otieno, a farmer in Kanyibok village youth group in west Yimbo said, "I am happy with the results since I have been able to sell several kilograms in the market. I will use the profit to expand my businesses".

Another farmer Jane Otieno said, "I am very happy with the produce. I sold them in the local market and received good money that enabled me to pay school fees for my grandchildren. I have also learnt modern farming methods through the project”.

The project was supported by Lake Victoria Basin in collaboration with the ministry of environment, climate change and forestry and Siaya county government.

Under the climate smart agriculture, eight green houses were constructed for the youth groups in the village in west Yimbo and Rona foundation for widows in Rarieda at a cost of over USD 40,000.

The project also provided farmers with seedlings, fertilizers and chemicals and trained them on good farming practices and green house management.

The pilot project which was implemented in five East African Partner States namely the Republic of Kenya, Republic of Burundi, Republic of Uganda, Republic of Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania was funded by the Adaptation Fund through UNEP to the tune of USD 5 Million.
Mr. Nathan Belete, World Bank Country Director for Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe makes his presentation at the high level meeting in Dares Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania.

Participants at the SOBR workshop in Mwanza, United Republic of Tanzania.

IWRMP Project co-ordinator Eng Arsene Mukubwa accompanied by Mr Christoph Tiskens, the Director of East Africa and African Union, accompanied by Ms Freya Negenborn in charge of KfW bilateral projects in Mwanza, United Republic of Tanzania.

Delegates at the high level meeting in Dar es Salaam Tanzania.
Principle administrative officer Millicent Opiyo presents an award to a pupil from Victoria primary school who won the essay competition during the 12th Mara Day celebration.

Dr. Masinde Bwire gifts MEACA-Uganda PS. Hon Edith Mwanje.

Lvbc accountant Ms Pamela Onyiso with police officers during the national tree planting exercise in Busia County.

Mr Vickram Cuttaree, World Bank’s lead strategy officer, African Regional Integration makes a presentation at the high level meeting in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania.

Deputy Executive Sec Eng Coletha Ruhamya makes her submission at the 10th World Water Forum in Bali, Indonesia.