

LVBC ANNUAL REVIEW



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Issue No 01

ACC- LVB PROJECT

A Game Changer
for Communities
within the Lake
Victoria Basin

**NCCR'S DRAFT
REPORT READY
FOR ADOPTION**

**CONSTRUCTION
OF NEW LVBC
HEADQUARTERS
ON COURSE**

**LVBC'S GRAND
PLAN TO IMPROVE
MARITIME SAFETY
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**EXPERTS ADOPT
RESOLUTIONS ON
MARA RIVER
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PICTORIAL

Dr. Masinde Bwire

Executive Secretary Lake Victoria Basin
Commission

Dear Esteemed Readers

I am delighted to present to you this edition of our annual review newsletter which shines a spotlight on the remarkable stories and achievements of the year 2023. As we begin the new year, it is essential to take note of the great achievements we have made in the commission in 2023.

With the unwavering support of my able deputy, Eng. Coletha Ruhmya, we have worked diligently to steer the commission towards fulfilling its core mandate. I also take note of the commitment and teamwork from our dedicated staff members that resulted several significant milestones achieved through various initiatives and projects.

It is also important to note that the ACC-LVB project that began in 2018 officially ended this year to the joy of millions of people living within the Lake Victoria Basin. Indeed the testimonies from the beneficiaries of this mega project that was implemented in the five East African partner states is a clear indication of the impact felt.

Recently, the World Bank also approved the financing of a multi-billion sanitation project with the Lake Victoria Basin under a multi phase approach. This will be the largest and most impactful program in the history of LVBC since its inception.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the World Bank, the Federal Government of Germany GIZ, the European Union, UNEP, Adaptation Fund, USAID/KEA, IUCN and all the development partners for their unwavering support on our path to realizing our goals.

Furthermore, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Sectoral Council of Ministers for Lake Victoria Basin and East African Community Partner States for their invaluable policy guidance and unwavering support.



*I wish you a prosperous 2024.
Warm regards*



ACC- LVB PROJECT: A GAME CHANGER FOR COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE LAKE VICTORIA BASIN

PHOTO: A farmer from Weseso group in Siaya County displays honey



The ACC-LVB Project drilled four boreholes that are fitted with solar powered water pumping systems to support micro-irrigation for rice intensification and off-season crop farming during dry seasons.

The multibillion Adapting to climate change in Lake Victoria Basin (ACC-LVB) project that was implemented by Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) was game changer to millions of people living within the Lake Victoria basin.

Thousands of people who were wallowing in abject poverty are now basking in glory following after reaping the fruits of bumper harvests courtesy of the support provided by the project.

Ng,haya village in Magu district within the Mwanza region in the United Republic of Tanzania was

among the beneficiaries of the project which was implemented through the vice president's office.

The ACC-LVB Project drilled four boreholes that are fitted with solar powered water pumping systems to support micro-irrigation for rice intensification and off-season crop farming during dry seasons.

The farmers now plant tomatoes, green grams, Cabbages, Cucumber, Cupsicum, kales, maize, chick peas, sunflower and rice.

Magu District Executive Director Ms Fidelica Myovella admitted that

projects have had positive impact to community members.

In the Republic of Uganda, residents of Masaka and Mubende district have also benefited from the project.

In Masaka district the Project has piloted construction of modern institutional energy saving stoves in 3 public Schools namely Kijjabwemi Church of Uganda Pri, St. Damian Buyaga and Tekera.

The schools have been able to reduce their firewood consumption by a third (1/3) of their previous consumption.

Contd Pg2



The project has also piloted planting of woodlots on 35Ha of land in Masaka Buyaga Parish.

PHOTO: A farmer from Ngaya village Magu District in United Republic of Tanzania



This has contributed to reduction of biomass required for cooking. Through the use of biomass, the three institutions have saved approximately USD 1,602 annually.

The project has also piloted planting of woodlots on 35Ha of land in Masaka Buyaga Parish.

In addition, it has also established woodlots by planting 35ha of land with local and indigenous tree species in (Musambia, Terminalia and Musizi villages in Masaka District;

In Mubende District two 5,000m³ capacity Valley tanks have been constructed in Rwobushumi and Kalungi Villages.

According to the projects National co-ordinator Eng Pamela Agaba , the faces of the victims who were affected by the climate change are now radiating with joy.

In the Republic of Kenya, Lake Victoria Basin Commission has spent USD 85,000 towards the restoration of ecosystem in Busia and Siaya counties.

The commission has planted over 90,000 trees in the two counties. And also supported Busia County government in Restoration of Osipata degraded Ecosystem through planting over 10,000 bamboo seedling and establishment of indigenous tree nursery in Osipata Village Teso South Sub County.

Two new automated weather stations that will be used to measure and transmit weather parameters for timely and accurate weather forecasting were also set up in the two counties.

The project also trained farmers on modern methods in Rarieda and Bondo constituencies.

In the Republic of Rwanda and Burundi, the project drilled bore holes, plastered houses, trained farmers and trained farmers in modern farming methods, big keeping, poultry farming ,and pig and goat rearing



NCCR'S DRAFT REPORT READY FOR ADOPTION

PHOTO: Participants at the Regional Review Workshop for draft harmonized policy on water quality management held in Entebbe, in the Republic of Uganda.



The final report now waits for official adoption and approval during the sectoral council of ministers meeting scheduled for next year.

The Nile co-operation for climate resilient (NCCR) project has already prepared and submitted the final draft on the East African Community water quality management policy.

The final report now waits for official adoption and approval during the sectoral council of ministers meeting scheduled for next year.

The Draft final harmonized policy on water quality management submitted to LVBC in Oct 31,2023, review by LVBC team in November7,2023 & Regional validation review workshop concluded in November 2023 and final

draft water quality report submitted to LVBC on December3,2023.

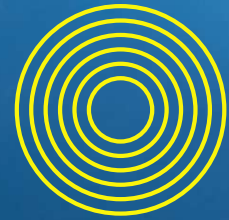
The assignment was carried out under the Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR) Project, a project jointly implemented by the three centers of NBI (NBI Secretariat, NELSAP, and ENTRO), Nile Basin Discourse (NBD), and LVBC, through five (5) thematic areas and project components that are each aligned to the implementing agencies.

LVBC is leading Component 4; "Water Quality in the Lake Victoria Sub-Basin" and specifically focusing on

Water Quality Policy and Institution Harmonization, Development of a Strategy and Action Plan.

The overall objective of the activity was to harmonize and strengthen Water Quality Policies which govern Water Quality Management in the NEL sub-basin countries to enhance cooperative management of shared resources and develop a strategy and action plan.

During the meetings, environmental and Water experts within the East African Community called on the Partner states to develop National water quality **Contd Pg 4**



management policies in line with the Regional Water quality Policy.

The experts also called for the formalization and harmonization of the stipulated guidelines and standards.

They also recommended for the establishment of a focal institution for Water Quality to streamline roles and responsibilities of the mandated institutions to avoid duplication.

Apart from establishing archiving mechanism the experts also proposed for the development and implementation of a regional disaster risk management strategy and action plan for the water sector that adequately addresses water quality risks.

Upon approval, the regional workshops were held in the Republic of Kenya, Republic of Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of South Sudan, the Republic of Uganda and the Republic Of Burundi.



PHOTO: Participants at the Regional Review Workshop for draft harmonized policy on water quality management held in Entebbe, in the Republic of Uganda.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LVBC HEADQUARTERS ON COURSE



Dr Bwire indicated that the construction of the second phase is set to be completed within eighty weeks.

The construction of the second phase of the new Lake Victoria Basin Commission Headquarters is ongoing.

The construction of the second phase kicked off on 7th August 2023 after the official handover that was done on 25th July.

The second phase of construction will cost two million, five hundred and sixty thousand seven hundred and seventy point six eight US dollars (USD\$ 2, 560,718.68)

The construction of the new Headquarters that will help in promoting regional integration is fully funded by the East African Partner States.

The Executive Secretary of Lake Victoria Basin Commission Dr Masinde Bwire officially handed

over the site to the contractor China Jiangxi International Kenya Limited and China Jiangxi Corporation for International Economic and Technical Cooperation Co. Limited.

Dr Bwire indicated that the construction of the second phase is set to be completed within eighty weeks.

The Executive Secretary said that the East African Partner States are closely monitoring this project and are keen to ensure that it is completed soon.

The new headquarters will host several departments for various projects undertaken by the Lake Victoria Basin Commission, a body within the East African Community.

During the handover ceremony, the representative of the Principal Secretary State Department of Public

Works Arch. David Waititu reaffirmed that the department will work closely with the Commission to ensure adequate supervision of the construction during this second phase.

The Headquarters is being built on 2.8-acre land within the shores of Lake Victoria donated by the government in 2016. Upon completion, the headquarters will fast-track consolidation and ensure smooth coordination of the activities of the commission across the Great Lakes region.

The design process began

in 2006 and the commencement of phase one construction began in January 2021 with an initial 52-week contract period that ended on 31st August 2022.

The Commission, an institution of East Africa Community with its headquarters in Kenya, is currently housed at the Nyanza Regional Headquarters. It's mandated to regulate and promote sustainable utilization of resources along the Lake Victoria Basin for the benefit of the EAC member counties.



PHOTO: Lake Victoria Basin Commission Headquarters under construction

LVBC'S GRAND PLAN TO IMPROVE MARITIME SAFETY IN LAKE VICTORIA



In August 2023, twin boat tragedies occurred in the Republic of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania that left over thirty people dead.

Lake Victoria basin commission (LVBC) has put up elaborate plans to improve maritime safety in Lake Victoria.

The commission's move comes against the backdrop of increased boat accidents that have occurred on the Lake in the recent past.

In August 2023, twin boat tragedies occurred in the Republic of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania that left over thirty people dead.

Fourteen people died after their boats capsized in Bunda District, Mara Region in the United Republic of Tanzania while in the Republic of

Uganda over twenty people perished after their boat capsized in Kasenyi landing site in Wakiso district.

During the tragedies, the commission donated approved SOLAS life jackets and assorted food items to the victims and bereaved families.

The executive secretary Dr Masinde Bwire said as coordinating entity for Partner States, LVBC is committed to continue

contributing towards making Lake Victoria Search and Rescue (SAR) services effectively, and on time through pragmatic initiatives.

He said currently, the Commission is coordinating the Multinational Lake Victoria Maritime Communications and Transport (MLVMCT) project aimed at improving safety and security in the Lake, including SAR services in

the event of marine accidents occurring in the waters of Lake Victoria.

Upon completion in December 2024, the MLVMCT project will provide Lake Victoria with the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centers (MRCCs) supported by SAR centers spread along the shoreline and equipped with fast rescue boats and medical facility boats.

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PHOTO: Maritime training facility under construction



PHOTO: PS Ministry of EAC Affairs Uganda, Edith Mwanje, LVBC ES Dr Masinde Bwire, Minister of Works and Transport Gen Katumba Wamala, and PS Ministry of Works and Transport Bageya Waswa puts on samples of approved SOLAS life jackets.

A common telephone code to be used by all the riparian states to communicate to all the rescue centers in case of Marine accidents in Lake Victoria is also officially in use.

The new code 110 will help in improving coordination of rescue activities in the event of marine tragedy within Lake Victoria.

The call will be picked by call center agent who will direct the caller to the police officer to coordinate the rescue operation.

The new code is already in operation in the Republic of Uganda and is set to be rolled out in Kenya and Tanzania.

An ultra-modern Maritime Training facility at the Fisheries Training Institute (FTI) - Entebbe is also under construction in the Republic of Uganda at a cost USD 1.45Million with funds from African Development Bank (AfDB).

The construction of the institute is set for completion in this month

The new institute will be the first to be built to cater for able bodied men and women in the EAC region and the rest of the world planning to operate or operating vessels in both all navigable inland water bodies and the oceans.

The institution has been built in accordance with regulations set for establishment of institutions under the international convention on Standard of Training, Certification and Watch keeping for Seafarers (STCW). **Contd Pg 8**

The facility will also assist in training boat operators, fishermen and able sea men to attain qualifications for marine education.

The institute that is based in Entebbe, Wakiso District is equipped with the state-of-the-art facilities like a Marine training swimming pool, Bridge Simulator (Maritime Navigation and Engineering training), equipped training lab for students, and medical first Aid facility.

The scope of the contract also included FTI full renovations of the buildings, construction of a community jetty, a slipway with capacity of (5-10ton) vessels and a boat maintenance workshop for repairing vessels.

Marine officers, boat operators, fishermen and young marine engineers within the East African partner states and the rest of the world will benefit from the planned maritime training courses.

According to Lake Victoria Basin Commission Regional Project Coordinator for MLVMCT project Mr Ategeka Henry, the institute will be a key milestone to improving safety in the Maritime sector in the East African Community.

Mr Ategeka said, “This will be a great opportunity for members of the EAC states and even in the diaspora.”



The scope of the contract also included FTI full renovations of the buildings, construction of a community jetty, a slipway with capacity of (5-10ton) vessels and a boat maintenance workshop.



PHOTO: Call Centre in the Republic of Uganda

EAC PARTNER STATES AGREE ON A NEW STRATEGY FOR LAKE VICTORIA BASIN

The decision was made on the basis of an integrated water resources management strategy development for the lake Victoria Basin conducted in 2016



PHOTO: Fisherman in Lake Victoria

The Lake Victoria Basin Partner States have jointly agreed to implement framework of a long term water resources planning and management at a cost of USD500 Million.

The decision was made on the basis of an integrated water resources management strategy development for the lake Victoria Basin conducted in 2016.

Upon agreement by the Partner States, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) initiated the process from 2020 onwards.

The process kicked off with a detailed situation analysis, based on existing documents review, intensive stakeholder consultation and collective basin vision development.

The approach was tailor-made based on the difference in transboundary basins, geographical location, biophysical, economic, socio-cultural and political settings.

The developed strategy has a broad scope and includes measures on watershed management and ecosystem

conservation, water resources development, climate change and disaster risk management.

Water resources knowledge management and water policy and transboundary water governance are also part of the strategy.

The time horizon for the strategy is 2050, while five consecutive 5-year implementation plans were developed, each with targets and indicators.

These plans shall be integrated with the 5-year

strategic planning cycle of the LVBC, ensuring adequate institutional anchoring as well as periodic updating and alignment.

The paper highlights important lessons learnt from the process, which could guide IWRM strategy development processes in other transboundary basins.

The lessons include the importance of stakeholder engagement for gaining acceptance of the plan; dealing with gaps in scientific data and information and complement **Contd Pg 9**

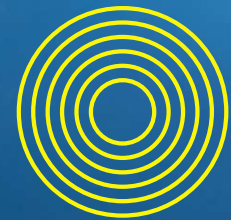
and remedy these by local knowledge.

The transboundary plan will have relevance and gain support if it addresses urgent local problems while also contributing to achieving regional development and integration goals.

According to the executive secretary of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission Dr Masinde Bwire, the budget estimates to guide the strategy's implementation is expected to be approved during the next meeting of the council of ministers next month.

Engineer Arsene Mukubwa who is coordinating the Integrated Water Resource Management project which is under implementation by the Lake Victoria Basin Commission said the Strategy comes in at a critical time as a guiding tool for regional investment planning.

Engineer Mukubwa pointed out that the strategy will also play a pivotal role in addressing the threatening water resources issues in the Lake Victoria Basin.



The paper highlights important lessons learnt from the process, which could guide IWRM development processes in other transboundary basins



PHOTO: Beautiful Sunset view on the Shores of Lake Victoria

EXPERTS ADOPT RESOLUTIONS ON MARA RIVER CONSERVATION

Photo: Executive Secretary Dr Masinde Bwire greets Tanzania's Deputy Minister of Water Eng Mary Pricca Maundi during the Mara Day celebrations

The event that was held in Mugumu for third time attracted several participants from the Republic of Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania.

It was pomp and colour during the 12th annual Mara day celebrations held in Mugumu, Serengeti district in the United Republic of Tanzania in September.

The event that was held in Mugumu for third time attracted several participants from the Republic of Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Researchers, scientists, experts, senior government officials and relevant stakeholders from the two East African Partner States, jointly agreed on a range shared action that would help to conserve the Mara Serengeti Ecosystem that continue to be threatened by degradation occasioned by several factors.

The Conservation experts called upon the two neighboring EAC Partner States to seek partnerships for the application of Artificial Intelligence, Earth Observation, and other innovative technologies in management of this shared ecosystem.

Under the coordination of LVBC Secretariat, the experts agreed on 12 resolutions that included the strengthening of the institutional framework for cooperative management of the transboundary Masai Mara-Serengeti ecosystem between the Republic of Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania.

The experts also called for promotion and investment in climate-smart agriculture, Nature-based Solutions (Nbs), Ecosystem- based Adaptation (EbA) and renewable energy to mitigate the negative effects of climate change

on the riparian communities on the Mara- Serengeti ecosystem as part of the African Climate Adaptation Programme agreed upon at the Africa Climate Summit held in Nairobi in September 2023.

They also sought for partnership and application of artificial Intelligence, Earth Observation, and other innovative technologies to support knowledge generation and ecosystem monitoring for decision support and sustainable management of the shared ecosystem.

The experts also recommended the strengthening of the institutional framework for cooperative management of the transboundary Masai Mara-Serengeti ecosystem by among others reinvigorating institutional structures, forums and instruments envisaged in the cooperative MOU such as the Transboundary Mara River Water Resources Users Forum, the Joint Technical and Coordination Committees, and Mara River Basin Stakeholders Forum. **Contd Pg 12**



Photo: Executive Secretary Dr Masinde Bwire greets Tanzania's Deputy Minister of Water Eng Mary Pricca Maundi during the Mara Day celebrations



PHOTO: Eng Conrad Thombansen, Programme Manager EAC/LVBC-GIZ/IWRM project receives certificate from Tanzania's Deputy Minister of Water Eng Mary Pricca Maundi during the Mara Day Celebrations.

Dr George Lugomela who is the director of Water Resources in the Ministry of Water in the United Republic of Tanzania and Andrew Mware Kinyua who is the Director of Natural Water Resources, Ministry of water, sanitation and irrigation in the Republic of Kenya signed the resolutions on behalf of their respective countries as a way of adopting them for implementation over the next 12 months.

The annual event was jointly organized by LVBC,

the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Kenya in Mugumu town, Tanzania, under the theme

"Conserving Mara River for Biodiversity and Sustainable Economy".

Tanzania's Deputy Minister of Water Eng. Mary Prisca Mahundi who was the Chief Guest reiterated their commitment in conserving the Mara-Serengeti Ecosystem.

Permanent Secretary in the

Ministry of East African Community Affairs from Republic of Uganda Madam Edith Mwanje who was the chief guest in the 12th Mara Day Scientific Conference said that Mara Day celebration was a testament to power of regional cooperation and diplomacy.

The PS said, "Being here is a clear indication that as sister EAC states we not only promote integration but also give way to attracting sustainable investments".

Contd Pg 13



PHOTO: Participants display their products during the celebrations.

Deputy Director Regional Integration in the ministry of East African affairs Mr. Julius Mwabu who led the Kenyan delegation and read a speech on behalf of the Principal Secretary Abdi Dubat said the Kenyan government was working with both state and non-state actors within the Mau complex to grow trees and restore degraded forest cover in the catchment area.

LVBC Executive Secretary Dr Masinde Bwire reiterated the importance of the Mara River between

the two EAC partner states. Dr Bwire said, Mara Day celebrations are a testament to the strong collaboration between the Republic of Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania.

This annual event, held on a rotational basis between these two East African countries, has its roots in the 10th Sectoral Council of Ministers for Lake Victoria Basin meeting in 2012, which took place in Kigali, Rwanda.

The meeting declared

that every September 15th is Mara Day, marking the official commitment to conserving and awareness creation.

Since the Kigali declaration, Mara Day celebrations have continued to achieve their guiding objectives in creating awareness among key stakeholders on the importance of the Mara River basin and its resources, recognize and involve contributions from various sectors in its management, and promote partnerships for the sustainable use of Mara's water and biodiversity.



MULTI BILLION SANITATION PROJECT APPROVED BY WORLD BANK

PHOTO: Executive secretary Dr Masinde Bwire presents a gift to World Bank's Vice President of Eastern and Southern Africa Dr. Victoria Kwakwa



The World Bank approved the financing of approximately Kshs 2 billion sanitation programme within the Lake Victoria Basin.

The programme under a Multi-phase Approach (MPA) Phase I will cost over US\$ 450 million.

This financial commitment will be the largest and most impactful programme in the history of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) since its inception.

The approval was made during a high-level engagement involving key leaders from the World Bank, ministers of Water,

Sanitation, and Finance from the five countries within the Lake Victoria Basin.

World Bank's Vice President of Eastern and Southern Africa Dr. Victoria Kwakwa, reiterated their commitment in supporting the commission in transitioning from planning to actionable steps.

Dr Kwakwa said the financial institution committed to fund the sanitation programme that will have positive impact to the community.

LVBC's Executive Secretary Dr. Masinde Bwire expressed his gratitude to .

the Partner States' Leaders and the World Bank Vice President over the decision. Dr Bwire said, " I thank the leaders from the Partner States (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda) for their unified commitment and collaboration to ensure the successful realization of the programme aimed to control pollution in the Lake.

The approval of the project was made during a regional meeting on advancing actions for the Lake Victoria Basin Lakewide Integrated Environmental Sanitation Programme on 14th November 2023, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The programme under a Multi-phase Approach (MPA) Phase I will cost over US\$ 450 million.

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LAKE VICTORIA BASIN COMMISSION

ANNUAL REVIEW 2023

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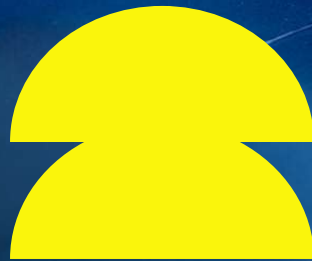
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**East African Community - Lake Victoria Basin
Commission**

New Nyanza Regional Headquarters, 13th floor
Owuor Otiende Road, Off Kenyatta Highway
P. O. Box 1510 – 40100, Kisumu, KENYA

Telephone Number:

+254 57 2023894/

73, 2026344

Email: lvbc@lvbcom.org