

STATE OF THE BASIN REPORT 2025 - COUNTRY FACT SHEET

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

THE COUNTRY WITH THE GREATEST POTENTIAL FOR HIGH IMPACT REGIONAL INVESTMENT.



12%

Population with
electricity access



3,500 MW

Untapped renewable
energy potential



\$380M

Losses from climate
disasters, 2020 to
2024



328,000

International visitor
arrivals in 2024

BURUNDI IN THE BASIN



Burundi lies within the **upper Kagera River catchment**, making it a significant contributor to the downstream water quality of Lake Victoria.



The country is also a partner in the **Rusumo Falls Hydropower Project** alongside Rwanda and Tanzania, highlighting the importance of regional cooperation.



Tourism also remains a promising growth sector, supported by Burundi's strategic position along the Kagera corridor.



Burundi faces some of the basin's most significant constraints in technical and environmental **monitoring capacity**, which limits data-driven decision-making.



The country's heavy reliance on **firewood and charcoal** underscores the urgent need for sustainable energy alternatives.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURES



Burundi's steep highlands face growing **landslide risks** during heavy rains, reinforcing the need for continued investment in risk reduction.



Pressure on forest resources is contributing to erosion and sediment runoff, highlighting the need for sustainable land and energy solutions.



The Kirundo region would benefit from stronger **water-monitoring infrastructure** to close data gaps and support better planning.



Targeted investments can **strengthen Burundi's resilience** to floods, droughts, and landslides.

CALL TO ACTION

Expand **streamflow and groundwater monitoring** in the upper Kagera and Ruvubu catchments to strengthen planning and water security.

Scale up **clean cooking solutions** to reduce pressure on forests and protect basin health.

Invest in **technical capacity** to improve monitoring, analysis, and resource management.

Development partners can use the State of the Basin Report to guide high-impact investment in Burundi.

CLIMATE AND ENERGY



Climate pressures, with an estimated **US\$380 million** in losses between 2020 and 2024, yet it is also showing ambition through its **20% emissions reduction target by 2030**.



With **77 MW** of installed renewable energy, an estimated **3,500 MW** of untapped potential, early-stage groundwater monitoring, and electricity access at just **12%**, Burundi presents strong opportunities for high-impact investment in resilience, energy, and data systems.

THE CASE FOR PRIORITISING BURUNDI

- **Burundi's headwaters** position makes it strategically important to the wider basin, with investments here delivering benefits beyond its borders.
- With strong basin-wide influence and untapped potential, Burundi offers a compelling case for investment in **monitoring, clean energy, and environmental governance**.
- Investing in Burundi is both a **national priority and a regional opportunity**.
- **Stronger environmental management** in Burundi can help protect downstream water systems in Rwanda, Tanzania, and Lake Victoria.
- **These investments** can improve water security, reduce risk, and build long-term resilience across the basin.



STATE OF THE BASIN REPORT 2025 · COUNTRY FACT SHEET

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

HEADQUARTERS OF THE LVBC, THE WINAM GULF CRISIS, AND
A FISHERY IN SHARP DECLINE



70% Access
to basic
water



2.39M
International
visitors 2024



\$1.85B,
climate
disaster losses



3,051 MW
Renewable
energy capacity



32% Greenhouse
gas reduction
target by 2030

KEY INDICATORS

Electricity access **76%**

Literacy rate **93%**

Fish landings decline (2002–2022) **–50%**

Winam Gulf — most polluted bay **Critical**

KENYA IN THE BASIN

Kenya hosts the Lake Victoria Basin Commission and offers strong potential for green, blue, and infrastructure investment.

Strategic investments: Over USD 70 million in water treatment and major logistics upgrades are supporting growth

Competitive edge:

93% literacy, 41% internet use, and stronger rail links enhance Kenya's investment appeal.

Blue economy need:

A 50% drop in fish landings since 2002 highlights the case for sustainable fisheries investment.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURES



Pollution hotspot: Contamination around Kisumu threatens health, fisheries, and tourism.



Polluted Rivers: The Nzoia and Nyando carry runoff and waste into Lake Victoria.



Threatened Wetlands: Yala Swamp is under pressure from agricultural expansion.



Flood Risks: Rising lake levels are damaging homes, farms, and infrastructure in Homa Bay.

CLIMATE AND ENERGY



41.85B
climate-related
losses, 2020–2024



3,051 MW
Renewable
energy capacity



76%
Electricity access
Highest in the basin



–32% GHG
reduction target
by 2030



Growing
Geothermal power is
reducing reliance on
hydropower



**High Firewood
dependence**
continues to drive
deforestation risk

CALL TO ACTION

- Investment opportunity:** Restore Winam Gulf to unlock tourism, fisheries, and healthier urban waterfronts.
- Scale pollution** control and wastewater compliance in key catchments.
- Nature-based investment:** Protect Yala Swamp while supporting resilient local livelihoods.
- Blue economy potential:** Rebuild fisheries through sustainable management and protected breeding zones.

TOURISM AND THE LAKE ECONOMY

With **2.39 million** international visitors in 2024, Kenya can unlock Lake Victoria's tourism, real estate, and blue economy potential by revitalizing Winam Gulf and improving water quality to strengthen Kisumu's position as a competitive regional gateway.



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REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

THE BASIN'S UPSTREAM CUSTODIAN, ITS STRONGEST PERFORMER ON WATER AND SANITATION, AND THE MOST CLIMATE-AMBITIOUS OF THE FIVE COUNTRIES



75%

Population with access to basic water



70%

Population with access to basic sanitation



1.4M

International visitor arrivals in 2024



\$480M

Losses from climate disasters, 2020 to 2024



38%

Greenhouse gas reduction target by 2030

RWANDA IN THE BASIN



Rwanda is strategically positioned in the **Kagera River system**.



Rwanda is a regional leader in **water and sanitation** access.



Rwanda is highly **climate-ready**, backed by strong adaptation plans.



Kigali's Nyandungu Eco-Park showcases scalable green urban investment.



Rwanda is expanding **renewable energy** with strong growth potential.



A bilingual **English and French-speaking** market, Rwanda is a gateway for regional investment.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURES



Rwanda is advancing smart **water monitoring** across the Akagera basin.



Rising landslide risks increase demand for resilient infrastructure investment.



Erosion control offers strong potential to protect the Kagera system and Lake Victoria.



The Akagera River corridor is a strategic cross-border water and biodiversity asset.

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN

- Rwanda is well placed to drive basin reform and stronger implementation.
- The **Nyandungu Eco-Park** offers replicable green infrastructure investment potential.
- Cross-border catchment investment can strengthen protection of shared river systems.

CLIMATE AND ENERGY



2030 emissions target: 30–35% reduction under the Paris Agreement, signalling strong climate policy ambition.



Visitor arrivals in 2024: 2.14 million, the second highest in the basin, underscoring tourism's economic importance.



Renewable energy capacity: 1,478 MW — the third highest in the basin and a strong platform for clean energy growth.



Electricity access: 55% — with steady progress, though rural access gaps still present a major opportunity for expansion.



Regional Rusumo Falls Hydropower Project a shared investment with Rwanda and Burundi that demonstrates successful cross-border energy cooperation.

A STRATEGIC INVESTMENT CASE FOR REGIONAL IMPACT

Rwanda is where strong national performance meets strategic regional investment potential. With proven leadership in water, sanitation, climate readiness, and governance, it is well positioned to scale nature-based solutions, strengthen basin-wide data systems, and drive implementation across the region.



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UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

THE LARGEST SHARE OF THE LAKE, THE BIGGEST FISHING FLEET, AND MWANZA AT THE CENTRE OF THE NILE PERCH TRADE



25,000+

Small fishing boats operating on the lake



2.14M

International visitor arrivals in 2024



\$1.26B

Losses from climate disasters, 2020 to 2024



1,478 MW

Installed renewable energy capacity



30-35%

Greenhouse gas reduction target by 2030

TANZANIA IN THE BASIN



Tanzania holds the **largest share of Lake Victoria** with Mwanza serving as a strategic hub for fisheries, trade, and blue economy investment.



With more than **25,000 small fishing boats**, Tanzania offers strong potential for fisheries value addition and market growth.



Mwanza Gulf requires more than **US\$100 million** in investment for sanitation, wastewater, and ecosystem restoration.



Nile perch exports remain a major source of foreign exchange and market strength.



Tourism and irrigation also offer strong prospects for growth, investment, and productive water use.



Modernizing **water monitoring systems** can improve efficiency, resilience, and resource management.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURES



Mwanza Gulf faces growing pollution from untreated wastewater and solid waste, creating a clear need for better sanitation and restoration.



The Mara River catchment, catchment is affected by erosion, sedimentation, and over-abstraction, underscoring the need for stronger catchment management.



The Kagera River, carries sediment and agricultural runoff into Lake Victoria, highlighting the need for better watershed and land management.



Southern parts of Tanzania's basin face **seasonal water stress**, pointing to the need for climate-resilient water management.

CALL TO ACTION

- Expanding water investments can improve environmental and economic growth across the gulf.
- Upgrading Mwanza Port can strengthen transport safety and regional trade.
- Regional cooperation can better protect shared water resources.
- Lake tourism development can support sustainable local livelihoods and reduce pressure on the Serengeti.

CLIMATE AND ENERGY



Tanzania recorded **US\$1.26 billion** in climate-related losses between 2020 and 2024, highlighting the urgent need for resilience and climate adaptation investments.



The country aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by **30–35% by 2030**, creating strong opportunities for green and low-carbon investment.



Tourist arrivals reached **2.14 million** in 2024, making tourism a major driver of investment and economic growth.



Electricity access remains at about 55%, showing continued need for investment in rural energy access and infrastructure.



Installed renewable energy capacity stands at **1,478 MW**, providing a strong foundation for expanding clean energy.

THE FISHERY AS AN ECONOMIC ASSET

With **25,000 fishing boats**, Tanzania has the largest fishing fleet in the basin, making its fisheries sector a strategic economic asset. Nile perch exports from Mwanza generate important foreign exchange earnings, but sustained pressure from overfishing, pollution, and climate-related disruptions to fish breeding highlights the need for investment in sustainable fisheries management. Strengthening this sector would protect livelihoods, restore productivity, and unlock greater long-term value for lakeshore communities and the wider economy.



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REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

THE LAKE'S ONLY OUTLET, THE HYDROPOWER BACKBONE OF EAST AFRICA.



70%

Access to basic water



\$135,000

Extra monthly cost at Ggaba water plant due to lake pollution



1,818 MW

Installed renewable energy capacity



\$920M

Losses from climate disasters, 2020 to 2024



24.7%

Greenhouse gas reduction target by 2030

UGANDA IN THE BASIN



Its is the Nile Basin's water and energy gateway.



It's hydropower dams are vital to East Africa's electricity supply.



Pollution in Murchison Bay is increasing Kampala's water treatment costs, driving demand for wastewater and urban water investments.



About 15,000 fishing boats sustain livelihoods and open opportunities in safety, cold chains, and fish processing.



It leads the basin in groundwater monitoring and long-term water data collection.



Port Bell and Jinja ports need major upgrades to improve regional trade.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURES



Urban flooding in Kampala: Flood risk is becoming more frequent, influenced by heavier rainfall and drainage limitations.



Wetlands near Kajjansi: Ongoing industrial growth is placing increasing pressure on natural filtration systems that support Lake Victoria.



Charcoal production on islands: While it contributes to local markets, it is also associated with growing pressure on forests, soils, and water quality.



Algal blooms near Entebbe: These are increasingly affecting water quality, tourism, and the ecological condition of this important transport area.

CLIMATE AND ENERGY



\$920M Climate losses 2020–2024



1,818 MW Renewable energy capacity



55% Electricity access Progress made, gaps remain



24.7% GHG reduction target by 2030



220 kV Uganda–Rwanda interconnector Operational since 2023



High Charcoal and firewood reliance Driving deforestation risk

CALL TO ACTION

- **Modernize lake transport infrastructure** to enhance safety, strengthen cargo handling, and improve regional connectivity.
- **Scale up wastewater investment in Kampala** to reduce pollution in Murchison Bay and lower water treatment costs.
- **Review and update the Victoria Nile outflow regime** to reflect present climate realities and growing water demand.
- **Safeguard the Kajjansi wetlands** to preserve critical natural filtration functions between Kampala and Entebbe.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Uganda offers a compelling investment case where water security, energy generation, transport connectivity, and livelihoods converge. Strategic investment in the Lake Victoria basin can safeguard critical natural assets while unlocking long-term returns in infrastructure, trade, tourism, fisheries, and regional power resilience.

