



# Support to Management of Nature-Based Solutions with EAC (EAC4Nature)

Strengthening capacities of key actors in the East African Community to implement nature-based and climate-resilient solutions.



Photo; Dunga Fishing Village – Kisumu

## Background

The East African Community (EAC), with its eight Partner States, is particularly affected by climate change due to the cumulative effects of various risk factors. EAC Citizens, predominantly the smallholder rural population, are already feeling the consequences of temperature increases and more frequent extreme climatic events. In this regard, all Partner States of the EAC have agreed in their 6th Development Strategy to prioritise transboundary collaboration for nature-based solutions to utilise the social and economic values for the benefit of citizens while jointly mitigating the risks of climate change. With a mandate to coordinate regional climate change policies, the EAC Secretariat has established river basin organisations in the Victoria and Tanganyika basins. Facilitated by the secretariat, all Partner States negotiate as a bloc during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations to imprint the international agreements and benefit from climate financing.

Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union, the regional programme advises the East African Community and its river basin organisations, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) and the Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA), to further regional cooperation for climate resilience and provide tailor-made capacity development measures to relevant stakeholders in both basins.

## The Challenge

- The region faces significant climate change impacts, including rising temperatures (up to 2.5°C by 2050), extreme weather events, and resource depletion, leading to crop failures, food insecurity, and water scarcity.
- Rapid population and economic growth drive unsustainable agricultural practices, soil erosion, and sedimentation in Lake Victoria. These challenges degrade agricultural lands and water quality, intensifying vulnerability to climate impacts.
- Limited progress in developing cooperation agreements and action plans for transboundary landscapes, inadequate capacity to scale and fund Nature-based Solutions (NbS) proposals, and inconsistent implementation of regional strategies, such as gender equality measures in climate adaptation and natural resources management, hinder effective project execution.

Project name	Support to management of nature-based solutions with EAC (EAC4Nature)
Commissioned by	The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union (EU)
Project region	East African Community
Lead executing agency	Secretariat of the East African Community
Duration	01.01.2025 - 30.06.2028

## Our Approach

**Basin coverage:** the project will be implemented at the EAC level, focusing on two basins, Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika, shared by Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia (as an LTA Partner State).

**Target audience:** the population in the Victoria and Tanganyika Basins (approx. 65 million), particularly women (60%), among others.

- **Integration of Nature-Based Solutions:** Incorporating NbS into EAC's policies, regulations, and frameworks to address climate resilience and sustainability.
- **Strengthening Institutional Capacities:** Enhancing the ability of LVBC and LTA to coordinate, plan, and implement regional and transboundary initiatives.
- **Transboundary Ecosystem Management:** Promoting cooperative efforts to implement sustainable and climate-resilient measures in shared ecosystems like Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika.
- **Information Management and Knowledge Sharing:** Developing systems and tools, such as the Water Information System (WIS), to improve data management and facilitate informed decision-making.
- **Stakeholder Participation and Inclusivity:** Engaging diverse actors, including governments, civil society, and vulnerable groups, to ensure broad support for sustainable resource management.
- **Policy and Strategy Development:** Revising and implementing EAC-wide policies and strategies to promote sustainability and support international commitments.
- **Financial and Technical Support:** Mobilising resources and providing expertise to ensure the effective implementation of NbS and other regional initiatives.



Photo; Distribution Water hyacinth in LV

### Project Outputs:

- **Integration of Nature-Based Solutions:** Support the incorporation of nature-based solutions into the political and regulatory frameworks of the EAC, with a focus on addressing gender-sensitive aspects.
- **Strengthening Institutional Capacities:** Enhance the capacities of the LVBC and the LTA to effectively plan and coordinate nature-based solutions within their respective regions.
- **Improvement of Information Management Systems:** Strengthen the information management capabilities of LVBC and LTA to better support nature-based and climate-resilient approaches to water and environmental issues.
- **Capacity Development to LVBC Partner States for Nature-Based Solutions:** Enhance the capacity for planning and implementation of nature-based solution projects for biodiversity and climate change.

### Contribution to SDGs



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