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Support to EAC on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

Strengthening of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission of the EAC in integrated Management of transboundary water resources

Lake Victoria and Lake Victoria Basin

Lake Victoria has a surface of 68,870 km², shared between Kenya (6%), Tanzania (49%) and Uganda (45%). The Lake Victoria Basin (LVB) has a surface of 180,950 km², shared by the five Partner States of the *Lake Victoria Basin Commission* (LVBC). These are Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. Around 45 million inhabitants are living in the Basin, of which 60% women. The overall poverty rate stands around 20%.

The challenges

The pressure on the water resources is increasing through a steadily growing population and the rapid urban and economic development in the region. Water quality in the Lake Victoria Basin is increasingly deteriorating through pollutants from settlements, industries, and agricultural activities, resulting in environmental damages. Unsustainable agricultural practices lead to high sedimentation loads into the Lake and eutrophication is causing uncontrolled growth of the water hyacinth, which further deteriorates the water quality. Challenges to capacities of partner institutions (EAC Secretariat, LVBC, key national partner institutions responsible for transboundary IWRM) derive from shortage of financial and human resources, leading to high workload of personnel and inadequate technical capacity. The level of horizontal cooperation between the LVBC and partner states' institutions does not yet permit effective handling of IWRM knowledge and

data collection and exchange. The project addresses the following **core problem**: Inadequate frameworks for integrated transboundary water resources management (IWRM) in the LVB and the EAC to effectively implement existing regulations and instruments for IWRM.

Our approach

To address these challenges, the project supports the Community and its specialized organisation, the LVBC, which HQ are in Kisumu, in promotion of sustainable economic use and environmental protection of the EAC's water resources. While the Lake Victoria Basin is currently in the focus, appropriate regional frameworks, and guidelines for promotion of effective Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) shall be brought forward at regional level, for the entire East African Community.

LVBC's capacities to carry out its core function of LVBC in IWRM shall be strengthened, as well as horizontal cooperation and knowledge management between the LVBC and the key regional IWRM actors responsible for water resources in the Lake Victoria Basin: These are national Departments for WRM, Regulators and River Basin Organisation, and other actors like water users, private Sector and Civil Society Organisations.

Project name	Strengthening of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission of the EAC in integrated Management of transboundary water resources
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	East African Community, with a focus on Lake Victoria Basin
Lead executing agency	EAC-Secretariat and Lake Victoria Basin Commission
Duration	01.01.2022 – 31.12.2024



(1) Accessibility to clean water for domestic use and safe sanitation still insufficient; Basin internal communications: river used for transport.

(2) Intensive agricultural land use at times provoking soil degradation and silting.



Lto R Lake Victoria Basin, water hyacinth at the shore

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Expected Results

The **project objective** is to ensure that *'Institutional framework conditions for integrated management of transboundary water resources in the East African Community are improved'*.

Areas of Cooperation and Support:

- Promotion of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and of environmental and climate change related topics within EAC-Agenda.
- Support to LVBC to harmonise policies, strategies, and guidelines (e.g. lake level management, water quality, catchment protection, effluent management).
- Development of frameworks, guidelines, legal instruments, and compliance mechanisms for IWRM in the EAC.
- Support to LVBC in resources mobilization to strengthen its core functions and for IWRM projects.
- Preparation of ready to finance IWRM projects.
- Intensification horizontal cooperation between LVBC and Partner States, their basin organisations, research institutions and civil society, and development of a knowledge management platform for regional IWRM.
- Provision capacity development for national basin organisations (e.g. on implementation of guidelines on collection, analysis, and processing of data for the LVBC Water Information System/WIS).

The following **products** are foreseen:

Output 1 at EAC level:

- A gender-sensitive and safeguard checklist and implementation guidelines
- Three ready to finance projects proposals related to regional guidelines on IWRM.
- Analysis of River Basin Organisations in the EAC region and recommendations and a road map for strengthening IRWM in the EAC.
- Concept for a IWRM knowledge platform and a roadmap for its development.

Output 2: Core processes and services of LVBC

- Mid-term review report for LVBC strategic plan 2022-2026
- Assessment report on harmonization of policies, laws, guidelines, and proposal of 2 to 3 regional guidelines' topics to be developed by EAC.
- Recommendations for harmonisation of national standards with EAC Effluent standards, including monitoring system and compliance mechanism.

Output 3: Horizontal Cooperation between LVBC and the Partner States

- Concept for an exchange mechanism for hydrological data and information with Partner countries.
- LVBC State of the Basin Report (SoBR) with a focus on water quality.
- Development of a concept for a knowledge platform for LVBC

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