



LVBC Monthly Review

December 2023 - Issue No. 04

OTHER HEADLINES

RV JUMUIYA SET TO ROAR BACK TO LIFE

East African Community Research Vessel (RV Jumuiya) which has been docked at the Mwanza South for over a decade is set to roar back to life. **Pg2**

AUTOMATED WEATHER STATIONS: A BOOST TO FARMERS AND STUDENTS

The new weather stations set up in Busia and Siaya counties in the Republic of Kenya will help in increasing agricultural activities thus boosting food security. **Pg3**



LVB: EXPERTS AGREE ON LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS

Environmental experts within the Lake Victoria basin have jointly agreed on the need to enhance the linkage between sustainable ... **Pg4**

MULTI BILLION PROJECT APPROVED BY WORLD BANK



LVBC Executive Secretary Dr Masinde Bwire (second from right) with a section of Ministers, Ps during the meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The World Bank has 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, "As a financial institution we are committed to fund this 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.





RV JUMUIYA SET TO ROAR BACK TO LIFE



RV JUMUIYA docked at Mwanza South, United Republic of Tanzania

East African Community Research Vessel (RV Jumuiya) which has been docked at the Mwanza South for over a decade is set to roar back to life.

The vessel is set to resume its operation in December. RV Jumuiya has been out of service due to issues on its floating dock, expired certificates and lack of budget for maintenance and repair costs.

These repairs were approved during the 19th meeting of the Sectoral Council of Ministers for Lake Victoria Basin, held on June 22, 2018, in Entebbe, Republic of Uganda.

Upon approval, the vessel underwent repairs for a few months in 2023, at a cost of USD 117,908.30. Apart from imported specialised spare parts which were replaced in the vessel, general cleaning and fumigation were also done to give it a new face.

LVBC commissioned the Dar es Salaam Maritime Institute (DMI) to assess and conduct a cost-benefit analysis of RV Jumuiya.

The assessment was carried out in February 2022 and provided technical recommendations for the repair of RV Jumuiya.

RV Jumuiya was constructed in the United Kingdom in 1990 and began her maiden voyage in Lake Nyasa/Malawi for lake wide acoustic surveys and other research activities.

The vessel was successfully transferred from Chilumba Port in Lake Nyasa to Mwanza Port and donated to EAC Secretariat by the Department for International Development (DFID) on 29th May 2006.

Hon. Stephen Byabato, the Deputy Minister for East African Community, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and EAC in the United Republic of Tanzania, recently inspected the vessel at the Mwanza South port and commended LVBC for expediting her repairs.

The Head of Maritime and Safety at LVBC, Mr. Amos Ndoto, emphasized the significance of the vessel for conducting hydrographic surveys, water quality analysis, as well as installation of Aids to Navigation equipment. It will also be involved in carrying out research under various projects and programs.

Dr. Masinde Bwire, LVBC's Executive Secretary expressed gratitude to the EAC Partner States for their contribution towards the successful repair of the vessel which will benefit people in the region.



AUTOMATED WEATHER STATIONS: A BOOST TO FARMERS AND STUDENTS

Farmers in the area are now able to choose the right crop to grow depending on the rainfall patterns.

The new weather stations set up in Busia and Siaya counties in the Republic of Kenya will help in increasing agricultural activities thus boosting food security.

Farmers in the area are now able to choose the right crop to grow depending on the rainfall patterns.

Mzee Henry Otieno, a farmer in Usenge town in Bondo constituency said, "we are glad about the new weather station since as farmers we will be able to know the right time to plant".

Students from the nearby learning institutions within the two counties who used to travel far and wide for practicals will also have the opportunity to visit the new stations.

Mr. Joseph Onani, deputy headteacher of St Lukes Odiado Secondary school said, "We are happy because our students and others within the region will get the fast hand information from this automated weather station".

LVBC set up the new stations in the two counties which have flood prone areas of Bunyala and Rwabwa in Budalangi and Alego Usonga constituencies respectively.

The new weather stations are equipped with seven sensors designed to detect crucial meteorological parameters including rain, sunshine, wind speed, humidity, atmospheric pressure and temperature which are recorded in a data and transmitted in Nairobi through a website.



Siaya County Meteorological Director, Dominic Arodi Explains to LVBC's PDO Eng Hilda Luoga how the weather station works.



Automated weather station in Odiado secondary Busia County.

The pilot project which is funded by Adaptation fund through UNEP to a tune of USD 18300 is implemented by the Lake Victoria Basin Commission.

The programme which is also linked to the meteorological server in Nairobi, will also give accurate information to the residents living within the Lake Victoria Basin.

According to the Executive Secretary Dr Masinde Bwire, the new weather stations located in Odiado secondary school in Funyula Constituency Busia County and Kefri Centre in Got Ramogi hills Siaya county will also assist in getting real time information about current weather conditions.

LVB: EXPERTS AGREE ON SUSTAINABLE LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS



Representatives from the Republic of Burundi, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania sign resolutions after a two day work shop in Nairobi

Environmental experts within the Lake Victoria basin have jointly agreed on the need to enhance the linkage between sustainable land management and resilient food systems.

The experts also want the minimization of land degradation within the basin to enhance ecosystems services and improve productivity.

During a regional workshop held in Nairobi, stakeholders from the Republic of Kenya, Republic of Burundi, Republic of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania also pointed out the need for a special focus on sustainable catchment management and protection of the riparian reserves.

The experts further noted that little had changed within the Lake Victoria Basin despite the spirited efforts from various stakeholders to mitigate the prevailing challenges.

During the meeting it was also observed that the basin countries experience policy mismatch which affect the collective and cooperative efforts in combating/overcoming climatic challenges.

The experts therefore recommended urgent action to analyze the prevailing conditions and target funding from Development Partners to facilitate the implementation of high-impact and well targeted interventions and investments in the basin.

The regional workshop was organized by Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) with technical and financial support from various Partners including the MIT-FACT Alliance, J-WAFS, Boku University and Enviromental Defense Fund (EDF).



PICTORIALS



Busia governor Hon Paul Otuoma with LVBC team during the National tree planting day in Busia.



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.



Pupils from Victoria Junior secondary school who won the essay competition.



Executive Secretary Dr Masinde Bwire confers with a community member in Osipata village Busia county during a recent engagement



LVBC Team during the World Toilet day celebrations in Manyatta

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

