



LVBC Monthly Review

September 2024 - Issue No. 13

KENYA, TANZANIA UNVEIL 15 -POINT PLAN TO SAVE MARA RIVER



Hon Abdi Dubat Principal Secretary EAC, Republic of Kenya and Mara Regional Commissioner Hon Col. Evans Mtambi after signing the report.

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The Republic of Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania have jointly committed to implementing a 15-point strategy to protect the Mara River basin, a crucial ecosystem for the Masai Mara and Serengeti parks that is facing degradation risks.

The new plan aims to accelerate ongoing efforts to enhance collaboration in preserving this ecosystem, which supports millions of people and wildlife in both countries. It is also home to the world-renowned wildebeest migration. The announcement was made during the 13th Mara Day celebrations in Narok County Republic of Kenya on 15th September 2024.

Delegates from the two nations, researchers, conservationists, and local communities living within the Mara ecosystem attended the celebration.

The participants committed to developing an updated Transboundary Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) plan for the Mara River basin. The plan focuses on the sustainable use of water resources in the fragile ecosystem and implementing various conservation initiatives.

The resolutions, jointly signed by East African Community Principal Secretary Hon Abdi Dubat and Hon Evans Mtambi, the Regional Commissioner for the...**contd Pg2**





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Mara region and head of the Tanzanian delegation, commit to promoting and investing in integrated environmental sanitation in key towns and urban centers.

The Head of the Kenyan delegation, Hon. Abdi Dubat, Principal Secretary (PS) of the East African Community (EAC), affirmed the government's commitment to preserving the Mara River and its entire ecosystem. This effort aims to ensure that both wildlife and the communities residing within the basin continue to benefit from its resources.

On his part, the head of Tanzanian delegation Hon. Colonel Evans Mtambi, highlighted the significant threat climate change poses to the survival of the ecosystem.

He called for the creation of locally-driven solutions to tackle the challenge. Colonel Mtambi also encouraged the community to plant environmentally friendly trees to attract rainfall and mitigate drought, warning that



LVBC Executive Secretary Dr Masinde Bwire presents a gift to Prof. P.L.O Lumumba during the scientific conference.



Hon. Abdi Dubat, EAC principal secretary, inspects LVBC's stand during the celebration.

failure to address these issues could result in the extinction of wildlife, which is vital to the ecosystem's sustainability. The two countries have agreed to establish and implement a program for regular joint monitoring of water quality and quantity in the Mara River basin.

The Mara Day Celebrations, organized by the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), are held alternately in the Republic of Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania to review the progress of efforts and initiatives aimed at protecting and conserving the Mara River ecosystem.



LVBC PARTICIPATES IN 8TH INDIA WATER WEEK, EXPLORES TRILATERAL WATER COOPERATION



Participants at the 8th India water week in New Delhi India

The Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) participated in the 8th India Water Week, held from 17th to 20th September 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Representing the commission were Project Development Officer, Eng. Hilda Luoga, and Water Resource Management Officer, Eng. Simon Otuong. The event, organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, centered on the theme "Partnership and Cooperation for Inclusive Water Development and Management."

It emphasized the need for collaboration across all levels to ensure sustainable water resource management and development. During the event, LVBC also participated in the 6th India-EU Water Forum on 18th September 2024, an initiative of the India-EU Water Partnership (IEWP). This partnership originated from a joint declaration made at the 13th EU-India Summit in Brussels in March 2016 and a Memorandum of Understanding on water cooperation between the EU and India.

The IEWP promotes collaboration among governments, businesses, research institutions, and stakeholders to

drive innovation in water management, implement policies, and develop new water-related legislation, drawing from the EU's vast experience in river basin management.

LVBC engaged in a joint group discussion titled "Advancing Trilateral Cooperation between Africa (LVBC and the Lake Tanganyika Authority), the EU, and India." The discussion underscored the importance of international cooperation in addressing global water challenges.

The proposed trilateral cooperation between Africa, the EU, and India is expected to have a significant impact, enhancing efforts towards sustainable water management. The strong participation of the Ministry of Jal Shakti and its key institutions, including the Central Water Commission, Central Ground Water Board, and Brahmaputra Board, highlights the importance of this initiative. LVBC look forward to collaboratively develop a proposal with GIZ and India, to leverage Indian expertise and innovation in water resources management.



MARITIME RESCUE COORDINATION CENTRE IN MWANZA 60% COMPLETE



MRCC under Construction

The Construction of the ultra-modern Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Ilemela, Mwanza City, in the United Republic of Tanzania, has reached 60% completion. The main building is 95% complete, with roofing underway, and contractors are set to begin finishing and tiling. Plumbing and electrical work has also started.

The boundary wall is 70% complete, with most foundations finished, and grill work is about to begin. The project, which started on December 13, 2023, is expected to cost USD 1.87 million.

It is being executed by a contractor hired by Uganda and Tanzania through the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), with support from the African Development Bank (AfDB).

LVBC Executive Secretary, Dr. Masinde Bwire, emphasized, "We are supervising this project to ensure we meet the deadline."

The establishment of the MRCC is highly essential to instantly respond to the search and rescue services of vessels in distress.

Once complete, the centre will greatly improve maritime safety in the East African Community.



LVBC PARTICIPATES IN AFDB TRANSPORT FORUM 2024 TO ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT



Deputy Executive Secretary, Eng. Coletha Ruhamya (second from right) during a panel discussion at the ATF 2024

The Secretariat of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) participated in the African Development Bank (AfDB) Transport Forum 2024, held from 19 to 20 September 2024 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The forum, themed "Africa on the Move—Accelerating Sustainable Transport and Logistics Connectivity," aimed to tackle the continent's emerging challenges within a shifting geopolitical landscape.

The event brought together over 200 participants, including senior government officials, international experts, and representatives from development partners, the private sector, academia, and civil society, through plenary and parallel sessions.

LVBC was represented by Deputy Executive Secretary Eng. Coletha Ruhamya and Maritime Safety Officer Amos Ndoto. Eng. Ruhamya served as a panellist in a

session titled "Demonstrating Resilience and Adaptation to Face a New International Panorama: Promoting Ports Infrastructure Resilience and Inland Water Transport in Africa."

The forum aimed to foster dialogue between the Bank and Regional Member Countries (RMCs) on efficient policies, institutional frameworks, programs, and Bank interventions, while promoting strategic transport research to ensure safe, clean, inclusive, and sustainable mobility for people and goods.

Additionally, it sought to unite government representatives, experts, donors, international organizations, the private sector, academia, and NGOs to share expertise, experiences, and best practices across various transport and mobility-related themes.



PICTORIAL



Hon Edith Mwanje, PS MEACA Uganda addressing delegates at the 13th Mara day scientific conference.



Exhibitor at the 13th Mara day celebration in Sekenani, Narok county.



EALA Mp Hon. David Sankok addressing the Scientific conference



Masai Mara VC Prof Peninah Aloo welcomes Mara Regional commissioner, Hon. Col Evans Mtambi during Mara Day Celebration

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PICTORIAL



Kisumu Deputy Governor Hon Dr Mathews Owili with LVBC Executive secretary Dr Masinde Bwire



Ms Pascaline Wanjiku, Senior Water Supply and sanitation specialist with the World Bank with LVBC Executive Secretary Dr Masinde Bwire.



Hon Abdi Dubat, EAC principal secretary presents a trophy to Joseph Letoo, student at Sekenani secondary school. during Mara Day Celebration



Hon Abdi Dubat EAC principal secretary poses for a photo with the winning football team during Mara Day Celebration

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