# LVBC ANNUAL REVIEW





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MARA RIVER BASIN: EXPERTS AGREE ON A FIFTEEN-POINT STRATEGY

### Dr. Masinde Bwire

Executive Secretary Lake Victoria Basin Commission

#### Dear Esteemed Readers

Happy New Year!

As we embark on another exciting year, I want to take a moment to express our gratitude for your continued support and engagement. In this annual review, we reflect on our achievements from the past year and look forward to new opportunities ahead. Together, we have navigated challenges and celebrated successes that have shaped our journey.

Thank you for being an integral part of our community. We are excited to share our insights, highlights and plans for this year.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the World Bank, the Federal Government of Germany (GIZ), the European Union, KfW, UNEP, the Adaptation Fund, USAID/KEA, IUCN, and all our development partners for their unwavering support in realizing our goals.

Furthermore, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Sectoral Council of Ministers for Lake Victoria Basin and the East African Community Partner States for their invaluable policy guidance and steadfast support.



I wish you a prosperous 2025. Warm regards

### Eng. Coletha Ruhamya

Deputy Executive Secretary Lake Victoria Basin Commission

### Dear Readers,

Happy New Year!

I want to take a moment to reflect on our journey and celebrate the significant strides we've made in our projects and programs.

Last year brought both challenges and successes, and I am deeply proud of all we've accomplished together. Our combined efforts have not only advanced our initiatives but have also made a meaningful impact on the communities we serve.

The unwavering dedication of our Executive Secretary, Dr. Masinde Bwire, and the commitment of our staff have been key to our achievements.

As we begin a new year, I am filled with optimism for the opportunities that 2025 will bring.

We have exciting projects ahead, and I encourage everyone to stay engaged and share your ideas as we continue to innovate and enhance our programs.

Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and support throughout the year.



I wish you a happy 2025. Warm regards



### EAC PARTNER STATES ENDORSE PROPOSED MPA PROGRAMME BY WORLD BANK

**PHOTO**: Executive Secretary Dr Masinde Bwire with World Bank Director for Regional Integration for Sub Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa Ms Boutheina Guermazi



The proposed multi sectoral, multiphase programme will be implemented in several phases.

Permanent and Principal
Secretaries in the ministries
of Environment, water and
East African Community
affairs from the East
African Community Partner
States endorsed the three
broad priority areas
proposed under the
Multisectoral Multiphase
Programme for Lake
Victoria Basin on May 24th
2024.

The priority areas include strengthening the Stabilization of the Lake Victoria Basin ecosystems (including water quality), Sustainable development of transport infrastructure and Support the development of the Blue Economy and Agriculture.

The PS,s also approved the roadmap for preparation of the proposed Multisectoral Multiphase Programme and directed Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) Secretariat to coordinate its implementation and regularly report progress.

During the high level consultative meeting for potential long term cross sectoral investments to address development challenges in Lake Victoria Basin that was held in Dar es Salaam- Tanzania between 23rd – 24th May, the permanent secretaries also directed LVBC Secretariat to continue coordinating the engagement with the World

Bank on preparation of the Proposed Multisectoral Multiphase programme.

Partner states were also urged to make formal requests through their respective finance ministries for support to the World Bank to help prepare the proposed Multisectoral Multiphase Programme for Lake Victoria Basin by August 2025 once the International development association (IDA 21) envelope is confirmed.

The session of the Permanent and Principal Secretaries was chaired by Hon Peter Mahal Akat, Undersecretary Ministry of Water...*Contd Pg2*  Resources and Irrigation from the Republic of South Sudan.

Republic of Burundi was represented by Hon. Emmanuel Niyungeko, Acting permanent secretary Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock while Hon Edith Mwanje, Permanent Secretary Ministry of East African Community Affairs represented the Republic of Uganda.

Ms Agnes Kisaka, Deputy Permanent Secretary Ministry of Water represented the United Republic of Tanzania while Mr Julius Mwabu, Director Productive Services Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs and Regional Development represented the Republic of Kenya.

Republic of Rwanda was represented by Mr Christian Fighter Manzi, program manager, climate resilience partnership development in the ministry of Environment. The World Bank and Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) jointly agreed on a multi-phase programme for strengthening resilience of communities, ecosystems and economies in Lake Victoria Basin during. During a meeting at the LVBC headquarters in Kisumu on March 7th 2024, the two institutions identified key priority areas and challenges to be addressed in the respective areas where the proposed projects will be implemented.

Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) had presented several broad priority interventions areas under five Thematic Sectors that included Environment, ecosystem landscape/land use and Water resources/sanitation. Others were climate change resilience (including climate induced migration), agriculture, Lake Victoria Basin blue economy, maritime transport, trade, fisheries and aquaculture.

Infrastructure connectivity and services, energy, and digital services, Cross-cutting issues and institutional strengthening were also presented. The world Bank team was led by Director for Regional Integration for Sub Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa Ms Boutheina Guermazi.

LVBC Team led by Executive Secretary Dr Masinde Bwire also attended the World Bank Springs meeting 2024 in Washington DC in April 21st 2024. At the sidelines of the meeting, Dr.Bwire co-chaired Partner States engagement with the Bank Vice President for Africa Dr. Victoria Kwakwa on the proposed Intersectoral Multiphase programe.

South Sudan, the Republic of Uganda and the Republic Of Burundi.





PHOTO: Mr Paul Kariuki, Environment and Natural Resources officer at LVBC makes pitch to the World Bank team on 20th April 2024 in Washington DC

# LVBC HEADQUARTERS CONSTRUCTION NEARING COMPLETION

The new headquarters will accommodate various departments responsible for managing projects and programs of LVBC.

The construction of the state-of-the-art Lake Victoria Basin Commission Headquarters is nearing completion.

Currently, the overall progress of the building stands at over 75%.

The East African Community Council of Ministers meeting last year approved an additional funding of USD 802,126 for the completion of the headquarters.

East African Community Secretary General H.E. Hon. Veronica Mueni Nduva announced that these funding that were approved by the 46th Ordinary Council that met in Arusha from 23rd-28th November will assist in the necessary works of the completion.

The second phase of construction began on August 7, 2023, following the official handover to a new contractor on July 25. This phase is expected to cost approximately USD \$2,560,718.68, fully funded by the East African Community Partner States.

The new headquarters, overseen by the State Department of Public Works under Kenya's Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing, and Urban Development, will accommodate various departments responsible for

managing projects of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission.

It is being built on a 2.8-acre site along the shores of Lake Victoria, which was donated by the government of the Republic of Kenya in 2016.

Once completed, the headquarters will enhance regional integration by streamlining and coordinating the commission's activities across the Great Lakes region.



PHOTO: LVBC headquarters under construction



### CONSTRUCTION OF MRCC HITS 67% MILESTONE

**PHOTO**: The MRCC under construction in Mwanza, United Republic of Tanzania



The construction of Maritime Rescue coordination centre (MRCC) which is underway in Ilemela, Mwanza City in the United Republic of Tanzania has hit 67 %.

Already the construction of the main building stands at 60% while the construction of the boundary wall is at 55%.

The construction of the generator house and underground water tank stands at 30 % while the guard house is at 70%.

The construction of the centre that will cost USD 1,870,000 officially kicked off in December 13th, 2023 and is expected to end on June 30th.

The centre will have a modern control and call centre for receiving the 110 emergency code a first aid clinic and several offices amongst others.

The Government of Uganda (GoU) and the United Republic of Tanzania (URT) through the Lake Victoria Basic Commission (LVBC) and with support from the African Development Bank (AfDB) procured a contractor to Design and build the centre.

Upon completion, the centre will assist in averting several calamities on the lake that has claimed several lives.

Following the increased marine accidents, Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) has initiated an extensive campaign to educate communities around Lake Victoria about the importance of maritime safety in an effort to reduce the increasing number of boat accidents.

Executive Secretary Dr. Masinde Bwire emphasized the urgent need for relevant authorities to take action to address the accidents occurring in the lake,

which result in numerous fatalities each year in the Republic of Kenya, Republic of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Last year, the commission also provided twenty SOLAS-approved life jackets, which were handed over in Igundu village, Bunda District in Mwanza Regiona for use by residents engaged in water transport.

Already the construction of the main building stands at 60% while the construction of the boundary wall is at 55%.

### **DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS** AT COP 29



Additionally, LVBC team hosted another side event titled "Regional Cooperation for Resilient **Transboundary Ecosystems and** Landscapes."

The Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) participated in a series of discussions with various development partners during the 2024 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, known as COP 29, in Baku, Azerbaijan from November 10th-November 20th 2024.

The East African Community (EAC) hosted a pavilion at the conference, organizing side events with diverse stakeholders and partners.

Hon. Andrea Ariik, the **Deputy Secretary** General responsible for Infrastructure, Productive, Social, and Political Sectors, led the delegation.

LVBC organized two side events at the EAC pavilion, attended by numerous delegates. The first side event was titled "Promoting Sustainable Development of Inland Waterways Transport in East Africa," hosted by Hon. Ariik and moderated by Eng. Coletha Ruhamya, the Deputy Executive Secretary of LVBC.

Panellists included Hon. Abdi Dubat, Principal Secretary in the Ministry

of East African Community and Regional Development, Mr. Marco Yamaguchi, Manager of the Transport and Logistics Division at the African Development Bank, Dr. Raissa Ada Allogo, Senior Policy Officer for Maritime Affairs at the African Union Commission, Dr. Eng. Hannah Ngugi, Acting Kenya Country Director for TradeMark Africa (TMA) and Mr. Jonah Mumbya, Transport

Expert at the Maritime Organization for Eastern, Southern, and Northern Africa (MOESNA).

In his opening remarks, Hon. Ariik emphasized the crucial role of inland waterway transport in advancing sustainable development across East Africa, highlighting the transformative potential of this eco-friendly transportation mode.

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PHOTO: Deputy Secretary General responsible for Infrastructure, Productive, Social and Political sectors, East African Community, Hon. Andrea Aguer Ariik Malueth, makes his remarks at a side event during cop 29 in Baku, Azerbaijan



Hon. Andrea
Ariik,( third
from left) the
EAC
Deputy
Secretary
General
Responsible for
Infrastructure,
Productive,
Social, and
Political Sectors,
led the
delegation.



**PHOTO**: EAC/LVBC delegation led by Deputy Secretary General responsible for Infrastructure, Productive, Social and Political sectors, East African Community, Hon. Andrea Aguer Ariik Malueth, poses for a photo after a side engagement at COP 29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

This panel featured Mr.
Paul Kariuki,
Environment and
Natural Resources
Officer at LVBC; Mr.
Julius Mwabu, Director
of Productive and Service
Affairs in the Ministry of
EAC Affairs, Republic of
Kenya; and Mr. Robert
Sunday, Assistant
Director of Water
Resources, United
Republic of Tanzania.

Other notable speakers included Dr. Calisy Tindimugoya, Commissioner for Water Resources Planning and Regulation in the Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda; Dr. Alain Ndoli, Regional Programme Manager for Land Systems at IUCN; and Mr. Eric Oyare, Leader of WWF's Blue Heart of Africa initiative.

Furthermore, the LVBC team engaged with several development partners, including the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Ramsar Convention, and the **United Nations Economic Commission** for Europe. Additional partners included.

the African Development Bank, Climate Investment Fund, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, NDC Partnership, BirdLife International, United Nations Environment Programme, Global Green Growth Institute, and Wetlands International.

### MARA RIVER BASIN: EXPERTS AGREE ON A FIFTEEN-POINT STRATEGY

**Photo:** Executive Secretary Dr Masinde Bwire greets Tanzania's Deputy Minister of Water Eng Mary Pricsa Maundi during the Mara Day celebrations

The event that was held in Mugumu for third time attracted several participants from the Republic of Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania.

The annual 13th Mara Day Celebration was held in Narok County, Republic of Kenya from 13th-15th September 2024.

The events 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.

The three-day event was preceded by a scientific conference attended by researchers, scientists, and government experts from the two East African Community Partner States.

Africa's renowned scholar, Prof. Patrick Lumumba, served as the keynote speaker for the event, which took place at Maasai Mara University.

During the climax of the celebration at Talek town, the Republic of Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania Kenya jointly committed to implement 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 participants who included, researchers, conservationists, and

local community
members committed to
develop 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. LVBC Executive Secretary Dr Masinde Bwire emphasized that the Mara basin is confronting challenges from climate change, population growth, and unsustainable land-use practices.

The resolutions, jointly signed by East African Community Principal Secretary Hon Abdi Dubat and Hon Evans Mtambi, the Regional Commissioner for the 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... Contd Pg 8



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



PHOTO: Hon Abdi Dubat EAC principal secretary inspects LVBC'S stand during the celebration

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 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.



# WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN AWAITS APPROVAL



PHOTO: Fishermen in Lake Victoria

The Draft Final of the East African Community (EAC) Water Quality Management (WQM) Policy and the final draft of the WQM Strategy and Action Plan, which were validated by regional experts from partner states and Nile Basin Initiative centers in November 2023 and March 2024 respectively, have already been submitted to the Partner States for their review and approval process.

These two documents will be presented for adoption and approval at the 11th LVBC Regional Policy Steering Committee (RPSC) and the 23rd Sectoral Council of Ministers for the Lake Victoria Basin (SECOM-LVB) in early 2025.

In 2024, representatives from various East African Community Partner States, along with stakeholders from different institutions, held a series of national and regional engagement workshops in multiple countries to discuss the contents of the documents.

The development of this Strategy reflects the collective commitment of the Partner States to protect the Community's precious water resources and ensure their availability for present and future generations. Water quality management is a complex

and multi-dimensional challenge, requiring coordinated efforts across nations, integration of science and policy, and a strong commitment to environmental stewardship.

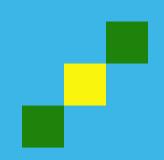
The Strategy also acknowledges the diversity of the region, recognizing that water quality challenges vary across different parts of the Community. From the vast expanse of Lake Victoria to the arid regions of East Africa's interior, the complexities of water quality management differ, yet the shared goal remains the same - to protect, preserve, and improve the water resources of the

Community.

This Strategy is expected to serve as a guiding framework for actions and decisions aimed at safeguarding and enhancing the water quality within the East African Community.

These two documents will be presented for adoption and approval at the 11th LVBC (RPSC) and the 23rd SECOM-LVB in early 2025.

### GERMAN COOPERATION COMMITS EUR 45 MILLION FOR LAKE VICTORIA BASIN CLIMATE INITIATIVES



The German Co-operation made a commitment of EUR 45 million towards the implementation of a new program within the Lake Victoria Basin. This followed series of negotiations between the East African Community and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany represented by its Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

During the negotiations, the EAC Secretariat and affiliated institutions presented their plans and project proposals to the Partner, who at the end made financing commitments. In November 2020, EUR 15 million were committed for Regional Economic Integration in EAC.

However, in July 2022, the Partners modified the scope and agreed that the commitment be used on prioritizing and financing climate-proof infrastructure investment, including measures in Lake Victoria Basin that include landscape restoration, climate change resilience and Nature-based Solution approach.

In December 2021 and July 2022, EUR 10 million and EUR 20 million were committed respectively as additional funding to the LVB-IWRM Programme. The above commitments translate into EUR 30 million additional to the LVB-IWRM Programme under implementation, and EUR 15 million for a new Programme on "Fostering Potential in the Lake Victoria Basin" Nature-based Solution project.

The commitment of EUR 30 million will be utilized to scale-up the ongoing High Priority Investment projects in the Cities of Kisumu/Kenya, Mwanza/Tanzania, and Kampala/Uganda.

On the other hand, the commitment of EUR 15 million for the Program on "Fostering the Potential of Lake Victoria" will be utilized in piloting a Nature-based Solution Projects in Rwanda and Burundi, and the remaining funds will be used to promote and enhance knowledge on

shall lapse if the related grant agreements between KfW and the Recipient (i.e. EAC/LVBC) are not concluded within a period of five years after the day each commitment was made (Nov. 2025 and July 2027).

The KfW delegation from Erankfurt/Germany undertook a

Nature-based Solutions in the EAC

Partner States. Both commitments

The KfW delegation from
Frankfurt/Germany undertook a
mission from 12th to 16th February
2024 at the LVBC headquarters in
Kisumu/Kenya, where both
institutions discussed and agreed on
an Action-based Roadmap for fasttracking the preparation of the
required legal instruments. Lake
Victoria Basin Commission Executive
Secretary, Dr Masinde Bwire, led the
LVBC team while KfW Delegation
was led by Mrs. Eva Birnfeld, the
Head of Division at KfW.

In December
2021 and July
2022, EUR 10
million and EUR
20 million were
committed
respectively as
additional
funding to the
LVB-IWRM
Programme.





### LAKE VICTORIA BASIN COMMISSION HOSTS GENDER MAINSTREAMING WORKSHOP

This plan is guided by two key principles that relate to gender equality which are Gender equality in development and decision making, equity, partnership and collaboration and social justice.



PHOTO: LVBC staff during the gender training in march 2024

Lake Victoria Basin
Commission held Gender
mainstreaming workshop
in March 2024 in
Kisumu. The workshop
which was attended by
staff from LVBC was
officially opened by
Executive Secretary Dr
Masinde Bwire.

The commission has developed Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Action Plan (2024-2028). This plan is guided by two key principles that relate to gender equality which are Gender equality in development and decision making, equity, partnership and collaboration and social justice.

The strategy lays a foundation and culture for mainstreaming gender at both the institutional level and in projects and programs coordinated by the Commission. The strategy's scope extends to Partner States through regional projects facilitated and coordinated by the Commission.

LVBC Executive
Secretary Dr Masinde
Bwire reiterated the
commission's
commitment to ensuring
that Gender activities are
considered and
prioritized within the

commission in a bid to become a gender trans formative institution.

Dr Bwire said, "as an institution we are more than committed to Gender inclusion in all our projects and programs".

The Sectoral Council of Ministers (SECOM) for Lake Victoria Basin (LVB) in their 21st Meeting adopted the 4th LVBC Strategic Plan (2021-2026) which has strong considerations for gender equality. This plan is guided by two key principles that relate to gender equality which are: Gender equality in development and decision making, equity, partnership and collaboration and social justice.

The strategic plan went further to commit to mainstreaming gender into LVB under the Social Development program area. The commission successfully conducted two-day training for staff on the importance of gender inclusion.

### **PICTORIAL**



World Bank team pose for a photo at the LVBC headquarters during their visit on March 7th 2024.



Executive Secretary Dr Masinde Bwire gifts Prof. Patrick Lumumba after the closure of the 13th Mara Day Scientific conference on 14th September 2024 at the Masaai Mara University.



headquarters on August 13th 2024.

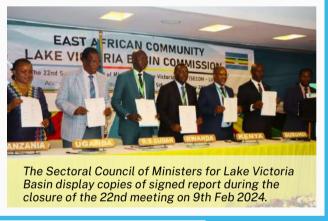


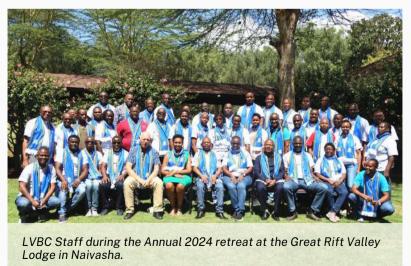
### **PICTORIAL**



EAC Secretary General Hon Veronica Mueni with Executive secretary Dr Masinde Bwire at the LVBC headquarters on Dec 5th 2024.







### **PICTORIAL**



Participants at a joint workshop on the preparation of Lake Victoria State of the Basin report in Entebbe, Uganda in April 2024.



Chairperson of EALA's Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources Hon. Francoise Uwumukiza with Executive secretary Dr Masinde Bwire during their visit at the LVBC headquarters on Feb 21 2024.



Permanent Secretary MEACA Uganda Hon Edith Mwanje during her visit at the LVBC headquarters in Kisumu in April 3rd 2024.



Executive Secretary Dr Masinde Bwire with H.E Dr. Bernard Yohana Kibesse, High commissioner from the United Republic of Tanzania at the LVBC headquarters on Feb 7th 2024.



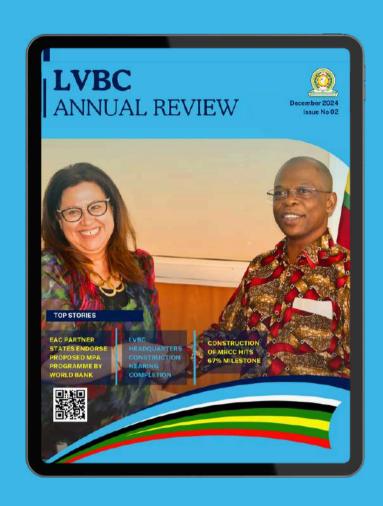
Participants follow the presentation of Lake Victoria Basin Water Information System (LVB-WIS) at the LVBC headquarters in Kisumu on Feb 14th 2024.

### LAKE VICTORIA BASIN COMMISION

**ANNUAL REVIEW 2024** 

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# **LVBC**ANNUAL REVIEW



### 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