



# LVBC Monthly Review

January 2025 - Issue No. 16



## A NEW LANDMARK EMERGES



*The new LVBC headquarters (Front elevation)*

### In this Issue...

**LVBC COMMITS TO AMBITIOUS 2025 EFFORTS TO RESTORE AND SUSTAIN LAKE VICTORIA BASIN**

**THE 11<sup>TH</sup> JOINT REGIONAL POLICY STEERING COMMITTEE (JRPSC) MEETING HELD IN KISUMU**



The construction of the ultra-modern new Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) headquarters has been completed. The contractor is working on last-minute touches before officially handing over the site to the Lake Victoria Basin Commission Secretariat on February 17, 2025. The Secretariat intends to relocate to its new headquarters later this year.

Lake Victoria Basin Commission Executive Secretary Dr. Masinde Bwire said, "We are looking forward to occupying our new home as soon as possible to continue to discharge our mandate for the benefit of millions of people living within the Lake Victoria Basin."

The construction of the second phase kicked off on August 7, 2023, following the official handover to a new contractor on July 25. The cost of the second phase of construction was two million five hundred sixty thousand seven hundred seventeen dollars and sixty-eight cents (USD 2,560,717.68).

In November 2024, the East African Community Council of Ministers meeting approved additional funding of USD 802,126. East African Community Secretary General H.E. Hon. Veronica Mueni Nduva announced that this funding, approved by the 46th Ordinary Council...**Contd Pg2**







*The new LVBC headquarters (Rear elevation)*

## **Contd from Pg1**

that met in Arusha from November 23 to 28, 2024, will assist in the necessary works for completion.

The total approved funds for the construction amount to USD 3,540,000. The construction of the new headquarters, overseen by the State Department of Public Works under Kenya's Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing, and Urban Development, will house various departments responsible for managing projects of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission.

Hon. Nduva said, "I commend the leadership of LVBC for spearheading the construction of this ultra-modern headquarters, which is a significant milestone not only for the people of the Republic of Kenya but for the entire East African Community."

Kisumu County Governor Hon. Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyongo said, "This is a major milestone for the people of this county, considering that it is the only EAC institution in the Republic. The leadership of this county, therefore, joins the commission in celebrating this significant achievement."

The new headquarters 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. The headquarters will feature various offices for projects and programs undertaken by the Lake Victoria Basin Commission, equipped with state-of-the-art conference facilities and a center of excellence.





## LVBC COMMITS TO AMBITIOUS 2025 EFFORTS TO RESTORE AND SUSTAIN LAKE VICTORIA BASIN



*Fish monger in Kisumu's Dunga beach*

As the new year of 2025 dawns, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) has committed itself to an ambitious path of progress and collaboration aimed at preserving the basin's vital resources.

With the lake serving as a critical source of livelihood for millions across the Republic of Uganda, Republic of Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania, LVBC has geared up for a range of transformative projects and programs that promise to improve the sustainability of the region.

The Lake Victoria Basin, with its vast ecosystem and rich biodiversity, has long been under threat. Environmental degradation, pollution, unsustainable agricultural practices, and climate change have placed immense pressure on its waters.

Overfishing, combined with increasing human activity, has strained the lake's ability to support the many communities dependent on it.

Recognizing the urgency of these challenges, LVBC has renewed its focus on fostering collaborative efforts across the three countries, ensuring that the future of the basin remains secure. In 2024, the commission launched a series of engagement with the World Bank over the proposed multi phase multi sectoral program for Lake Victoria Basin.

The proposed project focuses on comprehensive environmental restoration projects, with a focus on improving water quality, reducing pollution, and supporting sustainable fisheries. Through innovative water management systems and the introduction of stricter policies on waste disposal, LVBC is working to protect the lake from further degradation.

The commission is also rolling out reforestation programs aimed at restoring crucial watersheds around the basin, which help maintain water flow and prevent soil erosion...**Contd Pg4**





*Fishermen in Lake Victoria.*

## **Contd from Pg3**

Equally important is the LVBC's drive to create economic opportunities through sustainable development. The commission is supporting eco-friendly tourism initiatives and sustainable agriculture programs that reduce the pressure on natural resources.

The introduction of community-centered projects will empower local populations to manage their natural resources, ensuring that economic growth doesn't come at the expense of environmental health. Through these targeted efforts, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission is working toward a future where the lake's vast resources are managed responsibly.

By uniting countries and communities for a common cause, the commission is laying the foundation for a prosperous and sustainable Lake Victoria Basin in the years to come. As 2025 progresses, the commission's renewed dedication promises to transform the region, preserving its rich heritage for future generations while addressing the pressing challenges of today.

Executive Secretary Dr Masinde Bwire said, 'as a commission, we remain focused in discharging our mandate so that millions of people within Lake Victoria Basin can benefit'.





### THE 11<sup>TH</sup> JOINT REGIONAL POLICY STEERING COMMITTEE (JRPSC) MEETING HELD IN KISUMU



*Deputy Executive Secretary Eng Coletha Ruhanya and Chairperson Senior Officials Mr Andrew Mware during the 11<sup>th</sup> JRPSC meeting in Kisumu*

The 11<sup>th</sup> Joint Regional Policy Steering Committee (JRPSC) meeting of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission's projects and programs was held in Kisumu from January 29th to 31st, 2025. The meeting brought together ministries responsible for Water, Environment and Natural Resources, and Maritime Transport and Communications from the EAC Partner States.

The session for Senior Officials was held in January 29th and 30th, while Permanent/Principal Secretaries and Undersecretaries attended January 31st. Participants included representatives from the six East African Community (EAC) Partner States, namely the Republic of Kenya, Republic of Uganda, Republic of Burundi, Republic of Rwanda, Republic of South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the United Republic of Tanzania.

The JRPSC provides policy oversight and guidance to the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) to ensure the successful implementation of regional projects

and programs.

During this meeting, the committee reviewed the status of decisions and directives from the previous JRPSC meeting held from January 30th to February 3rd, 2023, and assessed progress in projects implementation.

The regional programs and projects that were discussed included:

- The Lake Victoria Basin Integrated Water Resources Management (LVB-IWRM) Program, co-funded by KfW and the European Union (EU)
- GIZ Technical Cooperation in IWRM-EAC/LVBC
- The Multi-National Lake Victoria Maritime Communication and Transport (MLVMCT) Project
- The Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR) Project, funded by the World Bank
- Pipeline initiatives for resource mobilization and partnerships





## PICTORIAL



LVBC Executive Secretary, Dr. Masinde Bwire met with Mr. Joachim Bejjimo the Head of Regional Development Cooperation, Africa at the Embassy of Sweden in Addis Ababa Ethiopia on January 20<sup>th</sup>.



From right. LVBC Maritime Safety Officer Amos Ndoto, Deputy Executive Secretary Eng Coletha Ruhamy, Dr Natalie Chandra and Mr Gratien Gasaba at the LVBC headquarters on January 24<sup>th</sup>.



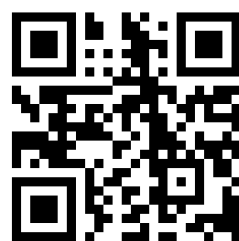
Participants at the Regional Validation meeting for Water Quality Management Policy Guideline in Kisumu on January 28<sup>th</sup>.



Senior Officials from the East African Community Partner States pose for a photo after meeting to deliberate on the validation of the draft EAC Water Quality Management Policy Guideline on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

### 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](mailto:lvbc@lvbcom.org)







## PICTORIAL



Executive Secretary Dr Masinde Bwire (left) gifts Hon Dr Alfred Okidi, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Water and Environment, Republic of Uganda on January 31<sup>st</sup>.



Executive Secretary Dr Masinde Bwire (left) gifts Hon Peter Mahal Akat, Under Secretary of Water Resources and Irrigation, Republic of South Sudan on January 31<sup>st</sup>.



From left, Mr Paul Martin from the World Bank with LVBC Executive Secretary Dr Masinde Bwire during the high level consultative meeting with the Principal, Permanent, Under Secretaries and Senior Officials from the EAC Partners States on January 31<sup>st</sup>.



Permanent, Principal and Under Secretaries from the EAC Partner States sign report after the conclusion of the 11<sup>th</sup> JRPSC meeting in Kisumu on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

### 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](mailto:lvbc@lvbcom.org)

