

**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY  
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**



**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, TOURISM AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**REPORT ON THE ONSPOT ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
PROJECTS AND PLANS BY THE LAKE VICTORIA BASIN COMMISSION AND  
LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES ORGANISATION**

**19<sup>TH</sup> -24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024**

**KISUMU-KENYA  
JINJA-UGANDA**

**Clerk's Chambers  
EALA Headquarters, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
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Arusha – TANZANIA**

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## Acronyms

<b>ACC – LVB</b>	Adapting Climate Change – Lake Victoria Basin
<b>ADC</b>	Agriculture Development Cooperation
<b>AF</b>	Adaptation Fund
<b>AfDB</b>	African Development Bank
<b>ATNR</b>	Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources
<b>BMU</b>	Beach Management Unit
<b>BMZ</b>	Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>BOD</b>	Biological Oxygen Demand
<b>BR</b>	Burundi
<b>CCTWG</b>	Climate Change Technical Working Group
<b>COP28</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Climate Change Conference
<b>COVID 19</b>	Corona Virus Disease 2019
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of Congo
<b>EAC</b>	East African Community
<b>EAC-LVBC</b>	East African Community –Lake Victoria Basin Commission
<b>EAFO</b>	East African Fisheries Organization
<b>EALA</b>	East African Legislative Assembly
<b>EDF11</b>	European Development Fund
<b>ENRM</b>	Environmental and Natural Resources Management
<b>ENTRO</b>	Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organisation for United Nations
<b>GCF</b>	Green Climate Fund
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environmental Facility
<b>GGGI</b>	Global Green Growth Institute
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GIZ</b>	German Agency for International Cooperation
<b>HPI</b>	High Priority Investment
<b>HQ</b>	Headquarters
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>ICRISAT</b>	International of Crop Research Institute for Semi- Arid and Tropics
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agriculture Development
<b>IIASA</b>	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
<b>IUU</b>	Illegal Unreported Unregulated
<b>ICRISAT</b>	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
<b>IWRM</b>	Integrated water resource management
<b>KE</b>	Kenya
<b>KFW</b>	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau

<b>KIWASCO</b>	Kisumu Water and Sanitation Company Limited
<b>KMFRI</b>	Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute
<b>LTA</b>	Lake Tanganyika Authority
<b>LVB</b>	Lake Victoria Basin
<b>LVBC</b>	Lake Victoria Basin Commission
<b>LVFO</b>	Lake Victorian Fisheries Organisation
<b>MLVMCT</b>	Multinational – Lake Victoria Marine time Communication and Transport
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>MRCC</b>	Maritime Rescue Coordination Center
<b>MWAUWASA</b>	Mwanza Urban Water Supply & Sanitation
<b>MZA-MRRCC</b>	Maritime Safety, Communication & Transport
<b>NaFIRRI</b>	National Fisheries Resources Research Institute (Uganda)
<b>NBI</b>	Nile Basin Initiative
<b>NCCR</b>	Nile Corporation for Climate Resilience
<b>NEL</b>	Nile Equatorial Lakes
<b>NELSAP-CU</b>	Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program
<b>NELSAP-CU</b>	Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program – Coordination Unit
<b>NILE – SEC</b>	Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat
<b>PFA</b>	Project and Funding Agreement
<b>PREA</b>	Programmes de Reformme E en Afrique
<b>R &amp; D</b>	Research and Development
<b>RFBC</b>	Responsible Fisheries Business Chains on Lake Victoria
<b>RW</b>	Rwanda
<b>SAP</b>	Strategy and Action Plan
<b>SAR</b>	Search and Rescue Centres
<b>SEC</b>	Security and Exchange Commission
<b>SECOM</b>	Sectoral council of Ministers for Lake Victoria Basin
<b>TAFIRI</b>	Tanzania Fisheries Institute
<b>TZ</b>	Tanzania
<b>UG</b>	Uganda
<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environmental Program
<b>URT</b>	United Republic of Tanzania
<b>USD</b>	United States Dollar
<b>WQ</b>	Water Quality
<b>WQM</b>	Water Quality Management

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Pursuant to Rule 81 and Annex 5 (D) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, some of the functions of the Committee on Agriculture Tourism and Natural Resources (ATNR) are to assess and evaluate activities of the Community, carry out relevant research and evaluate action programmes in its respective mandate.

The broad function of the Committee on ATNR hinge on Chapters eighteen, nineteen and twenty of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community (EAC). Chapter nineteen provides for Co-operation in Environment and Natural Resources Management. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and provisions of the Treaty, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) and the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) fall under the mandate of the Committee on ATNR. The Committee on ATNR therefore conducted an on spot assessment activity to assess the implementation of the ongoing projects by the LVBC and LVFO and the contribution of the two institutions to food security and climate change resilience.

## **2. OBJECTIVE OF THE ONSPOT ASSESSMENT**

The objective of the activity was to assess the implementation of the ongoing projects by the LVBC and LVFO and the contribution of the two institutions to food security and climate change resilience.

## **3. METHODOLOGY**

In undertaking this activity, the Committee:

- i. Received presentations from the Management of the LVBC and LVFO;
- ii. Conducted interactive meetings with the management of the LVBC and LVFO;
- iii. Visited the construction site of the LVBC headquarters;
- iv. Visited the projects undertaken by LVBC; and
- v. Visited the National Fisheries Research Institute of Uganda (NaFIRRI).

## **4. THE LAKE VICTORIA BASIN COMMISSION**

The Lake Victoria Basin Commission is a specialized institution of the EAC located in Kisumu, Republic of Kenya, within the Lake Victoria Basin (LVB). The establishment of LVBC is provided for under Article 114 (2) (b) (vi) of the Treaty. The operations of the Commission are governed by the Protocol for Sustainable Development of Lake Victoria Basin 2003 and the Lake Victoria Basin Commission Act, 2022.

Lake Victoria is Africa's largest lake with 68,870 km<sup>2</sup> surface area while its catchment area (basin) covers 180,950 km<sup>2</sup>. It is the second largest freshwater body in the world. The EAC designated LVB as an area of high economic interest and regional economic growth zone to be developed jointly by the EAC Partner States. The LVBC is mandated to coordinate sustainable development and management of the LVB in the five Partner States that cover the basin.

### **4.1. PROJECTS UNDER THE LVBC**

The operations of LVBC is based on projects undertaken in collaboration with other stakeholders. Although the mandate of the LVBC is within the LVB which cover five Partner States, some of the projects were designed to include all the EAC Partner States. The table below is a summary of projects undertaken by LVBC.

Table: Summary of Projects under the LVBC

Project	Focus	Estimated Cost	Development Partners	Coverage
LVB-IWRM	IWRM (Sanitation HPIs) (Mwanza Connections)	EURO 70 million	KfW & EU	BR, KE, RW, TZ, UG
MLVMCT	Maritime safety, Communication & Transport (MZA-MRCC)	USD 28 million	AfDB	KE, TZ, UG
LVBC HQs	Institutional capacity	USD3.5 million	Partner States	N/A
ACC-LVB	Climate Change adaptation	USD 5 million	Adaptation Fund	BR, KEN, RW, TZ, UG
Scale WAYS	Research in resilience of land and water resources	Euro 0.443 of 1.6 million	IIASA/ADC	BR, KEN, RW, TZ, UG
NCCR	Climate Resilience (LVBC-water quality policy & Institutional harmonization)	USD 0.75 of 30million	WB	NEL sub-basin countries (7 EAC Partner States)

Source: Presentation by LVBC before the Committee on ATNR

#### 4.1.1. Lake Victoria Basin – Integrated Water Resources Management Project

The overall objective of the Lake Victoria Basin – Integrated Water Resources (LVB-IWRM) project is to improve water quality and availability through strategic and sustainable management of the LVB via regional IWRM measures. The specific objectives include to strengthen long-term strategic and regional water resource management function of the LVBC Secretariat and reduce untreated effluents into the Lake Victoria through targeted infrastructure investments in liquid and solid wastewater management. Under this project, the following projects to reduce untreated effluents into the Lake Victoria are undertaken:

- i. Mwanza Sewer Network Upgrade Project (Mwanza HPI);
- ii. Kisumu Informal Settlement Sanitation Project (Kisumu HPI);
- iii. Sanitation Infrastructure in the South - East of Luzira Catchment Area (Kampala HPI); and
- iv. Kigali Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant Project (Kigali HPI).

#### Challenges encountered during the implementation of the project

- i. Delay in the implementation of the HPI in the Partner States mainly due to prolonged processes of signing of Project and Funding Agreements;
- ii. Exclusion of the Republic of Burundi in the second component of the Programme for implementation of HPIs;
- iii. Sustainability of the Programme results and maintaining existing cooperation ties with Development Partners requires a strong Water Resources Unit at LVBC.

#### Remedies

- i. Lessons learnt in the conclusion of the first two Project and Funding Agreements (Kigali and Mwanza) being applied for the case of Uganda;
- ii. Continuous dialogue with KfW and exploring diplomatic channels to engage the German Government (BMZ) in a view to implement a Nature-based Solution Project seems promising; and
- iii. Reviewing and strengthening the LVBC's delivery units.

#### **4.1.2. The Multinational Lake Victoria Maritime Communication and Transport Project**

The Multinational Lake Victoria Maritime Communication and Transport Project (MLVCT) aims at improving maritime transport, security and safety of navigation on Lake Victoria for improved Lake Transport (people, goods, and services), trade and tourism which are key ingredients of integration. Specifically, it will:

- i. Improve maritime communication network coverage and functionality;
- ii. Operationalize the regional MRCC and 2 sub-centres in Kampala and Kisumu;
- iii. Improve safety and security of shipping and prevention of marine pollution by ships in Lake Victoria;
- iv. Establish, equip and strengthen the emergency Search and Rescue (SAR) Centres;
- v. Strengthen weather forecast services around and on the lake and other value-added services;
- vi. Develop the East African Maritime Transport Strategy and Lake Victoria Development program;
- vii. Strengthen capacity of designated agencies in Partner States;
- viii. Support livelihood efforts of women groups around SARs within BMUs; and
- ix. Facilitate the implementation of Lake Victoria Transport Act 2007 and its Regulations and Oil Spill Contingency Plan for Lake Victoria.

#### **4.1.3. Construction of LVBC Headquarters**

The proposed LVBC Headquarters is designed as an ultramodern office complex with two distinct wings. The project is fully funded by the Partner States. The LVBC procured the service of Tareef Enterprises Ltd, who was the contractor to build the Headquarters. The Commission received the initial funding of 1.35M USD in April 2019. A further USD 950,000 was received in June 2022 towards the second phase and the final amount of USD1.24m was received in January 2024. For the first phase, the site was handed over in December 2020, construction commenced in January 2021 until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022. The Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development through the State Department of Public Works, Republic of Kenya appointed officers to offer technical expertise in finalizing and fast-tracking approval of designs for the construction and preparation of bill of quantities for the project. The team provides oversight supervision on the project.

#### **Challenges Encountered the Construction Project**

The construction project encountered problems when the contractor was building the walls to join the main structure which was constructed during the first phase. The contractor used uncaused rubble masonry for walling instead of machine cut masonry stones. This made the walls weak and shapeless with parts of the building affected as straight joints causing cracks. It was stated that this happened when the first Secretary of Works from the Department of Works who was supervising the project retired and a replacement was delayed.

As a consequence the poor work and other delays, the contract with Tareef Enterprises was terminated. The new tender was published on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023. JV China Jiangxi International was awarded the contract. The site was handed over on 25 July 2023. The second phase is expected to be completed by February 2025. On their part, the Government of Kenya deployed a dedicated team of 7 experts to

supervise the project including the clerk of works who is stationed at the construction site. The work completed up to 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024 is at 35%.

The Committee was informed further that the Secretary of Works reported the deliberate poor work done by Tareef Enterprises to the National Construction Authority and the company was deregistered. Also, the extra cost which will be incurred to rectify the poor work will be reimbursed by the Tariff Enterprises.

The Lake Victoria Basin Commission reported other challenges which are affecting the construction project and include:

- i. Delays occasioned by un-foreseen excavation works;
- ii. Weather – rains slowed down the works;
- iii. The Covid 19 pandemic;
- iv. Limited initial funding which in turn down-sized the scope of the project;
- v. Cost of inflation likely to affect /alter the cost of the project.

#### **4.1.4. Adapting to Climate Change in Lake Victoria Basin Project**

The Adapting to Climate Change in Lake Victoria Basin (ACC-LVB) is a regional project implemented by LVBC in five Partner States (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda). The overall objective of the project is to reduce vulnerability to the negative effects of climate change by building climate resilience. Implementation timeframe was 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023. The Budget was US\$ 5 Million.

The project supported the concrete adaptation interventions through piloting ecosystem-based Adaptation, Water Conservation and Climate-Smart Agriculture adaptation technologies and practices in selected climate hotspots in the LVB.

#### **Challenges faced the Implementation of the Project**

- i. Wide geographical scope strained the lean project team with low budgetary allocation for project management functions;
- ii. Unforeseen bureaucratic delays (recruitment of staff of the Project Management Unit, signing of MoUs and procurement processes);
- iii. Emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- iv. Inflation and rising prices of goods and services; and
- v. Extreme weather events.

#### **Lessons Learnt from the project**

- i. It is fundamentally important to ensure that adaptation interventions are strongly linked to livelihoods of target communities;
- ii. There is a strong need for flexibility during selection design and implementation of adaptation technologies and practices for transboundary water catchment resources e.g. Lake Victoria Basin;
- iii. The capacity building and learning exchange between peer groups is very powerful in transforming mindsets, creating passion and promoting innovation especially, at the community level; and
- iv. The long-term sustainability of adaptation initiatives requires a long-term commitment and willingness of people to change behaviour.



## **Recommendations**

- i. Successful implementation of ACC-LVB project interventions has demonstrated the viability of regional, national and community level interventions in enhancing climate change adaptation. It is therefore recommended that an upscaling programme that replicates piloted adaptation technologies in other LVB climate change hotspots are developed.
- ii. When designing future projects, it is important to ensure the availability of sufficient human and financial resources at regional, national, subnational and community levels in order to ensure effective project implementation in a vast geographical coverage such as LVB.
- iii. In future projects, piloting of adaptation technologies and practices should lead to transformative and actionable changes in practice and policy to ensure uptake of appropriate technologies that support long-term resilience building efforts in LVB.

### **4.1.5. The Scale WAYS Project**

With support from the Austrian Development Agency, ScaleWAYS was funded to the tune of EUR 1.6 million (0.433 million for LVBC). Initially this was a 3 years research project (2019-2021), but it was extended to November 2022. The project was further extended for a period of 4 months with additional of Euros 20,000. The project was jointly implemented by IIASA, LVBC & ICRISAT. The goal of this project is to contribute through research to resilience of land and water resources, improved health of ecosystems and human wellbeing in LVB. This was in response to the following threats:

- i. rapid increase of population and economic growth;
- ii. degradation of environment and ecosystem; and
- iii. the impact of projected climate change.

## **Key Project Achievements**

- i. The Project produced the following comprehensive and informative analytical reports and policy briefs:
  - a. Seasonality of livestock feed increases with climate change;
  - b. Sustainable intensification of rice production;
  - c. Scaling resilient intensified agriculture through agro ecology in East Africa;
  - d. Closing the livestock feed gap in the LVB through regional integration;
  - e. Policy interventions required to support scaling sustainable land and water management in the LVB - High-level recommendations; and
  - f. Concluded capacity strengthening initiatives and produced a corresponding synthesis paper summarizing what was supported and what is needed for sustainability.
- ii. Completed an Independent Terminal Evaluation of the Scale WAYS project as per directive of the Regional Policy Steering Committee. Report will be circulated to staff and Partner States after clearance by LVBC management;
- iii. Conducted project close-out activities including final project audit and IIASA mission to ensure orderly project closure; and
- iv. Prepared a proposal for a follow on project and submitted to Austrian Development Agency which is under consideration.

## **Challenges, lessons learnt & recommendations**

- i. Research and Development initiatives can be expensive to run and there is need to embed applied research in ongoing projects;
- ii. General apathy towards research in the region. There is need to sensitize stakeholders on the importance of research to sustainable development;
- iii. Regional integration processes as well as activities of the Community should leverage on research to ensure that they are data and science-driven and therefore demand driven and responsive to the needs of the region; and
- iv. There is a need to promote and advocate for adequate funding for research. It plays an important role in development programing, planning, resource mobilization and prioritization.

### **4.1.6. THE NILE COOPERATION FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE PROJECT**

Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR) project is a World Bank supported project of US \$ 30 Million grant to Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) as the recipient entity. The development objective of the project is to improve mechanisms for cooperation on water resources management and development in the Nile Basin. The project covers the Nile Basin countries and is implemented by NBI through its three centers namely Nile-SEC, ENTRO and NELSAP-CU, EAC-LVBC and NBD. The duration of the project is five years with a closing date set to be 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025. The overall objective is to harmonize and strengthen the policies and institutions which govern water quality management in the Nile Equatorial Lakes (NEL) sub-basin countries, to enhance cooperative management of shared resources. The specific objectives are to review and prepare recommendations to harmonize existing water quality management policies in the NEL sub-basin and develop a Regional Water Quality Management Strategy and Action Plan. The completed activities include:

- i. Regional Inception Workshop held in January 2023;
- ii. Stakeholders analysis and stakeholders engagement plan report was completed in April 2023;
- iii. Situational assessment undertaken (July - August 2023), report validated;
- iv. Draft harmonized policy on water quality management submitted to LVBC on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023. The report was validated by a regional workshop from 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023;
- v. Draft final water quality policy was presented to the Sectoral Council in February 2024. One Partner State requested for one month period for internal process.
- vi. External audit completed on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

### **4.2. RESOURCE MOBILISATION INITIATIVES**

The Lake Victoria Basin Commission has conducted resource mobilisation initiatives by:

- i. Hosting of the KfW mission in February 2024 for discussion on the next phase of support to IWRM Program in LVB.
- ii. Holding EAC- Germany negotiations and consultations.
- iii. Having discussions with IFAD to co-design a Climate Resilience Agricultural and Food Systems Investment Program for LVB.
- iv. In partnership with African Development Bank (AfDB), designed a preparatory funding program on Transboundary Climate Resilient Agricultural Water- Food Nexus. USD 800,000 committed by Korea Africa Economic Cooperation.

- v. Prepared a Funding Project Proposal on Water Supply and Sanitation Program for Pro-Poor Urban and Rural Areas in the LVB was designed and submitted to Africa Water Facility of AfDB. Project has been shortlisted for potential funding. LVBC targets to develop an investment program of over Euros 150 million.
- vi. Designed together with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) a joint project on implementing Transboundary Mara River Basin Integrated Watershed to be submitted to Global Environment Facility (GEF).
- vii. There are ongoing discussions with Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) to establish a long-term partnership in project design, preparation, resource mobilization and implementation. As of now, two Project Concept Notes have been drafted and shared with GGGI:
  - a. Climate Resilience through Enhanced Green Growth in LVB; and
  - b. Project preparatory funding for climate resilience ecosystem-based agriculture and fisheries value chain development project.
- viii. Together with LVFO, designed a PCN on ecosystem resilience and restoration of LVB and fisheries biodiversity conservation project. The PCN is being discussed with UNEP for potential GEF funding.
- ix. Another PCN on Climate Smart Agriculture Program to Build Food and Nutrition Security Resilience in six Partner States was designed and submitted to AfDB Climate Action Window. Proposed project budget is approximately USD 15 million.
- x. Initiated discussions with UNEP on Upscaling of Adapting to Climate Change Program. Project proposal is under development and targets to cover 5 LVB countries and is proposed to cover RSS and DRC as well. Project cost is estimated to be approximately USD 90;
- xi. Resulting from COP28 engagements, a project on Climate Resilience for Sustainable Maritime Transport Infrastructure in LVB has been designed and submitted to AfDB Climate Action Window. Proposed project budget is approximately USD 15 million.
- xii. Hosting a World Bank Mission on assessment of potential for a Lake Victoria Basin-Wide Integrated Programming (March 2024).
- xiii. Regional review workshop on LVBC Resource Mobilization and Partnership Strategy including its annexes (Donor/ Development Partners' Mapping Report and Partnership Guidelines) (Before end of June 2024).
- xiv. Regional review workshop on four key documents required for resource mobilization initiatives including application for Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Adaptation Fund accreditation- (Before end of June 2024).

The Committee noted that the financing of the LVBC projects is not sustainable as they rely on Development Partners. This affects the sustainability of projects when the financing from the Development Partners cease.

#### **4.3. CHALLENGES TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE LAKE VICTORIA BASIN**

- i. Stresses within the lake – over-fishing, poor water quality, fluctuating water levels;
- ii. Stresses on littoral zones – construction and farming in shoreline, conversion of wetlands;
- iii. Stresses from basin – land degradation, deforestation, sediment loads;

- iv. Stresses from outside the basin – nutrients (Nitrogen and Phosphate) transported into the basin by air;
- v. Climate change (floods and severe droughts);
- vi. Population explosion;
- vii. Untreated effluent discharge into the lake;
- viii. Oils and toxic chemical in informal car wash and motor vehicles;
- ix. Poor agriculture and land use practices;
- x. Plastics and other solid waste; and
- xi. Water hyacinth infestation.

#### 4.4. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF LVBC

The LVBC has achieved the following:

- i. Enactment of the LVBC Act 2022 which equates to legal identity of the Commission;
- ii. The MV Jumuiya which was docked for a decade is ready to start operations after being repaired;
- iii. Harmonized 10 policies/laws/standards & regulations to strengthen the regional enabling environment.
- iv. Built consensus and prepared over 22 instruments for collaborative management of environment, and natural resources in LVB.
- v. Community livelihood Improvement “empowering communities through alternative nature-based livelihood options.
- vi. Private Sector Adoption and Investments in Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production and Green Growth Agriculture Value Chain Development (*Over USD\$32Million Worth*)
- vii. Basin-wide Analytical Work and Specific Studies for informed Programming of Lake Victoria Basin and Decision Support. (*Over 30 Key Studies*)
- viii. Improving safety of navigation on Lake Victoria – unlocking it for lake transport, trade, tourism.
- ix. Improved Water Supply and Sanitation for over *1Million People* in the targeted 15 Secondary Towns in the basin.
- x. Undertaken part pollution control investments in key municipal wastewater pollution hotspots (Kisumu, Homabay, Bomet, Mwanza, Bukoba, Kampala, Jinja, Gitega).

#### 4.5. EMERGING ISSUES

During the interactive meeting with the management of LVBC, the following issues were identified:

- i. The Lake Victoria Basin Commission projects and services are not visible to many stakeholders;
- ii. The Lake Victoria Transport Act, 2007 is not fully implemented by the key stakeholders:
  - a. Partner States prefer their national laws to this Act;
  - b. Some required regulations are yet to be made.
- iii. Understaffing challenges facing the LVBC;
- iv. The LVBC is working to Improve safety of navigation and security in the lake by:
  - a. Enactment of the Lake Victoria Transport Act, 2007;
  - b. Production of navigation charts;

- c. Implementation of the Oil Spill and Toxic Chemicals Contingency Plan for Lake Victoria;
  - d. Installation of navigational aids on 37 sites on main and local routes on Lake Victoria (KE-10, TZ-15 and UG-12).
- v. Tackling the Water Hyacinth Menace: LVBC has previously controlled water hyacinth through mechanical removal and biological means but the science of water hyacinth needs more research to come up with proper solutions to address the problem.
- vi. Sanitation Improvements: LVBC has made greater steps in improving sanitation in the region. The following progress has been made so far:
  - a. 12 Sludge treatment plants (267m<sup>3</sup>/day) constructed;
  - b. 75 of the over 190 of the construction of public toilets target;
  - c. 12 Solid waste management systems constructed;
  - d. distribution of 29 tractors and trailers, 331 skips, 8 vacutugs and 16 exhausters;
  - e. Interventions on solid waste management; and
  - f. 3000 peers & facilitators were trained (about 50% women).
- vii. Water quality improvement: The Committee was informed that there is no readily available specific data on the water quality for Lake Victoria. Most projects implemented with the aim of improving the water quality are commonly considered “non-regret measures”. The projects under the LVB IWRM Programme aim to reduce untreated effluent running straight into the LVB hence contributing to improvement of water quality. The water quality performance indicator used for those projects is the reduction of biological oxygen demand.

#### **4.6. VISIT TO KISUMU WATER AND SANITATION COMPANY LTD**

Kisumu Water and Sanitation Company Limited (KIWASCO) was founded in 2001 to provide adequate clean potable water and to collect, treat, and dispose sewerage (wastewater) within the jurisdiction of Kisumu City. In the 2019, the company expanded its mandate to incorporate sanitation and this included change of name from ‘sewerage’ to ‘sanitation’. KIWASCO owns two sewerage treatment facilities, Kisat Conventional Sewerage Plant, with a capacity of 8,000m<sup>3</sup> per day and Nyalenda Oxidation Ponds with a capacity of 18,000 m<sup>3</sup> per day. The Committee visited the Kisat Conventional Sewerage Plant, which was supported by LVBC in construction of some of the sanitation plants.

The Committee visited the waste water treatment plant and held discussion with the management of the plant. The Committee was informed that although the plant has the capacity of 8,000m<sup>3</sup> per day, the project is operating below its capacity because many people around Kisumu are not connected to the system. It is estimated that only 18 per cent of the city’s residents are connected to the central sewerage system. Other customers use alternative options such as pit latrines and septic tanks, therefore, more effort should be put to ensure the fully utilisation of its capacity.

On the other hand, it was reported that the facility does not have the capacity to remove phosphorous and nitrogen or their compounds such as phosphates and nitrates. These elements and their compounds are the principal culprits in water pollution because they cause eutrophication, which causes algae growth and anoxia.

The Committee was informed that many people around the Lake Victoria do not have access to sanitation services. It is estimated that if the current level of pollution continues, it will reach a time when the lake will be completely polluted. The Committee concluded its tour by planting trees at the waste water treatment plant.

#### **4.7. COURTESY CALL TO KISUMU COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

The Committee was received by the County Deputy Governor H.E. Dr. Mathew Ochieng Owili, who represented the County Governor H.E. Prof. Peter Anyang Nyong'o. In that meeting, the Committee interacted with the County Executive Committee Members. In the meeting, the County informed the Committee on the following development programs:

- i. The County is developing Kisumu to be a tourist destination and investment centre by promoting various attractions and building a new big conference centre in Kisumu;
- ii. The County is developing fishing landing sites with cooling facilities for storage of fish;
- iii. The County is developing fish caging and fish ponds to promote food security in the County and beyond;
- iv. The County enacted several laws including the Kisumu Climate Change Act, 2022 which enabled the formation of climate committees up to village levels;
- v. The County is working to move from water catchment to water tape in order to provide safe drinking water;
- vi. Kisumu is an entry to EAC; therefore, there is a need to revamp the use of Kisumu Port and other ports along the Lake Victoria;
- vii. Kisumu County is organising the Blue Economy Conference in which they are going to invite the Committee on ATNR to participate; and
- viii. Kisumu Airport has been expanded to be an international airport.

The Committee and the County Government of Kisumu agreed to work together to promote the integration agenda of the EAC.

#### **4.8. OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON LVBC**

The Committee made the following observations concerning the LVBC:

- i. The Lake Victoria Basin Commission has put commendable efforts to mobilise resources and managed to attract Development Partners to finance projects undertaken by the Commission;
- ii. Over dependence on Development Partners to finance projects does not ensure the sustainability of the projects;
- iii. The Lake Victoria Basin Commission should be creative to initiate projects and programs for income generation to reduce the over dependence on Development Partners;
- iv. The problem of water hyacinth on the Lake Victoria which was previously controlled is reappearing;
- v. The Kisumu Conventional Sewerage Plant owned by KIWASCO does not have the capacity to remove phosphorous and nitrogen or their compounds such as phosphates and nitrates;
- vi. The construction of LVBC Headquarters has been delayed due to problems caused by the previous contractor which led to the termination of the contract and procurement of a new contractor;

- vii. The change of contractor and the rectification of the poor work done by the previous contractor will increase the cost of construction;
- viii. The weaknesses on the part of the Commission, the contractor and the consultant contributed to the poor workmanship of the building;
- ix. Unregulated human activities within the LVB is one of main causes of many problems facing the lake;
- x. The LVBC does not have a Water Quality Expert; and
- xi. There is a general apathy towards research in the EAC.

#### **4.9. RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE ON LVBC**

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to:

- i. Appreciate the LVBC for securing financial support from Development Partners to finance various projects of the Commission;
- ii. Urge the Council of Ministers to allocate more financial resources to LVBC to enable it to implement critical projects;
- iii. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct Partner States to absorb the projects which Development Partners stopped financing;
- iv. Urge the Council of Ministers to closely monitor the construction of LVBC headquarters and other construction projects in the Community;
- v. Urge the Council of Ministers to take necessary steps to ensure that the contractor who caused problems reimburse the additional costs which the LVBC will incur to rectify the problems caused;
- vi. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct Partner States, EAC Secretariat and Institutions of the EAC to sensitize stakeholders on the importance of research for sustainable development;
- vii. Urge the Council of Ministers to promote tourism and environmental friendly investment opportunities in the cities around Lake Victoria;
- viii. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct the LVBC and other organs and institutions of the EAC to increase the visibility of their activities;
- ix. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct Partner States to put in place harmonised mechanisms to regulate human activities within the LVB;
- x. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct the Government of Kenya to improve the capacity of the Kisat Conventional Sewerage Plant to enable it remove phosphorus and nitrogen and their compounds;
- xi. Urge the Council of Ministers to make all the required regulations under the Lake Victoria Transport Act, 2007, to enable the fully implementation of the Act;
- xii. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct Partner States to implement the Lake Victoria Transport Act, 2007;
- xiii. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct the LVBC to prepare a comprehensive water quality monitoring framework with clear indicators and parameters;
- xiv. Urge the Council of Ministers to urgently recruit the Water Quality Expert for the LVBC; and
- xv. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct Partner States to collaborate with LVBC in addressing the problem on water hyacinth.

#### **5. THE LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES ORGANISATION**

The Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation was established by the Convention for the Establishment of Lake Victoria Fisheries Organizations signed on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1994 by three Contracting Parties (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania). The LVFO is recognised by the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC as one of the surviving institutions of the

former EAC. The Convention was amended in 1998 and 2016 to enable other Partner States of the EAC to join LVFO and to expand the scope of the institution's operations to cover all water bodies of the Partner States. However, the Committee was informed that the continued use of the current name "LVFO" portrays that the institution is only for the Lake Victoria.

The Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation aimed at fostering cooperation among the Contracting Parties, harmonizing national measures for the sustainable utilization of the fisheries and aquaculture resources of the EAC water bodies and developing and adopting conservation and management measures. Its Program areas include Fisheries Management and Development, Aquaculture Management and Development, Fisheries Resources Monitoring and Research; and Fish Quality Assurance, Trade and Marketing of Fish and Fishery Products.

### **5.1. Ongoing Projects for Food Security**

- i. European Union (EU)-EAC True Fish Farming Story in the Lake Victoria basin (TRUE-FISH) under EDF 11 (€ 10.15M) (EAC-LVFO, FAO, WFC, Landell mills, Ireland);
- ii. Contribution of Sustainable Fisheries to the Blue Economy of the EA, SA and the IO Region – E€OFISH Programme (€ 2 million) (IOC, LVFO, LTA);
- iii. Collaboration with University of St. Andrews UK (£ 726,000) (LVFO, St. Andrews University, KMFRI, NaFIRRI, TAFIRI);
- iv. International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) Project 2 million USD (LVFO, KMFRI, TAFIRI, NaFIRRI);
- v. Responsible Fisheries Business Chains on Lake Victoria (RFBC) Project (€ 1.624M) (GIZ, LVFO, DiFR, CSOs). The LVFO Programme closed on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023, whilst other collaborators are still concluding business.

### **5.2. Projects under Development**

- i. Community Fisheries Management & Sustainable Fisheries Project (LVFO, FAO, University of Iceland & EAC Partner States);
- ii. Ecosystem Resilience and Restoration of Lake Victoria Basin and Fisheries Biodiversity Conservation Project (*Ziwa Letu* Project) > 10 million USD (LVFO, LVBC, UNEP, Regional Universities, MDAs, and Non-State Actors); and
- iii. Promoting climate change mitigation and food security in Lake Victoria fishery and aquaculture value chains (LVFO, FISH ASSOCIATIONS and AfDB – USD 12 million.

### **5.3. Contribution of Fish to Food Security and Economic Development**

The Committee was informed that the EAC need approximately 4.2 million tonnes of fish annually to meet the global per capita consumption of 21 kg. It was noted that the annual production of fish in EAC is approximately 1.7million tonnes; 1.5 million tons from fish capture and 0.2 tonnes from fish farming. Fishing provides direct employment to 800,000 people and its contribution to GDP is 2-3%. The earnings from fish exports is approximately USD 300 million per year. Effective management of fisheries is critical to maintain these benefits and reduce the gap of 2.5 million tonnes of fish needed for the local consumption.

Aquaculture has the potential to make a significant contribution to food security and income generation. Thus, aquaculture is an important mechanism for improving local food security.



#### **5.4. Policies, Guidelines and Strategies that Enhance Food Security and Climate Change Resilience in the EAC**

- i. The East African Community Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy 2018;
- ii. The East African Community Cage Fish Farming Policy;
- iii. Strategic plans – The EAC Development Strategies - Latest 2021-22 – 2025-26;
- iv. Fisheries Management Plans I, II, III, Latest IV (2021-2025); and
- v. Nile Perch Management plans I, II, Latest III (2021 – 2025).

#### **5.5. Regionally Harmonized Guidelines, Protocols and Standard Operation Procedures**

- i. Species Specific Licensing;
- ii. Co-management;
- iii. Management of Fish breeding Areas;
- iv. Cage fish farming;
- v. Fish handling and Trade;
- vi. Extraction, processing & trade in fish maws; and
- vii. Monitoring Control and surveillance.

#### **5.6. Challenges Faced by LVFO**

- i. Climate Change and variability and associated with global warming, lake level raise and flooding;
- ii. Illegal unreported unregulated (IUU) fishing;
- iii. Overcapacity in Lake Victoria fisheries;
- iv. Overfishing, capture of immature fish and trade disagreements and conflicts;
- v. Fishing technology conflicts;
- vi. Lack of unified fisheries monitoring control and surveillance;
- vii. Pollution including plastic pollution;
- viii. Sand mining affecting fish breeding areas.
- ix. Poor post-harvest handling.
- x. High prevalence of HIV rates in fishing communities;
- xi. Expanded mandate and scope vis a viz the staffing level of the LVFO;
- xii. Delay in disbursement of resources from Partner States and Development Partners;
- xiii. Delay in VAT recoveries from the Host Partner State and non-recovery from Non Hosting Partner States; and
- xiv. Emerging issues, climate change, water level, pollution of the fish habitat, fish pests and epidemics.

#### **5.7. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM LVFO**

- i. Fast track operationalization of expanded scope and mandate;
- ii. Change the name from LVFO to EAFO;
- iii. Increase Partner States budget support and fill staff gaps in fish quality directory and prioritise on fish quality activities;
- iv. Strengthen collaborations and partnerships to attract more resources to the organization;
- v. Work together to mitigate climate change particularly global warming;
- vi. Work towards effective community management regimes;

- vii. Support the organization in erecting another structure to accommodate projects and two additional directorates (aquaculture and fish quality assurance);
- viii. The East African Community should put in place mechanisms that will enable organs and institutions of the EAC to recover VAT from Partner States that does not host the particular organ or institution;
- ix. Urge Partner States to remit statutory contributions early in the FY for proper planning and execution of the mandate;
- x. Legislate a law through EALA for the harmonised regional fisheries enforcement; and
- xi. Promote clean-up projects in fishing communities.

#### **5.8. VISIT TO THE NATIONAL FISHERIES RESOURCES RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

The National Fisheries Resources Research Institute (NaFIRRI) is one of the institution of the Republic of Uganda responsible for fish research. The Committee visited NaFIRRI and was received by the Executive Director. NaFIRRI informed the Committee that its mandate include guiding, conducting and coordinating fisheries research to inform sustainable development, policies, regulations, and management. The research focus mainly on capture fisheries, aquaculture, water environment, fisheries social economics, innovation and post-harvest management, information dissemination and communication as well as responding to emerging issues in the fisheries sector including climate change and variability.

In delivering on its mandate, the institute operates under four broad programs: i). Capture Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation, ii). Aquaculture and Biosciences, iii). Fish Habitats Management, and iv). Innovations and Post-harvest Management. NaFIRRI particularly participates in the regional research activities coordinated by LVFO and contributes to the different fisheries and aquaculture policies and decisions made by the EAC Council of Ministers.

After the presentations of NaFIRRI, Members of the Committee boarded one of NaFIRRI's research vessels (RV.HAMMERKOP) for the Lake Victoria tour. While on the vessel, Members were briefed on stock assessment research undertaken by NaFIRRI on the research vessels, these include bottom and pelagic trawling, hydro acoustics, and water quality monitoring. The data generated provides insights on the total stock biomass, species composition and distribution, relative abundances, population size structure, and forms the basis for guiding regulations on sustainable harvest levels and appropriate fishing gears, fishing grounds, and areas. Lastly, a demonstration on bottom trawl experimental fishing was conducted, lasting for a duration of about 30 minutes. The fish catch landed comprised mainly Nile perch and Haplochromine taxa.

## **5.9. OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE LVFO**

The Committee made the following observations with regards to the LVFO:

- i. The Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation needs to expand its offices by constructing an extension building to accommodate the increased number of staff and other needs as the mandate of the institution is being expanded;
- ii. Although the mandate of the LVFO was expanded to include all water bodies in the EAC, the continued use of the name Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization poses a challenge and makes it perceived as only responsible for the Lake Victoria;
- iii. There is delay in transforming the LVFO to enable it to undertake the mandate to operate in all water bodies of the EAC;
- iv. There is a need for a Community law to regulate fishing activities in the EAC. The same law should operationalised the expanded mandate of LVFO;
- v. The development of a legislation should ensure that LVFO remain an institution of the EAC while continuing to be a Regional Fisheries Management Organization recognized by FAO;
- vi. The delayed reimbursement of VAT from the hosting government and lack of mechanism for VAT refund for activities of organs and institutions of the EAC undertaken outside their headquarters is still a challenge; and
- vii. The East African Community produces only 1.7 million tonnes of fish contrary to estimated need of 4.5 million tonnes per year.

## **5.10 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE LVFO**

The Committee recommend to the Assembly to:

- i. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct the LVFO and the relevant Sectoral Council to fast-track the process of expanding the mandate of LVFO and the change of its name to enable the institution to operate throughout the region;
- ii. Urge the Council of Ministers to allocate funds for the delayed expansion of the LVFO headquarters in Jinja;
- iii. Urge the Council of Ministers to prepare and present before the Assembly the Bill for a law to operationalize the expanded mandate of the LVFO;
- iv. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct all Partner States to reimburse the VAT they collected from all organs and institutions of the Community;
- v. Urge the Council of Ministers to prepare a regulation to enable organs and institutions of the EAC to claim refund of VAT and other taxes when they undertake activities outside their hosting Partner States;
- vi. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct Partner States to invest more in fish farming to enable the EAC meet its expected demand of 4.5 million tonnes of fish per year; and
- vii. Urge the Council of Ministers to direct LVFO and Partner States to continue investing in modern technologies.

## **6.0 CONCLUSION**

The on spot assessment activity to assess the implementation of projects by the LVBC and LVFO and the contribution of the two institutions to food security and climate change resilience enabled the Committee to exercise its oversight activity on the two institutions. Despite the number of challenges facing the two institutions, generally LVBC and LVFO are doing commendable job. It is the responsibilities of the Partner States through the Council of Ministers to increase their commitment to enable these institutions to utilize all their potentials for the benefit of the EAC.

## **7.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Committee acknowledges the facilitation granted to it by the Office of the Speaker and the Office of the Clerk of the Assembly. Also, the Committee appreciates the management and staff of the LVBC and LVFO for accepting to engage with the Committee during this activity. Their commitment and collaboration enable the Committee to accomplish this activity and fulfil its oversight role. Moreover, the Committee acknowledges the leadership of Kisumu County, management of KIWASCO and management of NaFFIRI for hosting the Committee. Their time and valuable information given to the Committee are highly appreciated.