



LAKE VICTORIA BASIN DIGEST

A NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE VICTORIA BASIN COMMISSION

Leadership Change at LVBC



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

LVBC has a new Executive Secretary

Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader

Welcome to the third issue of the Lake Victoria Basin Digest!

During the period April-June 2011, we bid farewell to the former Executive Secretary of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) Dr. Tom Okurut and welcomed Dr. Canisius Kanangire who commenced his five-year tenure of duty in June 2011. In this issue, Dr. Kanangire summarises his vision to scale-up the Commission's achievements during the next five years.



One of the biggest achievements during the last quarter was the signing of the Grant Protocol of Agreement between the East African Community (EAC) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) as well as the subsequent signing of Subsidiary Grant Transfer Agreements between the EAC Secretariat and each of the five Partner States to commence the implementation of the physical infrastructural works for the Lake Victoria Water Supply and Sanitation (LVWATSAN) Programme Phase II. The details of this landmark project are part and parcel of this Issue.

The Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project Phase II (LVEMP II) was also blessed with the coming on board of the Republic of Burundi and the Republic of Rwanda after completing the necessary preparatory procedures. We bring you summary information on this progress.

Finally, management has introduced a "Partners Forum" to allow all institutions and stakeholders working towards the sustainable development agenda of the Lake Victoria Basin to make contributions to this newsletter. The Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development as well as Vi Agroforestry have honoured this section with its first two contributions.

I wish you good reading.

Enjoy your reading.

Charles-Martin Jjuuko, Editor
editor@lvbcsec.org



LAKE VICTORIA BASIN DIGEST

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Samuel K. Gichere

Editor:

Charles-Martin Jjuuko

Committee Members:

Ali Said Matano, Qureish Noordin, Doreen Othero (PhD), Jackson Muhirwe (PhD), Mary Mwangi

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Contact us: Lake Victoria Basin Commission, 6th Floor Re-Insurance Plaza, Oginga Odinga Street, P.O. Box 1510-40100, Kisumu, Kenya. Tel: +254-57-2026344/2023873/2023894, Email: editor@lvbcsec.org

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Message From The Executive Secretary



Dr. Canisius Kanangire, Executive Secretary

Moving LVBC forward: My vision and priorities

Introduction

Having commenced my tenure as the Executive Secretary of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission of the East African Community on 1st June 2011 (see detailed story on Page 17), I feel privileged to share my thoughts with you about my vision and priorities to enhance this institution's position as the promoter, facilitator and coordinator of

the sustainable development agenda of the Lake Victoria Basin.

LVBC is an institution that has witnessed a very fast growth in terms of exercising its mandate since its coming into effect in 2006. Likewise, its staff strength has correspondingly increased from the initial core staff of three individuals in May 2006 to the current total number of 46 staff, with the potential

becoming fifty by end of this year, 2011. To-date, there are seven ongoing projects and programmes coordinated by LVBC that are at various stages of implementation. It is worth noting that in the FY2010/2011, the Commission had an annualised contribution from the East African Community Partner States of US\$ 2 million and contributions from our Development Partners to the tune of US\$16 million.

Snapshot Analysis

I was privileged to join LVBC just ahead of a period when its annual budget is set to grow exponentially. Given the fact that the Commission's budget stood at just over US\$100,000 five years ago and at around US\$16 million in FY 2010/2011, it is important to mention that the budget for FY2011/2012 stands tall at US\$44.4 million. This development has been precipitated mainly by the coming on board of two landmark transboundary initiatives, namely: the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project Phase II (LVEMP II) worth US\$252 million and the second phase of the Lake Victoria Water Supply and Sanitation Programme (LVWATSAN II) worth about US\$120 million.

The LVEMP II project is to contribute to the sustainable development agenda of the Lake Victoria Basin by improving transboundary natural resources management and reducing environmental stress in targeted hotspots. On the other hand, LVWATSAN II will contribute to the improvement of the livelihoods and health of communities in the basin and the reduction of pollution of the lake through sustainable water supply and sanitation infrastructure. The bulk of resources under these two projects will support investments in the five Partner States.

Major Challenges and Priorities

One of the major challenges I foresee, therefore, is the need for LVBC to perform in manner that will allow both the Commission's Secretariat in Kisumu, Kenya, and the five Partner States to absorb an amount of financial resources three times more than our previous budget on time and with limited encumbrances. This goal shall be achieved through four strategic actions.

Firstly, we shall need to employ strategic

planning and management skills to ensure that priorities are strategically identified and that prepared plans can achieve the desired results. The management of staff workload, including those at Partner States level, shall have to be well-coordinated and the monitoring and evaluation function strengthened to focus on results. A simple results-based system as well as user-friendly monitoring tools shall be prioritised to address this challenge.

Secondly, we shall have to strengthen our financial management function in order to guarantee an adequate flow of funds to the planned activities. I do envision timely and quality accountability as well as high value-for-money disbursed through our projects and programmes as vital elements of the Commission's contribution to the sustainable development agenda of the Lake Victoria Basin.

Thirdly, the enhancement of proper coordination and synergies between LVBC and its sister EAC institutions and key stakeholders shall improve our responsiveness to the real needs of the communities that we serve. Ultimately, this strategic action shall allow LVBC to remove unnecessary duplications and increase financial and human resources efficiency.

Fourthly and lastly, the Protocol for Sustainable Development of Lake Victoria Basin provides for the promotion of trade, commerce, industry and research as some of the areas key to the achievement of sustainable development in the Lake Victoria Basin. To this end, we shall strengthen the enabling environment for enhanced investment in the Lake Victoria Basin by putting into action the key recommendations of the first ever Lake Victoria Basin Investment Forum which was held in December 2010 in Mwanza, Tanzania.

In this area, as LVBC, we will need to make considerable contribution to investments in transport and communication; tourism; agriculture and agribusiness; trade and industry; and investment-led research and development; as well as access to credit. In this regard, efforts to make the lake safe and navigable will specifically receive our high attention.

I feel glad to mention that all the above-mentioned priorities will be reflected in the LVBC's Strategic Plan for the period of 2011-2016, which is now under completion.

I do pledge to ensure that all our activities during the next five years shall contribute to translating the EAC and LVBC visions into reality, as clearly stated in the *Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community and the Protocol for Sustainable Development of Lake Victoria Basin*, and well expressed in the EAC Development Strategy.

Finally, I have the confidence that the LVBC Secretariat shall continue to benefit from the wisdom, clarity and support of senior officials from the Partner States, the Coordination Committee, the Sectoral Council on Lake Victoria Basin and, ultimately, the Summit of Heads of State to ensure that we achieve what the EAC expects of us, remain responsive to partner states as we increasingly add value to their efforts towards the socio-economic development of our regional bloc.

On my part, I am committed to serve the noble obligations of LVBC in particular and the EAC in general. The support of LVBC staff, the organs and institutions of the EAC as well as that of our Development Partners and key stakeholders will be crucial to this endeavour.

I look forward to working with all of you over the next five years.

EAC-AfDB sign US\$120m Investment project deal



L-R: Ambassador Mwapachu and Mr. James Opio-Omoding exchange the Grant Protocol Agreement for LVWATSAN

By Dan Owore

The East African Community (EAC) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) have signed a Grant Protocol Agreement to finance a US\$120 million project: the Lake Victoria Water Supply and Sanitation (LVWATSAN) Programme Phase II. Under the funding, the African Development Fund will contribute 90% while the five Partner States will be contributing 10%.

The Agreement was signed by the then Secretary General of the EAC, Ambassador Juma V. Mwapachu and James Opio-Omoding, Officer-in-Charge of the African Development Bank (Kenya) at a ceremony that took place on 4th April 2011 at the Country Offices of the Kenya Field Office of the African Development Bank in Nairobi,

Kenya. The ceremony was also attended by the then Executive Secretary, Lake Victoria Basin Commission, Dr. Tom Okurut.

The development objective of the Programme is to contribute to the improvement of the livelihoods and health of communities in the basin, through the reversal of the pollution of the lake by making improvements in sustainable water supply and sanitation infrastructure.

It will specifically reduce pollution in the lake through improvements in the water supply and sanitation infrastructure of the three selected towns in each of the five EAC Partner States, namely: Musinga, Kayanza and Ngozi in Burundi; Kericho, Keroka and Isebania-Sirari in Kenya; Nyagatare,

Kayanza and Nyanza in Rwanda; Geita, Sengerema and Nansio in Tanzania; as well as Mayuge, Ntungamo and the Buwama-Kayabwe-Bukakata in Uganda.

The programme aims to demonstrate that the Millennium Development on ensuring Environmental Sustainability can be achieved in a relatively short time frame and that investments can be sustained over the long term by effectively integrating physical infrastructure works, training and capacity building into a balanced and cohesive Programme of interventions.

In his remarks, Ambassador Mwapachu hailed the signing of the Agreement as a historical milestone in the resource mobilisation endeavours of the East

African Community. Mr. Opiyo-Omoding, in his statement outlined the uniqueness of this programme that has offered a unique opportunity for the five EAC Partner States to strengthen their cooperation and sharing of important experiences in safe water supplies and improved sanitation.

Subsequent to the signing of this Grant Agreement, the EAC signed Grant Transfer Agreements with the five respective Partner States on 15th April 2011 to

facilitate financing availed by the African Development Fund to support the various programme activities in each of the targeted towns.

The then EAC Secretary General, Ambassador Juma V. Mwapachu, signed on behalf of the Community while Ambassador Augustin Nsanze, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations signed on behalf of Burundi; Dr. Geoffrey Mwau, Economic Secretary, Ministry of

Finance for Kenya; Mr. Leonard Rugwabiza Minega, Director General, National Development Planning and Research for Rwanda; Hon. Gregory George Teu, Deputy Minister of Finance for Tanzania; and, Hon. Aston Kajara, Minister of State for Planning and Economic Development in charge of Investment for Uganda.

About the author: Eng. Dan Owore is the Programme Coordinator for LVWATSAN

Mara News

Inauguration of the Mara River Basin Project Regional Policy Steering Committee



Participants of the inaugural Regional Policy Steering Committee meeting

The dream of a Regional Policy Steering Committee (RPSC) for the Transboundary Water for Biodiversity and Human Health Project in the Mara River Basin (TWBHH-MRB) was realised recently at a colourful ceremony that saw its inauguration in Nairobi.

The ceremony was officiated by the LVBC Executive Secretary, Dr Canisius Kanangire on 28th June 2011. In his official statement,

Dr Kanangire emphasized the roles and responsibilities of the Committee with specific reference providing policy direction on the Project.

Dr. Kanangire recalled the unique features of the Mara-Serengeti Ecosystem that led to the declaration of the Mara as the "Eighth Wonder of the World". This, he said, led to the preparation of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the Ecosystem and the

Environmental Flows Assessment Report of the Mara River that led to the preparation of this project.

Dr. Kanangire also recalled the success of this project as demonstration of close working relationship between the two implementing partner states, the WWF and the USAID/EA. He however underscored the fact that, although there was great improvement in the management of the Mara River Basin

and its associated resources, there was need to contain emerging challenges. These include the impacts of climate change and uncoordinated efforts of stakeholders in the Mara River Basin called for concerted efforts by all players in the Mara River Basin to ensure improvement of community livelihoods and a healthy ecosystem.

Dr Kanangire thanked USAID/East Africa for funding the three-year project as a sign of great attachment and commitment to the development of the Mara River Basin by the Development Partners. He noted that the funding ought to spur actors in the Basin to realise the objective of a harmonised management of this critical ecosystem and urged EAC Partner States

to double efforts in search of sustainable resource mobilisation strategies to support the numerous challenges of the ecosystem.

Ms Rose Njogu, who chaired the meeting and represented the Permanent Secretary of Environment and Mineral resources, Kenya, noted that the Project was an important avenue for establishing a cooperative framework for sustainable management of the shared transboundary natural resources to support peoples livelihoods. She added that the project plays a key role in advancing the national economic and social agenda on economic recovery and poverty in line with the Ministry's vision of ensuring a clean, secure and sustainably managed environment.

She echoed her country's commitment to participate fully in the implementation of the TWBHH-MRB Project, following the adoption of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) and the Environmental Flows Assessment (EFA).

Speaking at the same function, the Head of Delegation from the United Republic of Tanzania, Eng. Ngosi Mwhava thanked the Government of the Republic of Kenya for the cooperation with the United Republic of Tanzania in implementing the Mara Project. He also thanked the US Government through USAID-EA for supporting the crucial intervention that aims at a sustainably managed Mara River Basin as a joint transboundary resource.

Sharing Best Practices in Water and Sanitation



Field visit participants scrutinise a joint school and community nursery project in Nyakach, Nyando. The nursery uses water harvested from roof-tops.

The recent field exchange visits conducted from 21st to 24th June 2011 were attended by officers from the Governments of Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania; officers drawn from Water Companies, representatives from Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and the communities were an eye opener

to many water sector players. The exchange was meant to help water providers and consumers to share their experience and put in place mechanisms for protecting water resources. It also aimed at promoting harmonised Mara River Basin management practices for sustainability in line with the project's objective of facilitating

harmonisation and operationalisation of policy options, regulations and institutional frameworks of managing the Mara-Serengeti Ecosystem.

The preparation and implementation of an integrated natural resources management strategy and action plans for the Basin,

as well as promoting equity and benefit sharing for improved livelihoods and ecosystem health are key targets of the project.

Similarly, the project is promoting research, information sharing, and uptake of innovations in the Basin and strengthening water-related management information systems. This is being done with funding from USAID/ EA, following a Donors' Conference organized under the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation (LVWATSAN) Program, and is meant to support the development and hosting of the Management Information System (MIS) for WATSAN.

The funds are managed through the TWBHH-MRB project with some of the specific activities being stakeholders' exchange visit to water supply and sanitation projects and water utilities, with the main aim of learning from these

and eventually piloting some of the best practices. The best practices gathered are to be documented in the MIS for sharing and replication.

The field visit covered Abala Women Group water supply project, Gawu Community Based Organisation in Nyamarimba in Nyakach and Keroka Water Supply. Other sites visited included the Keroka Water Supply area to be funded by LVBC through the Lake Victoria Water Supply and Sanitation Programme Phase II; Kewasco in Kericho; and Bomet.

Among others, the team shared ideas on the adoption of low cost technologies in community water supply using solar energy. At the Abala project, the team was informed by the community that provision of water has enhanced nutrition and increased food production. There was also a marked reduction in water borne diseases.

At the Gawu Community Based Organisation in Nyamarimba in Nyakach, participants were taken to water and sanitation sites. The sites included school roof catchment and improved toilets complete with hand wash basins and educative hygiene messages. The team also visited Focodep Community Based Organisation in Nyakach where sustainably managed river banks and rehabilitated gully through planting of high value trees and crops like grafted mangoes, bamboos and fodder were observed.

Ms Pamela Onyancha, Acting Secretary of the proposed Mara River Transboundary Water Resources Users Forum said the field visits were educational and informative and concluded by declaring that "We shared our experiences and gained knowledge from the visit. It was an eye opener, educative and worthy of replicating in our diverse operations", she said.



Participants of 8th Semi-Annual Partners Forum

Two Components to be strengthened under the HIV&AIDS Programme

The effectiveness of implementation of the current EAC/AMREF Lake Victoria Basin HIV&AIDS Partnership (EALP) Programme has stimulated new thinking that will strengthen two components namely: to promote Gender and Rights

Based Mainstreaming activities within the institutions and networks of mobile populations, and to integrate HIV/AIDS and Reproductive Health interventions among mobile populations.

The two components are in response to demand as evidenced from the on-going HIV Sero-behavioural studies of mobile populations.

This decision was emphasised at the 8th

semi-annual Partners Forum held on 16th to 17th May 2011 at the Silver Springs Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya. The Forum is one of the Programme's policy meetings held semi-annually with the aim of reviewing progress and offering guidance to implementation of the programme.

Strengthening of the two components shall firstly ensure that Reproductive Health (RH) issues, gender relations, inequality, violence and discrimination, which are some of the factors that fuel the spread of HIV in the East African Community, are mitigated

through raising awareness, building capacities and increasing understanding of Reproductive Health and gender dynamics that contribute to increased vulnerability of mobile populations to HIV.

Information generated from the HIV Sero-behavioural studies will be disseminated and shared among the EAC Partner States, organisations and other stakeholders for advocacy, planning and adaptive management.

The Forum was attended by representatives

of EALP Partner institutions namely: the EAC Secretariat, Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO), Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), AMREF and Technical Counterparts (Focal Point Officers) from the EAC Partner States. Other organisations represented were; the East African Network of NGOs for AIDS Support Organisation (EANNASO), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Great Lake Initiative on AIDS (GLIA), USAID East Africa and the German Foundation for World Population (DSW).

World Bank Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist visits LVEMP II

The Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project Phase II (LVEMP II) Mid Term Review (MTR) process commenced recently with a visit to the Lake Victoria Basin region by a World Bank Monitoring and Evaluation specialist, Ms. Avjeet Singh. The specialist started her work on 7th June 2011 and concluded it on 17th June 2011.

The visit was held to discuss with each team the difficulties and successes so far in implementing project activities; to examine the current indicators and learn from LVEMP II teams about suggestions for improvements; and, to identify issues common to all teams that could facilitate project implementation towards achieving

its objectives.

The specialist visited and held discussion with the LVBC Executive Secretary and his two deputies; the LVEMP II Regional Project Coordination Team (RPCT); and the LVEMP II (Kenya) National Project Coordination Team in Kisumu, Kenya, between 7th and 10th June 2011.

She held extensive discussions with the teams before proceeding to Mwanza, Tanzania, where she held discussion with the country's LVEMP II National Project Coordination Team from 13th to 15th June 2011. In Uganda, the World Bank specialist held discussions with the National Project Coordination Team in Entebbe from 16th

to 17th June 2011. During her mission, Ms. Singh also held discussions with LVEMP II Coordinators and Staff; the National Cleaner Production Centers; the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation; as well as the National Focal Point Officers. Issues discussed included the successes and challenges met during the ongoing implementation of LVEMP II, including the Monitoring and Evaluation strategy towards achieving the indicators that make up the results framework.

Matters concerning the project design, delays and the Community-Driven Development type sub-projects were deliberated and possible actions proposed by the projects teams.



Third LVEMP II Regional Policy Steering Meeting held on 27th April 2011 in Gisambai, Vihiga district, Kenya

Launch of Eight publications on Lake Victoria Basin

The Lake Victoria Basin Commission, in conjunction with the Embassy of Sweden in Kenya, on 29th April 2011 launched eight publications on the sustainable development agenda of the Lake Victoria Basin. The books which cover broad and varied subjects on the Basin are an important addition to the wealth of information available for researchers and other stakeholders in the Lake Victoria Basin.

The launch was officiated by H.E. Ann Dismorr, the Swedish Ambassador to Kenya, during the 15th Special Partnership Coordinating Committee meeting held in Kisumu, Kenya. The meeting also coincided with celebrations of 10 years of Swedish support for the sustainable development in the Lake Victoria Basin.

The Lake Victoria Initiative: Ten Years of Sweden-EAC Partnership, written by consultants Violet Matiru and Atieno Ndomo and published by the Embassy of Sweden in Kenya, provides a comprehensive review of Swedish support to Lake Victoria over the past 10 years. It offers an overview of the geography and other features of the Lake Victoria Basin; the motivation behind Swedish cooperation; a broad overview and analysis of the results of the Swedish-EAC partnership; as well as the key lessons drawn for the experience of Swedish cooperation in the Basin.

The book *Transboundary Water Management: Principles and Practice* edited by Anton Earle, Anders Jägerskog and Joakim Öjendal, stems from an International Training Programme on transboundary waters in the Lake Victoria region supported by Sweden over the last five years. During the launching ceremony, H.E. Ann Dismorr, the Swedish Ambassador to Kenya, hailed it as "the first attempt to bring together all the main topics of importance for the water professionals and practitioners."

Six books published by the Lake Victoria Basin Commission with support from the Partnership Fund were launched.

The Study of Succession and Dynamics of the Water Hyacinth on the Nyanza Gulf of

Lake Victoria provides information on the ecological succession and dynamic status of water hyacinth in the Nyanza Gulf of Lake Victoria. Based on a study commissioned by the Commission in 2008/2009 with funding from the Lake Victoria Basin Partnership Fund, the study was spearheaded by the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI).

Assessment to Climate Change in Lake Victoria Basin presents an understanding of the vulnerability of different populations in selected catchments with the Basin to Climate Change and how it impacts various types of households. It exemplifies the communities' coping strategies and makes key recommendations on the way forward.

The publication on Identification and Mapping of Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs) in Lake Victoria provides a summary of the status of the Ecologically Sensitive Areas in Lake Victoria as well as comprehensive information on the current threats to the ESAs; concrete and actionable recommendations that would guide formulation of laws to ensure protection of ESAs. The book includes digitised maps that clearly show the ESAs in Lake Victoria.

A Toolkit for Mainstreaming Gender and Rights Based Approaches in Agricultural Plantations in Lake Victoria Basin in the context of HIV aims at enhancing commitment of the agricultural plantations in the Lake Victoria Basin to ensuring that women's as well as men's concerns are integral to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of plantation legislation, policies and programmes curtail inequality between genders.



H.E. Ann Dismorr, the Swedish Ambassador to Kenya and the then Executive Secretary, Dr. Tom Okurut, display at a press conference two of the books launched during the 15th Special Partnership Coordinating Committee Meeting.

The Study on Aquatic Biodiversity for Lake Victoria reviewed aquatic Lake Victoria Basin biodiversity information and data held by various institutions. The end-product of the study was the designing and implementing of the Bio-diversity Meta-Database which is anchored and freely accessible at the Commission's website (www.lvbcom.org). The book provides a starting point for data and information sharing amongst stakeholders in the Lake Victoria Basin.

The Study on Trade Data Analysis for Lake Victoria Basin is the first ever detailed publication on intra-East African and international trade through Lake Victoria and its inland connections. It provides insight into trade through the Lake Victoria and its Basin as one of the benefits of regional integration. The publication on *Vulnerability*

The outgoing Executive Secretary, Dr. Tom Okurut, also presented a book he co-authored with Dr. Nyamajeje Calleb Weggboro titled *Lake Victoria Basin: A new frontier for development of East Africa*. This book breaks fresh ground in providing a broad and holistic account of the Lake Victoria Basin as natural resource and a strategic area for spurring social and economic development. The book was launched by the Chairperson of the East African Community (EAC) Summit and President of the Republic of Burundi, H.E. Pierre Nkurunziza at the 9th Extraordinary Summit of EAC Heads of State held in Dar es Salaam on 19th April 2011.

Dr. Okurut hailed the launching of the books and encouraged various stakeholders in the Lake Victoria Basin to access them through the Lake Victoria Basin Commission's Resource Centre in Kisumu, Kenya.

LVBC PICTORIAL

4th May 2011: African Development Bank's Regional Procurement Coordinator, Mr. Frank Mvula, shares information with participants during the launch workshop for the Lake Victoria Water Supply and Sanitation Programme Phase II (LVWATSAN II) in Nairobi, Kenya. The workshop, which took place on 3rd to 6th May 2011, was well attended by participants from the Lake Victoria Basin Commission, East African Community Partner States implementing agencies as well as the UN-HABITAT.



23rd June 2011: EAC Senior Records Officer, Mr. Robert Okusam (extreme left), leading a brainstorming session on Records Management Systems held at the LVBC Secretariat. The session was attended by LVBC the Information and Communication team as part of efforts to bolster Records Management at the LVBC Secretariat. Left to right: Dr. Jackson Muhirwe, Information Technology Officer; Ms. Mary Mwangi, Librarian and Management Information Systems Officer; Charles-Martin Jjuuko, Communications and Development Awareness Officer; and as Ms. Margaret Achieng, Ag. Records Assistant

30th June 2011: Participants of the 2nd LVEMP II Coordination Meeting held at Sosa Cottages in Gisambai, Vihiga district, Kenya as part of preparation for the Mid-Term Review process. It was attended by experts from the Regional Project Coordination Team, the National Project Coordination Teams, the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation and the Kenya Cleaner Production Centre.



29th April 2011: Authors Violet Matiru and Atieno Ndomo hold a publication that is the result of their hard work: The Lake Victoria Initiative: Ten Years of Sweden-EAC Partnership during its launch at the Imperial Hotel in Kisumu, Kenya, in the happy presence Ms. Kikki Nordin and Dr. Anders Jägerskog of the Embassy of Sweden in Kenya.

LVBC PICTORIAL

29th April 2011: Authors Violet Matiru and Atieno Ndomo hold a publication that is the result of their hard work: *The Lake Victoria Initiative: Ten Years of Sweden-EAC Partnership* during its launch at the Imperial Hotel in Kisumu, Kenya, in the happy presence of Ms. Kikki Nordin and Dr. Anders Jägerskog of the Embassy of Sweden in Kenya.



1st June 2011: Dr. Kanangire (centre) makes a brief statement to LVBC staff and the media at the LVBC Secretariat's boardroom in Kisumu, Kenya shortly after assuming office as the Executive Secretary.



28th April 2011: Members of the LVEMP II Regional Policy Steering Committee listen to the LVEMP II Kenya, Agriculture Specialist, Mr. Isaac Ngungi, after witnessing the manual removal of the water hyacinth at Kisumu Port in Kisumu, Kenya.



LVBC staff test newly acquired rescue boat near the shores of Kisumu, Kenya. The boat is among a series of equipment acquired through the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project Phase II (LVEMP II) to bolster the capacity of LVBC's research vessel, RV Jumuiya. Left to Right: Captain Kwila Nkwama, Captain RV Jumuiya; Eng. Herman Bundala, Engineer RV Jumuiya; and Captain Gerson Fumbuka, LVBC Maritime Safety Officer





LVBC staff prepare to test new boat and attendant equipment procured under LVEMP II to support the LVBC research vessel, RV Jumuiya

Burundi and Rwanda join LVEMP II

By Dr Raymond Mngodo

Lake Victoria Basin covers an area of about 194,000 km² and is shared by five countries East African Community countries of Burundi (7 %), Kenya (22 %), Rwanda (11 %), Tanzania (44 %), and Uganda (16%). The main Lake has a surface area of about 68,800 km², is the second largest freshwater body in the world which is shared by Kenya (6%), Tanzania (51%), and Uganda (43%).

Rwanda and Burundi are a part of the upper watershed that drains into Lake Victoria through the Kagera River.

The LVB is experiencing environmental stresses that are adversely impacting it as well as the region's economy and livelihoods. The four distinct sources of stresses originate from the Lake due to unsustainable fishing practices and pollution in the Lake and on Islands; *littoral zone* (near shore) resulting from conversion of shoreline wetlands for urban and agricultural development; within the *Basin* (upper watershed) due to reduced water inflows into the Lake, over abstraction of Lake water, inflow of water hyacinth, increased watershed

degradation; and outside the basin including nutrients transported into the basin as airborne particulates, demand for Nile perch fisheries for export, and climate change. These stresses cumulatively cause degradation of the Lake, reduce its resiliency, and contribute to some of the emerging conflicts over resource use.

The second phase of Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project (LVEMP II) under the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) secretariat has been designed to address degradation of the Lake Basin with objectives to: (i) improve the collaborative management of the trans-boundary natural resources of the LVB for the shared benefits of the Partner States; and (ii) reduce environmental stress in targeted pollution hotspots and selected degraded sub-catchments to improve the livelihoods of communities, who depend on the natural resources of LVB. The project is planned to take eight years.

The Project began in late 2009 with three countries Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda under Adaptable Programme Loan 1 (APL1) for a

period of financial year 2009 to 2013, with a total of US\$90 million IDA credit, US\$10 million grant from Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and US\$7 million GEF grant. The three countries will contribute US\$7.8 million equivalent.

On the 14th June 2011 Burundi and Rwanda joined LVEMP II under APL 2 when the World Bank approved the project which is to receive IDA credit of US\$30 million for the financial year 2011 to 2017. APL3, with indicative IDA financing of another US\$90 million, Sida US\$10 million and countries contribution of US\$7.9 million equivalent, is expected to commence in 2014 after successful implementation of APL 1 and APL 2.

The World Bank partners and LVBC staff, especially the Regional Project Management Team, provided technical support to the two Partner States to meet all conditions for approval of the APL 2.

About the author: Dr Mngodo is the Regional Project Coordinator for LVEMP II

Maritime Safety attracts Private Investors in Lake Victoria

By Vincent Hagono



Improved fish landing site at Ggaba in Uganda

Jointly with the private sector, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission has been working on a range of initiatives whose overall objective is improved maritime transport, safety and security for Lake Victoria. Apart from saving lives, the initiatives are based on the precincts that the environment for private investment around Lake Victoria will become attractive when the safety of navigation and security within the lake is improved.

The initiatives being coordinated by the Commission include: the operationalisation of the Lake Victoria Transport Act 2007 in July 2011 ensuring effective standardization, regulation and education; establishment of search and rescue (SAR) services for Lake Victoria comprising one emergency coordination centre and 16 SAR stations; survey of shipping lanes and production of updated navigation charts; installation of aids to navigation equipment; and implementation of the *Oil Spill Contingency Plan for Lake Victoria*. All these activities are at various stages of implementation and should all be completed by 2013 at a total cost of US\$ 13.8 million.

It is thought that a safer, secure and

cleaner waterway will bring confidence and stimulate investment in ship building and vessel surveying services to stipulated standards; encourage innovation for improvement and construction of stable fishing crafts and cargo/passenger vessels; reveal opportunities in planning, development and maintenance of lake transport infrastructure; and in new industries on the lake in the transport, tourism, water sport and leisure sectors.

As a case in point, the telecommunications infrastructure being put in place under the search and rescue services will be a link between the fish processing industry and the fishing communities on the islands and landing sites. It will pave the way for other services, like a payment platform, a premium SMS service on availability of fishing/safety gears (life jacket, nets, flotation devices) prices at major landing sites and dealers.

It is also expected that maintenance and operation of the equipment and infrastructure being installed will create jobs that are not directly related to the exploitation of lake resources and bring a diversification of the activities and opportunities on the lake shore and thus

contribute to socio-economic development and poverty alleviation within the Lake Victoria Basin.

It has been a challenge in the past to attract investment into Lake Victoria Basin as it was an area prone to incidents and accidents. With safer and secure waterway, transporters of cargo and passengers in the region will shift to this mode of transport as it is more economical and environmentally friendly. Modal share is likely to grow in the short term with the momentum generated by the improved safety accelerating this development to the future.

Lake Victoria Basin Commission is collaborating with maritime and communications regulatory authorities in the Partner States, the telecommunications industry and maritime transport operators, among others, to achieve the above-mentioned improvements in Maritime Safety and Security on Lake Victoria.

About the author: *Eng. Vincent Hagono is Project Coordinator, Maritime Communications and Safety on Lake Victoria Project*

Introducing LVBC Resource Centre

For scholars and researchers, the pain of looking for educational and academic materials on the Lake Victoria Basin will soon be a thing of the past. The Commission Secretariat is liaising with the EAC Partner States to identify and acquire information on the Lake Victoria Basin held by the various institutions with the aim of digitising it for the Resource Centre.

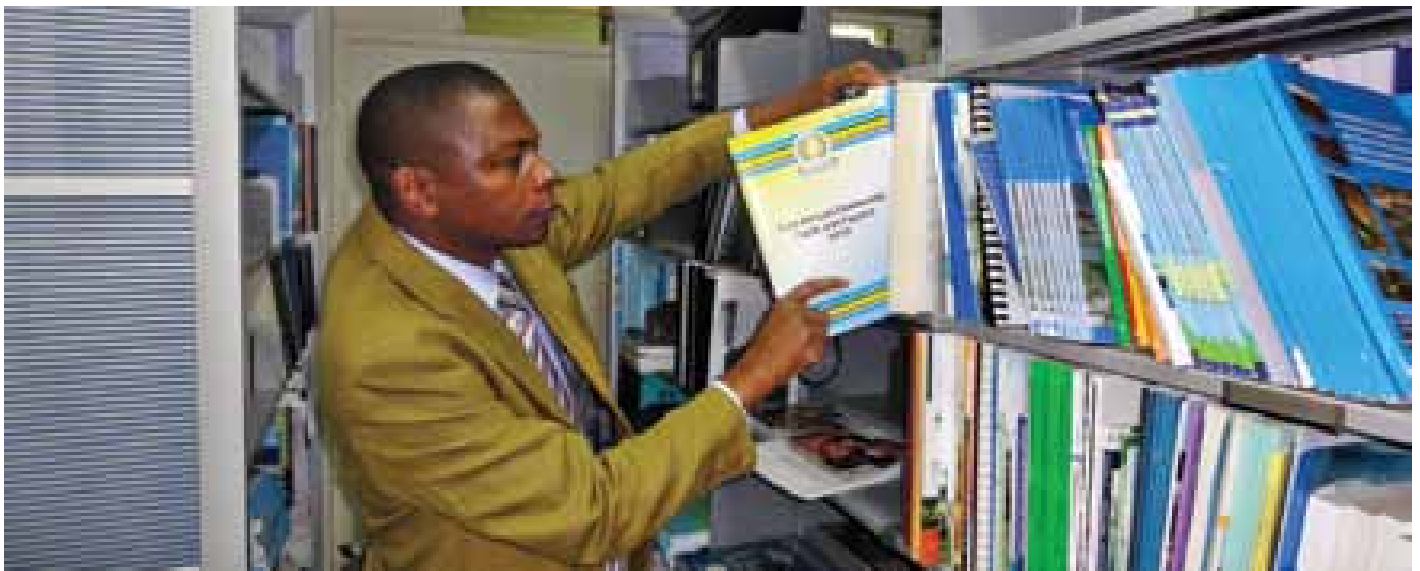
Currently, the Resource Centre allows easy access to information relating to the Lake Victoria and its Basin, aquatic biodiversity in LVB, publications and documents generated by LVBC, the EAC reports, and bibliographic data on Mount Elgon, amongst other information resources.

By setting up and digitising its Resource Centre, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) has positioned itself to be the oasis of knowledge on issues on Lake Victoria for researchers, scholars and students. The Commission's Resource Centre is gaining foothold by implementing a knowledge management system in which LVBC will capture, store and disseminate information about the Lake Victoria Basin.

All this initiatives are geared towards having a fully-fledged digital library that will enable researchers, scholars and students to access all information on the lake through logging into its website. This will open up information on Lake Victoria

to various researchers and institutions and allow for sharing of the information by various players.

The LVBC Librarian and Management Information Systems Officer, Ms Mary Waruguru Mwangi, says the Commission is also developing Data and Information Sharing Protocol through the support of the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project Phase II (LVEMP II). The Protocol, which will be finalised by November, 2011, will provide a framework that will guide data, information and knowledge sharing means among the EAC Partner States.



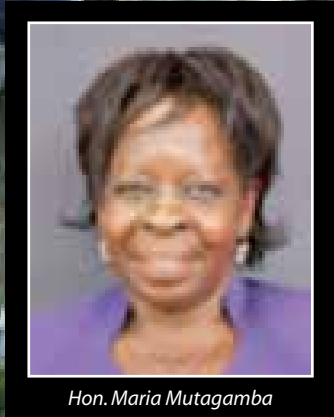
Part of the physical facilities in the Resource Centre.



The electronic resources are now also operational.



MERECP and Government of Uganda officials assess progress with one of the project beneficiaries



Hon. Maria Mutagamba

Hon. Maria Mutagamba visits MERECP Sites

On the 3rd of May 2011, Honorable Maria Mutagamba, Minister for Water and Environment, Uganda with the Members of the Board of Trustees of the National Forest Authority (NFA) visited Namatale Central Forest Reserve (NCFR).

Her entourage included Prof. Buyinza Mukadhasi, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and other three board members; namely: Mr. Posiano Besesa, Ms. Sarah Nkongwe, and Hon. Hon. Sheila Kawamara Mishambi. Accompanying the team were the Ag Executive Director NFA, Mr. James Ndimukulaga, Mr. Reuben Arinaitwe, the Range Manager Kyoga; and NFA field staff. The purpose of the visit was to witness how interventions under the Mount Elgon Regional Ecosystem Conservation Programme (MERECP) are contributing to resolving of conflicts in NCFR. MERECP is a programme of the East African Community implemented by the Governments of Kenya and Uganda and coordinated by the Lake Victoria Basin Commission Secretariat.

One of the long outstanding disputes between the local communities and protected area institutions is over the protected area boundaries in NCFR and Mount Elgon National Park, which has always been presented as a volatile political issue.

The bone of contention was that whereas the local communities living adjacent to these protected areas and political leadership recognized and advocated for the 1993 protected area boundaries, the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and NFA recognized the 2005 boundaries. This dispute, for instance, had led to increased tension where some 2ha of clonal eucalyptus that had been planted in Namatale CFR was uprooted and local communities demarcated and cultivated the area for agriculture.

The Honourable Minister for Water and Environment was briefed about MERECP's interventions that among others contribute to reduction of conflicts in conflict hotspots in protected areas within the Mt Elgon ecosystem. Further, programme interventions contribute to addition of value to on-going livelihood initiatives of the beneficiaries through community revolving funds (CRFs), plantation for livelihood improvement and forest rehabilitation/enrichment planting.

During her visit, the Minister addressed a meeting at Bunsbigubo comprising of 92 people drawn from three (3) Community Based Organizations (CBOs) from Tayaka Elderly Women & Youth Farm Project; Mayenze Youth & Women United Association; Namatale Youth & Women

United Association; and Bunyafa Forestry Conservation Association.

Local Community Based Organizations presented their views to the Minister where among others they enumerated and appreciated the support by MERECP through the three approaches and especially with the CRFs where the fund has greatly helped them to facilitate on-going livelihood initiatives and thereby contributing to poverty eradication. Further, the Minister was informed of the benefits to local including training on revolving fund management and microfinance, tree nursery and plantation establishment; and seedlings for planting. They pledged to work with NFA to replant the disputed boundary area and also requested for an extension of MERECP to allow other community members to benefit from the programme.

In her communication, the Honorable Minister, thanked the beneficiary community members for actively promoting the MERECP activities particularly the tree planting for livelihood improvement. She encouraged them to continue with the spirit of working together. She appreciated the fact that conflicts were reducing and that they were moving away from the coercive means of resolving the conflicts.

International Year of Forests (2011): Charcoal production is fast endangering East African's forests



A herd of animals makes picturesque crossing of the Mara River. Unsustainable Charcoal production is a major threat to entire ecosystems in Lake Victoria Basin.

The United Nations proclaimed 2011 as the International Year of Forests (Forests 2011) as a way to help promote awareness of the critical role that forests play, not least as the source of food security and livelihoods for more than 1.6 billion people globally. Forests are major sources of woodfuel (firewood and charcoal) especially for domestic use.

Charcoal production is one of the main drivers of deforestation and land degradation in East Africa (Government of Kenya, 2010, United Republic of Tanzania, 2010 & Government of Uganda, 2011), with consequences on livelihoods through its effect on key sectors like water supply (forests water catchments), agriculture (loss of top soils) and on other ecosystem services in the both the short - and long run.

The International Year of Forests raises an urgent need for all responsible citizens to review and think of what we can do to make the charcoal production chain more sustainable and especially in East Africa. In this way we can comfortably claim to have contributed to the International Year of Forests even if one is in an urban area, since we are heavily dependent on charcoal and other forms of biomass as a source of domestic energy. Indirectly we will also have contributed to addressing the degradation that come with charcoal production.

Charcoal production and forest degradation According to UNEP (2011), forest degradation and deforestation account for nearly 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Broadly, there are three main sources of forest degradation: commercial logging, fires, and gathering

wood for fuel. Insects and pests also cause considerable forest degradation. For example, at the beginning of the 20th Century, Uganda's tropical high forests covered 3,090,000 ha or 12% of the country's area. Over the years, the forests have been gradually cleared and today estimates indicate reduction to about 730,000 ha, which is only 3% of Uganda's area (NEMA - Uganda, 2009).

For East Africa, degradation (the loss of quality of the forests, rather than coverage) manifests itself prominently in the need to meet the insatiable, growing demand for fuel wood and charcoal. For many urban areas, charcoal is an important energy source, vital for the daily household activities of the poorest people. In addition, it was estimated that in Uganda, 1.6 million m³ of wood fuel would be needed annually for the steel industry alone (Uganda National Forestry Authority, 2005) which would be equivalent to 4,000 – 5,000 ha of energy plantations per year, corresponding to an investment of Ug shs 6 billion (USD 3.3 million annually).

But already, in Uganda, the high demand for firewood and charcoal is the main source of degradation. According to NEMA - Uganda (2008), for the period of ten years from 1996/7 to 2005/6, the value of household charcoal consumption has increased by more than 100%, attributable to larger consumption volumes and higher prices which two factors together, contribute to rapid forest depletion.

This drastic rise can actually be higher than

100% today given the growing urban population that demands charcoal every day. Moreover, according to Green Resources, current charcoal production methods are highly inefficient providing only 10-15% yields.

Looking at the charcoal production process, in addition to the above inefficiencies, it results in loss of future trees as the burning, trampling on them occurs, while other forms of life and life support systems (biodiversity) just vanish due to forest clearance (which is a habitat and source of food for birds, and other innumerable animals).

The reduced forest cover is in turn raising more complex challenges related to erosion as a result of the increasingly erratic rains that in turn reinforce poverty and vulnerability in many parts of East Africa. For example, the deforestation ring expanding around Dar es Salaam has had the outer boundary of the charcoal production area having moved 30 km between 1991 and 2005 at a rate of 2 km per year (Salla, 2011).

Tree owners on private land

According to IRDI, in Uganda, though charcoal production and trading provides an immediate employment opportunity to the youth who have no access to land, and are unskilled and unemployed, most of the charcoal which is produced is from natural forests. 70% of such trees are found on private land where government has limited control on land use and tree harvesting.

Though there was a preference to particular tree

species for their quality charcoal, increasingly this is dying out as trees become scarce due to the high demand in the fast growing urban areas. In the end, even fruit trees like mangoes or are not spared. This might leave many private lands bare exposing it to erosion, given the sporadic rains that we increasingly receive.

Towards a more sustainable approach

As we observe 2011 as the International Year of Forests we need to ponder over some crucial questions with respect to the future of charcoal production in East Africa: How we make charcoal production a viable and sustainable income generating activity; what interventions can be taken up in a holistic manner to address the bigger energy demand, while securing economic growth and poverty reduction? What technology is available to contain the 'demand' at the local levels where charcoal production takes place?

The **land tenure over forests** should be more

clarified and made more reliable for owners so that they take over the risk to make a long-term investment by replanting trees.

In addition, **forest extension work** by Government agencies, NGOs and Private entities for private forest owners and charcoal producers, should be scaled up so as to address the looming crisis that could eventually affect food productivity in charcoal producing areas.

Related to the above, **increased public and private investment in forest management** and reduced degradation is needed, through a wide range of incentives for private land owners, as they hold a bulk of Uganda's forest estate.

Technology transfer in this direction seems to be taking place, though it is yet to be felt in many areas of demand (traditional earth pits produce approximately 15% charcoal from raw biomass). For example, Green Resources AS are

going to help install modern, energy efficient (35 -40%), and methane-free charcoal kilns that are capable of producing 7,500 tonnes of sustainable charcoal a year, enough to supply 9,000 households. With the kilns, the project intends to more than double the efficiency of traditional charcoal production, meaning that less biomass is required to make the same amount of charcoal. In addition, certification / standards need to be put in place to encourage sustainable charcoal production.

Implementation of forest related laws and policies should be driving all intentions and deeds. The rampant abuse of laws regarding forests and other nature reserves results in continued decimation of the remaining forest estate. The relevant authorities need to act unreservedly.

About the author: Richard Kimbowa is the Programme Manager, Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development

Benefitting from carbon finance in Kagera

By Flavius Rwelamira

My name is Faustine Kashaija (Kikoni Hamlet, Nyakayanja Village, Nyaishozi Ward, Karagwe District in Kagera region) and I came to know Vi Agroforestry in 2006 when the organisation brought an advisory field officer to our area. In 2008 the project selected our village (Nyakayanja) to start implementing the project "Emiti nibwo Bulora" which means "Trees sustain life". The project follows the Plan Vivo voluntary carbon standard.

The field officer sensitized farmers on how to practice agroforestry and which trees to plant where in order to both benefit ourselves through various non-timber tree products as well as mitigate carbon dioxide emissions and other greenhouse gases. We were told that climate change is a critical issue worldwide due to man activities like deforestation, industrial gases etc. Further, we were told that through Vi Agroforestry, would pay an incentive to farmers so as to enable them plant many trees and manage them until they reach maturity. The idea of planting trees in such a system was very new in my life and then I decided to try it!

After joining the project, a field officer came to survey my land and gave me technical skills on how to plant trees according to the specific measurements. I planted about 239

trees in an area of 0.6 hectare intercropped with bananas and cassava. According to carbon technical specifications, I was told that these trees could sequester 80 tonnes of carbon dioxide during their lifespan.

Apart from other benefits from trees such as timber and fuel wood, I'm happy that I'm also supporting carbon initiatives for climate change adaptation.

We were told that incentives would be paid in 5 installments within a period of ten years, and this year I managed to meet the criteria for first payments. I got about 144,000 Tanzania shilling. The money enabled me to maintain the existing farm and plant more trees in the next planting season. We were 23 farmers in this pilot area but only 14 farmers received the first



Mr. Faustine Kashaija (pictured) is one of the farmers benefitting from carbon finance. Today, in the Plan Vivo area of the Kagera region, about 230 farmers have signed agreement for payment for ecosystem services (PES) and additional 600 farmers has been registered for the carbon finance project (Photo by Flavius Rwelamira)

payments. The other nine farmers had not managed to meet the required criteria for seedling's survival rate in order to qualify for payments.

Many farmers have been encouraged and they are interested in "Emiti nibwo Bulora". We expect more farmers to join the project this year.

About the author: Flavius Rwelamira is the Capacity Building Officer at Vi-Agroforestry in Kagera, Tanzania

New Executive Secretary takes charge at LVBC



Dr. Kanangire is welcomed by Captain Kwila Nkwama on board LVBC's research vessel, RV Jumuiya, during his second day at work as Executive Secretary.

Dr. Canisius Kabungo KANANGIRE from the Republic of Rwanda is from 1st June 2011, the Executive Secretary of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission. He replaced its first Executive Secretary, Dr. Tom Okia OKURUT from the Republic of Uganda, whose tenure of office ended on 30th April 2011.

Born on 25th September 1960, Dr. Kanangire holds a PhD in Aquatic Sciences from Facultes Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix (FUNDP), Namur, Belgium, attained in 2001. He specialised in Lake Ecology, Aquaculture and Wetlands Management.

He also holds an MSc in Freshwater Ecology from the same university. Besides his illustrious academic depth, Dr Kanangire has brought to the Lake Victoria Basin

Commission (LVBC) a wealth of professional experience and skills in leadership, management and diplomacy, especially in the areas of institutional strengthening and management of academic and research institutions as well as river basin organisations.

Prior to joining LVBC, Dr. Kanangire was the Head of Strategic Planning and Management at the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and the Manager of the NBI Institutional Strengthening Project (ISP), a three-and-a-half year basin-wide project aiming at transforming the NBI, from its current status as a transitional institution to a well- and technically-focused permanent river basin organisation.

The Executive Secretary speaks excellent English, French, Swahili and Kinyarwanda.



Dr Canisius Kanangire takes oath in Arusha, Tanzania.

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

LAKE VICTORIA BASIN COMMISSION SECRETARIAT



Vision

A prosperous population living in a healthy and sustainably managed environment providing equitable opportunities and benefits

Mission

To promote, facilitate and coordinate activities of different actors towards sustainable development and poverty eradication of the Lake Victoria Basin

JUMUIYA YA AFRIKA MASHARIKI