



**African Water Facility**  
**Facilité africaine de l'eau**

*Mobilising Resources for Water in Africa*  
*Mobiliser des ressources pour l'eau en Afrique*




AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

## PROJECT BRIEF

### **KENYA:**

# LAKE VICTORIA BASIN COMMISSION WATER AND SANITATION INITIATIVE – LWATSAN PHASE I EXPANSION

## Preparation of Investment Plan for Fifteen Centers



*"We've seen more families connected to water. This has touched lives of women positively. They used to have problems carrying water jerricans from the river up the hill; now they have more time to engage in other activities."*

**Lucy Waheto**, *Gusii Water & Sanitation Company*  
Commercial Manager

## The LWATSAN Expansion project

The rapidly growing secondary towns in Lake Victoria Basin play an increasingly important role in the economic development of the region. Nevertheless, this unplanned and spontaneous growth poses a serious threat to the sustainability of these towns and jeopardise the fragile ecosystem of Lake Victoria.

These secondary towns within the basin represent roughly 300 settlements, ranging in size from 5,000 to over 50,000 people. The most vulnerable and poor populations living in the urban and peri-urban areas are the most affected by the water and sanitation problems, as they remain outside the reach of municipal services.

This project was an expansion of the LWATSAN Phase I, which was implemented through cooperative agreements

between UN-Habitat and 3 member states of the East African Community (EAC), namely Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. Originally the Water and Sanitation Initiative (WSI) focused on 10 towns in the Lake Victoria Basin. The current project expanded these activities to 3 towns in each of the 5 EAC member states, for a total of 15 additional urban centres. The project aimed to identify short- and long-term needs of the selected 15 high priority secondary towns in Lake Victoria Basin in terms of water supply and sanitation services, but also taking into consideration the ecological demands of the lake and its tributaries.

Subsequently, integrated packages of short and long-term interventions were prepared, including water supply, sanitation improvements, solid waste management, drainage improvements in key areas, as well as capacity building and training. The project also provided short- and long-term investment solutions for financing, with the collaboration of regional Governments and external support agencies.

## LVWATSAN Phase I Expansion

**Project Code:** P-Z1-EAZ-014

**Grant Number:** 5600155001301

**Approval Date:** 3rd August 2008

**Closing Date:** 31st March 2011

**Total Budget:** EUR 994,000

**AWF Funding Amount:** EUR 717,576

### Additional funding from:

Additional 4,500 Euro funding from the East African Community (EAC)

### Implementing partners:

- Recipient of the grant: East African Community (EAC)
- Executing Agency: Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)

### Other Stakeholders:

- United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN Habitat)
- Participating states ministries

responsible for water supply and sanitation

- Lake Victoria Region Local Authorities

### Selected Urban Centers:

- Uganda: Mayuge, Ntungamo and the cluster of Bukakata, Kayabwe & Buwama
- Rwanda: Nyagatare, Kayonza, Nyanza
- Burundi: Muyinga, Kayanza, Ngozi
- Kenya: Kericho, Keroka, Isebania
- Tanzania: Geita, Sengerema, Nansio



## Impacts and Solutions

This preparation for investment stage of the LVWATSAN Phase I extension was highly effective in achieving the planned outcomes. It resulted in appropriate designs and in an investment plan within the agreed financial limits which could be carried forward in the subsequent implementation project (LVWATSAN Phase II).

**The most directly effective solutions** in terms of the ultimate target beneficiaries and reduction of pollution of waterways were found to be:

- The improvement and **extension of distribution systems** with standpipes within 200 m of properties.
- The promotion, technical support, and revolving fund for **improved on-site sanitation**.
- **Latrine emptying and collection, transport, and treatment of faecal sludge**.
- Improvement of **solid waste management** including skips, tractors, and landfills.
- **Capacity building** within the towns, including technical activities like reduction of unaccounted for water.

Some of the most direct and visible achievements produced by the end of 2018 in the **subsequent implementation stage** (Phase II), included:

- 5 water treatment plants rehabilitated in Kenya and Tanzania.
- 88 public toilets constructed in the 5 EAC member states.
- 423.4 km of new water pipe have been constructed.
- 1190 water connections have been made.
- 2562 peers and facilitators were trained in hygiene and sanitation.

## Key Challenges

**More attention should be provided to the alignment of project objectives with all involved stakeholders requirements**, namely national and international policy objectives, policy objectives of funding agencies, needs of beneficiaries, etc. Misalignment might lead to ambiguity and a less relevant project focus.

**Financial sustainability**, namely willingness and ability to pay for improved services, **should be taken into consideration as early as possible in project formulation to avoid raising unreasonable expectations** within concerned stakeholders and communities.

It was found that the **investment programme should not only cover the required infrastructures but also the investment approach and its phasing**. Equity considerations i.e., pro-poor approaches, must also be taken into account.

**Regional projects such as this should allow substantial time for negotiating agreements** on the approach and specific interventions to be included.

*“By providing sewerage to more than 500 households, people are happy. The level of cleanliness and hygiene has come-up, it has increased opportunities in employment like maintenance of the sewerage system and business in Kericho.”*

Paul Chepkwony, Kericho County Governor

## Key Lessons

- **Negotiating consensus on immediate needs amongst all stakeholders was a major challenge, but was successful**, with the numbers and diverse interests of the stakeholders and the large scope of possible works.
- An environmental and social assessment was undertaken including consideration of adverse and positive impacts and proposals for future studies to ensure that interventions are formulated, constructed, and operated in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner. **It was found that the selected solutions should not have severe adverse effects and there should be “enormous” positive impacts on households and a positive impact on pollution.**
- Participation in the **Regional Project Steering Committee established a regional network among national stakeholders which encouraged exchange of experience and could drive best practice.**
- Surface water solutions are relatively expensive for small towns. It was advised for **subsequent projects to consider whether some economies of scale could be achieved by selecting a cluster of nearby towns in each country**, which could potentially be served by one water source, shared water treatment infrastructures, etc.
- **A performance monitoring and evaluation and reporting framework was proposed and was successfully used** as the basis of further development in the implementation stage.



*“You can see 15 out of 150 towns is like a drop in the ocean, so we need to do more. We need to scale-up this project and include other towns within the Lake Victoria Basin. That will be a very big contribution to the region.”*

Isaac Nyarwaya, LVBC Acting Executive Secretary

## Recommended actions

This preparation of investment of the project phase I expansion, identified the following key recommendations to ensure the sustainability of subsequent actions:

The very positive results obtained from the subsequent implementation of phase II showed that **LVWATSAN needs to be urgently scaled-up to include other urban centers within the Lake Victoria Basin.**

Future TORs should include **analysis of how planned interventions contribute to relevant objectives and the needs of beneficiaries**, such as poor women, men, and children, and this **should also be considered in the consultation processes during the project.**

In future similar projects, both the TOR and the Steering Group discussions should include more focus on issues like feasibility studies of options and financial viability, cost, and revenue projections, and **consider how best to achieve longer term sustainability from operational, financial, institutional, and environmental perspectives.**

The Appraisal Report and TOR for regional projects such as this should **allow substantial time for negotiating agreements on the approach and specific interventions to be included.** Also, the **objectives, criteria and maximum total cost of an investment plan needs to be agreed as early as possible in project formulation**, whether from a financial sustainability or investment point of view, to facilitate negotiated agreement on priorities.

Government policies and appropriate institutional arrangements for cost recovery should be investigated in more detail in the formulation of future projects, including comparison of options. **Detailed study of cost recovery options should be carried out in subsequent phases of the LVWATSAN.**



### Other related Project Resource

East African Community - Lake Victoria Basin Commission Water and Sanitation Initiative - Preparation of Investment Plan for Fifteen Centres, Appraisal Report and Study Terms of Reference. November 2007. AWF.

Lake Victoria WATSAN, Project Completion Report Submitted by the Grant Recipient. April 2010. AWF.

Lake Victoria WATSAN, Project Completion Report. September 2013. AWF.

<https://projectsportal.afdb.org/dataportal/VProject/show/P-Z1-EAZ-014>



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