

**LAKE REGION ECONOMIC BLOC
(LREB)**

**BLUE ECONOMY INITIATIVES IN
INLAND WATERS**

A Case of Lake Victoria Basin

By

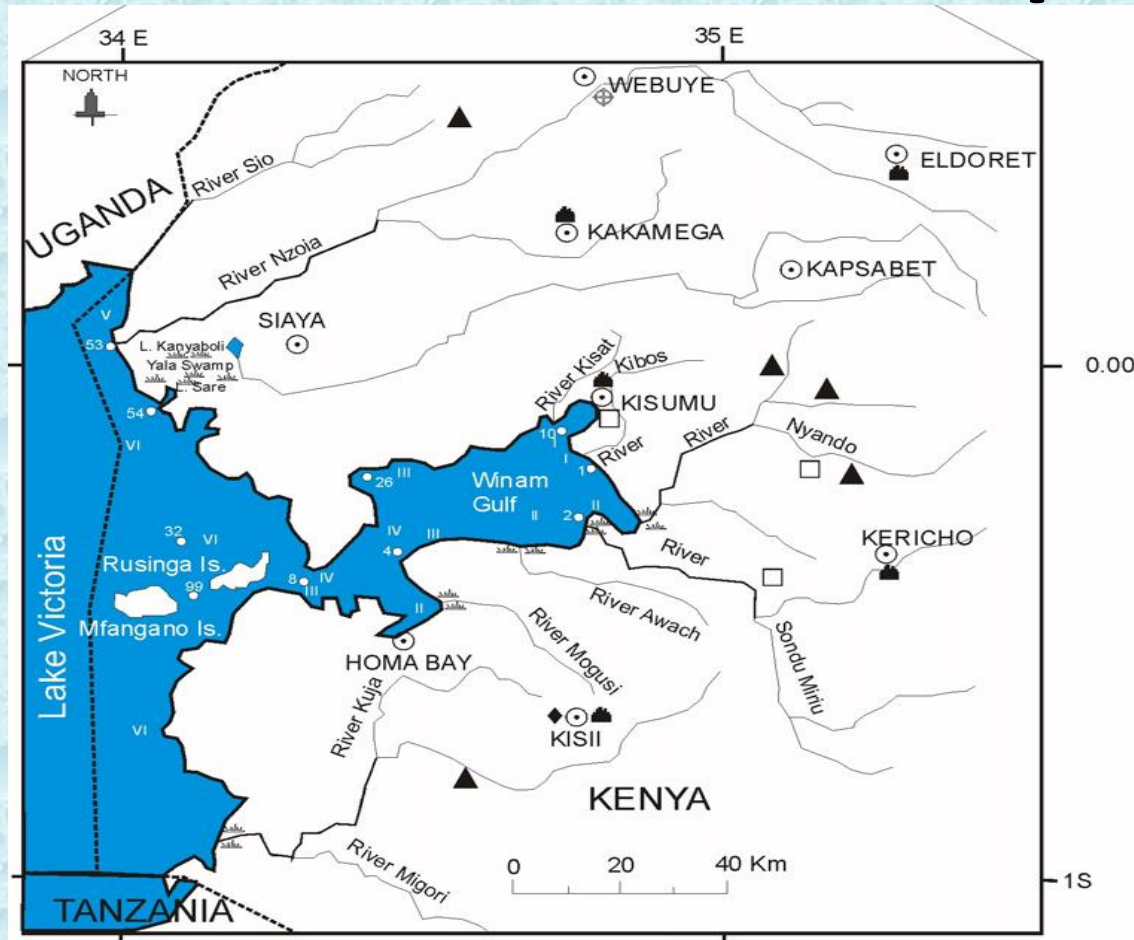
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Definition of Blue Economy

- “The “blue economy” concept seeks to promote economic growth, social inclusion, and the preservation or improvement of livelihoods while at the same time ensuring environmental sustainability of the ocean’s coastal areas and the **inland water bodies.**”
- The Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB) Blue Economy scope therefore covers **Lake Victoria basin in Kenya** and the **six major rivers** that flow therein.

Lake Victoria Basin Map



The six major rivers include: **Sio-Malakisi, Nzoia and Yala;**
Nyando, Sondu-Miriu and Kuja.

Lake Victoria Basin Map

LREB Member Counties



LAKE VICTORIA REGION

Bomet, Bungoma, Busia, Homa Bay, Kakamega, Kericho, Kisii, Kisumu, Migori, Nandi, Nyamira, Siaya, Trans Nzoia, Vihiga, Uasin Gishu, are fully covered.

West Pokot, Elgeyo Marakwet and Nakuru are partially covered.

INTRODUCTION

- The National Government agencies operating within the Lake Victoria Basin have teamed up with 14 County Governments (Kisumu, Homa Bay, Migori, Siaya, Kericho, Nyamira, Kisii, Nandi, Kakamega, Vihiga, Busia, Bungoma, Trans Nzoia, Bomet) in the Lake Region to collaborate on sustainable utilization of shared resources within the lake region with Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB) and Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) as lead agencies.
- The Multi-Agency Collaboration Framework touches on eight (8) key areas of Blue Economy. These include:

Cross-Border Maritime Communication and Transport

- Developing communication systems in the lake and conducting hydrographical surveys and bringing in a regional perspective to Cross-Border Maritime Communication and Transport to cover the countries around the Lake Victoria basin.
- There is need to connect ports in Kenya to other East African ports by eexpanding the economic zone in Kisumu. This will lead to making Jinja, Entebbe, Mwanza and Bukoba active.
- Lead Agencies here include LREB, Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA), Kenya Coast Guard Service (KCGS) and Kenya Shipyards Limited.
- The National Government is continuously working in the region including building ships from scratch, establishing the Lake Victoria Ring Road and rehabilitating piers in Homa Bay County.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure and Value Addition

- **Rehabilitation of fish landing sites Infrastructure;** making efforts to reduce fish post-harvest losses by constructing fish landing infrastructures in Luanda K 'Otieno and Sori which are now operational and Mulukhoba where construction is still ongoing.
- **Omena Sun Drying Racks;** an integration of an extensive project for the utilization of raised fish drying racks, which will ensure a higher level of productivity around Lake Victoria Beach Management Units to improve fish processing methods, reduce contamination and eventually reduce postharvest losses and quality of the final product.
- **Kabonyo Fisheries and Aquaculture Service and Training Center of Excellence-(KFASTCE);** The project entails development of infrastructure for aquaculture production, building capacity in fish farming, applied research for development of efficient and sustainable aquaculture production, establishment of a quarantine facility for biosecurity and promote Agri-tourism in the Lake Victoria region.

Aquatic Ecosystem, Conservation, Protection and Management

- Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) has promoted climate interventions aimed at improving the lives of people in the Region.
- The Commission has secured USB 25 billion from development partners towards sustainable management of Lake Victoria and is working in partnership with LREB and other organizations in the lake's East Africa-wide basin.
- LREB in collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is participating in the **Sio-Malaba-Malakisi Basin Investment Plan** and intends to move into **Mara River Basin Investment Plan**.
- LREB, with technical support from Gatsby Africa, a UK Charity has embarked on Lake Victoria Spatial Planning.

Environmental Conservation, Climate Change, Mitigation and Adaptation

- LREB through member counties is facilitating the implementation of various programs aimed at increasing tree cover, soil conservation, protection of water towers and riverbank protection; and sustainable water supply. These programs include tree seedling production, community sensitization and tree planting.
- Participating Agencies within the Multi-Agency Collaboration Framework include Lake Basin Development Authority (LBDA), Kenya Forest Service (KFS), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), and Water Resources Authority (WRA)

Environmental Conservation, Climate Change, Mitigation and Adaptation *Cont'd.*

- LREB through the member counties intends to establish Riverine Nature Conservancies along the Region's six main rivers riparian reserves to reduce silting downstream.
- LLREB in collaboration with the an Indian-based solar company intends to put up a floating 3000MW solar power generation facility on Lake Kanyaboli in Siaya County to facilitate the Region's green energy uptake.

Infrastructure Transport Network Development

- The importance of an Integrated Infrastructure Network within and around Lake Victoria is to aid and support sustainable development in the private sectors and expand services in the existing industries and new industries being developed.
- Kisumu port provides a gateway of access to East African States markets via Lake Victoria in promoting regional integration through trade, transport, and tourism services.

Infrastructure Transport Network Development *cont'd*

- Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) is to develop small feeder ports and rehabilitate landing jetties in Homa-Bay, Kendu-Bay, Asembo Bay and Mihuru-Bay, with a consideration of building a modern landing site in Mbita at a suitable site.
- Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) has constructed and operationalized Kisumu Oil Jetty for facilitating transportation of petroleum products through the lake to Uganda.
- Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) has developed Lake Victoria Multinational Maritime Transport and Communication system that covers the three East African States (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania).
- Kenya Railways Corporation (KRC) , Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) and Kenya Shipyards Limited (KSL) have built and operationalized ***MV Uhuru I*** with construction of ***MV Uhuru II*** near completion.

Infrastructure Transport Network Development *cont'd*

- Kenya National Highways Authority (KenHA) is developing a ring-road around Lake Victoria that will connect all the five riparian counties.
- LREB in collaboration with an Indian Railway Company is carrying out feasibility studies to develop a light railway network that will connect various towns around the lake with Kisumu City. This is anticipated to compliment the Kenya Railway Corporation (KRC) run metre-gauge railway network.

Cross-cutting Issues

- **Peace and Security**

- LREB, in partnership with Kenya Coastguard Service and Kenya Maritime Authority is enhancing peace and security on the Lake.

- **Research, Training and Capacity-Building**

- Various institutions of higher learning and research centres such as: Moi University, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science & Technology (JOOUST), Tom Mboya University and Kenya Fisheries and Marine research Institute among others are actively participating by introducing Blue Economy related courses in their curriculum.

Conclusion

- With the goodwill from both National and LREB member county Governments, as well as interest by State Agencies on the ground; and with support from development partners, LREB hopes to make In-land Blue Economy a leading contributor to the National Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

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