

Name of Partnership/Initiative:**PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE LAKE VICTORIA BASIN****Background:**

Lake Victoria is the world's second largest freshwater lake. More than 30 million inhabitants live in its catchment area in East Africa. The Lake Victoria Basin has enormous natural resource potential that has not been fully tapped. The three Partner States of the East African Community have designated this Basin as an economic growth zone that has to be exploited in a sustainable manner.

The East African Community (EAC) and the Governments of Sweden, France and Norway, the World Bank and the East African Development Bank (EADB) have entered into a long term Partnership on the promotion of sustainable development of the Lake Victoria Basin. The Partnership will be guided by visions and strategies to be developed as part of ongoing Programmes. The partnership was entered into on the recognition that:

- the Lake Victoria Basin, with its abundance of natural resources, has the potential of becoming a prosperous region
- a majority of the people in the Basin live in abject poverty
- environmental degradation in the Basin is escalating
- the potential of the Basin cannot be sustainably developed unless problems related to environmental degradation, deepening poverty and poor health standards are addressed in a broad and coordinated manner.

An important source of inspiration to the above Partnership has been the arrangements established since 1994 between the states surrounding the Baltic Sea.

Date of Initiation:

24th April 2001 when a Partnership Agreement was signed. It should be noted that the Partnership is inclusive and builds on a process orientation aimed at creating an enabling environment for sustainable development, where elements or components are added or subtracted over time. New elements are currently being initiated. A more detailed description of these projects will follow below.

Expected date of completion:

Year 2020.

Partners Involved:

Governments in the Lake Victoria region: Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Governments outside the region: France, Norway and Sweden.

Intergovernmental international/regional organizations domiciled in the region:

East African Community

East African Development Bank

Intergovernmental international organization outside the region:

The World Bank

Other:

The Partnership is open for other governments and organizations to join.

The partners may co-operate to achieve objectives identical or similar to the ones in this Partnership through other mechanisms. The other intergovernmental/international arrangements that exist and with a focus on activities related to the sustainable development in the region include:

- (i) The Lake Victoria Environment Management Project (LVEMP). This is a 5 year project developed and implemented under a Tripartite Agreement was signed in 1994 between the Governments of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda and IDA/GEF for the development of a comprehensive and holistic regional programme aimed at the rehabilitation of the lake ecosystem. Preparations are under way for the second phase of this project. The government of Norway through the World Bank has provided funds for development of a Shared Vision and Development Strategy to be used as a basin for the second phase
- (ii) The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI); this is an initiative involving ten countries, which share the Nile established for the purpose of achieving sustainable socio-economic development through the equitable utilization of the common Nile basin resources. The countries seek to realize the objective through a Strategic Action Programme, comprising basin-wide projects, as well as through sub-basin joint investment projects. A number of these sub-basin projects are located in the Lake Victoria Basin. The World Bank and a number of donors, including Norway and Sweden, participate in the financing of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), and its sub-basin window, Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP)
- (iii) The Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO); this is an institution of the East African Community that is specifically

responsible for promoting proper management and optimum utilization of the Fishery resources of the Lake Victoria.

In addition to these intergovernmental/international partnerships some other partnerships for the sustainable development of the Lake Victoria region are currently being initiated:

- Between the cities and municipalities around Lake Victoria through their joint organization Lake Victoria Region Local Authorities Cooperation (LVRLAC) assisted by the Union of Baltic Cities
- Between the private sectors around the Lake organized in the East African Business Council and assisted by sister organizations from Development Partner States
- Between the Universities around the Lake under the leadership of the Inter-University Council of East Africa in collaboration with the Baltic University Programme
- Between Community-based Organizations and Non-governmental Organizations at the Lake Basin, which have formed a joint organization called Ecovic

Leading Partner:

For the Region:

East African Community through its Secretariat

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Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative:

In the Partnership Agreement between EAC and the Development Partners the following objectives are set out:

- To exploit the opportunities for development in the Lake Victoria Basin in a sustainable manner and address the present problems relating to economic and social development, poverty and environment
- To identify and investigate specific aspects of threats and obstacles to sustainable, economic, social and environmental development, and their underlying causes and propose relevant interventions
- To assist in the formulation of policies to guide the various actors involved with activities relevant to sustainable development in the region
- To build capacity through the development and strengthening of local institutions and organizations concerned with these issues
- To promote co-ordination of the development efforts undertaken by various authorities, institutions and bodies established within EAC with an interest in supporting the developments in the Lake Victoria Basin
- To provide consultative fora and focal points for various actors with an interest in the developments in the Basin
- To broaden the co-operation between EAC, the EAC member states and donor agencies
- To identify investment opportunities and work to create a climate conducive to investments
- To mobilize resources for the implementation of identified Programmes
- To promote the involvement of a broad spectrum of actors in the development process

Relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with objectives of Agenda 21

The Initiative covers most Chapters of Agenda 21. More specifically the following Chapters and Programme Areas are being addressed through the arrangements and commitments of the Partnership:

Chapter 3: Combating poverty: Enabling the poor to achieve sustainable livelihood

Chapter 7: Promoting sustainable human settlement development:
Promoting sustainable land use planning and management;
Promoting the integrated provision of environmental infrastructure: water, sanitation, drainage and solid-waste management; Promoting human resource development and capacity-building for human settlement development

Chapter 8: Integrating Environment and development in decision-making:
Integrating environment and development at the policy, planning and management levels; providing an effective legal and regulatory framework;

- Chapter 10:* Integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources;
- Chapter 11:* Combating deforestation: Sustaining the multiple roles and functions of all types of forests, forest lands and woodlands; Enhancing the protection, sustainable management and conservation of all forests, and the greening of degraded areas, through forest rehabilitation, afforestation, reforestation and other rehabilitative means;
- Chapter 14:* Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development: Ensuring people's participation and promoting human resource development for sustainable agriculture; Improving farm production and farming systems through diversification of farm and non-farm employment and infrastructure development; Land-resource planning information and education for agriculture; Land conservation and rehabilitation; Water for sustainable food production and sustainable rural development;
- Chapter 15:* Conservation of biological diversity; Integrate strategies for the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources into national development strategies and/or plans; Promote broader international and regional cooperation in furthering scientific and economic understanding of the importance of biodiversity and its functions in ecosystems
- Chapter 16:* Environmentally sound management of biotechnology: Increasing the availability of food, feed and renewable raw materials; Improving human health; Enhancing protection of the environment;
- Chapter 18:* Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources: Application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources; Protection of water resources, water quality and aquatic ecosystems; Drinking-water supply and sanitation; Water and sustainable urban development; Water for sustainable food production and rural development;
- Chapter 21:* Environmentally sound management of solid wastes and sewerage related issues
- Chapter 24:* Action for women towards sustainable and equitable development
- Chapter 25:* Children and youth in sustainable development
- Chapter 27:* Strengthening the role of non-governmental organizations as partners for sustainable development
- Chapter 28:* Local authorities' initiatives in support of Agenda 21
- Chapter 30:* Strengthening the role of business and industry: Promoting cleaner production; Promoting responsible entrepreneurship;

- Chapter 31.* Scientific and technological community: Improving communication and cooperation among the scientific and technological community, decision makers and the public;
- Chapter 32:* Strengthening the role of farmers
- Chapter 33* Financial resources and mechanisms
- Chapter 34:* Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building
- Chapter 35:* Science for sustainable development; building up scientific capacity and capability
- Chapter 36:* Promoting education, public awareness and training
- Chapter 38:* International institutional arrangements

Relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the relevant goals and objectives of the UN Millenium Declaration

The relationship is strongest with the following Goals:

- Goal 1:* Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people, whose income is less than \$1 a day; Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people, who suffer from hunger
- Goal 6:* Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases: Have halted by 2015 and the spread of HIV/AIDS have begun to reverse
- Goal 7:* Ensure environmental sustainability: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and program and reverse the loss of environmental resources; Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water;
- Goal 8:* Develop a global partnership for development

Expected results

The Partnership is expected to achieve results in most of the following areas of intervention, which are broadly in line with EAC Lake Victoria Development Programme:

- Sustainable urban development
- Rural Water, Sanitation and Health
- Land Use Management
- Water Resources Management
- Fisheries Development
- Agriculture, Livestock and Forestry Development
- Improved Food Security
- Communications, Infrastructure (including energy) and IT
- Promotion of Investments in industry and other sectors, including tourism
- Entrepreneurship Development
- Higher Education and Research

- Democratic Governance
- Information and Media

Detailed indicators shall be worked out through the Vision Development Programme that has just commenced.

Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement

The Partnership is evolving and specific objectives and targets will be developed on the basis of the Vision Development Programme, which will be finalized early 2003 and an ensuing preparation of a comprehensive Development Strategy Development for the sustainable development of the Lake Victoria basin, which will substantiate and provide time frames for some of the broad objectives set out above.

The EAC Development Strategy: 2001 – 2005, which acts as an umbrella for the Vision and Strategy Development Programmes, provides further for the establishment of an institutional and legal framework that will co-ordinate the regional aspects of the different actors and interest groups in the Lake Victoria Basin based on the outcome of a study on legal and institutional arrangements for the sustainable development of the Lake Victoria Basin. This institutional framework is now in place through the establishment of a Unit for Lake Victoria development Programme at the EAC Secretariat and a Policy Advisory body.

Co-ordination and Implementation Mechanism

A Partnership Consultative Committee is established under this partnership for purposes of implementing its objectives. It is comprised of representatives EAC, the EAC Partner States, the Development Partners and Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization. The Committee meets regularly with a view to guiding the process to develop a vision and strategy for the sustainable development of the Lake Victoria Basin and to co-ordinate the implementation of such strategies as well as the implementation of the general objectives of the Partnership.

Arrangements for funding

A Partnership Fund is established under the Partnership Agreement, to which partners are encouraged to provide funds in support of the Programmes and activities identified under the Partnership/Initiative. In addition international partners will make other financing arrangements to support activities by EAC and the national governments as well as local authorities, CBOs and NGOs, the universities etc.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer

Capacity building is and will be an important component in the support to the EAC Secretariat as well as to the national governments and national and local actors being the ones which, in accordance with the subsidiarity principle, are expected to assume the responsibility to identify and implement development activities. The Partnership will offer research possibilities, which will be important instruments for capacity building as well as for technology transfer. In addition, technology is expected to be transferred through participation of the private sector actors such as the East African Business Council.

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level

In addition to the NBI and LVEMP programs mentioned in the section of Partners involved, there are other international NGOs, which also focus on Lake Victoria and have a collaborative linkage with EAC. For example, IUCN, through the Regional Office in Nairobi has developed a substantial programme focusing on the reasons for the decline of the fisheries in Lake Victoria as well as on issues related to biodiversity, forestry and environmental journalism. IUCN has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with EAC for co-operation in various areas. WWF-Regional Office Nairobi and ICRAF also have some collaborative arrangements with the EAC for activities in the Lake Victoria Region.

Monitoring Arrangements

The Partnership Consultative Committee is the main instrument for the monitoring the implementation of the Partnership. It meets twice a year, alternatively at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania and at the lake region. The EAC Secretariat has its own web-site (www.eachq.org). Resulting from the development of a communications strategy, it is expected that the web-site will be improved further and include specific information on the Partnership/Initiative.

Other relevant information

- The Partnership is open and inclusive. New signatories to the Partnership Agreement are welcome and are encouraged to join. The only requirements are that potential partners accede to the main objectives set out in the Partnership Agreement as stated above and that existing partners to the agreement give their consent to the accession.
- The Partnership mechanisms of co-operation between various existing international and regional initiatives that are active in the Lake Basin are

being established with the Partnership and the Lake Victoria Development Programme.

- Under the umbrella of the Partnership Agreement good possibilities of mobilizing actors to set up their own partnerships exist. As mentioned earlier such partnerships are being developed in the fields of cities and municipalities, private sector, universities and research co-operation and civil society collaboration
- All actors will share one vision of how to address poverty reduction and issues related to sustainable development in the region. The vision will be developed using highly participatory methods. It is expected that the vision will form a substantial input into the development of a comprehensive strategy for the region.

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