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The EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund supports the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation project



Gaba Offshore Pipeline

With a surface area of 68,800 square kilometres, Lake Victoria is the second largest lake on the planet, after Lake Superior in North America. It is shared by three countries, namely Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania and further drains parts of Rwanda and Burundi. The Lake is the most important trans-boundary natural resource on the African continent and the sole source of water supply for communities living on its shores. Every year hundreds of thousands of people come from throughout the region, and live in informal settlements, in the hope of finding a job in a factory, fisheries or tourism.

Consequently the population in the Lake zone has risen exponentially at 7 times the African average, and is still growing. Towns have emerged spontaneously without any real planning or adequate water or sanitation treatment infrastructure. As a result, millions of people now have to struggle for drinking water and survival every day, even though they live close to cubic kilometres of freshwater. This chaotic situation is placing intense pressure on the Lake and causing the ecosystem to deteriorate. Profound action to counter this development is needed urgently.

In 2010 the European Investment Bank (EIB), the French development agency

(AFD) and the German Development Bank (KfW) decided to pool their lending resources and expertise, together with grant support from the **EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund (ITF)**, in order to tackle the pollution of the Lake. The only way to make a real long-term impact was to help broach the problem globally and promote a sense of common ownership from all sides of the Lake. Working closely with the United Nations and the governments of the East African Community, the three institutions decided to concentrate on the water infrastructure of the three largest towns on the Lake: Kampala, the Ugandan capital; Mwanza and nearby communities in Tanzania; and Kisumu in Kenya.

Each will play the Lead Financier role on one project, while still being able to draw on others for specific skills. The EIB will be leading on Tanzania while AFD will be responsible for the Kenyan project. In Uganda, the works have already started, under KfW's lead, to upgrade the rundown water network and existing water treatment plants. The overall objective of the projects is to improve the health situation of the people living in the Lake zone, by increasing both the supply of affordable drinking water and reducing the risk of waterborne disease.



ITF support

Kampala (Uganda)

The ITF is supporting the Kampala project with two grants, a technical assistance grant of EUR 8 million for expert services to the National Water and Sewerage Corporation and an interest rate subsidy of EUR 14 million for subsidising AFD's loan to the project.

Mwanza (Tanzania)

The Mwanza project will also benefit from two ITF grants, one of EUR 7 million to support a technical assistance for the Water Supply and Sanitation Authorities and the other an interest rate subsidy of EUR 10.7 million for the EIB loan financing to reduce the financial cost borne by the Government of Tanzania.

Kisumu (Kenya)

The Kisumu project is still in the pipeline for future ITF support.

Project: LVWATSAN - MWANZA - Tanzania



Map of Lake Victoria, the subject of the LVWATSAN framework



Informal settlements in Mwanza on inaccessible terrain



Lake Victoria is regarded as the most important transboundary natural resource on the African Continent and the 2nd largest fresh water body in the world. The need to manage this resource and the activities which impinge on its environmental sustainability as regional public goods has emerged as one of the key developmental challenges in East and northern Africa. It is suffering multiple pressures from rapid population growth and economic uses.

LVWATSAN – Mwanza is the Tanzanian component of scaling up LVWATSAN to the large towns on Lake Victoria in Uganda (Kampala), Tanzania (Mwanza) and Kenya (Kisumu). LVWATSAN is headed by the Lake Victoria Basin Commission under the East Africa Community.

EIB has been leading on preparations for scaling up to the large towns.

Water and Sanitation investments in 6 Tanzanian towns on the shores of Lake Victoria

