The role of LVBC in the EAC developmental and integration agenda

STAP/GEF/OAS workshop
11-12 June 2013, Washington, DC

Dr Canisius Kanangire
EAC/Lake Victoria Basin Commission
Values of LV and its Basin

1. Largest inland water and fishing sanctuary
2. Major inland water transport linkage
3. Source of water—domestic, industrial and commercial
4. Reservoir for hydropower generation
5. Major climate modulator in the region
6. High Biodiversity reservoir
7. Tourist attraction sites
8. Minerals – Gold and Diamonds
9. Population
Lake Victoria and its basin

1. Lake Victoria (LV) is the single most important shared and treasured resource that defines the EAC

2. LV is one of the main focal areas of cooperation among the three Partner states of EAC

3. LV Basin is designated as a “Regional Economic Growth Zone” to be exploited jointly
LVB main challenges and issues

1. Changing Water Quality
2. Biodiversity Decline esp. fish
3. Emergence of water hyacinth
4. Pollution loading (urban & municipal)
5. High deforestation rates (illegal & legal)
7. Catchment degradation (poor agric practices)
8. Drainage of critical wetlands
9. Silt loading into the Lake
10. Dropping Water Levels (recent development)
Degradation of natural resources
Challenges: overfishing and pollution

- OFFLOADING FISH – NOTICE THE BLUE GREEN ALGAE
Lake Victoria Basin Commission:
Legal perspectives

- The Treaty for the establishment of the EAC of 1999, Chapter 19, Article 114, 2(b), iv provided for the LVBC set up

- The Protocol for Sustainable Development of Lake Victoria Basin Under Article 33 & 34 of the provides for the establishment of Lake Victoria Basin Commission as an institution of the East African Community
Lake Victoria Basin Commission

- An institution of EAC established through a Protocol
- Mandate: coordinate sustainable development in LVB in line with the provisions of the Protocol
- Objectives is to promote:
  - Equitable economic growth
  - Measures aimed at eradicating poverty
  - Sustainable management of Natural Resources
  - Environmental protection
  - Compliance to safety of navigation
- Governed by a Sectoral Council of Ministers for LVB
Scope of LVBC mandate

Population

Water quantity & water balance

Land, forests & wetland degradation

Biodiversity & fisheries

Land productivity

Water quality & Pollution

Social & economic status
Areas of Cooperation

- Sustainable development and management of water resources and fisheries;
- Promotion of sustainable agricultural and land use practices and forestry;
- Trade, commerce and development of industry;
- Development of infrastructure and energy;
- Maintenance of navigational security and safety;

Areas of Cooperation

- Improvement in public health;
- Promotion of research, capacity building and information exchange;
- Environmental protection and management of the Basin;
- Promotion of public participation in planning and decision making.
GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

- Civil Society/Private Sector
- LVBC Secretariat
- National Focal Point Office
- Donor Consultative Group
- Sectoral Committees
- Coordination Committee
- Sectoral Council of Ministers
- EAC Council of Ministers
- EAC Summit

LVBC
GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

• Operationally, under Article 34 of the Protocol the Structure is:
  • Sectoral Council
  • Coordination Committee
  • Sectoral Committees
  • Secretariat of the Commission

• The functions of each of the above are detailed in Articles 35 – 42 of the Protocol

• Seat of the Commission: Kisumu, Kenya
# Projects and Programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project &amp; Programme</th>
<th>Focus</th>
<th>Dev. Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LVEMPII</td>
<td>NRM, Environment Degradation, Pollution, Invasive Weeds (Lotic &amp; Lentic)</td>
<td>WB, GEF, SIDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MERECP</td>
<td>Biodiversity, Livelihoods (Lotic)</td>
<td>Norway, Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EALP</td>
<td>Partnership in HIV/AID Control</td>
<td>Sweden, USAID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRB-BHH</td>
<td>Biodiversity &amp; Human Health</td>
<td>USAID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFP</td>
<td>Catalytic Projects on Sustainable Dev.</td>
<td>Sweden, Finland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVWATSAN</td>
<td>Water Supply &amp; Sanitation</td>
<td>AfDB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSNP</td>
<td>Hydrographic Survey, MSCLV, Oil Spill Contingency Plan, Piracy</td>
<td>SIDA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Main Challenges – still

1. Many stakeholders with diverse interests
2. Several programmes and projects are being implemented independently
3. Efforts duplication (lack of synergies)
4. Weak legal and Institutional frameworks to regulate the resource utilization
5. Weak enforcement of existing laws
6. High expectations: Increasing call for tangible results
CONCLUSION

- Increased acceptance of LVBC as a relevant player in EAC socio-economic development and integration process
- Increasing political support and sustained financial support from partner states
- The Commission benefits a lot from being part of a (vibrant) REC
- Need for more responsiveness to expectations (regional coordination, resource mobilisation, regional planning, regional policy development and harmonisation, Knowledge and information mgt, ...)