

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
LAKE VICTORIA BASIN COMMISSION



JOINTLY WITH THE LEAD PARTNERS INTERAGENCY NETWORK FORUM
(LPIANF)



UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



2ND ANNUAL LAKE VICTORIA BASIN STAKEHOLDERS FORUM

CELEBRATING 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EAST AFRICAN
COMMUNITY

“STRENGTHENING SYNERGIES AND COOPERATION IN SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN LVB”

27th – 28th October 2009

KISUMU DECLARATION

We, the participants of the 2nd Annual Lake Victoria Basin Stakeholders Forum held at Tom Mboya Labour College, Kisumu Kenya, 27th-28th October, 2009:

While;

1. Recognizing that the five Partner States of the East African Community have a shared heritage and a common interest in Lake Victoria and its Basin and their commitment to ensure proper management and sustainability of its

resources for the benefit of present and future generations; and noting that the Partner States have adopted and ratified the Protocol for Sustainable Development of the Lake Victoria Basin (LVB);

2. Cognizant that the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community committed Partner States to agree to take concerted measures to foster cooperation in the joint and efficient management and sustainable utilization of natural resources within the community; and noting that the Treaty is community centered;
3. Conscious of the need to strengthen cooperation amongst actors propelled by a renewed confidence, interest and commitment amongst Lead Agencies in the LVB to forge closer ties and harness synergies under the Lead Partners Interagency Network Forum;
4. Conscious of the fact that human and ecosystem vulnerabilities in the LVB have been accentuated by the emerging threats of climate change coupled with low uptake of best practices in IWRM;
5. Acknowledging that the natural resource endowment and economic potential of the LVB remains largely untapped due to failure by states to provide conducive environments for public-private partnerships thereby accentuating poverty amongst the basin communities;
6. Informed that the lake resources are in danger of irreparable damage as a result of increasing trends of urbanization with attendant proliferation of slums perpetuated by planning regimes that do not harmonize local, national and regional ecosystem values, and the need to recognize slums as essential parts of cities, and therefore deserving better infrastructure as a human right;
7. Recognizing that despite the presence of formal institutions and governance systems at various levels with mandate to discharge and translate regional policies in the LVB into action at respective levels, disharmonies exist perpetuated by piecemeal approaches to dealing with sustainable development matters;
8. Recognizing that the process of harmonization of laws, policies and regulations is a slow, evolving process and largely hinged on political will and confidence building at

multiple levels; and noting that these processes may have overlooked and indeed underestimated what can be achieved by invoking the existing legislative frameworks in diverse sectors;

9. Cognizant of the fact that HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis, Bilharzia and other public health related diseases are prevalent in communities in the basin and that the poverty reduction efforts and sustainable resources use are undermined through increased cost of providing health care, loss of skilled labour, loss of women's productive time and general loss in productivity of the communities in the basin;
10. Committed to continued regional cooperation with respect to the harnessing synergies for sustainable utilization of Lake Victoria Basin and its resources;

NOW urge the East African Community and partner states to take measures for:

1. Putting in place formal instruments which can be enacted by the East African Legislative Assembly(EALA) for the effective management of trans-boundary resources and ecosystems in the EAC Partner States;
2. Creation of local cooperation which is recognized and does not depend on official channels but spreads mandates to local level institutions, local communities and districts including formulation of by-laws at local level to deal with specific environmental or natural issues;
3. Promotion of cooperation, harmonized and coordinated actions between and amongst the relevant stakeholders in the management of trans-boundary ecosystems; including policy, legal and regulatory instruments; and introduction of uniform practices, through making of appropriate subsidiary legislation where appropriate;
4. Supporting institutions in the Partner States whose mandate includes the management of ecosystems/resources that straddle the international boundaries of two or more countries to identify what

policies and laws need to be harmonized and make recommendations to their respective governments;

5. Supporting interagency cooperation to pursue common goal of strengthening effective stakeholder participation and information exchange in the various interventions launched by organizations in the LVB
6. Enforcement of laws to protect the resources from abusive harvest and destructive extraction; and promotion of synergies in combating insecurity and enhancing safety in Lake Victoria;
7. Encouraging governments support and ensuring the generation, sharing and dissemination of data and research information to guide management of the LVB resources at local, national and regional level; including infrastructure and human resource capacity; and management of HIV/AIDS and other public health related diseases such as bilharzias, malaria and across various sectors to build synergies with the health sector on advocacy and policy strategy for mobile populations;
8. Promoting the culture of saving and investment amongst LVB communities through building their capacity in financial management and investment as well as providing facilities for credit through micro-finance service providers;
9. Establishing and implementing sustainable funding mechanisms for investment in infrastructure, agricultural development, value adding micro-enterprises and all economic sectors in the LVB;
10. Encouraging the use of ICT in sharing information to improve marketing systems, management and trade;
11. Encouraging the efficient and cost effective utilization of natural resources and value addition by processing at source;
12. Support regional partnership framework for coordinating and streamlining national efforts for

adaptation and mitigation of climate change in the LVB;

13. Providing funding and basic infrastructure for the informal settlements as a human right;
14. Creating financing mechanisms to fund applied and basic research;
15. Enhancing capacity of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission to fully implement the Protocol for Sustainable Development of the Lake Victoria Basin.

**Tom Mboya Labour College
Kisumu, Kenya
28th October 2009**