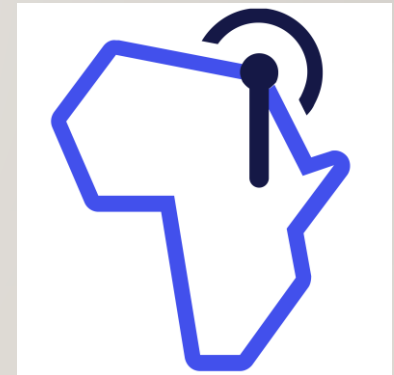


THE STATUS OF EAST AFRICA'S LAKE ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY: CHALLENGES OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS TO THEIR CONSERVATION

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INTRODUCTION

- East African lakes and their resources play a key role in the neighboring countries economies.
- Lake Victoria a case in point and its catchment provide 90 percent of Uganda's hydropower, hydropower for Burundi and Rwanda, and water supply for major urban centers like Kampala, Kigali, Mwanza, and Kisumu.
- East African lakes' fisheries support more than 5 million livelihoods and bring in over \$1000 million in revenues annually.
- The lakes depend mainly on river inflows and are rich in fisheries some endemic but the abundance, diversity and distribution decline is evident.

LAKE VICTORIA



FISHING SLOWED DOWN



LAKE JIPE



LAKE BARINGO AND LAKE KIJANEBAROLA



SMALL WATER BODIES



CHALLENGES

- Climate change
- Growing populations
- Increased demand for protein
- Unregulated agricultural practices
- Increased demand for wood
- Introduction of alien species

DECLINING VEGETATION COVER



DISJOINTED BMU OPERATIONS

- Conflict of interest among BMU leaderships has resulted in disorganization on fish landing and general resource utilization.



ILLEGAL FISHING GEAR



THREATS



LOSS OF INVESTMENTS, COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS AND FISH BREEDING SITES



AQUACULTURE MASS MORTALITIES AND CAPTURE FISHERIES SPECIES DIVERSITY AND ABUNDANCE DECLINE



EMERGING DISEASES



POOR WATER QUALITY, ZOOPLANKTON & PHYTOPLANKTON COMMUNITIES DIVERSITY REDUCED



WATER RESOURCE CONFLICTS



OPPORTUNITIES

- Enhanced literacy among highland and lakeside communities on landscape conservation
- Avenues on Key Biodiversity Areas awareness creation have grown with digital platforms
- Learning institutions form a rich biodiversity conservation awareness ground
- Frameworks and policies review and implementation strategies have great room for enhancement
- Enhance local management networks, promote innovative projects and shared plans to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services towards climate change resilience
- Appreciate and exploit indigenous approaches to conservation as was in the past

