



NEWSLETTER

N°1 - FEB 2021

# LATAWAMA

GESTION DES EAUX DU LAC TANGANYIKA

## LAKE TANGANYIKA WATER MANAGEMENT

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# EDITORIAL



Dear all,

The year 2020 is now behind us. So, before letting you dive into this first quarterly Newsletter of the LATAWAMA project, we take this opportunity to wish you a happy new year.

The LATAWAMA «Lake Tanganyika Water Management» project is funded by the European Union and its implementation was entrusted with the Belgian Development Agency, Enabel, and the Lake Tanganyika Authority.

The project's objective is to contribute to a better management and preservation of the Lake Tanganyika's water quality.

In this perspective, two major tools are under development: "Lake Tanganyika Water Portal" and "Lake Tanganyika Water Monitoring Network".



These tools will enable the development of a database and a WebGis on the water quality. Data will be collected by 4 regional specialized laboratories, that will be rehabilitated and equipped.

Indeed, it is essential to provide reliable data in order to contribute to the strategic decision-making that will guarantee the future of the lake, its biodiversity and usages.

In this first edition, we present the first steps taken towards the development of these tools, which are the core of the LATAWAMA project.

Moreover, considering the pollution of the lake due to the increasing urbanisation, the project will also cover several pollution-control activities.

Effective solid waste management and improved wastewater treatment capacity in the cities of Bujumbura, Uvira, Kigoma, Rusizi and Mpulungu are the priorities.

Furthermore, to support these initiatives, communication and awareness activities, as well as the development of new channels will be developed.

Taking into account the current context of the Covid-19 pandemic, the project is currently being implemented in Burundi, Zambia, DRC and Tanzania.

The project encompasses the entire watershed of the Lake Tanganyika, and therefore includes the Rusizi River and Lake Kivu, which are tributaries of the lake and located in Rwanda and RDC.

LATAWAMA represents a first step in reducing pollution and maintaining the Lake Tanganyika's water quality. Indeed, this lake is a world heritage, whose biodiversity and water resources gave it its status of "worldwide treasure to be protected".

**Didier CADELLI**

Intervention Manager

# FOCUS



## ***Solid waste management in Kigoma: a multi-faceted problem and specific solutions***

The city of Kigoma (Tanzania) has an active municipal solid waste management service. Basic equipment and infrastructure to collect, store and transport generated municipal solid waste are already in place. The city is also served by a sanitary landfill for final disposal.

However, the service still faces some constraints and challenges: low service coverage, insufficient equipment for pre-collection and storage, low financial mobilisation, inadequate organisational and operational capacities of Kigoma Authorities and Community-based Organizations (CBOs).

## ***And concretely, in 2020...***

In 2020, despite the difficulties related to the Covid-19 pandemic, the solid waste management activities were jointly reviewed with the Municipality of Kigoma in accordance with the adopted principles.

Indeed, the project carried out a technical audit of the solid waste management service and several working sessions. A study trip to Dar es Salaam and Mwanza was organized to analyse different experiences in terms of sorting, composting and waste recovery. This activity also gave the opportunity to better identify the required organisational capacities of the CBOs, in order to be more involved.

The purchase of new containers, the repair of solid waste collection trucks, the equipment of CBOs of pre-collection tools, the IT and office equipment of the department in charge of solid waste management service are the first achievements of the project.

2021 will see the deployment of local consultancy missions which purpose will be to guarantee the proper organisational support of the municipal waste management service and CBOs. Moreover, the challenges of the year will be to design and implement a composting pilot plant as well as to establish a plastic-waste management system.



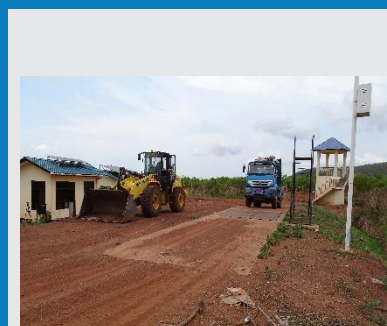
*Organic waste at Kigoma's markets*



*One of the waste collection points in Kigoma*

## **Guiding principles to improve the solid waste management service in Kigoma:**

- Increase service coverage
- Reinforce operators' management capabilities
- Introduce circular economy principles (using yesterday's waste as tomorrow's resource)
- Organise awareness and public education campaigns



**Kigoma's Landfill**

# PERSPECTIVES

## Lake's water qualitative monitoring at the heart of the project

Lake Tanganyika requires a coordinated and systematic monitoring of its qualitative and quantitative state. Indeed, the Lake is exposed to many but still marginally quantified threats: urban, domestic and agricultural pollution, sediment inputs related to soil erosion, pollution related to navigation, plastic wastes, etc. These threats are undoubtedly jeopardizing the biodiversity and the fishery resources of the lake, and they have a great impact on its noble uses, such as drinking water.

These degradation phenomena go along with the impacts due to climate change and its consequences on the water level. Effects on riparian populations, infrastructure and biodiversity also need to be taken into consideration.

The implementation of the water quality monitoring network is the main objective of the project. Indeed, it aims at providing essential environmental data to managers and policymakers.

## For the first time, a coordinated monitoring network at the lake's level!

In 2021, "Lake Tanganyika Water Monitoring Network", the network of water quality monitoring laboratories, and "Lake Tanganyika Water Portal", the tool for managing and disseminating validated qualitative data, will be operational.

These tools will foster collaboration between the Lake Tanganyika Authority and the four water quality monitoring laboratories (OBPE, Bujumbura, Burundi – TAFIRI, Kigoma, Tanzania – Uvira, Hydrobiological Research Centre, DRC and Lake Tanganyika Research Unit, Mpulungu, Zambia).

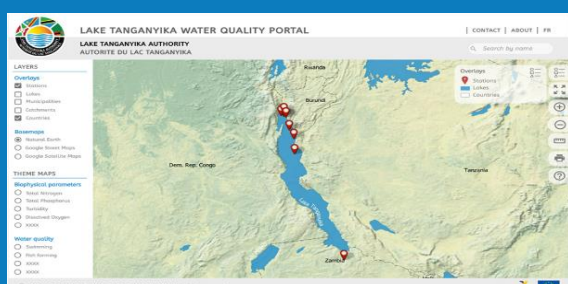
These laboratories will be rehabilitated and then equipped with appropriate sampling and analysis equipment, in order to guarantee physico-chemical, microbiological and biological analyses.



Moreover, the training of the laboratories' staff and the operationalisation of the information-sharing tools will come next on the agenda.

A monitoring plan will be developed, based on a list of sampling points located in the territorial waters of the 4 countries. These sampling points will be representative of both reference and altered conditions, due to the impacts of human activities.

2021, a challenging year for the operationalisation of the monitoring network, ... and for the rehabilitation, equipment and functioning of laboratories.



# TESTIMONIES

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The EU-funded LATAWAMA project is based on two key-principles for the EU: the environmental protection and the transboundary cooperation. The strong rise of the lake since last year (and its devastating consequences) reminds us of the importance of co-managing shared water resources in the region, as well as the need for adequate regulations in terms of urban planning.

The LATAWAMA project supports the joint and sustainable management of shared resources between countries. Promoting the membership of the four riparian countries to the UNECE Convention (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) on the protection and use of international transboundary lakes remains crucial. The UNECE Convention provides, among others, measures on monitoring, research, warning and alarm systems as well as mutual assistance necessary for the sustainable management of the lake.

Claude BOCHU, Ambassador - Head of Delegation, European Union Burundi

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The Lake Tanganyika Water Management project, LATAWAMA, is making remarkable progress. One of its interventions is the establishment of a water quality monitoring system for Lake Tanganyika. Indeed, all the riparian countries will establish a network to monitor the Lake Tanganyika's water quality. However, during the first months of implementation of the project, another phenomenon arose: the consistent rise of the lake, which has not been witnessed since 1964.

While the LATAWAMA project deals with water quality, this phenomenon should also be taken into account since it is also a source of pollution. Moreover, it is a destructive phenomenon, as everyone may know. This is the reason why Lake Tanganyika Authority has started the formulation of a regional quantitative monitoring project for Lake Tanganyika, in collaboration with the LATAWAMA project and the four riparian countries. In order to guarantee the quality of the project proposal, the expertise of both the riparian countries and the international community is needed. Once developed, this project will be submitted for validation to the 4 riparian countries that signed the Lake Tanganyika Convention.

Gabriel HAKIZIMANA, Regional Director for the Environment/LTA



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The sludge drying beds of the Buterere wastewater treatment plant are no longer operational. Thanks to the LATAWAMA project, we have the opportunity to rehabilitate them in order to improve the efficiency of the water treatment ponds. The project will even support the treatment plant's laboratory through analytical equipment and reagents. This will allow us to better understand the wastewater quality before and after treatment.

A wastewater treatment plant consisting of anaerobic ponds produces sludge deposits that need to be regularly removed. If the volume of sludge becomes significant, the time spent by wastewaters in the ponds is reduced. This affects the wastewater treatment, since the retention time in the ponds decreases and bacteria lack time to treat organic matters. For this reason, it is crucial to periodically remove the sludge from the ponds, and place it in the drying beds, where it is treated to reduce its volume and, possibly, reused.

Gordien NGENDAKUMANA, Coordinator of former Setemu/OBUHA

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