



NEWSLETTER

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LATAWAMA

GESTION DES EAUX DU LAC TANGANYIKA

LAKE TANGANYIKA WATER MANAGEMENT

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EDITORIAL



Dear Readers,

Reaching the end of this third quarter of the year 2021, which has been rich in activities, the LATAWAMA project shares with you the last updates on current actions being led on the field, whose ultimate objective is to preserve the waters' quality of the Lake Tanganyika.

Indeed, to achieve one of the project's key outcomes, which is the establishment of the Lake Tanganyika water quality monitoring network, the premises of the Hydrobiology Research Centre of Uvira, in DRC and the Lake Tanganyika Research Unit of Mpulungu, in Zambia are undergoing rehabilitation.

The environmental monitoring activities of these two laboratories will integrate two tools that are currently being developed: the "Lake Tanganyika Water Monitoring Network" and the "Lake Tanganyika Water portal".

In Kigoma, Tanzania, the optimization of the pre-collection and waste collection chains is underway. The study phases on "Composting" and "Plastic Management" components, which are essential in waste reduction, are planned.

A communication and awareness-raising plan will support these actions.

In Bujumbura, Burundi, the project has just launched the second phase of rehabilitation of drying beds and is studying sludge pumping solutions, which will significantly improve the operation of the wastewater treatment plant of Buterere.

The city of Mpulungu, in Zambia is preparing to host an important event called "Mpulungu free-plastic day".

This event aims to contribute to the disposal of plastic waste in the environment and to initiate a strategy for managing plastic waste based on circular economy.

As all Contracting States to the Tanganyika Lake Convention face the dramatic consequences of the rising waters of the Lake Tanganyika, the LATAWAMA project is drafting a technical proposal to establish an integrated Lake level monitoring network for the Lake Tanganyika and its components.

The LATAWAMA project invests in better quantitative and qualitative management of the Lake Tanganyika.

Didier CADELLI
Intervention Manager



FOCUS



Uvira Hydrobiology Research Centre

Uvira Hydrobiology Research Centre undergoing rehabilitation, a prerequisite for the participation in Tanganyika Lake Water Monitoring Network

The establishment of the Hydrobiology Research Centre (CRH) dates back to 1948, at the time when the administrative and technical buildings, houses for expatriate researchers and workers' camps were constructed.

This construction was completed in 1949. The Centre was officially inaugurated on the 26th of May 1950 as the first research centre of the former IRSAC, the Institute of Scientific Research in Central Africa, an interdisciplinary institution created by Belgium.

The "Lake Biodiversity Project" did substantial work between 1998 and 2000. Since then, the centre has never been subject to significant rehabilitation.

Its current state is no longer in line with research and environmental monitoring tasks. Significant structural and compliance works are more than necessary.

Then, the structure, the roof, the ceilings, the electricity, the plumbing, the sanitary, the exterior and interior paints will be rehabilitated.

The laboratories will be brought up to standards and equipped with additional analytical equipments to monitor water quality parameters.

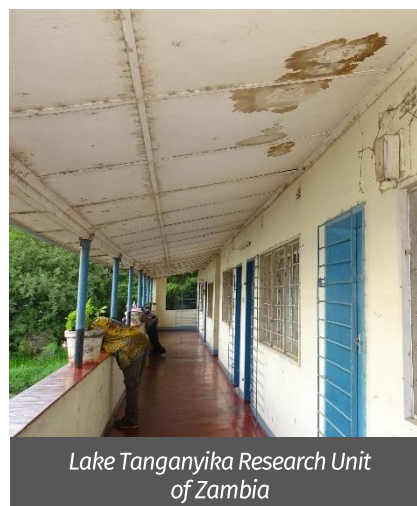
Therefore, this rehabilitation will enable the CRH to be placed in optimal technical conditions to integrate the monitoring network and position itself as a key player in the scientific development and environmental management of the Lake's ecosystems and waters.

Mpulungu's Lake Tanganyika research Unit is getting a new look for the Lake Tanganyika water quality monitoring

In Mpulungu, Zambia, the Lake Tanganyika Research Unit is the Zambian partner of the monitoring network, collaborating with the Water Resources Management Authority. The building and laboratories are being restructured, modernized, and equipped with analytical equipment, enabling Zambia to be fully integrated into the monitoring network.



Hydrobiology Research Centre of Uvira, DRC



Lake Tanganyika Research Unit of Zambia

The monitoring network will therefore include the four following laboratories:

- ❑ Burundian Office for Environmental Protection, Bujumbura, Burundi;
- ❑ Tanzanian Fisheries Research Institute, Kigoma, Tanzania;
- ❑ Lake Tanganyika Research Unit, Mpulungu, Zambia;
- ❑ Hydrobiology Research Centre, Uvira, DRC.

The implementation of an Integrated Water Resources Management policy cannot be done without data validation on qualitative water monitoring. These data are also essential for policy makers, research institutes, managers and necessary to understand issues related to climate change, biodiversity conservation and fisheries activities. The laboratories' compliance was therefore a prerequisite for the success of this objective.



Hydrobiology Research Centre of Uvira, DRC

PERSPECTIVES

Communication as an integral part of LATAWAMA project's actions

In Kigoma, Tanzania, actions to improve the waste collection chain and to strengthen key stakeholders have been initiated. Other approaches such as waste sorting at source, circular economy, and composting will also be introduced.

To ensure success and sustainability, a communication and visibility plan has been developed with the full participation of various stakeholders such as the Municipality of Kigoma and the European Union Delegation. This plan is designed around strategies known as social mobilization and communication for behavioural change.

To be effective, the development of the plan has focused on the identification of targeted audiences to better adapt the messages, but also on the actions and communication materials to design.

Then, communication actions are grouped according to the broadcast channels that will be used. For each type of action, the following elements have been specified: format and tone, priority audiences, specific key messages, communication objectives specific to the action, frequency envisaged, dissemination relays, monitoring and performance indicators.

The development of this plan was a participatory process involving several partners. It provides elements to find solutions on the issues identified in this city in terms of solid waste management.

All communication and visibility actions will be implemented in accordance with the current EU guidelines on "Communication and visibility of EU-funded external actions".

Communication is therefore an integral part of the LATAWAMA project, whose actions ultimately aim to contribute to the preservation of the Lake Tanganyika's water quality.

The first actions are planned to be implemented before the end of this year.



Plastic waste on the shoreline of Lake Tanganyika



The team in charge of hygiene and sanitation in Kigoma with the «intervention officer» in charge of communication for LATAWAMA project

The first edition of "Mpulungu Free-plastic Day" planned this year

"Mpulungu Free-plastic Day" is also a new initiative, co-organized by the LATAWAMA project and the Mpulungu district. This activity aims to make the city free of plastic waste and remind the general public of the importance of efficient plastic waste management to preserve the Lake Tanganyika.

Community-based organizations already existing in the city will be involved in the collection of plastic waste in the areas of the Lake and of the city. The plastic waste collected will enable to estimate the type and quantity of plastic waste polluting the environment. The LATAWAMA project plans to carry out this activity every year on September 18th, coinciding with the World clean-up day.



TESTIMONIES



Mr. Kiza MUHATO, Mayor of Uvira

The town of Uvira, located along the Lake Tanganyika, is one of the Lake Tanganyika Water Management project's response areas. While the project has started its activities in this city, Mr. Kiza MUHATO, Mayor of Uvira, expressed himself to give his first impressions on the actions carried out by the Project. He talked to Rodrigue NIYONGABO, intervention officer in charge of communication for LATAWAMA project.

What are the strengths and areas that need improvement in solid waste management in this city?

Uvira is a city located 30 km away from the Burundian economic capital, Bujumbura. Uvira is a young city, since it has reached its status of city from only two years. It faces challenges, especially in terms of the environment and solid waste management. I can say that it lacks a solid waste management approach. Waste is dumped everywhere and mismanaged. When we saw this project starting it was a relief. This project will help us to clean up the environment and will contribute to improve the wellbeing of the population. That is why we say that the LATAWAMA project funded by the European Union is a good project that came at the right time. We hope that, with the project, the waste that spreads will be managed effectively.

Indeed, one of the main actions of the LATAWAMA project in the city of Uvira will be the financing of the Solid Waste Management Master Plan development. What do you think about this activity?

In any organization, in any country, in any self-respecting company, the activity that has to start is planning. And this master plan is a tool that allows us to know where we are, where we are going to, how and with what means. Without this tool, I do not think we are going to succeed. This is an essential tool that will be done, even at the beginning of all the work. Waste management requires a master plan as a working tool.

The project will support other series of actions such as the renovation of the CRH for the Lake Tanganyika water monitoring network, the toilets of Uvira prison and rainwater collection. What is your first impression?

As a person born in Uvira, I have never seen this centre rebuilt. It means that it has aged and that it needs to be rehabilitated. We need a research centre, and if it is not equipped and rehabilitated, how can we do the research? It is a good idea to have a rehabilitated research centre. At the hospital level, medical waste is not managed effectively; it represents a danger. If there is a modern incinerator that manages waste, that is a good thing. At Uvira prison, I found that excreta is not well managed. The prisoners have to defecate in a bucket because of the absence of toilets. That is why we say that the project comes at the right time.

Awareness-raising and communication actions will also be initiated. What should we tell the population for a lasting behavioural change?

I think that if we want to have a well-sanitized city, we must first educate its population. There is human, material, and financial capital, but the population is the backbone of the system. I think we have to start by raising the awareness of the population in terms of waste management, to educate about the meaning of waste and its potential dangers if it is not managed properly.

As soon as the population learns and assimilates, we can properly manage the waste in the city of Uvira. The public must also be aware of the importance of this project. They need to know why and how the project is important, and to understand the need for solid waste management. That will enable them to understand and participate in it.