



NEWSLETTER

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LATAWAMA

LAKE TANGANYIKA WATER MANAGEMENT

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EDITORIAL



Dear readers,

Today, the environmental emergency hits the headlines worldwide, and will probably last for the decades to come.

The COP26 concluded in Glasgow with the slogan "Keep 1.5°C alive". Some will interpret the Glasgow Pact as an optimistic step forward and others as an additional failure within the context of increasingly urgent and significant challenges faced by humanity.

Yet, the COP 27, planned in 2022 in Egypt is looming between hopes and despairs.

Experts agree that the forthcoming decade will be crucial to limit the climate, environmental, societal and human damages and to mitigate the dramatic consequences of climate change.

The only certainty is that tomorrow's world will not look like today's world.

In this context of uncertainty, the vast ecosystem composing the lakes Tanganyika and Kivu with its watersheds will undoubtedly be significantly impacted.

It is in the same context that the Lake Tanganyika Water Management project evolves, with the main purpose of laying down the foundations for both the environmental monitoring of the lake and the fight against anthropogenic pollution.

The project is already halfway through and is already laying down some markers, knowing that there is still a lot of work to be done to guarantee the preservation of this invaluable resource and its many uses for the benefit of the local populations.

Aware of the current financial means that allow the LATAWAMA project to stand as a pilot project, we aim to formulate a more ambitious and inclusive continuation of it.

Soon reaching the end of 2021, this newsletter illustrates some of our achievements and prospects.

Didier Cadelli, Intervention Manager

Flash news

20 new solid waste collection points in Kigoma (Tanzania)

The LATAWAMA project is financing the creation of 20 new municipal waste collection points in Kigoma, Tanzania.

Kigoma will have 50 municipal waste collection points by 2022.

The 166% increase in collection points will allow new neighbourhoods to be equipped and will significantly improve the household waste collection rate.

This investment is complementary to the rehabilitation of the fleet of trucks dedicated to waste transport and community-based organisations' support.

FOCUS

Valorisation of organic waste in Uvira (DRC): between realities and opportunities.



Solid waste composting in Uvira

Members of these NGOs are mainly women who dedicate part of their time to collecting organic waste and producing compost that can be used in agriculture, market gardening or horticulture.

More than 65% of the waste produced in Uvira is composed of compostable organic waste, highlighting the significant potential for recovery.

Although the approach developed by the NGOs is very artisanal, it is instinctively based on the principles of the circular and inclusive economy, a source of complementary income and oriented towards local activities and needs.

The improvement of waste management in the city of Uvira will require, in the medium and long term, substantial financial and technical resources. In this perspective, the LATAWAMA project is financing the elaboration of the master plan for waste management in the city of Uvira, a strategic tool to set the course for the future and to attract the necessary funding.

Although the waste management service is neither structured nor provided by the public authorities, various initiatives carried out by civil society and NGOs are underway.

These initiatives aim to collect organic waste and recycle it through composting.

In partnership with the Environment Department of Uvira municipality, the LATAWAMA project is formalising support to this sector to increase the capacity to collect and recycle organic waste and fight against public insalubrity in two pilot neighbourhoods in the city of Uvira.

The compost will be used to improve the production of food crops for self-consumption or marketed locally and to support the production of forestry seedlings for watershed reforestation and fruit trees.

Environment and circular economy, a win-win strategy!



Solid waste composting in Uvira



Tree nursery development with organic manure

Development of Uvira solid waste management master plan (DRC)

The solid waste management master plan for the city of Uvira is currently being developed by the Belgian Consultant Office, ALMADIUS.

The objective is to provide the Public Authorities with a coherent medium-term strategic vision to set up a public management, planning and investment Service and to help pre-collection, collection, recovery and waste treatment to become operational.

The modalities of financing investments and operating costs will be studied. The master plan will integrate the 3Rs principle "reduce, reuse and recycle" and rely on the concepts of circular economy.

Challenges related to land use planning, lack of road infrastructure, uncontrolled urbanisation and flood risks will be considered.

The Master Plan will facilitate the access of Public Authorities to financial contributions from Development Aid Agencies.

PERSPECTIVES

Securing funding for the municipal solid waste management service in Kigoma (Tanzania)

The LATAWAMA project is organising a Thematic Workshop on Financing the Kigoma City Waste Management Service in collaboration with the City Administration.

The LATAWAMA project contributes to improving the municipal waste collection rate and the fight against public insalubrity.

The technical and organisational reinforcement of the waste management service of the city of Kigoma is reflected in the improvement of pre-collection, the increase in the number of collection points, and the rehabilitation of the waste transport vehicle fleet.

To sustain in time, this operation requires mobilising financial resources dedicated to the financing of collection and disposal services operational costs (fuel, vehicle maintenance, human resources, etc.) as well as communication and awareness campaigns for users.

One possible solution is to mobilise financial resources from user fees to the waste management service. The constant improvement of the service provided should encourage users to pay the fee.

Can the "polluter pays" and "cost recovery" principles be applied? What is the capacity of households to contribute via a fee? What mechanisms should be implemented?

This workshop aims to formalise the mechanisms and procedures essential to ensure the waste management service's financial autonomy.

Explain, raise awareness and open up the field of possibilities to ensure the sustainability of the waste management service in Kigoma... to be continued in our next edition.



The LATAWAMA team alongside the Kigoma Municipal Director

Photovoltaic energy for water quality laboratories

The LATAWAMA project is financing a feasibility and sizing study for solar photovoltaic installations to diversify and secure power supply in three water quality analysis laboratories associated with the Lake Tanganyika Water Monitoring Network.

Indeed, power supply stability and continuity are essential in the proper functioning of the laboratories and in the data validation process related to the quality parameters.

The Hydrobiology Research Centre laboratory in Uvira (DRC), the « OBUHA » laboratory in Bujumbura (Burundi) and the Lake Tanganyika Research Unit laboratory in Mpulungu (Zambia) will then be able to operate autonomously and independently from the technical issues frequently occurring in local electricity networks.

The use of fossil fuel generators can no longer be considered!



Community based-organization members at Kigoma



The roof of the CRH premises, potential solar panels site

TESTIMONIES



Gabriel HAKIZIMANA, Regional Director-LTA

Gabriel HAKIZIMANA, Regional Director of the Environment of the Lake Tanganyika Authority, gives his impressions on the project's progress after two years of implementation. He notes with satisfaction the progress of the actions and their visibility.

The LATAWAMA project is in its third year of implementation. What is your assessment of the progress of the project?

The LATAWAMA project has obvious objectives; it is a project that is progressing normally, even if it suffered a shock at the beginning due to the covid-19 pandemic. But the project has bounced back and is working normally in the four countries concerned. Moreover, the beneficiaries are satisfied with how the project is going, and some countries have already written official publications to express their satisfaction.

What is positive about this project is that the activities are explicit. When we rehabilitate the Hydrobiology Research Centre in Uvira, everyone knows about the condition of the building, and we can see the difference today. When we rehabilitate the drying beds of the Buterere water treatment plant in Burundi, everyone knows that the activity is essential for the operation of the water treatment plant.

In Kigoma, where activities are more advanced than in other countries, the support to solid waste management is bearing fruit. In Zambia, the project is rehabilitating the Lake Tanganyika Research Unit buildings and the support to Mpulungu Town Council is taking shape. Setting up a network to monitor the quality of the lake's water is progressing well; the equipment has been ordered, and the staff of the various laboratories will be trained. This project has tangible and significant results. I am satisfied because I have known the project since its formulation. This is what we agreed with the European Union.

Do you have any strategies to ensure the continuity and sustainability of the project's actions?

The way the project is designed is to be sustainable. We have thought about this since the formulation. The LATAWAMA I project is a pilot project. Now, we are developing the LATAWAMA II project to consolidate the project's achievements, notably by setting up a database that will allow access to updated data on the quality of the lake. The countries concerned and the Lake Tanganyika Authority are motivated to continue the actions for protecting the Lake. All this is in the framework of the perpetuation of the assets.

Lake Tanganyika constitutes a treasure to be protected. What is your message to the technical and financial partners of the Lake Tanganyika Authority?

The message remains the same! We hope to continue the efforts undertaken with the various partners. Most of them include environmental protection in their program. We must develop actions with these partners to help curb the Lake Tanganyika water quality degradation and to preserve its biodiversity. The needs are enormous, and we ask the partners to continue to support our countries through the Lake Tanganyika Authority, an institution set up by four countries through a strong convention on the sustainable management of the Lake Tanganyika.

Interview by Rodrigue Niyongabo, LATAWAMA project communication officer