NEWSLETTER N°5 - MARCH 2022

LATAWAMA

LAKE TANGANYIKA WATER MANAGEMENT

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

The LATAWAMA project welcomed in Uvira (DRC) representatives of the European Union delegations in Kinshasa and Bujumbura, in partnership with the Lake Tanganyika Authority.

The visit was centered primarily on the Hydrobiology Research Center (CRH) which was fully rehabilitated by the LATAWAMA project in 2021. In 2022, it will integrate the environmental monitoring network of the Lake Tanganyika which is currently being launched.

Built in 1949, the CRH's mission is to study and to monitor scientifically and environmentally DRC's Lakes and aquatic ecosystems.

It is, therefore, an essential support for the development of scientific knowledge on aquatic biodiversity (fauna, flora and fish), the monitoring of the quality of ecosystems and the protection of natural areas.

The visit allowed for a discussion and sharing of perspectives between the CRH and the EU delegations on environmental priorities and emergencies in the DRC, including:

- ✓ *the interest in promoting and defining protected areas and national parks;*
- ✓ *the preservation of fishing zones and the fight against pollution;*
- ✓ *the development of environmental monitoring capacities in the southern part of the Lake Tanganyika and the Lake Kivu;*
- ✓ *the integration of climate change and its impacts;*
- ✓ *integrated water resources management at basin level;*
- ✓ *the fight against erosion and sedimentation;*
- ✓ *the interest of cooperation between universities and research centres.*

These themes could likely be integrated into future development programs related to preserving the Lakes Tanganyika and Kivu.

Didier Cadelli, Intervention Manager

Flash news

Rwanda: scoping mission

The Lake Kivu and the Rusizi River are part of the Lake Tanganyika basin and so are integrated into the LATAWAMA project's activities.

The LATAWAMA scoping mission carried out in December 2021 has allowed to reshape the activities on the theme of "Integrated Water Resources Management", based on the priorities of the Rwanda Water Resources Board.

Then, the project will finance the elaboration of the Rusizi River Basin Management Plan, the Rwanda part. The latter will enable to identify the challenges and the solutions for integrated management of the resource for the benefit of the users and the protection of the environment.

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FOCUS

When the sanitation works of the prison of Uvira (DRC) improve the well-being of the prisoners and the protection of the waters of the Lake Tanganyika

Construction of toilets in common cells

In addition to the elaboration of the master plan for solid waste management in the city of Uvira, the LATAWAMA project is developing high-impact actions such as the improvement of sanitary conditions in the Uvira prison, in collaboration with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).

The launch of the complementary sanitation activities of the central prison of Uvira took place in February 2022, in the presence of the mayor of Uvira.

The task at the Uvira prison includes the construction of toilets in common cells, showers for prisoners and administration staff, and the management of excreta.

The objective of this equipment, funded by the European Union, is to contribute to the protection of the waters of the Lake Tanganyika.

These toilets will be connected to a new 50 m³ bio-digester that will supply gas to the kitchens and avoid burning firewood, which is becoming scarce in the region.

The representative of the prisoners, Muhanuka Mashali Moïse, restrained for 12 years in the prison of Uvira, testifies on the absence of toilets inside the common cells.

"I have been living in this prison for years. Life is not easy there. The prisoners defecate in buckets. This is called 'Mwami' ". Some prisoners suffer from diarrhoea and skin diseases. In the cells, there are foul smells with the risk of dislocation of the buckets under the effect of heat and biodegradation of the excreta. The prisoners carry this waste out of the cell every morning, commonly called "Kubeba Mwami".

Mr. Moses further explains: "here, the prisoners have to be in the cells from 6 p.m. and are allowed to get out only at 6 a.m. You know that all human beings have physiological needs. Usually, we want to relieve ourselves during this period. With the absence of toilets, the only solution available to us is buckets. When we heard about the project, we rejoiced. The construction of latrines and rainwater collection will solve the problem that haunts the prisoners. "

The representative of prisoners, Uvira Prison

Rehabilitation of shower

The support was welcomed by representatives of the prison and the city of Uvira

The director of the prison, Emmanuel Kabwe, affirms that the works initiated by the LATAWAMA project will end the practice of "Kubeba Mwami" (i.e. the fact of carrying the excreta every morning outside the cells). According to Emmanuel Kabwe, sanitation actions will solve a real problem in this institution with about 1 200 prisoners.

Emmanuel Kabwe said that the biodigester fund by the European Union will contribute to the production of energy for cooking and the protection of the environment: "it is difficult to find firewood in a deforested city located in a valley crossed by rivers discharging water in the Lake Tanganyika. "
Kifara Kapenda Kiky, deputy mayor, participated in the launching ceremonies of the sanitation activities of Uvira prison: "Actions undertaken will significantly improve the well-being of the prisoners since no one would like to be in such hygiene conditions."
The contracting company hired some prisoners, masons, and assistant masons, both men, and women. This is an additional social contribution to the project.

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PERSPECTIVES

Digitization and patrimonial management of the wastewater collection network of the city of Bujumbura

The digitization mission of the wastewater collection network of the city of Bujumbura (Burundi) was launched on February 3rd, 2022, by the technical team of SHER Ingénieurs-Conseils, under the financial support of the European Union.

The representatives of the Burundian Office of Urbanism and Construction (OBUHA) took part in this activity.

The mission includes the inventory of the wastewater collection network of the city of Bujumbura and the implementation of a GIS tool for asset management. The study area covers the districts connected to the existing sewerage network. This network collects water and sends it to the Buterere Wastewater Treatment Plant (STEP).

This work requires detailed knowledge of the existing network with an exhaustive inventory of all the data related to the sewerage networks and their functioning. This inventory must be completed by field surveys (physical inventory).

Based on the collected data, a conceptual data model (CDM) will be established and will have to be implemented within a database management system (DB) of the wastewater network of the city of Bujumbura. The patrimonial management of the sewerage network will then be done using a Geographic Information System (GIS).

The digitization work will involve five steps:

- conduct an inventory of existing data;
- analyze stakeholders needs and propose a conceptual database model and GIS application;
- conduct a field survey of the entire wastewater network to complete the descriptive database;
- develop the descriptive database;
- propose a budget for the rehabilitation of the network.

OBUHA alongside SHER team on the field in Bujumbura

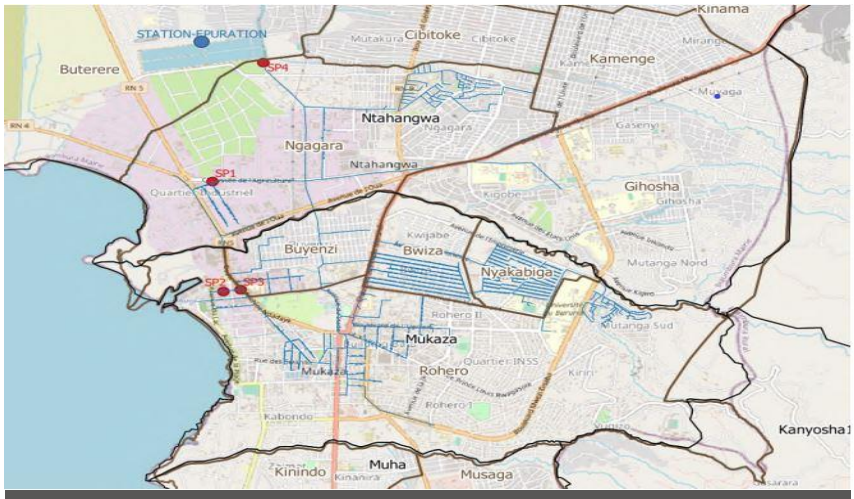
Kick-off meeting of the study, February 2022

The patrimonial management of the network (know, describe, maintain, foresee, develop) aims at three main objectives:

- the good management of the wastewater network assets of the city of Bujumbura;
- the quality of the service provided to the user;
- the realization of maintenance and extension works, including data modeling and technical calculations.

In practice, the network asset management will develop actions such as:

- maintaining and updating documentation;
- rapid visualization of the network and its environment (descriptive statements, sector plans, overall plans at the scale of the district, communal and Bujumbura City Council);
- analysis and edition of thematic plans: pipes in the public or private domain, types of pipes, works carried out (history), and projected works;
- route studies, digital monitoring of subscribers, network extension works or other civil engineering works near the networks;
- the provision of data to third parties (Regideso, utilities, engineering firms, companies, fire departments, donors, ...) and the coordination of work.



Study area for the digitization of the collective wastewater network in Bujumbura

TESTIMONIES

Ferdinand Filimbi , Finance manager at the Municipality of Kigoma

In Kigoma, Tanzania, the LATAWAMA project implements several actions to improve solid waste management services. The finance manager at the Municipality of Kigoma, Ferdinand Filimbi is satisfied by the achievements of the LATAWAMA project and advocates for continued support of the European Union.

The LATAWAMA project is carrying out its actions to support the improvement of the solid waste management service in the municipality of Kigoma. What is your appreciation?

First of all, I would like to thank the LATAWAMA project for improving the solid waste collection process. We now have a series of eleven activities underway in our city. These include support for equipment at various levels, training, repair of equipment, fuel support, purchase of containers, etc. We are grateful for the improvement of the solid waste collection process in the municipality of Kigoma, which was made possible by the financial support of the European Union.
The work is commendable, but the challenges remain immense. We, therefore, wish for the continuity of actions in our city.
The city of Kigoma has 68 avenues and 19 wards. Even if the project will provide 21 new containers, it is still insufficient: there are avenues where one container is not enough. If a new project arrives, we wish to be granted more containers in other neighbourhoods. We wish that the project could also support the repair of two more trucks. We have four trucks, but they are also used in other sectors such as the transport of sand, rubble, and others.
Another request is the regular follow-up of the actions. We would like to have means of travel for the wards leaders.

Do you have a particular message for the administrative officials at different levels?

Waste collection requires the contribution of all. The municipality is therefore committed to do its utmost. Waste is produced at the household level. Every citizen must be involved in the whole process. Our vision is that every family contributes by paying the fee. We ask the citizens and households to contribute and the population to change their mentality to become aware that waste can be a source of income.

And for the partners like the European Union and Enabel?

For our partners, I thank them for their support, and I ask them to continue. The municipality is ready to collaborate. Kigoma borders Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The city of Kigoma is a gateway. Helping Kigoma stay clean is essential. We ask the partners to continue to support the project of transforming waste into organic manure. In this way, the waste will be transformed and will become a source of income, and this process would enable to create jobs for young people and women.

Interview by Rodrigue Niyongabo, LATAWAMA project communication officer

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POINT OF CONVERGENCE

A World Water Day under the sign of sustainable development

The objectives of the LATAWAMA project find points of convergence with the Sustainable Development Goals as well as with international events. In this newsletter, we look back at two international days organized in March 2022.

Lake Tanganyikaview

The world is celebrating World Water Day on March 22. Organized every year, it reminds us that access to drinking water is recognized as a fundamental right. Vital for mankind and energy security, essential for environmental balance, water is nevertheless a rare commodity for 3 billion people.

"The global water demand is soaring", warns the UN in its annual report published in March 2022. Then, 20% of underground reserves are overexploited. If nothing is done, the planet will face a serious shortage by 2030. As for sanitation, the number of people without access to a toilet remains stable. However, 2.5 billion people suffer from this problem.

The LATAWAMA project adheres to the central theme of this year. Its ultimate goal is to protect the Lake Tanganyika which represents the second deepest lake in the world after the Lake Baikal, and the longest freshwater Lake in the world. It contains 18% of the world's open freshwater surface volume. The project invests in monitoring both the quality and quantity of the lake and in reducing anthropogenic pressure. A contribution to the protection of this global treasure.

March 18, World Recycling Day

Tree nursery, Uvira, DRC

Created in 2018 by the Bureau of International Recycling or BIR, World Recycling Day has a twofold purpose: to promote recycling to the general public and to present its challenges. It is indeed about avoiding uncontrolled discharge or incineration of waste and promoting the reuse and recycling of materials. The production of new materials, compared to the reuse of existing materials, constitutes an essential economy on the energy level and on the quantity of waste thrown away. From an environmental point of view, recycling reduces the amount of waste that is thrown away in nature, and positively impacts the protection of fauna and flora.

The LATAWAMA project answers to these objectives. Through its actions that contribute to reduce the effects of anthropic pressure on the Lake, the LATAWAMA project develops actions aiming at the transformation of organic waste into compost, in collaboration with community-based associations of the cities of Uvira and Kigoma.

The project also lays the foundation on the principle of circular economy, by participating in studies on the transformation of plastics waste and on the composting of solid waste.

Composting solid waste, Uvira, DRC

Composting solid waste, Uvira, DRC

LATAWAMA team alongside AHDS members

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