



NEWSLETTER

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# LATAWAMA

LAKE TANGANYIKA WATER MANAGEMENT

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Lake Tanganyika Water Management Project (LATAWAMA)  
Avenue des Etats-Unis, 17 - Kigobe Sud

P.O.Box: 4910 BUJUMBURA – BURUNDI  
Phone: +257 79 70 48 35

Email : [infos@latawama.org](mailto:infos@latawama.org)  
Site web : [www.latawama.org](http://www.latawama.org)

## EDITORIAL



Dear readers,

The challenges faced by the Lake Tanganyika are significant and will require massive investments and close collaboration between the basin's countries, under the supervision of the Lake Tanganyika Authority.

The Integrated Water Resources Management relies on a large amount of environmental and socio-economic data on the quality and quantity of water resources, biodiversity, uses, pressures, and anthropogenic impacts.

The implementation of the environmental monitoring network of the lake is a long and complex process. Nonetheless, it represents one of the main objectives of the LATAWAMA project which is currently underway.

The first component of this network is devoted to the "Water Quality". However, quantitative monitoring is a significant challenge, requiring coordinated intervention.

Indeed, fluctuations in the water level of the Lake Tanganyika, combined with a lack of hydrological and climatic data, constitute a danger that the countries of the Lake Tanganyika basin must face.

The LATAWAMA project is therefore involved in formulating a new project that aims to establish a coordinated network for monitoring the lake's water balance and level. The development of prevention and warning tools will be possible only by improving knowledge and data.

This new project also considers the extension of the Lake Tanganyika's water quality monitoring network, specifically in the southern part of the lake. A first identification mission was conducted by LATAWAMA and the Tanzanian Fisheries Research Institute to later establish a new environmental monitoring centre in Kipili (Tanzania).

This will open up new perspectives for the Lake Tanganyika's optimal and sustainable environmental and climate monitoring.

Didier Cadelli, Intervention Manager

## Flash news

### Support waste pre-collection and foster job creation

In Kigoma (Tanzania), waste management is based on a system of pre-collection by community-based organizations to collection points. These are managed by the municipality, which is in charge of the transport of the waste to the landfill. The LATAWAMA project supports these community-based organizations.

To improve and facilitate this profession, LATAWAMA acquired six motorized tricycles and financed the training of young male and female drivers. The training was conducted by the Vocational Education and Training Authority in Kigoma. Issuing a driving license is opening up the prospect of an improved and more positive job.

# FOCUS

## Launch of awareness-raising and solid waste collection activities in Uvira (DRC)



Parade of associations representatives

The LATAWAMA project, in collaboration with the Uvira Town Council, launched awareness-raising and solid waste collection activities on the 19th and 20th of April 2022. The objective is to protect the quality of the waters of the Lake Tanganyika by initiating a solid waste management service.

The setting of the esplanade of the Uvira town hall welcomed the launching event.

After the signature of a memorandum of understanding, the LATAWAMA project manager and the Mayor of Uvira gave personal protection and waste collection equipment to the members of some associations supported by the project.

Then, the two officials launched the awareness-raising activities for the population living in this area.

In his statement, Kiza Muhato, Mayor of the city of Uvira, welcomed the initiatives of the LATAWAMA project, which contribute to create a healthy environment to the population of Uvira. "Waste management represents a significant challenge for the authorities and the people. It is recommended that organic matter is recycled through composting for agricultural purpose."

Didier Cadelli, LATAWAMA project manager, reminded that the Lake Tanganyika is an invaluable resource for the population of Uvira. "Waste can become an economic opportunity, while the lake is already a means of transport. All must be protected to ensure that, in the future, you will still be able to live in this city," he added.

The urban coordinator of the environment, Francine Mwangaza Binti Sadiki, said that LATAWAMA meets the obligations of the services dedicated to this work. These services will also benefit from the support of the project to make the city of Uvira cleaner and to restore the ecosystems of the Lake Tanganyika's coast. "The shoreline of the lake was long considered as a public dumping ground, which significantly impacted the lake's biodiversity."

Participants of these activities, which included the administrative officials, members of associations, and the LATAWAMA project team, then collected waste at the Mulongwe and Kalimabenge markets. This operation was welcomed by the local population.



Kiza Muhato, the Mayor of Uvira



Didier Cadelli, the intervention Manager of the LATAWAMA Project

## Solid waste collection equipment were given to the Uvira Town council

Solid waste collection equipment were given at the Uvira Town Hall, including tricycles, spades, buckets, cans, gardener's forks, hoes, dustbins, machetes, shovels, rakes, plastic buckets, picks, tarpaulins, tridents with handles, scales etc. Personal protective equipment were also given, such as overalls, masks, goggles, mackintoshes, helmets, boots, gloves, waistcoats, disinfectants etc.

The town council of Uvira then granted these materials to three associations involved in the collection and processing of solid waste.



Beneficiaries of equipment

# PERSPECTIVES

## Rwanda: LATAWAMA is financing the implementation of the Rusizi River Catchment Management Plan

The LATAWAMA project extends regional cooperation to the whole basin, including the Lake Kivu and the Rusizi River. The Rusizi River is one of the most important tributaries of the Lake Tanganyika. The Lake Kivu and the Rusizi River basin span over three countries, namely Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, and Rwanda.

The difference of altitude between the Lake Kivu and the Lake Tanganyika allows for significant development via various hydroelectric dams, while the Rusizi plain is an important agricultural area. The wetlands on the shores of the Lake Tanganyika and the confluence of the Rusizi constitute the Rusizi National Park, a Ramsar site on the Burundian side (i.e. internationally recognised wetland).

The management and protection of water resources, ecosystems, and uses of the Lake Kivu and the Rusizi River can only be done based on the principles of integrated water resources management (IWRM) and in close collaboration with the two basin Authorities: the Lake Tanganyika Authority and the Kivu and Rusizi River Basin Authority (ABAKIR).

Transboundary pollution is a reality. Plastic pollution is a significant challenge that disrupts the operation of hydroelectric dams. Agricultural practices, deforestation, and mining activities also strongly impact hilly landscapes, altering soils and generating important sediment inputs to the hydrographic network and to the Lakes Kivu and Tanganyika.

In this context, the principles, concepts, and objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive make sense to preserve ecosystems through basin Authorities. Establishing a water resource monitoring network for qualitative and quantitative aspects will be a first step and a main prerequisite.

In this context, the LATAWAMA project intends to support the missions of the Rwanda Water Board ([www.wrb.rw](http://www.wrb.rw)). Then, the project is financing the implementation of the Rusizi River Catchment Management Plan, on the Rwanda side.



*Group discussion during the presentation of the inception report*

This study is being carried out by SHER Ingénieurs-Conseils ([www.sher.be](http://www.sher.be)), in collaboration with the Rwanda Water Board, ABAKIR, local authorities, and users of the resource.

The objective is, among others, to include in a second phase of the LATAWAMA project, the financing of priority activities, with the cooperation and involvement of all stakeholders.

A first workshop was organised in Rusizi on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2022 and aimed to present and to share the objectives and methodology of the study mission. All stakeholders, public operators and resource users were present.

The success of this mission will depend on the quality of the data and information acquired in the diagnostic phase, as well as on the involvement of stakeholders and beneficiaries. The programme of actions implemented at the end of the study will enable an optimal level of protection of the resources and the environment, while guaranteeing the various uses and the population's socio-economic development. This basin is particular because it includes essential agricultural and protected areas of the Nyungwe Forest National Park.



*Participants to the inception report meeting*



*Field visit for the elaboration of the the Rusizi River Catchment Management Plan*

# TESTIMONIES



*Estelle Yougbre, MONUSCO's prison administration advisor*

In May 2022, the LATAWAMA project, in close collaboration with the United Nations Mission in Congo (MONUSCO), finalised the sanitation works in the prison of Uvira. Estelle Yougbre, MONUSCO's prison administration advisor, expressed her opinion on this effective collaboration.

*Tell us about your contribution on the sanitation works in the Uvira prison.*

MONUSCO collaborated with the LATAWAMA project on the sanitation of the Uvira prison. Both organizations aimed to provide prisoners with access to clean toilets and showers, then preventing diseases related to a lack of hygiene. The project also allowed the prisoners to have access to biogas for cooking. We, as prison counsellors, have contributed to monitoring the project's implementation but also to its financing. We also involved volunteer prisoners, which contributes to their social reintegration.

*Are you satisfied with this collaboration?*

We are extremely satisfied with the collaboration with the LATAWAMA project. The prison's visitors, staff, and the prisoners, testify of the quality of the prison rehabilitation works. I was not there at the launching of these works, but having left one prison for another, I recognised the clear difference because here, the issue of sanitation no longer arises. My staff told me how it was before. They told me that the prisoners used to defecate in buckets inside the prison cells. The smells were unbearable, and the prisoners faced a lot of health concerns. Since the construction of the toilets, it must be acknowledged that there are no longer any epidemics related to poor hygiene.

*Is this a model that could be extended to other prisons?*

Indeed, I think that, if there were possibilities to reproduce the same activity in other prisons, it would be beneficial for the prisoners.

*Do you have a particular message for Enabel and the European Union?*

I would like to thank Enabel and the European Union for this successful partnership. We have not had any problems with the collaboration in the implementation of this project. It has gone well, and we have enjoyed it. I would also like to appeal to other partners to carry out other projects in this domain. It is essential that, what I have seen here in Uvira, which is commendable, can be tested in other prisons.

*Interview by Rodrigue Niyongabo, LATAWAMA project communication officer*