



NEWSLETTER

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# LATAWAMA

LAKE TANGANYIKA WATER MANAGEMENT

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EDITORIAL



Dear readers,

The Lake Kivu and Rusizi River basin is an integral part of the Lake Tanganyika basin. Thus, Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia share a common geographic and hydrological unit of global importance in terms of fresh surface water volume, biodiversity and drinking water resources, fisheries, energy, and transport facilities.

Two regional authorities operate in this basin: the Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA) and the Lake Kivu and Rusizi River Authority (ABAKIR).

Within their own areas of action, they aim to manage and preserve the natural resources of these waters. To this end, each of these two Basin Authorities have their own strategic action plan. Its implementation is supported by various donors, such as the European Union (EU) and the BMZ (The Deutsch Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) and is organized around two main projects.

It includes the LATAWAMA project (funded by the EU and implemented by Enabel) and the Support to the Integrated Management of Water Resources of Lake Kivu and the Rusizi River project (co-funded by the EU and the German cooperation).

Although the intervention logics of these projects are linked to the geography and the hydrology, they owe their complementarity and efficiency to a joint coordination between the LTA and the ABAKIR, allowing to create partnerships and to exchange data.

Under the patronage of the EU and within the framework of the EU/GIZ Project Closing Workshop, the LTA and the ABAKIR signed a Letter of Understanding (LoU) in September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in Rubavu, Rwanda, which defines the areas of cooperation and responsibilities of the parties. This is an essential step towards active coordination and cooperation between the two Basin Authorities and towards the integration of the strategic action plans within the Integrated Water Resources Management.

Didier Cadelli, Intervention Manager

## Flash news

### Kigoma, supporting regulations revision on solid waste management

The LATAWAMA project and the Legal Unit of Kigoma/Ujiji Municipality (Tanzania) are partnering to review municipal solid waste bylaws.

The aim is to draft a coherent, structured and consensual regulatory framework to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the different actors, to promote best practices and to encourage the participation of all.

Two imperatives guide this review: to ensure the financial sustainability of the waste management system and to introduce circular economy principles to promote waste reduction, reuse and recycling

# FOCUS

## Burundi: visit of the achievements of the LATAWAMA project in Bujumbura



*The laboratory's commemorative plaque*

The LATAWAMA project organised a visit at the wastewater treatment plant of Buterere, in July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, to see the achievements made. The ministries related to the environment and infrastructures, the European Union's Ambassador in Burundi, the Resident Representative of Enabel in Burundi, and the Executive Director of the Lac Tanganyika Authority, took part in this event.

In his speech, Ambassador Claude Bochu spoke about the European Union's commitment in terms of environmental protection: "The European Union is significantly committed to reducing pollution, strengthening biodiversity and combating the effects of climate change in Burundi and finances several projects contributing to these objectives".

Enabel's Resident Representative, Abou El Mahassine Fassi-Fihri, confirms Enabel's commitment to preserving the water quality of the Lake Tanganyika through the LATAWAMA project. "Firstly, we need to collect data on the lake's water quality to communicate the waters' degree of pollution to decision-makers. Then, the goal is to reduce the amount of pollution flowing into the lake. That is why we are improving the operation and the monitoring of the Buterere wastewater treatment plant," he said.

Emmanuel Ndorimana, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, appreciates the project's achievements: "We highly appreciate the accomplishments of this programme because it brings solutions to unresolved challenges".

Elisabeth Ndayishimiye, Director of Equipment and Maintenance at the Ministry of Infrastructures, Equipment and Social Housing, also appreciates the project's achievements, which will contribute to reduce environmental pressure of domestic and urban wastewater.

"The drying beds have been rehabilitated and it is an essential development. Before, we did not have enough space to put the sludge. We thank the European Union, the Belgian Development Agency and the Lac Tanganyika Authority for this project," said the Director of Environment, Hygiene and Sanitation at OBUHA.



*Enabel's Resident Representative alongside the EU Ambassador*



*Elisabeth Ndayishimiye, director of equipment and maintenance*

## Supervision vehicle officially handed over to OBUHA

At the end of the visit, the participants handed over a supervision vehicle to OBUHA. It was received by the General commissioner Mr Jean Pierre Gatore.

As a reminder, the project has rehabilitated 10 drying beds and will implement the sludge pumping system. The project is also digitising the wastewater collection network and will train users in new network management tools. OBUHA's laboratory has been rehabilitated and equipped to monitor the plant's treatment performance. As part of the development of the monitoring network, the project rehabilitated the laboratory of the Burundian Office for the Environment Protection, and delivered the analytical equipment in June 2022.



*Vehicle handed over to OBUHA*

# PERSPECTIVES

## DRC: The LATAWAMA project continues the implementation of its activities in Uvira

In addition to developing the solid waste management master plan and pilot depollution actions, the LATAWAMA project is financing the construction of a modern biomedical waste incinerator at Uvira Hospital. The objective is to enable the efficient management of hospital waste from the health facilities in the town of Uvira.

With about ten health areas, the town of Uvira is experiencing difficulties with the management of hospital waste. The provision of an incinerator is therefore essential. The Director of the Uvira Hospital, Dr. Salomon Mulinda, already appreciates the initiative of the LATAWAMA project. "I would say that it is a great honour for us. We are very grateful to the LATAWAMA project, which enables us to collect all hospital waste and to channel it to one incinerator storage area for incineration. Hospital sanitation is essential. Today, I think that hospitals' waste are thrown away in the lake, which constitutes a real danger for the health of Uvira's inhabitants. Thanks to this incinerator, we will be able to protect our people from these dangers".

### The Uvira Hydrobiology Research Centre benefits from new analytical equipment for the monitoring network

Once laboratories were up to standard, the LATAWAMA project supplied analytical equipment to the CRH, worth 141,000 euros.

This equipment will be used to analyse samples to feed the Lake Tanganyika's water quality monitoring network. The Scientific Director of the HRC, Mr. Maliyamungu Marc Makubuli, confirms that the HRC will resume its research activities. "The HRC no longer had the equipment to produce more reliable results. We are now able to produce accurate analyses as our laboratories are adequately equipped by the LATAWAMA project, financed by the European Union".



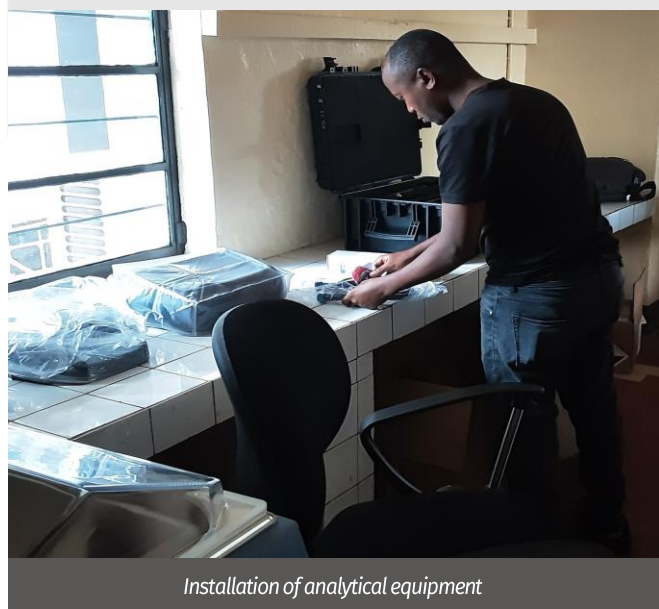
*Hydrobiology Research Centre during the installation of equipment*

### Supporting the associations involved in the collection and processing of solid waste

The project supports associations involved in the collection and the management of organic waste. Indeed, the project supports associations in developing composting facilities to transform and valorise biodegradable materials into compost for agricultural and horticultural purposes.

The composting facilities are locally built from a rectangular wooden structure, subdivided into different spaces to facilitate the alternation of composting phases. A drain is also provided to prevent leachate from flowing onto the natural soil and to maintain humidity levels during the dry season. The project also finances the creation of nurseries for the production of forest seedlings and fruit trees, and is justified both by the food supply of fruit and by the fight against intensive deforestation in the watersheds of the Mitumba Mountains.

Through its support to the associations, the project strengthens local initiatives, contributes to the improvement of solid waste management, and protects the environment and the aquatic ecosystem of the Lake Tanganyika.



*Installation of analytical equipment*



*Production of seedlings and fruit trees*

# TESTIMONIES



*Sylvain Tusanga Mukanga, Executive Director of the LTA*

The Lake Tanganyika Authority plays an essential role in the implementation of the LATAWAMA project. Sylvain Tusanga Mukanga, Executive Director, gave his impressions on several aspects of the project, including the continuity of actions and the implementation of regional projects.

### *How do you assess the LATAWAMA project?*

The LATAWAMA project is one of the projects drawn from the Strategic Action Programme's pillars and most particularly aims to reduce pollution and to improve the quality of the lake's waters. It also aims to develop a monitoring network involving four laboratories that are currently equipped. This project also includes solid waste management and support for optimising the Bujumbura wastewater plant. In the convention on the lake water management, the decisions of the bodies are based on scientific evidence. The database developed will therefore enable informed decision-making for the protection of the Lake Tanganyika's waters.

### *Do you expect the project to continue?*

Of course, some activities that have been initiated need to be strengthened. Other activities are required to complement the actions undertaken. In this first phase, the project worked on qualitative aspects. In the second phase, we want to programme activities that focus on quantitative factors, notably collecting climatic and hydrological data and setting up an early warning system to face the challenges linked to climate change and the significant rise in the lake's water level. We need to understand these mechanisms in order to be able to prevent and to alert communities and populations when there is a danger and avoiding therefore new disasters as the ones of 1964, 2020 and 2021.

### *Are there any strategies that have been taken at the LTA to facilitate the exchanges necessary to implement regional projects?*

Four countries share the management of the Lake Tanganyika. Therefore, when taking measures to protect the lake, it is essential to adopt a concerted approach to agree on the standards we want to implement. It is a great challenge because there not necessarily exists common laws. There is a clear need for harmonisation to enable the joint implementation of consensual standards and regulations. And this harmonisation process requires consultation.

### *What is the message that you wish to address to the European Union and to the Belgian Development Agency?*

This is an opportunity to thank the European Union for agreeing to fund the first phase of the project, as a pilot project. And for now, the EU takes into account the possibility to finance a second phase with a substantial budget allocation. It is also an opportunity to thank Enabel and the project team, which is implementing this project in collaboration with the Lake Tanganyika Authority, and which has managed to implement the first phase properly. We hope that we will continue to work together to implement the second phase of the project.

*Interview by Rodrigue Niyongabo, LATAWAMA project communication officer*