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Lake Albert/Edward Advisory Group: Lakes Overview

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Strengthening Capacity in Research, Policy and Management through
Development of a Network of African Great Lakes Basin Stakeholders

Entebbe, Uganda
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DRC

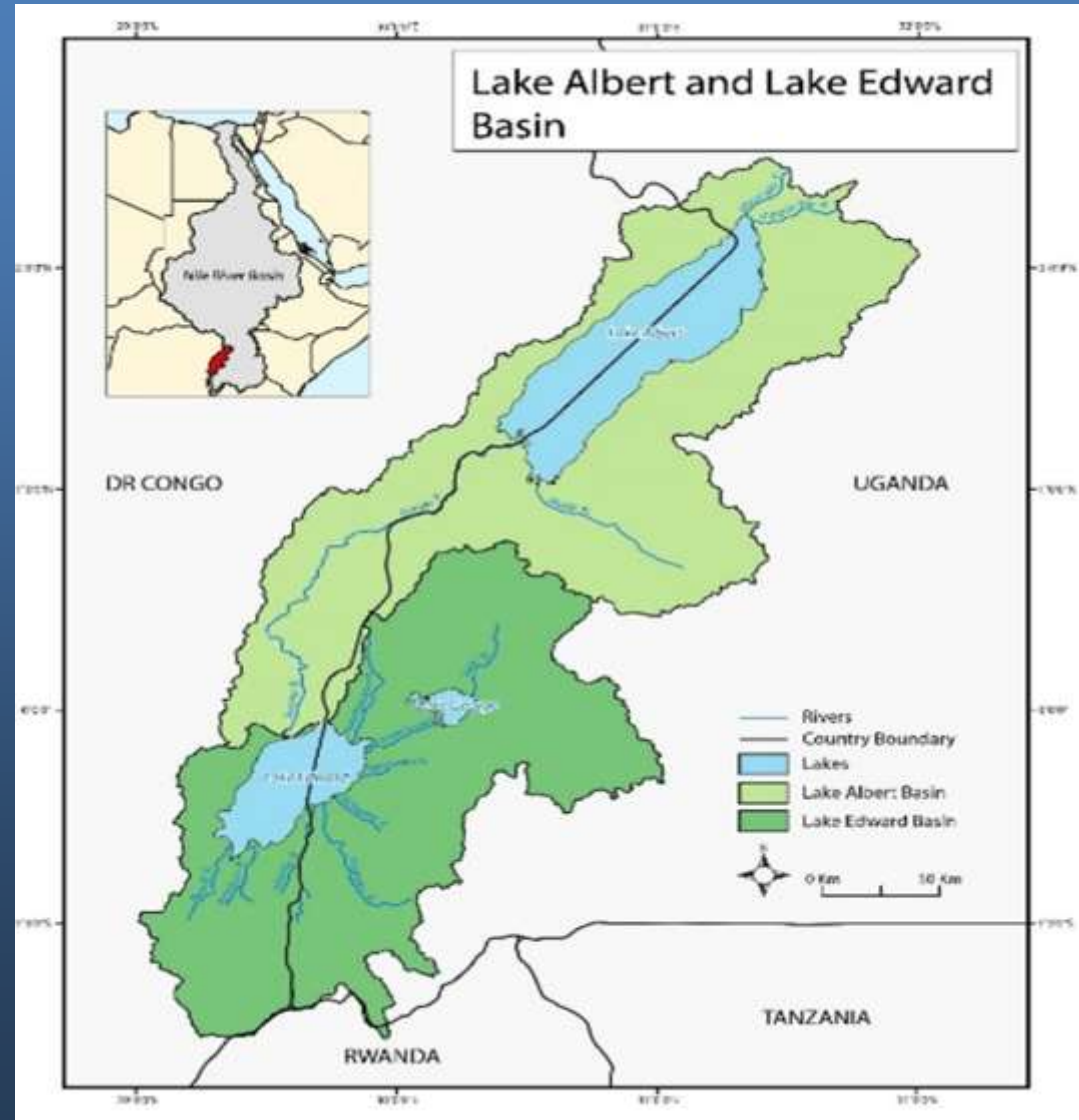


Uganda

Lakes Albert & Edward

Lakes Overview

- Transboundaries lakes
- LA: Surface area: 5,300 km² and LE: Surface area: 2,325 km²
- LA: monomictic with thermal and chemical stratification in March at 30 m water depth ;
- LE: Oligomictic & eutrophic lake, Oxycline: semi-stable at about 40 m depth
- Feed the Nile River (outflow known as the White Nile)



Lakes Albert & Edward

Lakes Overview

Importance of these resources (ecosystems services)

- (1) LE & LA provide water for agriculture, domestic use, salt mining, and navigation, etc.
- (2) The fisheries important source food, livelihood and income and contribute significantly to the economies of both countries,
- (3) Fishery employs about 39,454 fishers in DRC (Albert & Edward),
- (4) LE & LA: important for tourism, Lakes are bordered by national parks (Virunga & Queen Elizabeth NP),
- (5) LE & LA are important for regional climate regulation,
- (6) Climate around the LE & LA is favourable for cash crops like tea, coffee, cotton, and food crops such as beans, maize and banana,
- (7) Prospects for cage fish farming

Lakes Albert & Edward

Issues on the lakes

The biggest and most prominent issues on the lakes:

- (1) Declining fish stocks due to over population of fishing villages and over-fishing,
- (2) Use of inappropriate gears and vessels,
- (3) Destruction and pollution of fish habits including fish breeding and nursery areas,
- (4) Habitat degradation and proliferation of invasive weeds,
- (5) Oil – Ongoing and future oil extraction,
- (5) Climate change & variability,
- (6) Conflicts due access to fishery along unclear liquid national borders,
- (7) Lack of clean water and poor sanitation along fishing villages

Lakes Albert & Edward

Current collaborative efforts

NBI (Nile basin Initiative) through NELSAP (Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program) with LEAF (Lakes Edward and Albert Fisheries) I & II Projects: coordinates harmonization of resource management efforts at regional level:

The first to fund joint research in both DRC & Uganda



Lakes Albert & Edward

Current collaborative efforts

LEAF II project has facilitated a harmonized Bilateral Agreement for the sustainable management of Fish and Aquaculture Resources that was signed in Munyonyo /Kampala on 20th October 2018

Currently in implementation although some constraints:

- SOPs for joint patrols between both countries developed in Nairobi in May 2019 and approved at the national levels in Sept 2019;
- Conducting transboundary Joint patrols between both countries based on SOP approved ;
- Conducting national patrols based on the national laws;

Lakes Albert & Edward

Challenges to current and past collaborative efforts

- (1) Weak & un-harmonized political frameworks,
- (2) Lack of community based institutional structures for management; uncoordinated and selective sectoral approaches to management, lack of well defined institutional arrangements for management of cross border inadequate enforcement of laws (weak and non-dissuasive laws)
- (3) Lack of coordination and facilitations of existing research, management and community institutions,
- (4) Non-existing/limited funding from national governments and international groups
- (5) Poor technical capacity (un trained fisheries staff),
- (6) Absence of community laws,
- (7) Poor dissemination,
- (8) Insecurity,
- (9) Lack of alternative livelihood options.

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Summary and Conclusion

These lakes are among the world's most important ecosystems. The area contains biodiversity of regional and international significance, but face a lot challenges. To address these challenges we need:

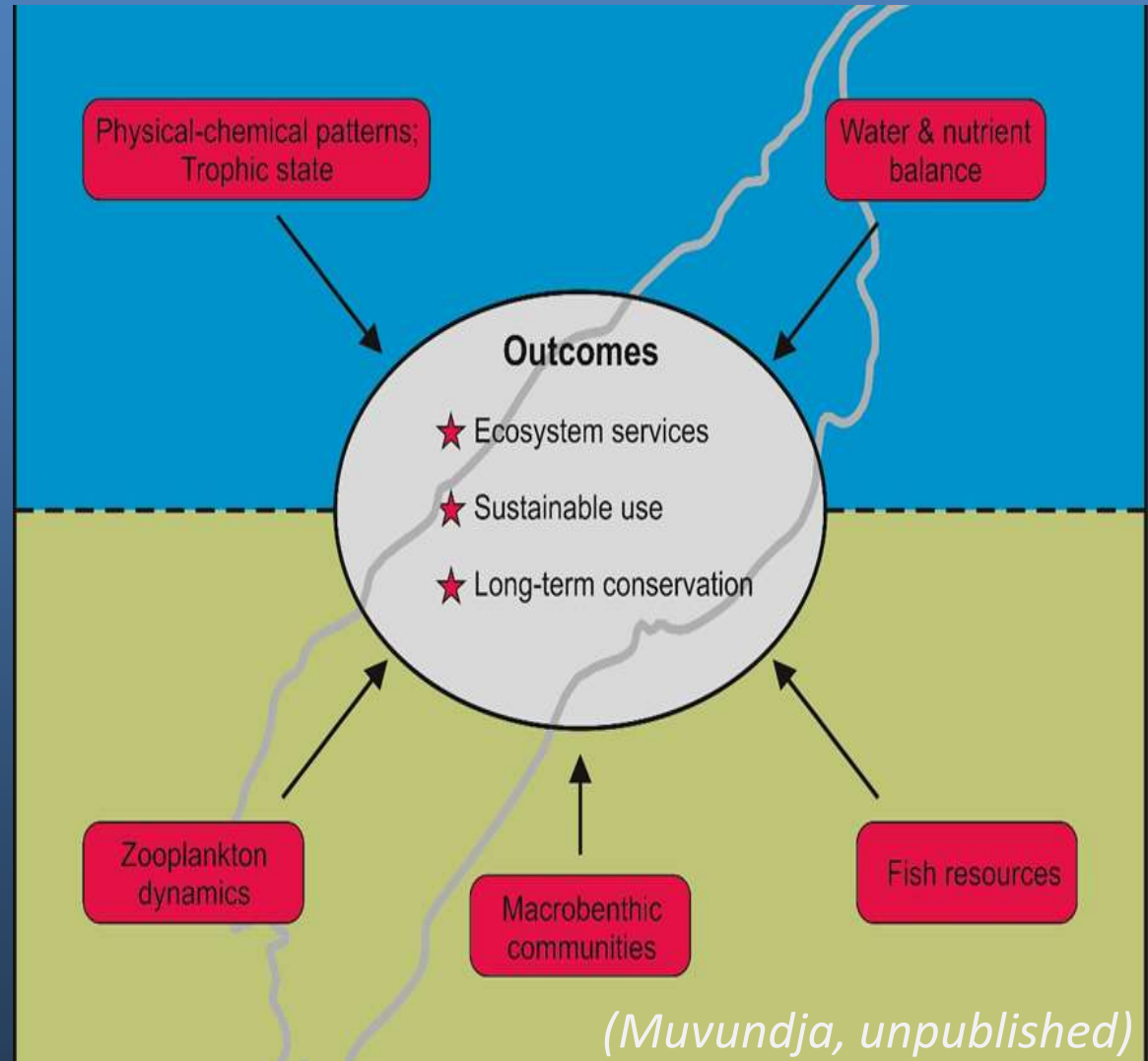
- (1) Harmonization and implementation of management policies (water resources, fisheries, wildlife, and tourism),
- (2) Generation and sharing of information: establish data sharing platforms and develop strategies to fill the gaps,
- (3) Develop mechanisms for co-operation and information exchange among national, regional and international institutions,
- (4) Promotion of community participation,
- (5) Co-management framework: develop and implement national and regional policies and institutional framework for effective management of cross border and transboundary resources,
- (6) Strengthen the technical and human capacity needs of local and national level institutions,
- (7) Facilitate the formation of a network of scientists for the LE & LA basin,

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Summary and Conclusion

Scientific framework to develop an integrated model for a LA & LE ecosystems services:

- (1) Hydrology, water chemistry and nutrient balance,
- (2) Food web and recent lake environmental history, and
- (3) Biodiversity (macroinvertebrates and fishes) and fish resource management



Thank you

