

Partnership Interventions for the Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for *Lake Tanganyika*



UNDP/GEF Project on Lake Tanganyika Burundi Component – Pollution Control Through Improved Wastewater Management

The capital of Burundi, Bujumbura, is the largest city on the shore of Lake Tanganyika, with over 400,000 inhabitants and an urban population growth rate of 6.4%. People in the capital are dependent on the lake for domestic and industrial use, inputs to their livelihoods, and transport (Burundi is a land-locked country).

Although Burundi has the smallest catchment of Lake Tanganyika, it has a significant impact on aquatic ecosystem functioning. Bujumbura city is growing rapidly, and present sanitary services are unable to process the urban population's sewage in a proficient and ecologically appropriate manner.

Pollution inflows resulting from untreated wastewater are affecting the northern basin of Lake Tanganyika. Pollution is a serious health hazard to people. It also impacts aquatic biodiversity and fisheries productivity by changing water parameters and affecting the quality of lacustrine habitats.

The UNDP/GEF Project on Lake Tanganyika aims to improve the wastewater treatment system of Bujumbura city, support the development of discharge standards, and increase local capacity to implement and monitor a modern wastewater management system.

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The Burundi Component of the UNDP/GEF Project on Lake Tanganyika focuses on improvement of the wastewater treatment system in Bujumbura, using the Buyenzi suburb as a demonstration site.

Construction works to improve the sewage system are a priority, as this area has very shallow ground water and contributes significantly to pollution of the lake.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) includes staff from the National Institute for Environment and Nature Conservation (INECN) and the Municipal Technical Services (SETEMU).

The PMU works together with the Ministry for Land Management, Environment and Tourism and the Ministry for Internal Affairs, as well as with the private sector, which provides co-financing by completing pre-treatment facilities.

The project also supports the development of discharge standards, and the PMU takes active part in water sector discussions lead by GIZ.

Furthermore, the project aims to increase capacity to implement and monitor a modern wastewater management system.

In partnership with UNEP/Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology, water quality monitoring facilities are being improved and staff has been trained.

For more information, see Lake Tanganyika Authority web site:
www.lta.iwlearn.org

The UNDP/GEF intervention is part of a multi-partner programme that is implemented with support from African Development Bank, Nordic Development Fund, ICRAF, IUCN, WWF, FAO, UNEP/NIGLAS, and the Governments of Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Tanzania and Zambia.

We work in close collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, including fishermen, farmers, industry, the private sector, management, research and educational institutions as well as governmental institutions.

Together we take a basin-wide, integrated approach to environmental management, uniting people to build sustainable livelihoods and protect their environment.

UNDP/GEF Project on Lake Tanganyika

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Front: Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi, is situated in the delta of the Rusizi River. Groundwater levels are high throughout most of the city. **Back, clockwise:** Open channels in Bujumbura contribute significantly to pollution problems; Map of Buyenzi suburb, the focal site of the UNDP/GEF Project's activities; Buterere wastewater treatment station; Invasive water hyacinth benefits from excessive nutrients in the water; Outlet of Buterere wastewater treatment lagoons; Flooded sewerage channel in Buyenzi. (Photos by Saskia Marijnissen).