

## CHAPTER 14

### GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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### INTRODUCTION

This report elucidates the problems and challenges facing the Lake Victoria basin. It takes into consideration the information gathered and analysed from the inception of LVEMP 1 to its end. An interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and cross-cutting approach involving all the stakeholders in the management and restoration of the degraded lake ecosystem is recommended for the next phase of LVEMP.

### Recommendations

A summary of the recommendations for the continuation of the project is given in this section. Reference is made to other parts of this report for the details of the recommendations.

1. Sensitization of people within the catchment on the use of best land management practices should be intensified. Priority should also be given to marginal land cropped to annuals and degraded hillsides which are potential sources of runoff, soil and phosphorus.
2. Activities leading to an increase in atmospheric deposition such as biomass burning and overgrazing should be regulated.
3. There is need to rehabilitate, protect and improve the quality of wetlands in the catchment, in order to further reduce the load of nutrients into the lake.
4. Stringent enforcement on use of banned organochlorine pesticides (e.g. DDT) to protect applicators, the terrestrial and aquatic environment especially the fishery industry.
5. Use of lead free petroleum products should be encouraged and legislated by the government.
6. Urban centres, markets and fishing villages should have appropriate solid waste management facilities.
7. Urban centres and industries should ensure that wastewater treatment facilities are in place and their effluents comply with recommended discharge standards. Further expansion of existing treatment facilities to handle increased waste discharges and where necessary construction of new plants should be done.
8. The environmental laws should be enforced to ensure compliance.
9. It is necessary to undertake proper planning of urban and rural centres which will lead to the provision of social services such as, waste treatment plants, potable water, electricity, roads and other utilities.
10. Establishment of institutions that will encourage stake-holders' participation in conservation and management of resources at the village, local, national and regional levels is essential for Lake Victoria resources utilization and should be encouraged.

11. There is need for regional cooperation through the East African Community to facilitate policy coordination among the riparian governments.
12. Continuous monitoring to collect data on trends and for future management purposes should be carried out. This applies to meteorological, hydrological, pollution loadings and water quality monitoring in both the catchment and the lake.
13. Programmes aimed at reducing water-borne and water-related diseases in the riparian communities should be incorporated in LVEMP 2 in order to complement on other on-going efforts.
14. More clean water sources need to be availed to the fishing villages besides lake water.
15. Alternative fast-growing environmentally friendly tree species with high economic returns should be identified and promoted.
16. More studies and monitoring of pesticide and metal contamination in the atmosphere, water, sediments, flora and fauna should be carried out and capacity (human, equipment) should be built in these areas.
17. Purchase missing field and laboratory equipment (e.g. sediment corers, water purifiers, laboratory automatisation equipment) suitably equipped fast survey vessel.
18. Construction of a second central laboratory will ease the serious constraint to the Entebbe laboratory.
19. More training is required in a number of fields including limnology, field data collection, laboratory analysis, modeling, and pesticides and heavy metal pollution control.
20. More resources should be allocated to the upgrading of the Lake Victoria Water Quality Model from a demonstration model (its present form) to a full management tool.
21. Participate in annual regional working sessions to update databases, extend records and perform data validation. It is recommended that a consultant be engaged to assist in the working sessions.
22. There is need to constantly update the water budget for the lake using national and regional data.
23. Lake wide bathymetry map should be prepared
24. Gauging stations for the ungauged catchments should be established as soon as possible.
25. A strategy to facilitate free flow and rapid exchange of information relevant to the management of shared resources to the stakeholders between institutions, nationally and regionally needs to be developed in the next phase.
26. Integrated approach to management of the lake resources involving the local communities and all other interested stakeholders is recommended.
27. LVEMP II should focus on purpose-based water resources management, sensitization of communities around the lake in participatory approach to lake restoration.
28. Socio-economic research is a priority area for planning and coordinated execution of sustainable utilization of lake resources.
29. Continued monitoring of the water hyacinth hotspots should continue.
30. Other potential aquatic weeds existing in the Lake Victoria basin, such as, water lettuce, water chestnut and water fern also threaten waterways, wetlands, dams, and irrigation schemes. The magnitude and extent of spread and threats need to be investigated.
31. Harmonization of policies, mandates, and legal instruments of line institutions at national (and international) level to facilitate close coordination and collaboration is necessary.

## **THE WAY FORWARD**

- LVEMP 2 should address the gaps that have been identified in this report.
- Involvement of riparian communities in all programmes to instill sense of ownership of the resources is necessary for LVEMP 2 objectives to be realised.
- Lessons learnt from LVEMP 1 should be used to address project implementation concerns that may have hindered achievement of some of the LVEMP 1 objectives