



Title **LVBC to jointly launch the Lake Victoria Basin Integrated Water Resources Management Programme with high-level representatives of international, regional and national cooperation partners.**

LVBC, 13th February 2020, Kisumu, Kenya,

The Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), an institution of the East African Community (EAC), together with the Federal Republic of Germany and the European Union (EU) will on 14th February 2020 launch the Lake Victoria Basin Integrated Water Resources Management Programme (LVB IWRMP). The Programme is jointly financed by the Federal Republic of Germany and the EU, both via KfW Development Bank, and aims at improving the water quality and availability in the countries of the Lake Victoria Basin.

Lake Victoria, being the second largest fresh water body in the world, is one of the most important shared natural resources by the Partner States of the EAC. To improve availability and quality of water resources, strategic and sustainable management of the shared transboundary resource Lake Victoria is required.

With a total Programme budget of EUR31.9 million, EUR 20.0 million grant from the Federal Republic of Germany, EUR8.9 million grant from the EU and EUR 3.0 million from the benefiting EAC Partner States, the Programme will be implemented at regional level through the LVBC and at national level by designated national Project Executing Agencies in the EAC Partner States which are part of the Lake Victoria Basin.

The Programme has two components. The first component focusses on strengthening the capacity of LVBC for cross-boundary integrated water resources management. Also, due to the transboundary characteristic of the Lake, a common strategy for integrated water resources management in the five states of the Lake Victoria Basin is essential and will be formulated.

Furthermore, through the second component of the Programme, wastewater discharges into pollution hot spots of Lake Victoria will be reduced by implementing four High Priority Investments in Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya and Tanzania. They will have a significant regional impact on the water quality of Lake Victoria Basin and will set new benchmarks by exceeding existing discharge regulations and practice.

Through this programme, LVBC is contributing to the long-term goal of the EAC to increase regional integration, the EU and its European Water Framework Directive thereby serving as a role model.