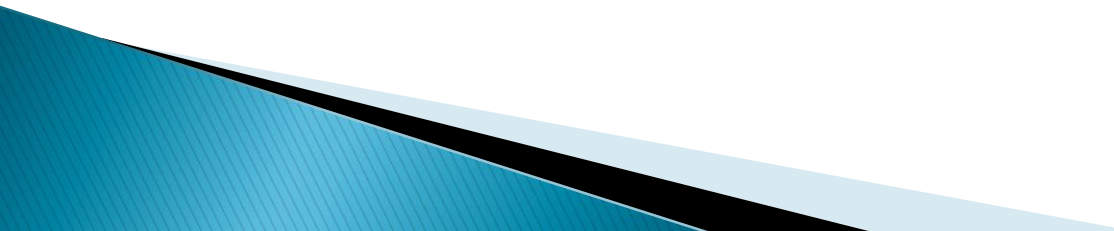


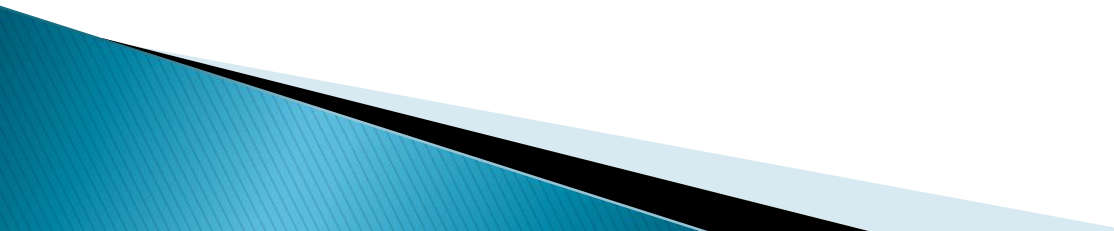
# REHABILITATION OF THE ECOSYSTEM OF LAKE VICTORIA

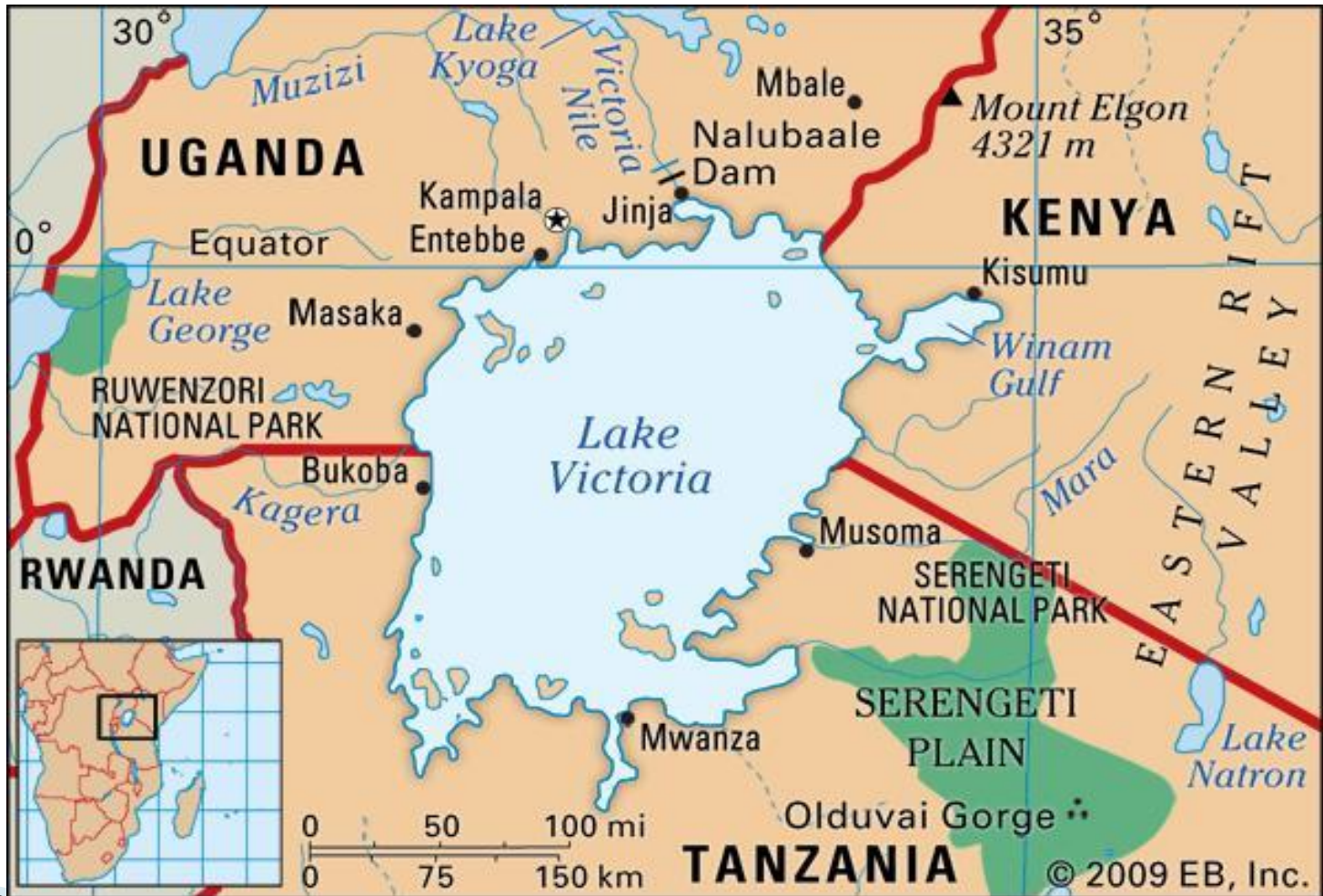
PRESENTATION BY  
MAUREEN ODENDO

# OVERVIEW

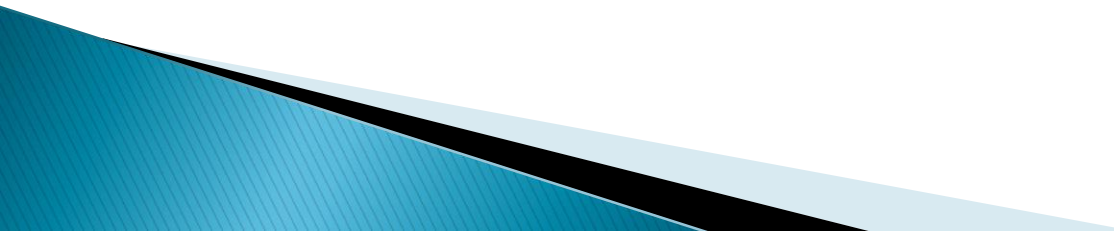
- ▶ Background
  - ▶ Trans-boundary challenges
  - ▶ Legal framework
  - ▶ Case study
  - ▶ Conclusion
- 

# BACKGROUND

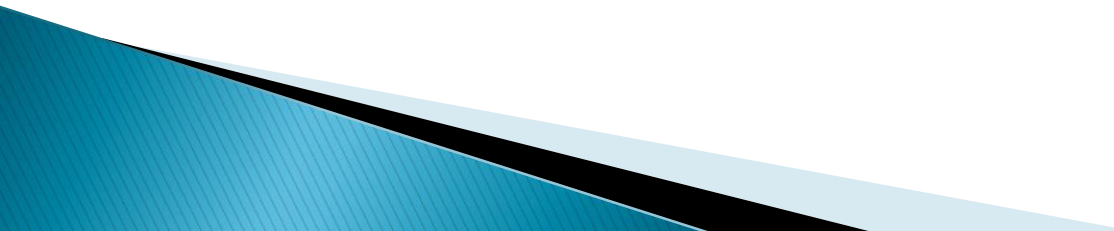
- ▶ There are about 263 trans-boundary lake and river basins and the Lake Victioria is one of them
  - ▶ Lake Victoria is a fresh water lake covering an area of approximately 194,200 km<sup>2</sup>
- 



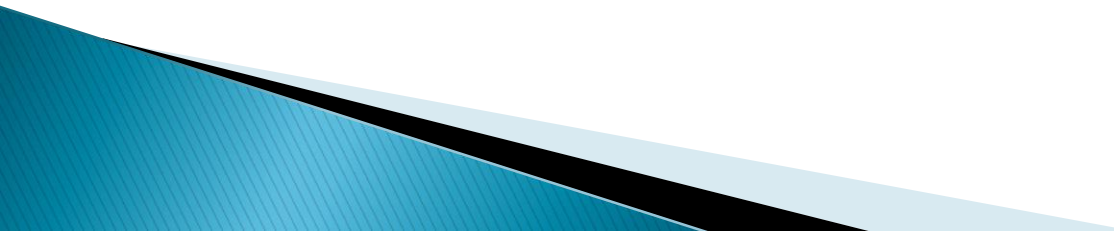
# CHALLENGES

- ▶ Improper land use and land degradation
  - ▶ Poor Water quality and pollution
  - ▶ Reduced water quantity and water balance;
  - ▶ decline in fish and biodiversity
  - ▶ Resurgence of water hyacinth and other invasive weeds
- 

# LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- ▶ There have been viable legal framework in the rehabilitation and management of various trans-boundary waters
  - ▶ According to the UNDESA, there more than 3,600 agreements and treaties
  - ▶ Local implementation of most policies in the countries has been effected through the enactment of specific legislations and institution of programmes
- 

# Lake Victoria Environmental Management Program (LVEMP)

- ▶ established by the then East African Community Partner States (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania)
  - ▶ Purpose to rehabilitate the ecosystem of Lake Victoria for the benefit of the inhabitants and economies of the respective partner states
  - ▶ The programme was implemented in 2 phases
- 

# cont

- ▶ The focus of the LVEMP was
  - To create baseline information to guide future action plans;
  - to build human and institutional capacity;
  - problem identification and prioritisation;
  - Conserve biodiversity and genetic resources for the benefit of the riparian communities; and
  - to harmonise national management programmes in order to reverse environmental degradation trends in the region.



- ▶ It was structured into 8 implementation units which focused on:
  - Management and control of –
    - the water hyacinth infestation
    - industrial and municipal effluents
    - agro-chemical use within the region
  - capacity building through
    - training
    - acquisition of equipment and other facilities.

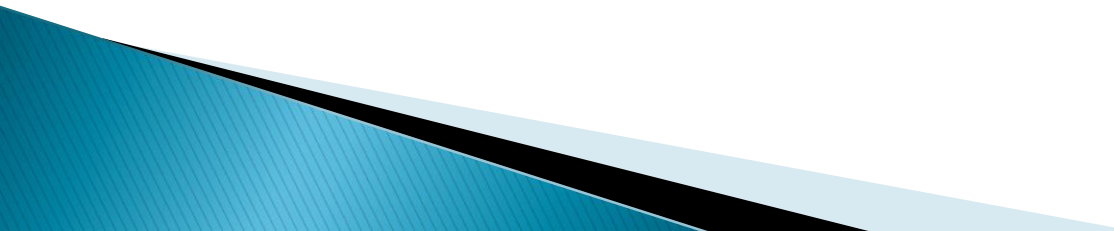
## ▶ How:

- Reduction of hyacinth infestation
- Established water quality stations to monitor water quality
- Organised capacity building in the implementing institutions– 28 PHDS, 88 MSC, 10 Diplomas and short courses

# Challenges to implementation

## 1. Lack of enforcement mechanisms

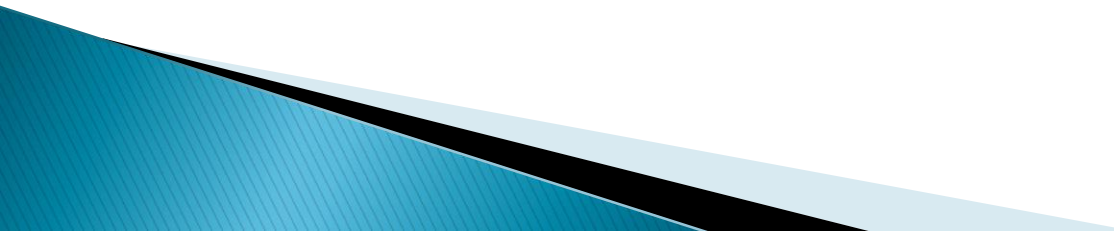
- The implementation of most policies is effected through the enactment of specific legislations and establishment of specialised agencies
- e.g . The LVB Development Authority Act, Cap 442

- ▶ 2. Reluctance and laxity in enacting or implementing legal proposals or agreements  
delay or failure to domesticate the conventions into national laws.  
e.g implementation of the Protocol for Sustainable Development of the Lake Victoria Basin is dependant of the national laws.
- 

### 3. Disparity with local laws or conflict with local mechanisms

e.g Land Act, Forest Act and EMCA are enactments to reflect the policy on environmental management. However these legislations primarily reflect the local (Kenya) and not the regional position

# Lessons learnt

1. The need for harmonised and consolidated perspectives and legislation in the management of Lake Victoria
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## 2. Need for effective enforcement mechanisms

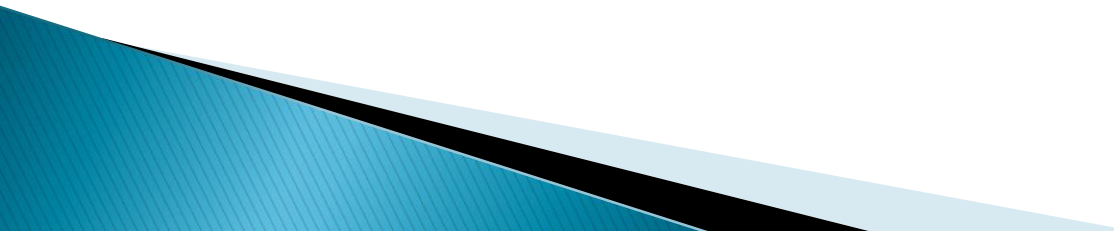
Knowledge must be complimented by strong institutions and sustainable management of trans-boundary water resources

- ▶ e.g. EMC Act – introduces environment restoration order– requires a person to restore the environment

- ▶ need to strengthen regional institutions, particularly LVBC, to enhance the coordination and harmonization of policies and regulations for effective management of transboundary issues in the Basin



# CONCLUSION

- ▶ There have been various notable attempts to create a viable legal framework
  - ▶ Need for harmonization of legislation and perspectives on trans-boundary water management
- 

▶ **THANK YOU**