



LAKE NEWS

Message from our New CEO



Anderson Koyo - CEO LNRA

Lake Naivasha and its catchment ecosystem continue to face many challenges that are threatening its ecological integrity and functions. The challenges are compounded by the lack of a National Wetland Policy and the Lake Naivasha Management Plan the

latter of which is still suspended by a court injunction. Examples of some of the critical issues include reduction of lake water levels and river inflow, effluent discharges (pollutants), riparian reserve degradation and encroachment, water hyacinth, unsustainable land use practices, deforestation and loss of land cover. All these challenges have contributed to the Lake being put on the Montreux Record by the Ramsar Convention. The Lake Naivasha Riparian Association (LNRA) has responded by enhancing its technical capacity through the establishment of an executive office and improved co-ordination and collaboration with relevant government agencies, development partners, NGOs and community groups – especially the Lake Naivasha Growers Group (LNGG), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Green Belt Movement (GBM), Water Recourse Management Authority (WRMA), Water Resources Users Associations (WRUAs) and Community Forest Associations (CFAs) within the catchment. This co-operation will, among other things, promote integrated natural resource management through harmonization of policies and strategies that are essential for overturning the challenges that have caused the Ramsar Convention to list Lake Naivasha among the international wetlands whose ecological character is changing or likely to change for the worse. We now call upon all stakeholders and collaborating partners to join us to try to save Lake Naivasha.

LNRA/LNGG Co-operation

The LNRA has undertaken to develop a closer cooperation with the LNGG and the two have agreed to consolidate their policies, strategies and operations. The new approach will enable the two organizations to be better focused and thus be able to address issues in a

more concerted and synergistic manner. This will also be more cost effective in terms of resource allocations and utilization. The LNGG has formally approved the co-operation and the two organizations now share office space and other logistical/operational costs. The legal process of formalising the cooperation is in progress. Other conservation and development agencies within the Naivasha catchment will be encouraged to join the collaborative initiative as a way of ensuring broader and more effective co-ordination, networking, synergy, integrated planning and management of the whole catchment.



LNRA/LNGG Offices along Koinange Street in Naivasha Town

The Lake Naivasha Ramsar site on the Montreux record

The Ramsar Convention's Montreux Record is a register of wetlands on the List of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interferences. The record is maintained as part of the Ramsar Site Database. The Montreux Record is employed to identify sites for positive national and international conservation attention. Changes that have occurred in Lake Naivasha and resulted in the lake being put on the Montreux list include:-

- Habitat Degradation
- Nutrient enrichment
- Decreased river flow
- Land use conversion
- Biodiversity alteration

Reasons for adverse change in ecological character of the lake were identified as follows,

- a) Increased population and unplanned development
- b) Water over-abstraction and out of basin transfer
- c) Over grazing
- d) Over fishing
- e) Alien species introduction
- f) Inadequate law enforcement

In response to the lake being put on the Montreux Record, LNRA is continuing working concertedly with other stakeholders to retrieve the management plan from the court and implement it as a formal framework for addressing the challenges affecting the Lake and its ecosystem. There is also enhanced research and monitoring to collect data especially on water quality,

quantity and ecosystem status and trends. LNRA is working with other agencies in promoting improved enforcement of regulations on resource utilization. Farmers are being encouraged to construct wetlands to purify their waste water and establish conservation zones to improve the ecological integrity of the Lake. LNRA is working on public education, awareness creation and advocacy. We are encouraging the adoption of sustainable farming and land use practices as well as integrated water resource management and provision of sanitation services. There is also a proposal to rehabilitate degraded shore line vegetation and restore degraded habitats in order to help nature to help us by preventing siltation of the Lake and cleaning the inflowing water.

LNRA Lake Monitoring Programme

Data has been collected over many years. The principal parameters being monitored at present are lake water levels, rainfall, pH, electrical conductivity and nutrient levels (phosphates and nitrates) among others. Regular monitoring is providing data that can be used to determine patterns and identify threats to the Lake. The lake level has continued to drop (ca 1m in the last year) due to inadequate rains and low river inflows combined with high water abstraction both in the upper and lower catchments. The Lake level is still over a metre higher than it was 55 years ago but it is falling fast. Nutrient samples from four selected hotspots and two control points indicate relatively higher phosphate and nitrate levels along the Kihoto shoreline and the river inlets. The water transparency is also lower at these points. Intensive sample analysis and shorter sampling intervals will be conducted in an attempt to capture the short-term fluxes. With support from WWF, arrangements are being made to carry out integrated monitoring in partnership with the key institutions such as WRMA, KMFRI, KWS and Leicester University.



Fishing vessel on Lake Naivasha

Over the past thirty years the Lake has been subjected to sustained abuse as a result of uncontrolled and unplanned human activities and this has resulted in severe degradation of the Lake's ecosystem. As a result biodiversity changes are now being observed in fish, aquatic plants, invertebrates and some bird species.

LNRA is in the process of obtaining a revised survey map of Lake Naivasha (2006) that shows the latest state of encroachments and intrusions beyond the official riparian boundary. We will undertake ground-truthing of all incursions and aggressively address the farms/individuals concerned prior to linking with the relevant government agencies for further action. The local MP has pledged to support the reclamation of the Lake Naivasha riparian land and ensure its protection. He stated that he will invite the Minister for Environment to mobilize the government machinery to take action on this important matter. LNRA and LNGG are co-opting

the Green Belt Movement and Provincial Administration to help establish the genuine public access corridors and organise for their protection and management.

Water Issues within the Catchment

WRUAs and CFAs

WWF has supported the formation of nine Water Resource Users Associations (WRUAs) and four Community Forest Associations (CFAs) within the Lake Naivasha catchment basin. These are community based natural resource management associations. They form the basic units for water and forestry resource management at a local level as mandated by the respective sectoral laws.



River Malewa at low flow

Other local natural resource management institutions include the Greenbelt Movement, Elsamere Conservation Trust and the Nakuru Wildlife Conservancy. LNRA will continue to participate in collaborative conservation programmes and activities with these organizations within the watershed.

Lake Naivasha WRUA Management Plan

LNRA has been a key player and contributor to the development of the LANAWRUA management plan. The first draft is ready and will be circulated to stakeholders for comment. The drafting sub-committee was composed of two LANAWRUA members, two WRMA members and one LNRA member. The management plan covers the area within and defined by the 2000 m.a.s.l. contour around the Lake. The plan focuses on sustainable utilization and management of all water resources within the sub-catchment which is part of the larger Lake Naivasha catchment, and has been produced as a requirement of the Water Act, 2002.

Water Permit Allocation

The Water Resource Management authority (WRMA) is applying an established water budget for Lake Naivasha as a guide to decisions on water allocations and to ensure that sufficient water is maintained for environmental services. LNRA and LNGG are observer members of the LANAWRUA Water Allocation Committee. A draft water allocation plan has been circulated for comments by the stakeholders. The plan will be attached as an appendix to the LANAWRUA Management Plan. In January 2009 WRMA imposed a total ban on water abstraction from the Malewa River (as has happened on many other rivers in the country) due to the prevailing drought that had caused severe reduction of the river levels. No ban was put on water abstraction from Lake Naivasha, where the water level is also showing significant reduction. Neither were abstractions from boreholes mentioned. The matter is still being discussed by the stakeholders.

NAIVAWASS

The Board of Naivasha Water Sanitation and Sewerage Company Ltd (NAIVAWASS) continue to meet and provide policy guidance to the Company for effective management of water services within the Town. The main challenge has been bridging the deficit created by high demand due to the increasing population and the improvement of the Naivasha sewage treatment and solid waste management systems. In November the Company employed personnel for its top positions as part of the restructuring process. To provide short term relief, ADB through the Rift Valley Water Service Board (RVWSB), is funding NAIVAWASS to rehabilitate the water supply system (boreholes and reticulation networks) and the upgrading of the sewage treatment works. The contractor took over the site on 28th Dec. 08 and the project is due to end on 28 Dec 2009. LNRA sits in the Board and has played a major role in ensuring that the project included a component on the improvement of the Naivasha sewage treatment works.

Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP)

The Karagita-Mirera WSUP project plans are complete and the construction work of the pilot implementation stage has started. Under the water provision component, two water tanks (one elevated and one ground tank) will be constructed to store water from three boreholes in Karagita – Mirera whose network will be interconnected to supply water to eight new water kiosks to serve the community within the area. Under the sanitation component three items are covered; general hygiene, environment awareness, sanitation and hand washing. Education is a very important component of the scheme and the main educational entry point will be the schools and will involve collaborative activities with LNRA (monitoring and education). Awareness creation will be conducted through the entertainment and drama



Launch of Kihoto water supply

approach (plays, songs and films). It should be noted that the project has also been extended to cover other satellite settlements i.e. Kamere and Kasarani. The Project name has also been changed to WESUP – Water, Environment and Sanitation for the Urban Poor. This is intended to give more emphasis on environmental awareness and protection. Unfortunately there is insufficient land to construct a proper sewerage treatment plant and channels for surface run-off treatment and filtration which is one of the major problems in Karagita.

Environmental Education and Awareness programmes

Schools Conservation Programmes

Several education and awareness activities were undertaken over the past three months. The target groups have included managers and workers in the flower farms, pupils in primary and secondary schools and community groups within the catchment basin. The Education Officer has visited ten schools and twelve community groups, talked to them and also provided them with environmental awareness materials. The schools that were visited include Rutere, Ndabibi, Oasis Primary Schools, Bishop Ndingi Secondary school and the Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute. Environmental education and community awareness classes were also held at Kariandusi, Lake Elmenteita, Umoja wa Kienjero, Ndabibi, Tangi Tano, Kahuhu and Mwhangeri.

The LNRA also had stands at the Naivasha Crafty Fair and Elsamere Conservation Centre's Education Day. Much of the work is carried out in partnership with KWS, WWF, WCK, NAWACOMP and the Elsamere field Study Centre.

Leicester University/Brock Initiative Training at Lake Naivasha

With funding from the Darwin Initiative, Leicester University/Brock Initiative in collaboration with LNRA conducted training on the development of community based Conservation Films (and virtual IT). The training was aimed at equipping environmental conservation practitioners with skills to develop conservation documentaries using simple equipment, just cameras and computers. Over November and December last year, two training sessions were held at project site on Kijabe Farm. Our Education Officer, Sammy Njoroge, attended the training and, jointly with other participants, produced a short documentary on the challenges facing Eburru Forest. Several excellent small films on environmental issues around Lake Naivasha were produced by the groups. During the sessions the LNRA Monitoring Officer., Mbogo Kamau, presented lectures on the challenges affecting Lake Naivasha and provided guidance on the identification of thematic areas and possible contents of the films.

Wetlands and Poverty Reduction Initiatives

Kenya held the first National Training Course on Wetlands and Poverty Reduction in December under the auspices of Wetlands International, at the Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute. Twenty participants drawn from government institutions, NGOs and site support groups attended. The LNRA Education Officer and the LANAWRUA Secretary attended the course. The Naivasha course was a follow up to four other regional training courses held in Entebbe, Uganda. The LNRA Monitoring Officer had attended the 3rd of the series of training courses and so was part of the facilitation team on the National Training Course. The course was designed to enhance the technical capacity of wetland

practitioners on environmental awareness, policy formulation, advocacy, planning and management practices that integrate poverty reduction strategies among local communities. The course helped in enhancing the capacity within LNRA while at the same time provided a forum for networking among the participants and facilitators in lobbying for concerted efforts towards sustainable conservation and management of wetlands. Lake Naivasha was used as a case study for wetlands that contribute to poverty reduction.

Meetings with Other Institutions

The LNRA and LNGG met with the local MP, DC, DO, Councillors and other local leaders to seek better understanding, co-operation and/or collaboration with these institutions. We also met with WRMA, WWF, Municipal Council of Naivasha, District Environment Committee, Divisional Environment Committee, LANAWRUA, other WRUAs, WESUP, NAIWAWASS, RECONCILE, CFAs, GBM, NAWACOMP and several other local organizations to build partnerships in environmental conservation and management. LNRA is viewed as a strong and positive partner by all these organizations and will continue to ensure that a good relationship is developed among various players within the Lake Naivasha watershed. The important factor behind the meetings was to create common understanding and strategies to address the challenges affecting the ecosystem.

Green Belt Movement (GBM)

The GBM recently organized three consultative meetings to seek support from the local stakeholders in addressing the environmental challenges that face Lake Naivasha. LNRA was represented by our Secretary, Monitoring Officer and the CEO. The three officials expounded on the previous work by LNRA and the achievements so far and the need for collaboration and synergy by all the players. Collaboration among organizations is welcome especially as the lake is currently on the Montreux Record and thus all possible conservation efforts are required. However, it is important for GBM to appreciate what LNRA and other agencies have done in the past and use that to build additional intervention measures. The GBM has prioritized eleven specific topics that it wishes to undertake within the Lake Naivasha catchment, which include the problem of Water Hyacinth, effluent discharges (pollutants), degradation of the riparian reserve, unsustainable land use activities, declining Lake water levels, access corridors, lack of awareness, review of Lake Naivasha Management Plan, enactment of the National Wetlands Policy, tree planting and forest conservation in Eburru and Kinangop forests. Each of the eleven components will be spear-headed by a local task force – to undertake further analysis of the objectives, identify possible solutions, draw up activities and timelines and work out budgeting and resource mobilization. LNRA is a core member of these groups because of our knowledge and position and the work we have already carried out for the protection and sustainable management of the Lake.

Naivasha Watershed Conservation and Management Project (NAWACOMP)

NAWACOMP has continued to receive technical and logistical support from LNRA through provision of office space, chairing of the Project Implementation Committee (PIC) and overall technical guidance on project implementation. LNRA and NAWACOMP have undertaken an environmental sensitization and education programme which targeted local communities and several learning institutions within the catchment. NAWACOMP has initiated the Eburru Forest Conservation process and is involved in promoting sustainable utilization practices among the adjacent forest communities. The project has supported the Eburru KFS office by providing a motor bike to enhance mobility to assist with monitoring and law enforcement. The project has also facilitated the speedy signing of the Eburru Forest Management Plan and the formation and strengthening of the Community Forest Association (CFA). Together with LNRA, the Project has implemented an awareness and sensitization programme among the communities regarding the need to conserve the forests. The other key activities are tree planting, soil conservation, water conservation and forest protection within and around Eburru Forest. The Project continues to support the monthly meetings of the CFA together with development of alternative sources of income and livelihood to minimize pressure on the forest resources. Over 120 beehives have been distributed to two groups in Kiambogo, one in Eburru and one in Ndabibi to provide alternative livelihoods to the communities.

Eburru Forest

Monthly meetings continue to be held every 1st Friday of the Month. Mobilization and sensitization on the Eburru Forest Management Plan to the user groups within the adjacent communities were conducted between September and October 2008. Since the mobilization, twenty four user groups have registered with Eburru Community Forest Association (ECOFA) as a commitment for their participation in the Participatory Forest Management (PFM) programme. The Community Forest Association has been registered with the National Alliance of Forest Associations (NACOFA) to enhance lobbying for the conservation of forests nationally.



Eburru Forest Management Plan Launch

A Management Agreement for Eburru Forest has been developed and forwarded to KFS to facilitate engagement in the Participatory Forest Management. Rehabilitation of degraded areas of Eburru Forest through enrichment planting is being conducted as a joint effort between the community groups and the NAWACOMP project. LNRA continues to be a

member of ECOFA and provides technical guidance on the project implementation.

User groups, institutions or members can register with ECOFA. As a member you can participate in ECOFA activities that are geared towards forest conservation, and also benefit from the Association's initiatives.

Resource Conflict Institute - RECONCILE

RECONCILE is implementing a one year project on environmental awareness in the Lake Naivasha region, funded by the CDTF/CEF (Community Development Trust Fund/Community Environment Facility) The project is addressing two major challenges to sustainable environmental management:- lack of awareness on environmental management and governance, and development of frameworks for multidisciplinary actions. The project is intended to improve the understanding of stakeholders, especially the rural and urban poor about the link between their livelihoods and environmental sustainability, whilst increasing their capacity to enhance their livelihoods through sustainable environmental governance within the existing policies, legal and institutional frameworks. With an increased understanding, the project will mobilize the stakeholders towards improved participation and collaborative initiatives in the management the Lake and its ecosystem. LNRA is collaborating in the project implementation and has been identified by CDTF as a partner of RECONCILE in terms of planning and implementation of the project.

Site Specific Initiatives

LNRA will continue to address the specific site-based problems. It is the responsibility of all LNRA members to intervene and bring to the attention of the secretariat any mismanagement or destructive activities observed anywhere around the lake. Some of the destructive activities include felling of trees, clearing of papyrus, improper land use, encroachment on riparian reserve, discharge of effluents, quarrying and inappropriate fishing activities. The LNRA team has visited sites that include the rivers, informal settlement schemes on North Lake Road, the Naivasha sewage treatment works, Karagita beach and Kamere fish landing site, the north and eastern shoreline from the mouth of River Malewa to Lake Naivasha Country Club, and the southern shoreline from Sher Karaturi to the Oserian Bay to inspect the activities and seek intervention measures. Consultations have been held with the Beach Management Units, the Fisheries Department, KWS, WRMA, NEMA and the District Officer (Naivasha) on various environmental management and natural resources utilization issues. Other sites with mismanagement issues, e.g. Tarabete/Kasarani, have been reported and will be acted upon. Enforcement of legislation has been noted as the weakest area of intervention by relevant agencies

Proposals for Donor funds

LNRA has sent out several project concepts and appeals for funding to partners both locally and internationally. Interest has been expressed and some asked for more information, particularly wanting to understand more about LNRA and its historical role in the conservation of Lake Naivasha. We have provided the required additional information and will continue to make the necessary follow-up.

We make a special appeal for technical and financial support to conservation and development partners and well wishers to enable the Association to fulfil its mission of promoting the wise use of Lake Naivasha for sustainable development.

The LNRA Secretariat

Chief Executive Officer: Anderson Koyo .. 0733 750518

Monitoring Officer: Mbogo Kamau ... 0722 315678

Education Officer: Sammy Njoroge ... 0720 353198

The LNRA Office Bearers

Chairman: Mark Kariuki 0722 683218

Vice Chairman: Rod Jones 0722 204271

Secretary: Sarah Higgins 0723 786007

Treasurer: Dorothea Cartland 020 2312426

Lake Naivasha Riparian Association

Lake Naivasha Riparian Association was founded in 1929 by the landowners who own land around the Lake. Its purpose then was to adjudicate the marginal lands that is covered and uncovered by the changing level of the water – the so called riparian land. The Association's members are drawn from a wide variety of backgrounds; they include tour operators, power generating companies, ranch owners, flower growers, small scale farmers, cooperatives and the local Municipal Council. The LNRA won the Ramsar Convention's 'Wetlands Conservation Award' for 1999 in recognition of their contribution to conservation efforts in the Lake Naivasha Basin.

Through the LNRA, a Management Plan for Lake Naivasha is in place and was gazetted by the government of Kenya. The plan is currently subject of a court case as a result of a few people who felt they had not been adequately consulted during the plan development process. Efforts are underway to resolve the dispute and get the plan out of the court for implementation. In the meantime, lack of effective implementation of the plan has allowed continued abuse of the environment and thus the listing of Lake Naivasha in the Ramsar Convention's Montreux Record.

The LNRA is a voluntary organization, relying on contributions to carry on its work. Individuals can contribute directly to the work of LNRA through promotion of the principles of the management plan, and also by becoming active paid up full or associate members.

Lake Naivasha Riparian Association

P.O. Box 1011 - 20117, Naivasha

Phone: +254 - 050 - 50136

E-mail: kijabe@africaonline.co.ke

www.lakenaivasha.org