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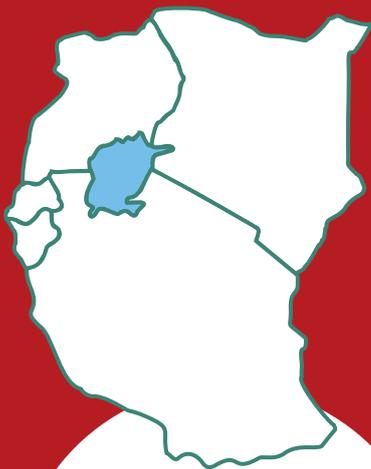
PLANNING FOR  
RESILIENCE IN  
EAST AFRICA THROUGH  
POLICY,  
ADAPTATION,  
RESEARCH, AND  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT (PREPARED)  
PROJECT

DECEMBER 2012- DECEMBER 2017

## GOAL:

The PREPARED Project, the central component of USAID/East Africa's PREPARED Program, works to strengthen the resiliency and sustainability of East African institutions, by targeting three key development challenges of East Africa that are likewise high priority areas for the U.S.

Government (USG): climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable access to water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).



### Geographical Focus:

- East African Community (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda)
- Lake Victoria Basin

# THE PREPARED PROJECT

As the central component of the Planning for Resilience in East Africa through Policy, Adaptation, Research and Economic Development (PREPARED) Program, the PREPARED Project is aimed at mainstreaming climate-resilient development planning and program implementation into the East African Community (EAC) and its Partner States' development agendas.

The U.S. Agency for International Development's East Africa Regional Mission (USAID/EA) funds the PREPARED Program. The Project supports the following areas: 1) climate change adaptation; 2) biodiversity conservation; and 3) water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

The PREPARED Project was designed to capitalize on the key opportunities that lie at the nexus of three development priorities for both the EAC and USAID: increased resiliency to climate change, trans-boundary biodiversity conservation, and improved access to drinking water supply and sanitation services. Separately and together, these issues have enormous implications for the long-term sustainable development, economic growth and stability of the region.

They also provide an opportunity for USAID/East Africa to take a truly innovative development approach that simultaneously addresses these issues through the lens of ecosystem based adaptation, integrated water resources management (IWRM), sustainable WASH services delivery, and climate change adaptation in ways that will lead to long-term transformative change and resiliency.



## CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

The scientific understanding of many climate change impacts constantly evolves, and confidence in climatic predictions and their application in various sectors in the region are still nascent. Both the East African Community (EAC) and Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) secretariats lack extensive experience and capacity to fulfil their mandates to provide services to their Partner States on climate change adaptation. In support of this objective, the Project addresses existing institutional and technical gaps in the EAC Secretariat through building capacity of its Climate Change Coordination Unit.

The Climate Change Coordination Unit will interact with all key regional and Partner States' stakeholders to 1) develop climate change policies, strategies, and plans; 2) design relevant projects; 3) promote integration of climate change in educational curricula; and 4) build capacity of research institutions involved in climate change-related issues. In parallel, the LVBC Secretariat hopes to establish a Climate Change Coordination Desk, and is currently in the process of developing a draft Climate Change Strategy for the Lake Victoria Basin (LVB).



## BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The inland waters of East Africa are internationally recognized for their high levels of species richness, diversity and endemism, particularly within the Rift Valley lakes. The LVB, in particular, is a recognized globally high priority biodiversity area. However, it is also among the most at risk ecosystems as it has undergone enormous environmental changes within the last 50 years.

The PREPARED Project addresses the ecological problems and challenges facing the interconnected hydrology and ecological processes in the Basin. The Project works synergistically with its Climate Change and WASH objectives to strengthen resilient and sustainable management of biologically significant transboundary ecosystems in the EAC.



## WATER SUPPLY, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Inadequate access to safe water and basic sanitation undermines development and human well-being, and is a critical development challenge facing the East Africa region. While a wide variability of services exist, such services are especially low in rural areas, in peri-urban areas serving the urban poor, and in secondary towns with accelerated population growth rates. The sustainable provision of water and wastewater services in secondary towns in the LVB presents challenges that require new approaches to planning, financing, and service delivery.

The overall goal in this arena is to enhance resilient and sustainable water supply, sanitation, and wastewater treatment services in the LVB. The PREPARED Project, in close partnership with the LVBC, focuses its efforts on small town and peri-urban contexts of all five EAC Partner States within the LVB. It addresses the above-described gap and seizes opportunities to advance integrated development approaches.

Interventions focus on the 'software' dimensions of sustainable service delivery to complement capital investment programs.



## INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS ENGAGEMENT

The *PREPARED Project* serves as the Secretariat for the PREPARED Program Partner Coordination Committee, whose aim is to facilitate partnerships, coordination, and capacity building among all of USAID's PREPARED Program partners. The EAC Secretariat is well positioned as a growing regional political and economic bloc that encourages considerable regional cooperation on climate change, food security, biodiversity conservation, and water resource management at the policy and planning levels.

The Project works with the *EAC Secretariat*, and specifically its Climate Change Coordination Unit, to strengthen coordination, networking, and facilitation of regional and Partner States' climate change programs to 1) develop all climate change policies, strategies, and plans; 2) design relevant projects; 3) promote integration of climate change in multi-sectoral development and educational curricula; and 4) build the capacity of research institutions involved in climate change-related issues.

The *LVBC* is an institution of the EAC that provides leadership on key management issues related to the LVB, which the EAC has designated as an "area of common economic interest" and a "regional economic growth zone" to be developed jointly by the EAC Partner States.

In partnership with the LVBC, the Project 1) supports the development and implementation of an IWRM framework in the LVB; and 2) strengthens the capacity of the LVBC and Partner State institutions to provide technical support in climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation and WASH.

*The IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC)* provides quality-controlled data management, climate diagnostics and prediction applications, research and development, and end-user liaisons in the region. The Project works with ICPAC to support and improve climate information management and coordination for regional and national institutions within the EAC Region.

### USAID/KENYA AND EAST AFRICA PARTNERS:

- East African Community (EAC) Secretariat and Partner States (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda)
- Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)
- Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET)
- Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC)
- SERVIR-East Africa/Regional Center for Mapping of Resources of Development (RCMRD)

Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) is a leader in developing capacity, building and strengthening networks, and developing decision support products to help decision-makers mitigate food insecurity. The Project collaborates with FEWS NET to develop and pilot climate information tools to improve ICPAC's capacity for evidence-based adaptation planning in the EAC Region.

Regional Center for Mapping of Resources of Development(RCMRD)/SERVIR-East Africa will align its program design with the PREPARED Program to improve the demand and supply of information for decision-making and action. SERVIR (Regional Visualization and Monitoring System) is a global USAID program that integrates Earth observations (e.g. satellite imagery) and forecast models together with in situ data and knowledge for timely decision-making to benefit society.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

- The EAC Secretariat's Climate Change Coordination Unit playing a key role in coordinating climate change knowledge management and transboundary climate change adaptation policy development and investment planning within the EAC;
- Functional and replicable climate science-based geospatial decision-making and management tools developed and disseminated;
- A regional-level database or clearinghouse mechanism developed and supporting the gathering and sharing of climate change and key sector data, climate change impacts, vulnerability assessments, and best adaptation practices, including protocols for data quality, as well as coordination and coherence among key national and regional data and information management institutions;
- The inclusion of acquired knowledge about current and future climate risks and adaptive policy making in decision-making within EAC and LVBC improved;
- Adaptation strategies mainstreamed into EAC and LVBC regional development plans and policies incorporating state-of-the-art climate science and knowledge;
- Biodiversity conservation-related databases and tools for ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change strengthened;
- An Ecosystem Profile Assessment (EPA) methodology for the LVB developed, and the EPA completed;
- Understanding and awareness of the challenges and prospects of biodiversity management in the evolving context of climate change enhanced (mainstream this understanding into basin management plans);
- Economic valuation methods and Payment for Ecosystem Services(PES) approaches analyzed and piloted in the EAC;
- Access and sustainability of water supply and sanitation services, as well as small-scale wastewater treatment in small towns and peri-urban areas of the LVB increased;
- Data collection, management, and dissemination on drinking water supply and sanitation service access and sustainability throughout the region improved;
- Capacity of local government units and water and sanitation service providers to provide decentralized services strengthened; and
- Resiliency of drinking water supply and sanitation services to climate change in the region strengthened.

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