



Building Water Governance Capacity in East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda)

By:

J. P. Owino, K. Cross, A. Vishwanath, R. Bagyenda and H. Sanga

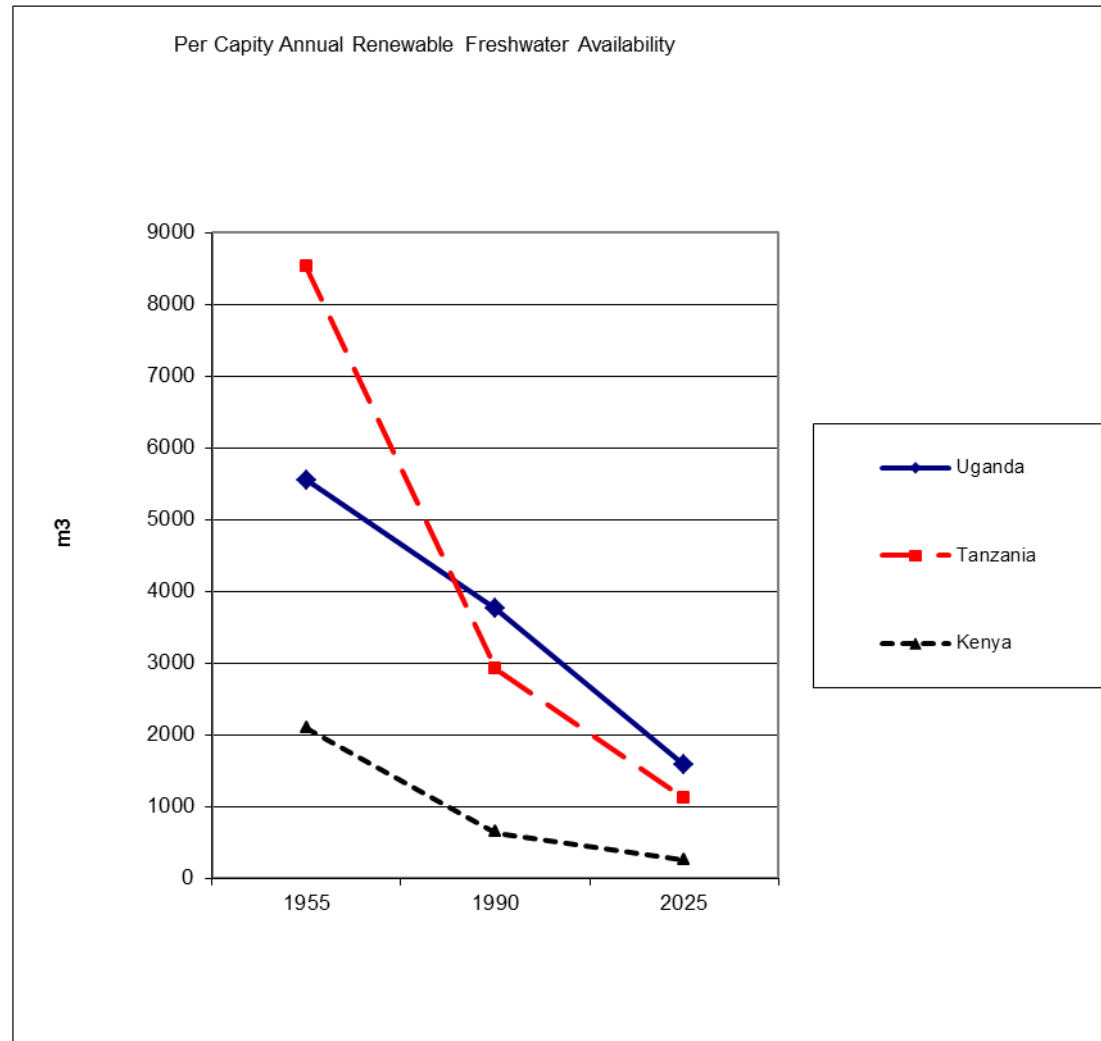
A Presentation during the International Conference on Fresh Water Governance for Sustainable Development 4th to 7th November 2012, Drakensburg Sports Resort, South Africa

“Is societal level of competence to implement effective water management, use and development through **policies, laws, institutions, regulations** and **compliance** mechanisms” (*RULE – Reforming water governance, 2009*);



To address the problem of declining available water resources, mainly due to:

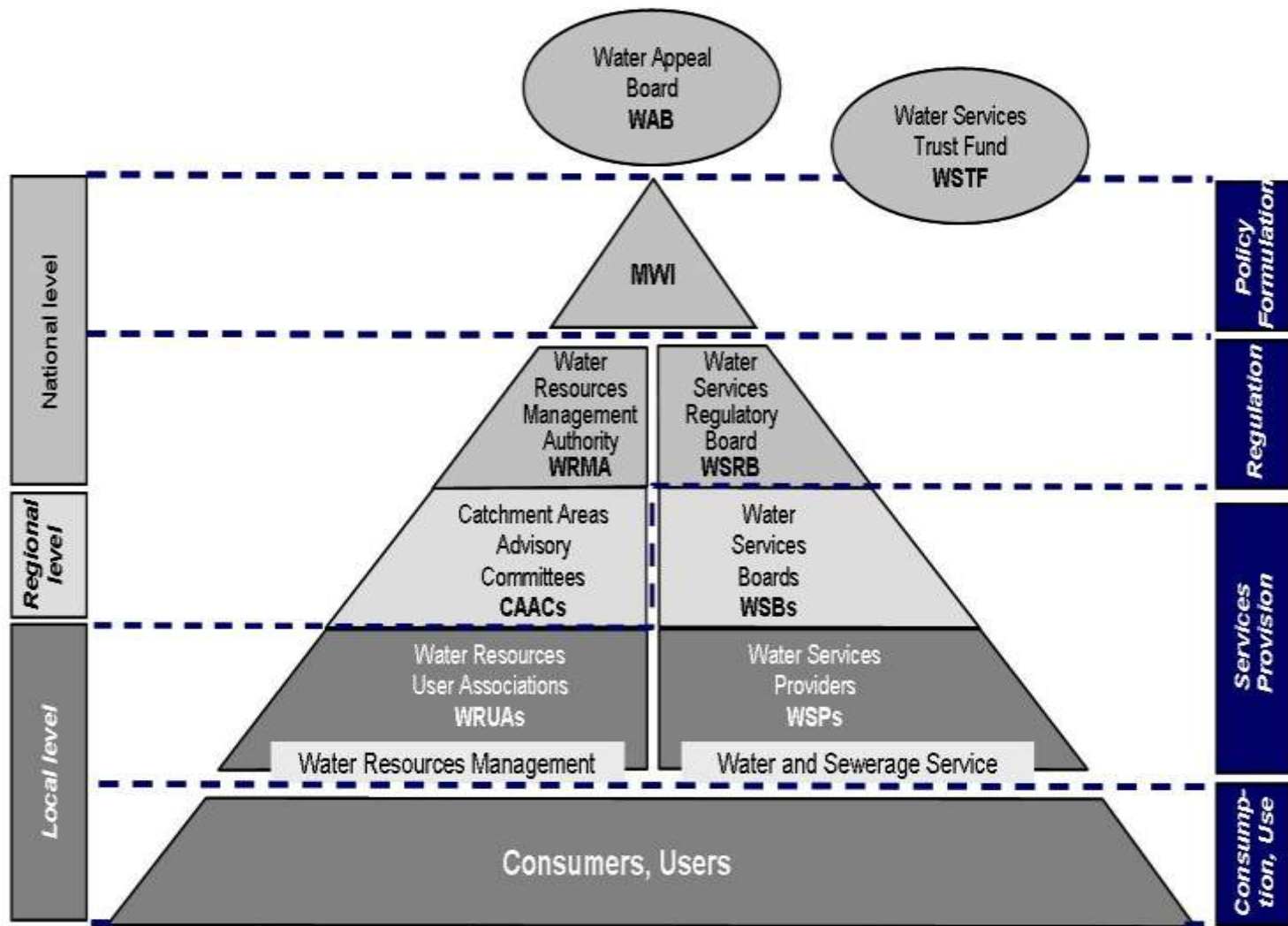
1. Increasing demand on freshwater sources (growing populations, industry, agriculture);
2. Catchment degradation, wetland encroachment and conversion; and
3. The uncertain effects of climate change and variability;



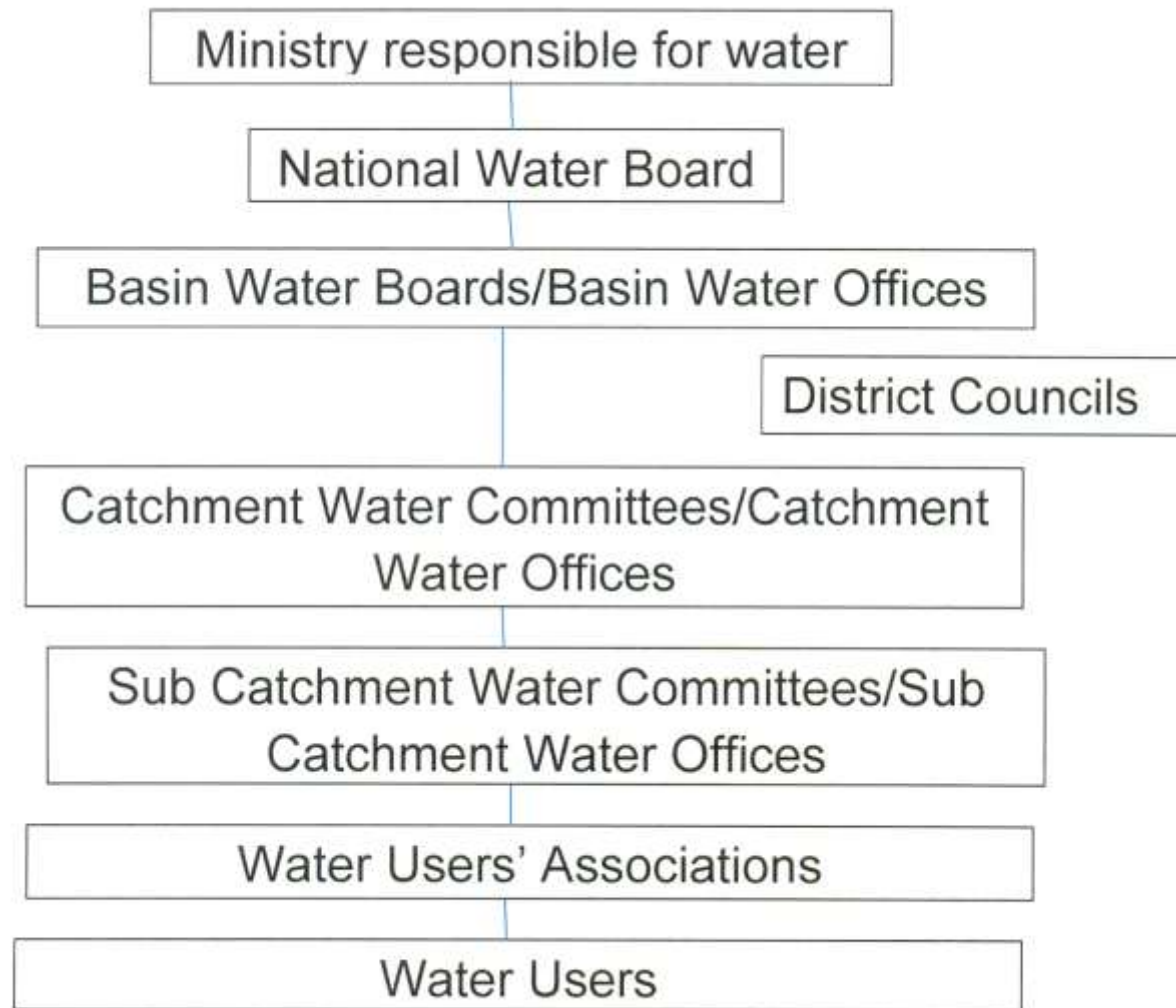


Status of water governance capacity in East African countries – Ke, Tz & Ug

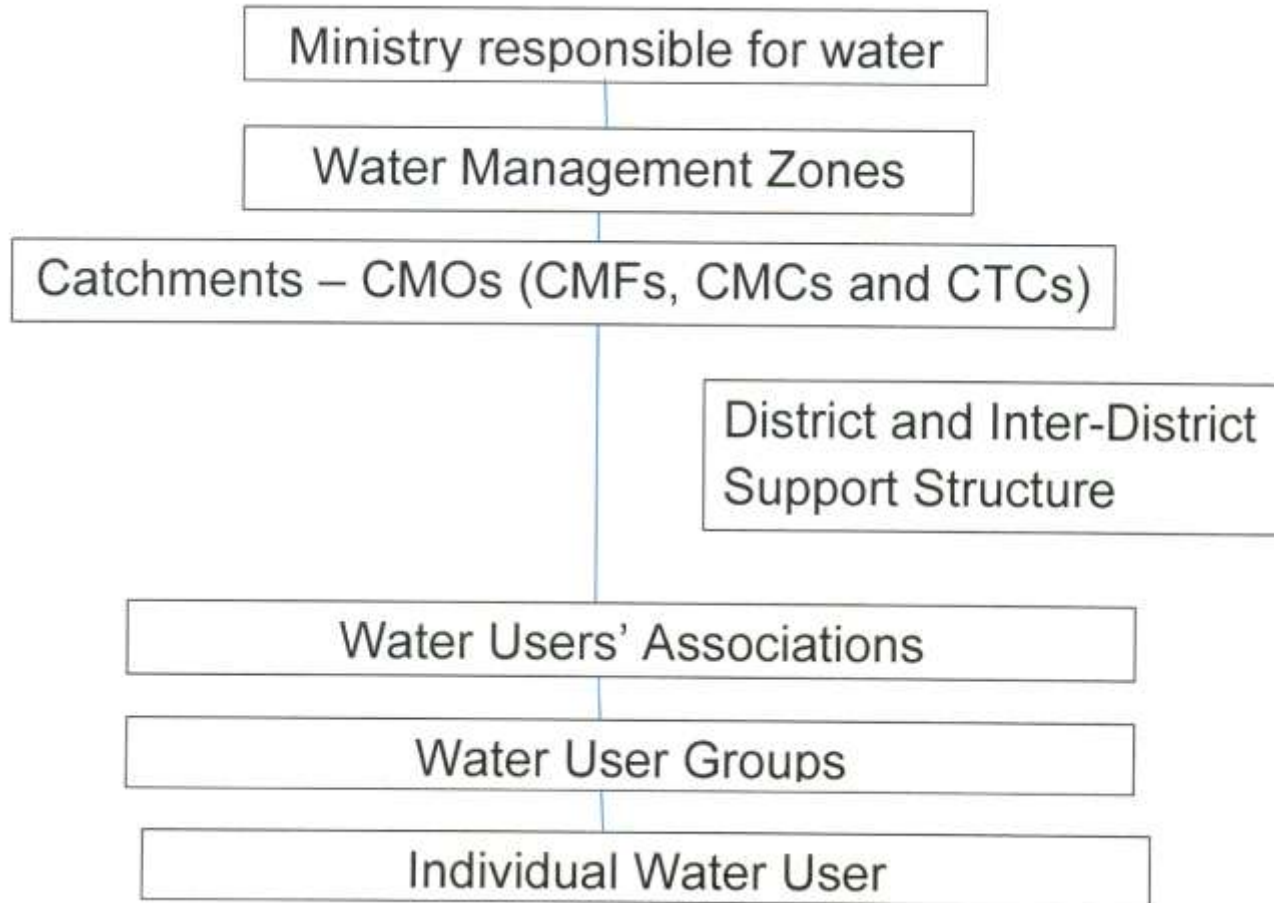
1. Across East Africa, water reforms has been on-going and embraces the principles of IWRM and Development;
2. The Water Policy and the Water Act in the three countries underpins this approach as well as providing for an institutional framework for the realization of this approach;
3. The decentralized water governance institutions includes: BWBs, WMZs/CMOs, CAs/CAACs, as well as lower level organizations - WUAs, WRUAs and WUGs



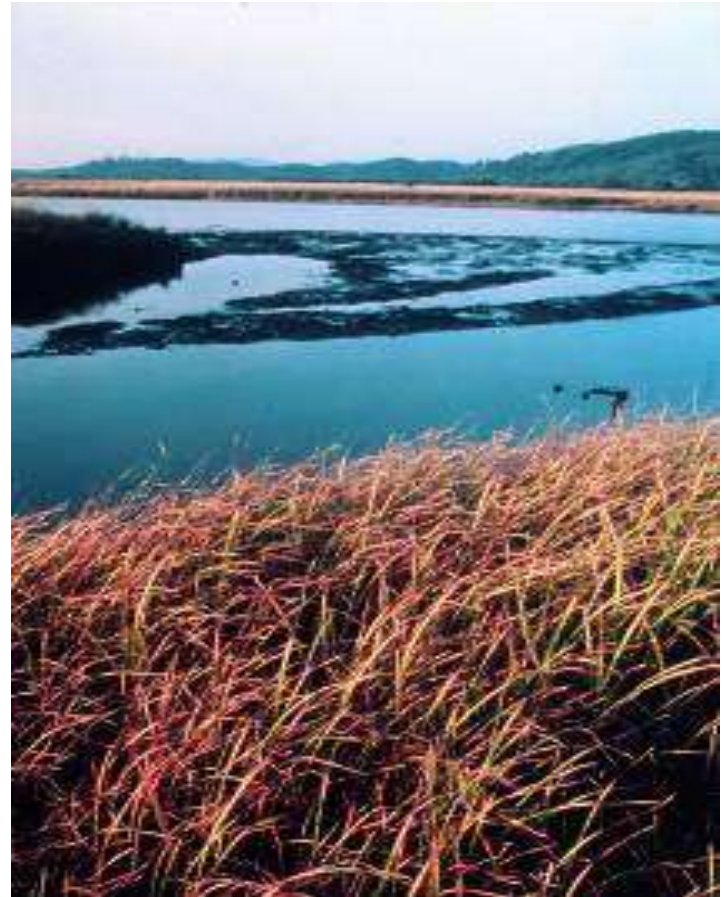
Institutional Framework in Tanzania



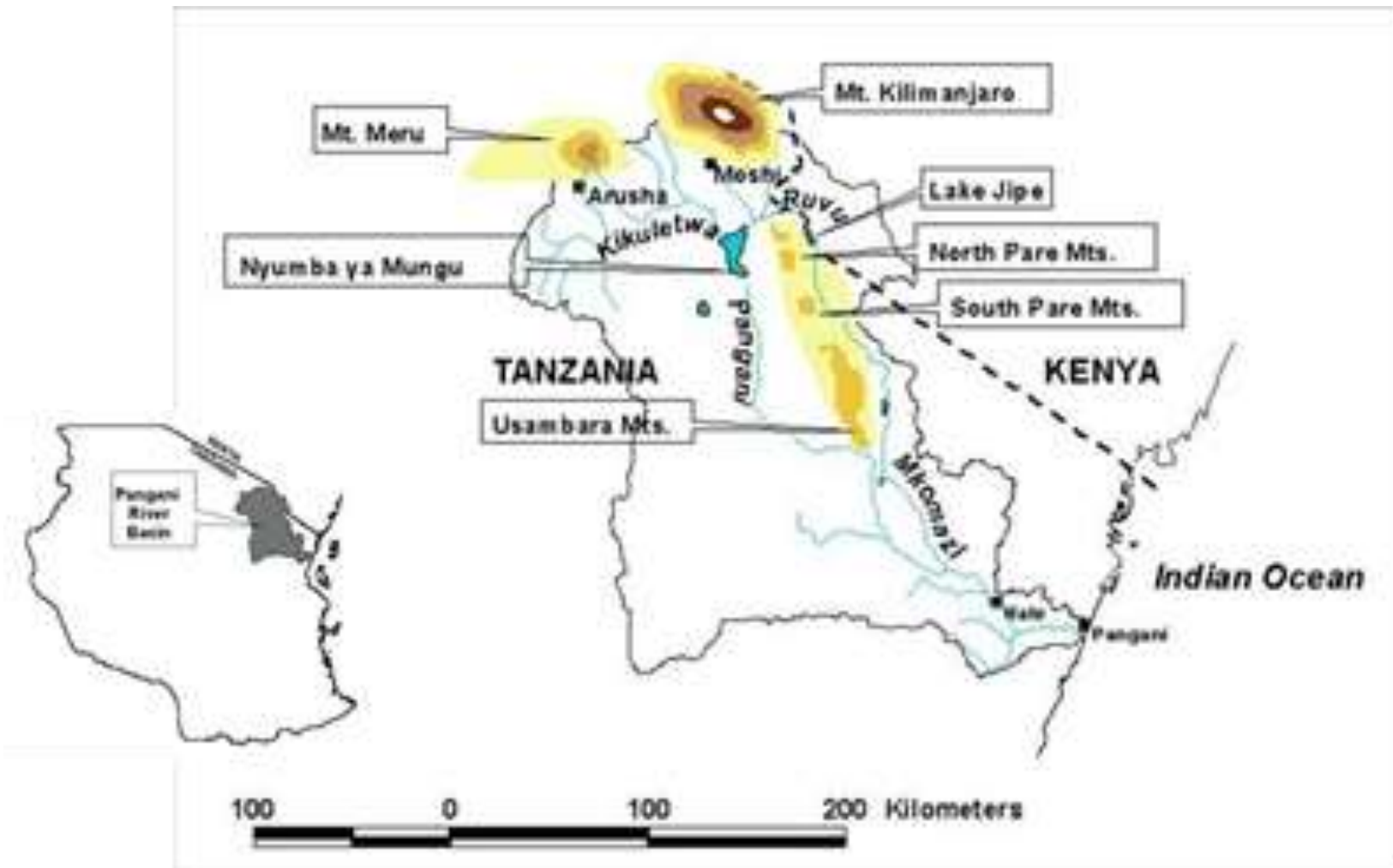
Institutional Framework in Uganda



- Is challenging especially at lower levels due to limited resources and capacity.
- Hence the need for IUCN to provide the much needed support - *Pangani Basin in Tz; Tana Basin in Ke; and Nile Basin in Ug*



IUCN Water Governance Initiatives in East Africa – Pangani Basin, Tanzania



Lower Tana Basin, Kenya

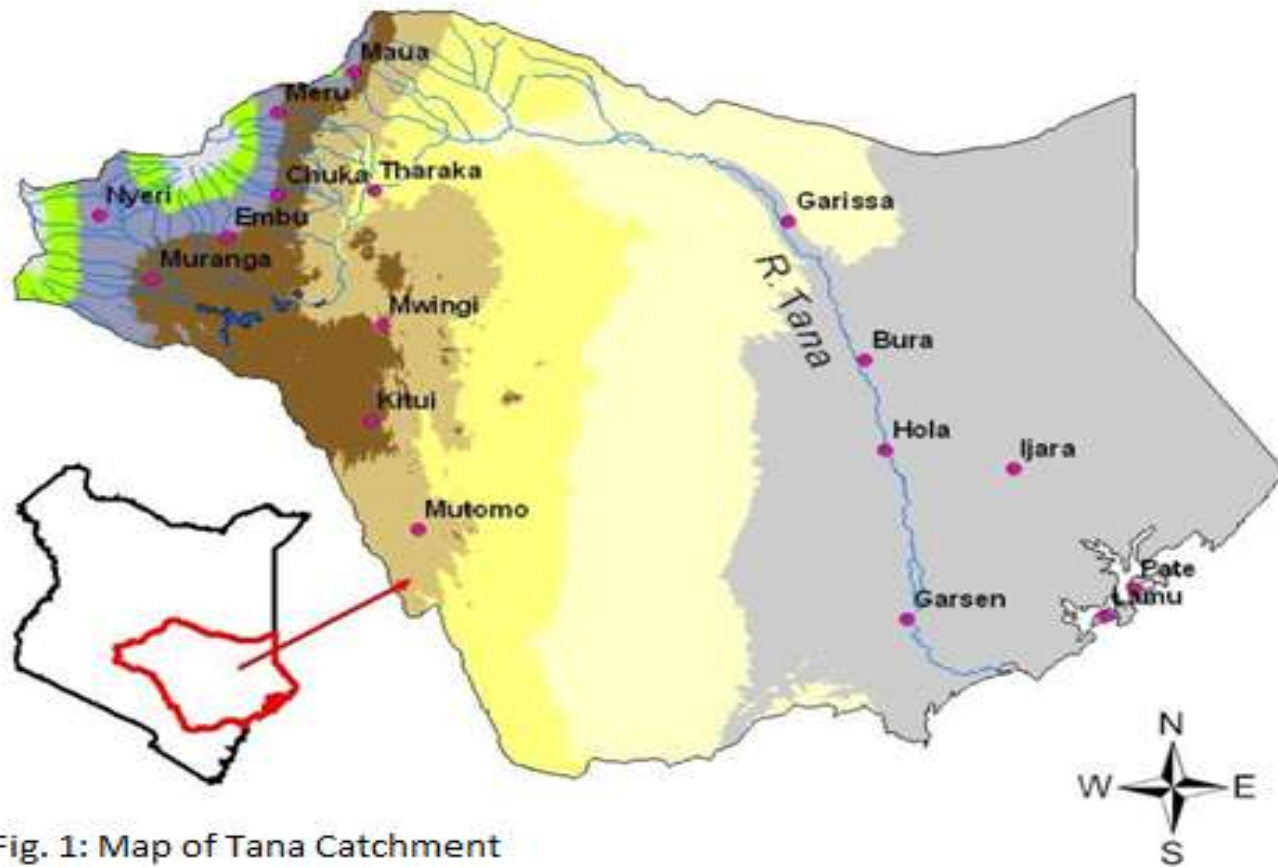
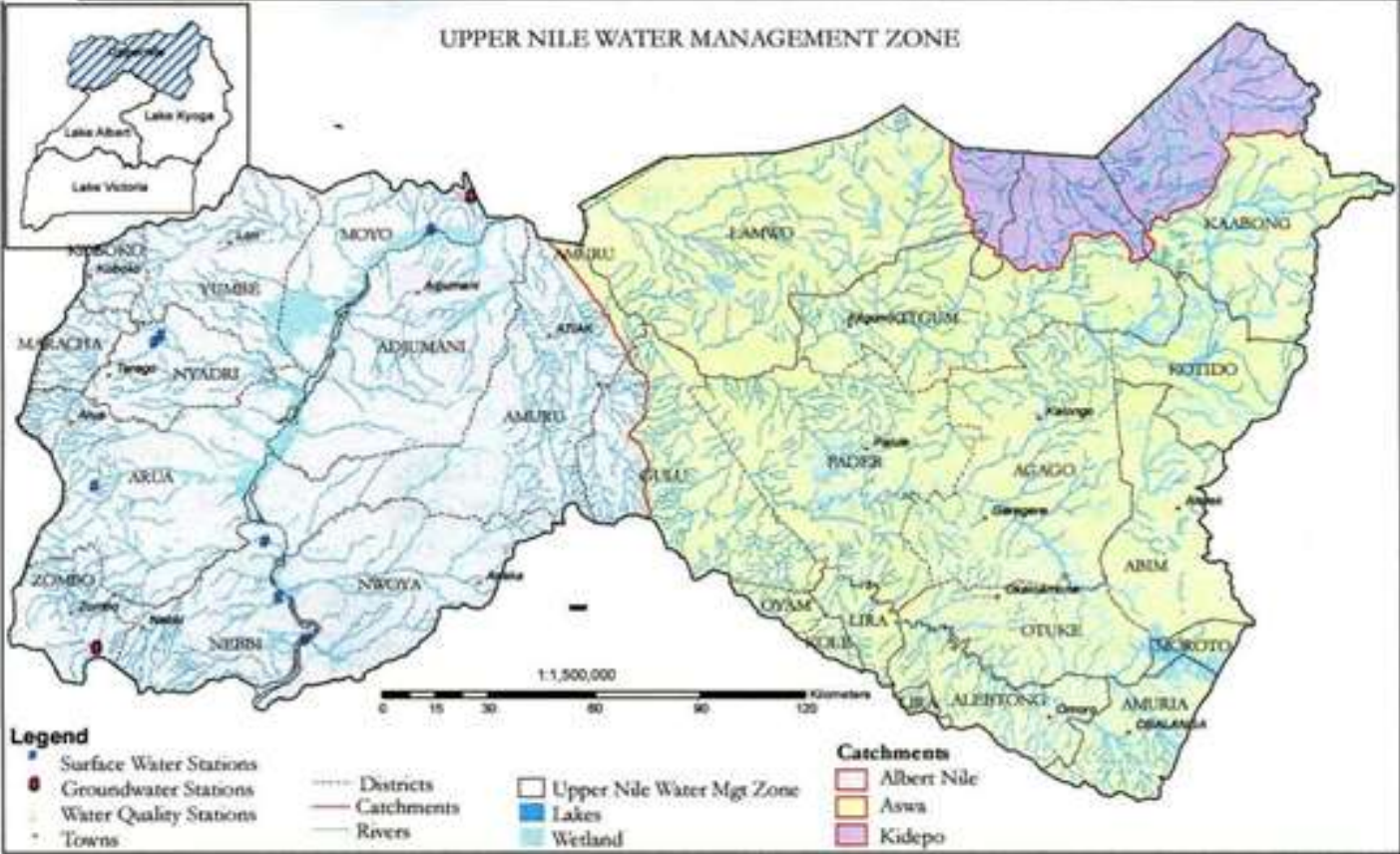


Fig. 1: Map of Tana Catchment



- Building the capacity of WBs; CMOs; WMZs; to enable them carry out their mandates effectively,
- Support the establishment and strengthening of lower level or local organizations - WUAs, WRUAs etc,
 - WRUAs, WUAs are associations of water users, riparian land owners, or other stakeholders who have formally and voluntarily associated for the purposes of cooperatively sharing, managing and conserving a common water resource.





Objectives of these local lower level organizations includes:

- Promotion of controlled and legal water use activities;
- Promotion of catchment conservation measures to improve water quantities and quality;
- Reducing conflict in use of the water resource and resolve that arise;
- Promotion of good management practices to make efficient and sustainable use of the water resource; and
- ensure sufficient and sustainable water reserves that meet the demands of the environment the wildlife, the livestock and all communities downstream/upstream who rely on the water resource.

What the 3 initiatives were about

1. In Tz and Ug, we designed the process of establishing and strengthening WUAs:
 - Identification of area jurisdiction of WUA;
 - Baseline survey;
 - Stakeholders analysis;
 - Stakeholders mobilization/sensitization through ToTs;
 - Development of WUA Constitution
 - Election of WUAs management committee
 - Registration of WUAs
 - Inauguration of WUAs
 - Monitoring and evaluation of WUA activities

Kenya has an established WDC

2. Supported the exchange visits among WUAs within the basin (lower and upper) and across the basins;
3. Convened a regional workshop on experience sharing and lesson learning on WUA formation and operation;
3. In Kenya and Uganda, the established WUAs were supported to develop the SCMPs and supported implementation of some ecosystem based priority actions identified in the plan;
4. Produced of various communication products for information dissemination to various stakeholders,

such products included:

- Brochures, briefing notes and booklets (translated in the local languages to reach wider audience),
- Sign boards, calendars, t-shirts, umbrellas, radio talk shows,
- Documentaries and/or participatory videos,
- Participatory videos posted on you tube:

<http://youtu.be/Gdwb-WTIpUA>; <http://youtu.be/mMnBQWOukoo>;
<http://youtu.be/JSIsksG57SE>

Lessons learnt - positive

1. The experiences gained in Tz from establishing and strengthening WUAs is being used by the MoWI to develop guidelines for WUA establishment and operation for the whole country
2. The process of forming, strengthening and formalizing WUAs has contributed towards effective involvement of local communities in WRM and development



3. Poverty is pushing water users to focus more on quick benefits than on sustainable development of water resources,
4. High and often unrealistic expectations by water users,
5. The associations need time to fully understand their role in WRM including implementing actions in the SCMPs.
6. Project driven process, outside of which the resources available for IWRM implementation are limited.

Thanks for Listening!