

# Pollution Control and Other Measures to Protect Biodiversity in Lake Tanganyika

## Strategic Action Plan

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Objectives of the First National Working Group Planning Meeting

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18 April 1998

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## 1. Background - The Strategic Action Plan

The project document has as the first immediate objective “...*establish a regional long-term management plan for pollution control, conservation and maintenance of biodiversity in Lake Tanganyika.*”.

Since the project document was prepared, the planning ideas incorporated in the immediate objective have been encapsulated in the concept of a Strategic Action Plan - SAP. Fundamental to this concept is the recognition that management plans have to be continually revised in response to changing circumstances, there can be no final plan. The SAP therefore establishes an agreed planning and management process, and prioritises initial interventions based on present knowledge.

### 1.1 The SAP Programme

The first regional meeting in which the concepts of the SAP were addressed, was the National Coordinators Meeting held in Lusaka 18/19 of December. It was then further discussed at the Tri-Partite Review and Steering Committee Meeting held on 19 and 20 January 1998.

The meeting endorsed the proposed process of developing the SAP, and proposed a timetable of national and regional meetings culminating in a proposed regional meeting in March 1999, at which a finalised document would be presented for signing by representatives of the four countries.

The Steering Committee recommended the following timetable:

**March 98: Convene the National Working Groups**

National Working Groups, two days per country

**April 98: Convene Technical Advisory Committee**

Regional Technical Advisory Committee, two days.

**May 98: National Sectoral Problem Review**

National Working Groups, five days per country

**Aug/Sep 98: National Environmental Priorities and Strategies Review**

National Working Groups, five days per country

**October 98: Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis**

Regional Technical Advisory Committee, five days

**January 99: Draft Strategic Action Plan**

Regional Technical Advisory Committee, five days

**March 99: Signed Strategic Action**

Extraordinary Steering Committee Meeting and National Ministers, three days.

The Project has now received approval from UNOPS and recruited a French speaking planning consultant Jean-Paul Ledant to facilitate the SAP process with the two francophone countries, to work with Nicholas Hodgson supporting the anglophone countries and the overall regional SAP programme.

Following this slight delay, the Project is now starting the SAP programme in both anglophone and francophone countries with the first National Working Group Planning Meetings.

## **2. Objectives**

The proposed timetable indicates that meetings will be held in all four countries to establish the terms of reference dealing with the SAP for the National Working Groups, defining required additional or alternate membership and allocating tasks.

The specific objectives of the meeting are as follows:

### **1. National Working Groups**

- Define the scope of the National SAP process.
- Define the required National consultation process.
- Agree on the most appropriate membership for the National Working Groups for the SAP process, including additional governmental and non-governmental organisation representation.
- Agree a final timetable for all meetings of the National Working Groups for the entire SAP process, specifying dates.
- Identify information requirements for the National Review of Sectoral Problems, Threats and Opportunities related to the Lake environment.
- Allocate preliminary tasks to National Working Group members to prepare background documentation for the National Review of Problems, Threats and Opportunities.
- Identify information requirements for the National Environmental Priorities and Strategies Review.
- Allocate preliminary tasks to National Working Group members to prepare background documentation for the National Environmental Priorities and Strategies Review.

### **2. Regional TAC Meetings**

- Propose possible dates for the first planning meeting of the Regional Technical Advisory Committee.
- Propose possible changes or additions to membership of the Regional TAC for the purposes of the SAP, for discussion at the above meeting
- Discuss Ministerial and Steering Committee representation for the final SAP signing.

+Minutes will be prepared and distributed within the Working Groups, and distributed in French and English to other National Working Groups and National Steering Committees, to the Regional TAC and to the Project Steering Committee. The project coordination office will arrange for translation and distribution of all minutes.