

FACTSHEET

Support to the Integrated Management of Water Resources of Lake Kivu and the Ruzizi River

PROJECT DETAILS



Project Name: Support to the Integrated Management of Water Resources of Lake Kivu and the Ruzizi River

Joint Co-financing: German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), European Union (EU)

Duration: January 2019 – June 2022

Project Location	Implementing Agency	Partner
Lake Kivu Region: Transboundary Basin of Lake Kivu and the Ruzizi/Ruzizi River between Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	Autorité du Bassin du Lac Kivu et de la Rivière Ruzizi/Rusizi (ABAKIR)

THE CHALLENGES

Lake Kivu, one of the African Great Lakes, and the Ruzizi/Ruzizi River are connected watercourses that lie along the border of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda. Lake Kivu is connected to Lake Tanganyika by the Ruzizi River and is part of the Congo River Basin. Lake Kivu and the Ruzizi River provide the foundation for the everyday activities and livelihoods of **more than 11 million people**.



More than **50%** of Rwanda's agricultural and livestock products come from the basin¹

Lake Kivu itself is an important energy source, housing **60 billion m³** of dissolved methane below its surface²

The Ruzizi River has a potential for hydroelectric power production estimated at over **500 MW³**

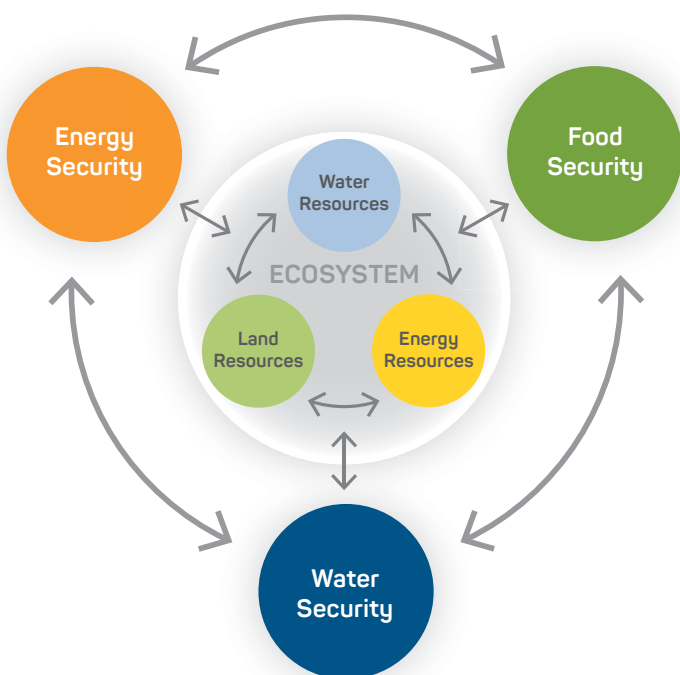
¹ ABAKIR (2021); ² Doughty et al. (2021); ³ EC (2020)



The Lake Kivu and Ruzizi River basin face manifold challenges relating to the unsustainable use of water and related resources, and the **lack of integrated management of these resources across sectors**. The basin suffers from low regulatory compliance, high environmental degradation, poverty, and insufficient access to electricity and drinking water supplies. This has led to negative impacts beyond the natural resources sector that **affect both socioeconomic development and regional cooperation opportunities**. Many of these threats to the basin will be exacerbated by climate change, with some impacts, such as increased erosion risk, already being felt in the basin.






SOLUTION: WEF NEXUS APPROACH

The Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus approach helps to better understand and recognize the deep interconnectedness between natural resources and human activities such as planning, managing or consuming water, energy or agricultural products. **At its heart, the WEF Nexus promotes a holistic and integrated way of thinking and acting in order to ensure water, energy and food security in a just and sustainable way**. It brings together the water, energy and agricultural sectors in order to minimise trade-offs and maximise synergies between the sectors and to reconcile multiple and often conflicting interests and needs in planning processes. It promotes policy coherence and multi-sectoral cooperation at all levels.



OBJECTIVES AND KEY ACTIVITIES

The aim of the project is to support the river basin organization ABAKIR (Autorité du Bassin du Lac Kivu et de la Rivière Ruzizi) to improve the hydrological and operational management of Lake Kivu and the Ruzizi/Rusizi River. ABAKIR is mandated by its three member states: Burundi, the DRC and Rwanda. To achieve its objectives, the project pursues an **integrated and Nexus-based approach** that builds on a sound understanding of the basin's resources and their integrated management across sectors and countries. The project will accomplish this via the following approaches:

-  Institutional strengthening
-  A focus on core environmental issues
-  Demonstration projects
-  Communication and stakeholder engagement
-  Capacity development

MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- Developing a comprehensive **basin baseline study**.
- Developing a **Strategic Action Plan** for integrated and long-term basin management.
- **Capacity building and tailored trainings** at the regional and national level for the three riparian states.
- **Enhanced stakeholder engagement and communication** between the regional authority ABAKIR and its stakeholders.
- Demonstration of the **tangible benefits of a Nexus approach** through support and documentation of **demonstration projects**.



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