CONSERVING
LAKE NAIVASHA

LAKE NAIVASHA BASIN LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION (LANABLA)

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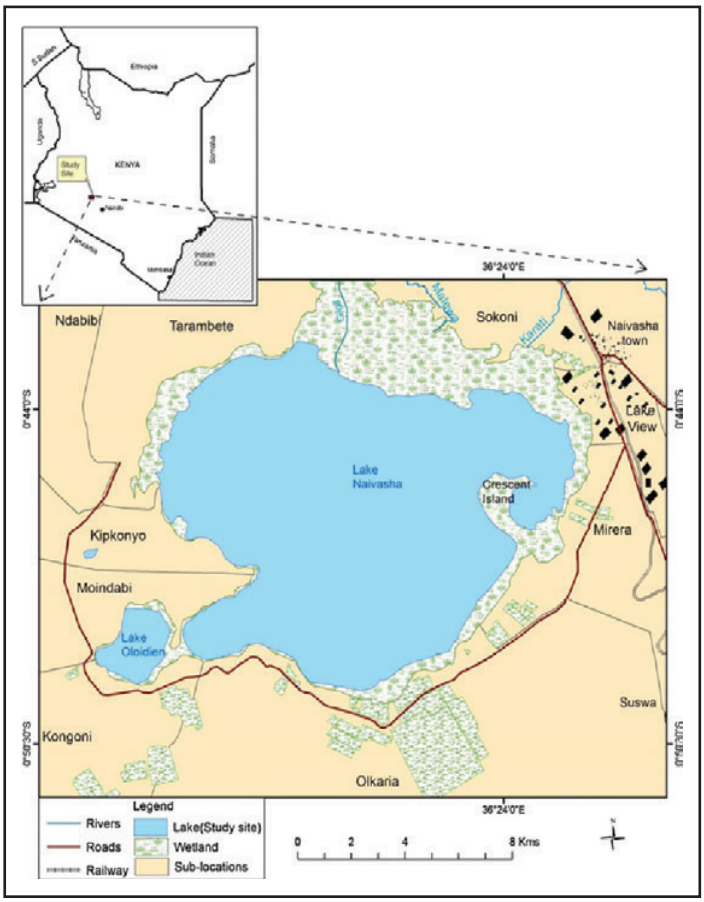
FACTSHEET



QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE LAKE

- The lake comprises of three lakes which are seasonally separated; Oloiden(alkaline), Crescent(alkaline) & main lake(fresh water).
It sits on semi-arid climate with bimodial rains averaging 600 - 1500mm per year, with an average temperature of 16-26˚C.

- The riparian is the area between 1,892.8m.a.s.l/6,210ft (based on the 1906 highest water mark of 1810 m.a.s.l) and the lake level.
- Total land under commercial irrigation estimated at 3000 - 4000 Ha.
- It is a RAMSAR site since 1995.

- Major rivers; Malewa (1730 km^2), Gilgil (572 km^2) and Karati (149 km^2).
- Seasonal rivers; Nyamaminti and Marmanet totalling 1000 km^2
- A host to over 150 bird species.

- The basin hosts over 650, 000 persons with about 160,000 living around the lake. An average annual population growth of 13%
- The lake is under the custody of Kenya Wildlife Service (K.W.S)

- Studies show in past 1000 years the lake shown four instances it nearly dried (Level dropped 12m in the last 100 years).
- Major economic and ecological value; Fishing, supply of domestic/industrial water, irrigation, tourism, geothermal generation, wildlife and conservation.
- The Lake is fully in Nakuru County but basin overlaps Nyandarua and Narok County. Crosscutting 8 districts; Naivasha, Narok North, Gilgil, Miringini, Kipipiri, Kinangop, Nyandarua Central, Nyandarua.

Background of the Basin

Lake Naivasha is the second largest (160km^2) shallow freshwater lake in Kenya situated about 90km North West of Nairobi city geographically along the latitude 0.45oS and longitude 36.26oE sitting at 1892 m.a.s.l. It is one of the 23 lakes lying along **the floor of the Eastern Rift valley;** 8 in central Ethiopia, 8 in Kenya and 7 in Tanzania all spanning latitude 7oN and 5oS.

Experiences semi-arid climatic conditions, highly influenced by the rainshadow cast by the two of Kenya's major water towers; Mt. Kenya and Nyandarua Ranges.

Soils in the basin are silt loam to clay soils of volcanic origin that are highly permeable and humic in nature. Most of the soils are well drained though some spots are poorly drained.

What is a Riparian Land?

"Riparian Land" is land which by virtue of the proximity of the land to a water body, management obligations shall be imposed on the owner of the land by the Authority.

"Riparian Land", as defined in Part I of the WRM Rules (2007) does not imply a change of ownership imposes management controls on land use for water resource quality as defined in part I of the Rules, section 116.(1).

Unless otherwise determined by a Water Resources Inspector, the riparian land adjacent to a lake, resoervoir or stagnant body of water is defined as a minimum of two metres vertical height or thirty metres hosrizontal distance, whichever is less, from the highest recorded water level, section 116.(5) of the rules.

Riparian Land Rights

Demarcation of the Riparian Land (WRM Rules 2007, Section 117 - 118).
117.(1) The Authority may with good cause demarcate the riparian boundary of any watercourse or body on any land.

117.(2). A Riparian land owner may request the Authority to demarcate the riparian boundary on his or her land, at the cost of the Authority.

117.(3). In demarcating the riparian boundary, the Authority shall requires the land owner to place permanent recognisable beacons at his or her cost at sufficient interval to adequately represent the line of the riparian boundary.

118.(1). Unless authorised by the Authority in consultation with other relevant stakeholders, no person shall undertake the activities listed in the Seventh Schedule on riparian land.

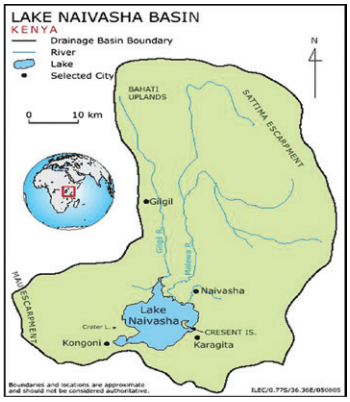
118.(2). A riparian land owner or user may, showing good cause, request the Authority in writing to undertake a preoscribed activity.

118.(3). The Authority shall respond in writing within 30 days stating its decision.

118.(4). Any person who undertakes any of the proscribed activities on riparian land without approval by the Authority shall be guilty of an offence.

Event Timelines

1929	Lake Naivasha Riparian Association Formed
1932	The Government legislated the Foreshow rights which Lake Naivasha Riparian Association became a signatory
1933	Contour below 1892.8m (6210ft) a.s.l declared an area where permanent structures and destructive activities are prohibited
1982	KenGen commissions a 45kW power station in the basin
1993	Lake Naivasha Riparian Association initiates an all sector management plan
1995	Lake Naivasha given a RAMSAR site recognition
1998	Lake Naivasha Riparian Owners' Association (LNROA) renamed to Lake Naivasha Riparian Association (LNRA)
1999	Lake Naivasha Riparian Association wins RAMSAR conservation award NGO category for best practices
2004	KenGen Commissions a 575kW power station in the basin
2010	Lake Naivasha Water Allocation Plan (WAP) developed and adopted
2012	Lake Naivasha Basin Integrated Management Plan developed and adopted
2012	Lake Naivasha catchment area Protection Order put in place



Riparian Related Orders

Orders related to Riparian Land (WRM Rules 2007, section 119)

119.(1) The Authority may instruct by means of an Order, a riparian land owner or user, at his or her cost, to develop and implement a Soil and Water Conservation Plan.

119.(2) The Authority may instruct by Order a riparian land owner or user, to desist from any proscribed activity or to improve the condition of the riparian land in the interests of meeting the water resource quality objectives.

119.(3) In requiring a riparian land owner or user to imrove the condition of the riparian land, the Authority may facilitate support to undertake the required activities.

119.(4) If the riparian landowner or user fails to comply with an order to develop a Soil and Water Conservation Plan, the Authority may cause such a plan to be developed.

119.(5) The Authority may recover the cost of developing such a plan from the person or persons who have fialed to comply with the order.

Riparian Management Challenges

- Poor land management
- Encroachment by unauthorised human activities; settlement, logging, small scale farming, business points such as landing beaches etc.
- Pollution; poor solid waste management, release from Agro-chemical and sewerage, poor land management.
- Non-compliance and weak enforcement
- Conflict; human vs wildlife, public vs investors/ landowners, institutions, upstream vs downstream.
- Riparian resource over exploitation, abuse & ever increasing economic and urbanisation demand.
- Uncoordinated development.

Impacts on Riparian

- **Infestation by invasive species that are threatening indigenous species.**
- **Closure of access corridors limiting public access to the lake resource**
- **Increase deforrestation and pollution.**
- **Inequitable sharing of riparian resources leading to conflicting Interest.**
- **Shrinking pristine riparian land**
- **Loss of biodiversity**
- **Reduction in the iconic papyrus swamp coverage.**
- **Decreased silt retention ability by the riparian cover**
- **Declining water quality.**

Success Stories

- Adoption of Water Smart Agriculture such as; fodder farming reducing overgrazing effect.
- Community/user involvement and empowerment through formation of Community based action groups active in the riparian operations; Water Resource Users Association(WRUAs), and Beach Management Units(BMUs).
- Sustainable alternative production initiatives; Zero grazing instead of the destructive traditional pastralism.

Why Conserve the Riparian

- Major source of livelihoods being host to; tourism, water use and fishing activities that employ thousands of people.
- A vital trap for silt that protect the lake.
- A habitat to rare species of birds and other wildlife.
- Assurity to betterment in water quality with improved riparian resource quality.

Investment Opportunities

- Development of public private partnerships.
- Consistent coordinated implementation of existing plans.
- Development of strategic plans; multi-sectoral basin plan, Fishery, pastoral grazing plan and riparian plan.
- Elaborately Involving research and training institutions in the management of the basin.
- Public land reclamation and gazettement.

Future Expectations

- Enhance quality and quantity of riparian resurces.
- Enhance ecosystem & promote financial incentives mechanisms to communities to foster riparian conservation.
- Ensure sustainable access to riparian resources.
- Sustainably secure riparian resources dependent livelihoods.
- Encourage participatory riparian conservation strategies

References

- **Catchment Area Protection Order, 2012. Water Resource Management Rules 2007.**
- **Water Act, 2016**
- **Lake Naivasha Basin Integrated Management Plan, 2012**
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