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TANZANIA

MARA RIVER CATCHMENT (MRC) IN TANZANIA

The Mara River is an iconic transboundary river in Tanzania and Kenya. The Mara River Catchment (MRC) covers 13,750 km², 35% of which flows through Tanzania, including the high conservation value Mara Wetlands, before emptying into Lake Victoria. The MRC is known globally for its unique ecosystems, biodiversity, and national parks. It also supports some of the most profitable economic activities in Tanzania and Kenya through tourism, agriculture, and mining (contributing 10-15% to both countries' GDP). These activities, and the growing communities in the catchment, rely on naturally functioning freshwater resources for their livelihoods and water supply. However, economic and community growth, as well as more extreme and unpredictable changes to the climate, is putting pressure on and degrading freshwater resources. This is particularly true in Tanzania, which faces pressure from water users upstream in Kenya and water source degradation and growing water use locally. The transboundary nature of the river, as well as a lack of awareness of the importance of water resource conservation, make it particularly challenging to govern and implement effective, sustainable, and resilient approaches for national water resource and supply goals.

Project Goal

Healthy communities and a sustainable, growing economy in the MRC that are supported by thriving freshwater ecosystems. that ensure communities have reliable access to and supply of clean water in the face of climate change.

Project Objective

By the end of 2024, freshwater resources are sustainably managed in six districts of the Mara River Catchment in Tanzania.

Project Intermediate Results

- **Water Institutions in the MRC in Tanzania are enabled to engage, coordinate, and implement transboundary water resources governance:** The project will support more effective and participatory water resource management and governance in the MRC in Tanzania and through transboundary processes with Kenya.
- **Community livelihoods and water supply are improved through water resources conservation in the MRC in Tanzania:** The project will support the rural water users - the RUWASAs and communities - to understand the importance of conserving water resources for a more climate resilient, secure water supply.
- **Recommendations are developed for water user financing mechanisms that enhance catchment conservation for the MRC in Tanzania:** The project will review different financial models to combat chronic underfunding of IWRM in the MRC and raise funds for catchment conservation, raise awareness on existing models with decision-makers, and develop recommendations for implementation with LVBWB, RUWASAs, UWASAs, LGAs and communities.

Key Beneficiaries

The main beneficiaries will be communities across the six project districts, with over 20,000 people benefiting from water source conservation of unimproved and improved sources, 6,000 people benefiting from improved water supply schemes, and 368 people enabled to practice more sustainable livelihoods.

The MRC, IWRM and Water Supply institutions are key stakeholders and beneficiaries of capacity building.

BUDGET \$2 million

DURATION

April 11, 2022 - April 10, 2025

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

The project will take place in the Mara River Catchment (MRC) in the north-west of Tanzania in Musoma, Serengeti, Rorya, Butiama, Tarime and Bunda districts.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

KEY PARTNERS

WWF-Tanzania

Lake Victoria Basin Water Board (LVBWB)

Rural Water and Sanitation Authorities (RUWASAs)

Urban Water and Sanitation Authorities (UWASAs)

Local Government Authorities (LGAs)

Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)

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Catchment Committees

Water Users Associations (WUAs)

Civil Society Organizations

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