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Pollution Control and Other Measures to Protect Biodiversity in Lake Tanganyika

Strategic Action Plan

Objectives of the First National Working Group Planning Meeting

05 May 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 Plan

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 required National consultation process, including additional meetings, workshops or discussions considered necessary.
- Identify information requirements for the National Sectoral Problem Review.
- Allocate preliminary tasks to National Working Group members to prepare background documentation for the National Sectoral Problem Review.
- Agree a final timetable for all meetings of the National Working Groups for the entire SAP process, specifying dates.
- Agree on the most appropriate membership for the National Working Groups for the SAP process, including additional governmental and non-governmental organisation and private sector representation for both the National Sectoral Problem Review and the National Environmental Priorities and Strategies Review.

It is assumed that the details of the second workshop, the National Environmental Priorities and Strategies Review, will be discussed as the final issue in the first workshop. At that time, the details of the topics to be discussed will be agreed, and tasks allocated in preparing background materials.

1. Regional TAC Meetings

- Finalise possible dates for the first planning meeting of the Regional Technical Advisory Committee, at present proposed to run back to back with the Steering Committee on July 20/21 - venue to be finalised.
- Discuss 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 National Working Group, and either minutes and/or a stand alone report describing the outcome of the meeting will be 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.