

## LTBP's MTE and TPR: Project Co-ordinator's Comments

*by Andy Menz*

After some delay owing to the difficulty of finding a time slot when all parties were available and the need to move the venue from Bujumbura to Nairobi related to the unstable security situation in eastern DR Congo, the Second Tripartite Review and the 4th meeting of the projects regional Steering Committee (SC) were held in Nairobi from 25-27 May 1999.

Present were representatives from the four countries, GEF, UNDP, UNOPS, the PCU and a number of resource persons from the NRI consortium. All representatives were present at both the TPR and SC meetings, the meetings being held consecutively. Although the meetings were undoubtedly very fruitful, it is unfortunate that once again the majority of countries were not represented at the Principal/Permanent Secretary level as called for by the agreed composition of the Steering Committee.

The meetings analysed the Mid-Term Evaluation report and discussed the future of the project in detail. All the key issues concerning project implementation were raised as the meeting assessed each of the MTE recommendations in turn. Of particular importance to delegates were matters related to national capacity building and participation in project planning. In addition, the crucial question of what happens beyond August 2000, the current end date of the project, was addressed. While it was made clear by UNOPS that some additional funds remain from the original total allocation and would be made available to the project to complete its work, this would not be sufficient to extend the current time frame of the project. UNOPS and NRI were asked to clarify the final amount of funds available and, taking account of the resolutions of the meeting, draw up a final workplan and budget to take the project to the end of its current phase. This workplan would also make provision for a strategy to secure funds for a second project to build on the current one. In this respect it was stressed by the representative from GEF that "process indicators" would be crucial to improving chances of obtaining funds from GEF for a second project. These are indicators that clearly demonstrate country commitment in terms of allocation of country resources albeit modest to the goal and purpose of the project. It was agreed that the revised budget and workplan would be presented and discussed at an extraordinary meeting of the Steering Committee, tentatively scheduled for November 1999.

The project is thus in its final year of implementation and notwithstanding setbacks, a sound and successful conclusion is well within our grasp. It is, however, entirely dependent on everyone working on the project, in whatever capacity, doing all they can to support and facilitate in whatever way possible the activities of the project during this crucial period.

*Andy Menz is the Project Co-ordinator for LTBP.*

## LTBP's MTE and TPR: UNOPS' Response

*by Margaret Chi*

UNOPS was pleased to note that at the TriPartite Review and Steering Committee Meeting, 25-28 May 1999 in Nairobi, all national teams were represented and that consensus was reached on several priority issues.

The mid-term evaluation, on the basis of which the TPR was conducted, offers an overall forward-looking approach in calling our attention to project elements that require accelerated efforts during the remaining project period, including increased national capacity building and participation, increased collaboration among the national teams, and the development of a Lake Tanganyika Convention including the definition of a Convention Secretariat. UNOPS (with and through NRI) will strive during the next 3-4 months to develop a workplan, which will focus on priority activities for the remaining project period as agreed upon during the TPR, incorporating as well, activities that will be necessary to ensure a smooth bridging between the current and a possible future project phase. It is expected that the project will need to be extended beyond 31 July 2000 to achieve the goals of this phase. The workplan will be presented and discussed at the extraordinary meeting of the SCM, to be held in Arusha, tentatively scheduled for November 1999.



Ingolf Scheutz-Mueller & Margaret Chi (UNOPS) at  
Rusizi National Parc, Burundi

Following the TRP/SCM, Mr. Ingolf Schuetz-Mueller and Ms. Margaret Chi travelled to Burundi to meet with the Minister of the Environment, review the status of the project, and discuss the location of a possible future Lake Convention Secretariat. This meeting was followed by a visit to the Scientific Liaison Office of the Project and to the lakeshore, which has certainly deepened their appreciation of Lake Tanganyika.

*UNOPS is the Executing Agency for the Lake Tanganyika  
Biodiversity Project.*