



## Environment & Climate Change



Conserving precious natural resources: USAID/EA partnered with a community living in the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem to use exposed natural rock to capture rain water.

### Program Goal:

Strengthen the resiliency and sustainability of East African economies, trans-boundary freshwater ecosystems, and communities

**2013 OYB Funding: \$13.9 million**  
(Includes Clean Energy)

### Partners:

- The East African Community (EAC) Secretariat
- EAC Partner States- Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda Tanzania, and Uganda
- The Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)
- IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC)
- U.S. Government Agencies, including US Geological Survey, USAID/Washington, and NASA (SERVIR-East Africa)
- Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET)
- Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources in Development (RCMRD)
- Specialized regional science and research institutions
- Tetra Tech ARD and sub-contractors

### Geographic Location:

East Africa Community Partner States, with focus on the Lake Victoria Basin

### Overview

East Africa’s natural resource base provides the building blocks for agricultural production and economic growth in the region. Planning for Resilience in East Africa through Policy, Adaptation, Research and Economic Development (PREPARED) is a five year \$40 million program (2012-2016) designed to mainstream climate-resilient development planning and program implementation into the East African Community (EAC) and its Partner States’ development agendas.

PREPARED is being implemented in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, and Rwanda. The program addresses three key development challenges of the EAC: i) increasing resiliency to climate change; ii) managing trans-boundary freshwater biodiversity conservation and iii) improving access to drinking water supply and sanitation services.

The program’s major institutional partners are the East African Community Secretariat’s Climate Change Coordination Unit (CCCU), the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), IGAD’s Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), the Regional Center for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), the EAC Partner States, and US Contractor, Tetra Tech ARD.

### Strengthening Regional Climate Change Policy

USAID/EA will assist both the EAC Secretariat and LVBC to strengthen their institutional capacity to identify, plan, and respond to a wide array of regional climate change issues. A set of self-assessment tools, training and mentoring programs will be developed to define the skills and capacities required to implement adaptation measures at regional, national and local levels. PREPARED will develop information networks and management systems to strengthen regional coordination and collaboration in adaptive policy-making, planning, and programming.

### Accessing Global Climate Change Adaptation Funds

In support of EAC’s operationalization of a Regional Climate Change Fund, PREPARED will assist the Secretariat to become an accredited Regional Implementing Entity (RIE). EAC will then be eligible for funding from the Global Adaptation Fund.

## **Managing East Africa Biologically Significant Trans-boundary Freshwater Ecosystems**

Four major challenges face the management of East Africa trans-boundary freshwater ecosystems: i) biodiversity conservation efforts in the LVB have yet to fully embrace a landscape-scale approach and the linkages between freshwater biodiversity, climate change and water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are not well understood; ii) there is no centralized system to collect and manage biodiversity information in the Basin for evidence-based decision-making; iii) biodiversity conservation roles within and between the EAC & LVBC are weak; and iv) the integration of ecosystem services into financial mechanisms and into regional and national development agendas is weak.

PREPARED will address key threats to trans-boundary ecosystems with high biodiversity value. Intervention will include monitoring and mitigating threats to water quantity and quality. A key output will be an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) framework for holistic, adaptive management of trans-boundary freshwater ecosystems in East Africa.

## **Facilitating Sustainable Water Supply, Sanitation and Wastewater Treatment Services in the Lake Victoria Basin**

LVBC and its Partner States face considerable challenges increasing the resiliency and sustainability of WASH services in the basin due to unplanned urban growth, growing competition for water, increasing weather variability and uncertainty due to climate change, and limited capacity in EAC Partner States to confront these issues.

PREPARED will therefore provide institutional support to the LVBC, local government units, and water and sanitation service providers to support integrating WASH with biodiversity conservation and climate change resiliency efforts. These efforts will ensure compliance with USAID WASH earmark requirements as well as complement WASH activities of other donors.

In addition to the PREPARED Program, USAID/East Africa awarded a three year \$2M grant to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN): “**Implementing a resilience framework to support climate change adaptation in the Mt. Elgon Region of the Lake Victoria Basin Project**” in July 2012. The goal is to enhance coordination and adaptive action between stakeholders, informed by timely, accurate, and comprehensive information for the Mt. Elgon water tower. Activity objectives are to improve scientific knowledge of climate change information and demonstrate increased social and ecological resilience in hot spots of climate vulnerability using adaptation strategies. To date IUCN and its partners have produced risk/vulnerability maps and identified three sub-basins in which community activities will be implemented.