

Title: Regional policy coordination and alignment in the Lake Victoria Basin

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Conference themes addressed

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Abstract:

In 2015, UNEP-WCMC, CCAFS and ARCOS initiated a project focusing on cross-boundary impacts of agricultural development and other forms of land use on biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Lake Victoria Basin (LVB). The project aims to improve regional coordination and alignment of national-level land use-related policies and plans. To this end, a scenario-guided approach to policy development was adopted, building on the work of the CCAFS scenarios project¹. Stakeholders from all five LVB countries, representing governments, academia and NGOs/CSOs, met in March 2016 to identify relevant national policies and plans related to land use and the environment. Five national policies/plans that are soon to be revised were selected to work on: 1) Kenya - Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Strategic

¹ <https://ccafs.cgiar.org/publications/future-food-security-environments-and-livelihoods-eastern-africa-four-socio-economic#.WLGmmvKR4us>

Plan; 2) Tanzania - Livestock Policy; 3) Uganda - Water Policy; 4) Rwanda - Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan; and 5) Burundi - Plan National d'Investissement Agricole. The selected policies and plans were reviewed using four socioeconomic scenarios for the East Africa region and compared to policies and plans on the same policy theme of the other LVB countries. This way, policy recommendations were formulated to make the focal policies and plans both more robust in the face of future uncertainty and more aligned across the LVB region, in order to better manage cross-boundary environmental problems. This project is an important new step that will provide a basis for further regional policy coordination and alignment in the LVB.