



LAKE VICTORIA AQUACULTURE FORUM - 2024

17 October, 2024 • Sarova Imperial Hotel, Kisumu

Forum Concept Note

Introduction

The Lake Victoria Aquaculture (LVA) Association is proud to host its inaugural Aquaculture Forum, a landmark event aimed at fostering strategic collaboration and partnerships among diverse public and private stakeholders within the region's Blue Economy. The forum will bring together national and county government officials, technical experts, investors, business leaders, development organizations, and academia. Participants will have the opportunity to network, engage in meaningful discussions, and collectively address key issues related to the sustainable use and preservation of the region's aquatic and land resources.

The Context

The inspiration for the LVA Association was cemented on 12th April, 2024, when a diverse group of public and private stakeholders convened in Kisumu for a half-day roundtable meeting to discuss challenges hindering the aquaculture and the wider Blue Economy in the Lake Victoria region. Convened by **Ohala Kenya Foundation**, the event assembled 32 men and women representing pivotal interests within the Lake's aquaculture industry.

The roundtable dialogue was centered around the question: ***Why is the Blue Economy NOT the economic driver of the Lake region?*** Participants discussed the myriad of challenges facing the region's aquatic industries, including environmental sustainability, regulatory complexities, high input costs, poor communication, market access issues and the absence of a framework for stakeholder collaboration. Ultimately, a resolution was reached on the need to establish a mechanism for dialogue, networking and collaborative action.

Registered on 4th July 202 under the Societies Act, the LVA Association is a democratic, membership driven organization that thrives on the collective strength and collaboration of its diverse membership base. Membership categories include individual members, corporate members, institutional members, associate members, and student members, each catering to different stakeholder interests and contributions. It is governed by a board of directors elected from among its members, and is managed by a small secretariat, currently hosted by Ohala Kenya Foundation.

Forum Objectives

The LVA Forum is designed to achieve three key objectives:

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| 1 | Facilitate Constructive Dialogue: Engage Lake Victoria Blue Economy stakeholders in discussions on enhancing collaboration in the regulation, management, and governance of commercial activities on Lake Victoria. |
| 2 | Inspire Investment and Partnerships: Encourage new investments, business expansions, and partnerships among local and international companies and organizations. |
| 3 | Stimulate Innovation: Promote new thinking and collective approaches to elevating aquaculture as a sustainable economic driver in the Lake Victoria region. |



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Program

Arrival and Registration (7:30 – 9:00)

9:00-
10:30

- Opening – Hon Ochieng’ Mbeo, Chairman, LVA Association - 15 mins
- Introduction: Regional Governors present or their representatives – 5 mins
- Introduction: Lake Region MPs & Other Dignitaries – 10 mins
- Remarks by PS State Dept. Blue Economy & Fisheries – 10 mins
- Formal Welcome-H.E. Kisumu **H.E. Governor Prof. A. Nyong'o** - 15 mins
- Chief Guest: **H.E Paul Otuoma**, Governor of Busia and Chair, Blue Economy Committee of the Council of Governors – 30 mins

10:30–11:00 Refreshments, Media Briefing

11:00-
12:45

Panel Discussion 1:

Topic: “A sustainable Blue Economy on Lake Victoria: Policy, Governance & Regulation”

Panelists:

1. Mr. Henry Ndede, Program Management Officer, UNEP
2. Dr. Christopher M. Aura, Director Freshwater Systems Research, KMFRI
3. Ms. Lucy Kimani, Program Director, Gatsby Africa
4. Kenya Fisheries Services (TBA)

12:45-
1:00

Presentation by Forum Sponsor

1:00–2:00 Lunch

2:00-
3:45

Panel Discussion 2:

Topic: “the Business of Aquaculture: Building a Viable Value Chain in the Lake Region”

Panelists:

1. Dr. Erick Ogello, Chair, Animals & Fisheries Sciences, Maseno Univ.
2. Ms. Bella Akinyi, CEO, Bolena Tilapia, Inc. Africa
3. Mr. Samson B. Abura, Knowledge Management Specialist, Lake Victoria Fisheries Org. (LVFO)
4. Dr. Isaac Wamalwa, Deputy Coordinator, Aquaculture Business Dev. Program (ABDP)

3:45 -
4:00

Closing Remarks, Hon. Ochieng’ Mbeo, Chair, LVA Association

4:00–5:00 pm Refreshments/Networking