

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Tanganyika Regional Fisheries Programme (TREFIP) was prepared in mid-2000 by a joint African Development Bank (AfDB) and Food and Agriculture Organization feasibility study mission.¹ The overall objective of the Programme is to put the Lake Tanganyika Framework Fisheries Management Plan (FFMP) into full operation, as endorsed by the Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa (CIFA), Sub-Committee for Lake Tanganyika, at its 8th Session held in Lusaka in May 1999.

1.2 As it was anticipated that the Programme could have both positive and negative environmental consequences, AfDB and FAO mission planners stipulated that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) be carried out immediately after the Feasibility Study Mission had submitted its report.²

1.3 This EIA has been prepared by FAO and the University of Kuopio (the Scientific Coordination Entity for the Lake Tanganyika Research Project)³ on behalf of the AfDB and the four Lake Tanganyika littoral States of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Tanzania, and Zambia, in accordance with the AfDB Environmental Assessment Guidelines. It is intended to provide the four lacustrine States and the AfDB with an overview of existing environmental conditions and potential environmental impacts of TREFIP-supported investments, and with recommendations designed to mitigate any potential adverse effects.

1.4 The EIA draws mainly from the TREFIP Feasibility Study report and the scientific synthesis and documentation compiled during the FAO/Lake Tanganyika Research (LTR) Project over the period 1992-99, as well as reports prepared under the just completed UNDP/Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Lake Tanganyika Biodiversity Project (LTBP).⁴

1.5 All LTR results have been published in a series of Technical Documents and are also available on the Project's web site (<http://www.fao.org/fi/ltr>) and a CD-ROM (Hanek *et al.* 1999). Reference is also made to the recent compilation entitled *From Limnology to Fisheries: Lake Tanganyika and Other Large Lakes* (Lindqvist *et al.*, 1999), including reviews by Mölsä *et al.* (1999) and Sarvala *et al.* (1999) concerning fisheries sustainability, ecosystem analysis, and the use of scientific information in designing management schemes.

¹ Mr. Christophe Magnet, Mission Leader (AfDB); Dr. J. Eric Reynolds, Development Planner/Socio-Economist (FIPP/FAO); and Mr. Hervé Bru, Infrastructure/Marketing Specialist (AfDB).

² 'Lake Tanganyika Regional Fisheries Programme: A proposal for the implementation of the Lake Tanganyika Regional Framework Fisheries Management Plan.' AfDB, Abidjan, and FAO, Rome. July 2000.

³ The EIA was carried out by Dr. J.E. Reynolds, Development Planner/Socio-economist, FIPP/FAO (email: jeric@sprynet.com) and Prof. H. Mölsä, Deputy Scientific Coordinator of LTR-project, University of Kuopio, Finland, (e-mail: Hannu.Molsa@uku.fi). Support for the University of Kuopio contribution to the EIA was provided by Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

⁴ Both members of the EIA team have had extensive experience with Lake Tanganyika and its fisheries through their participation in the LTR Project. Most recently, the LTR Scientific Coordinator (Mölsä) headed an evaluation mission to review the Lake Tanganyika Fisheries Monitoring Programme (LTFMP) and its national execution (Mölsä, 2000a). Reynolds was a member of the Joint AfDB/FAO/FISHCODE Feasibility Study Mission that prepared the TREFIP proposal between March and July 2000.



Figure 1.

Map of L. Tanganyika
(Major rivers, towns, &
national parks.)

* Source: Adapted with permission from Lindley (2000).