

The LNKG Monthly

Newsletter of the Lake Naivasha Growers' Group

Agenda

- * Rotary Club of Naivasha Golf Fundraiser - Saturday 22nd August, Naivasha Sports Club
- * NACOHAG Women's Football Tournament - Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th August, Karagita grounds
- * Naivasha Hortifair - Friday 11th and Saturday 12th September, Naivasha Sports Club (www.naivashahortifair.com)
- * Hortifair 2009 - 3rd to 16th October, RAI Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Important Notice:

If you are a holder or applicant for a Class D water permit, these are now on hold until the Catchment Area Advisory Committee (CAAC) have visited Lake Naivasha to access the situation on the ground. This visit will take place July 31, 2009 and part of the visit will include serving of orders to the non-compliant.

The Lake Naivasha Water Users Association (LANAWRUA)

The LANAWRUA is a stakeholder group within the Lake Naivasha section of the Naivasha sub-catchment area, which was formed as a direct result of the Water Act (2002).

The LANAWRUA came into being on November 29, 2006, when an interim committee was appointed to handle the registration of the WRUA, whose jurisdiction is all areas within the 2000 masl contour line. Registration as a society was completed in June 6, 2007.

Since then two annual general meetings have been held. The committee, including observer members, holds monthly meetings at the Belle Inn. A Water Permit sub-committee meets every two weeks to comment on water permit applications, renewals and variations. It is at this meeting that we use the data that you have been requested to provide in order to normalise and legalise all water use in the area. September 2009 is the end of the leniency period for water users without permits, after which WRMA will begin prosecuting non-conformers.

An MOU has also been signed between LANAWRUA and the Water Resource Management Authority (WRMA) headquarters stating that the LANAWRUA were to sustainably manage the Naivasha basin within the 2000 masl contour and assist with catchment area management and that WRMA would contribute through inputs and surveillance to achieve the same.

Most importantly, however, a sub-catchment management plan (SCMP) written by stakeholders

from all the main sectors of Naivasha and the government has been submitted for consideration to WRMA. We are now awaiting consultative meetings between WRMA and members of the catchment WRUA's to help familiarise the latter with the SCMP, as well as, the Water Allocation Plan, (WAP) following which a Naivasha stakeholder consultation meeting will be held to discuss and adopt the two documents.

The WAP was created also as a direct result of the Water Act (2002) and was commissioned by WRMA, researched and presented by Rural Focus and funded by LNKG. The objective of the WAP is to equitably allocate water to all users, including the environment. The correct implementation of the WAP requires good abstraction data and the SCMP is the way through which WRUAs can access funds for water conservation and management efforts from the Water Services Trust Fund.

The current drought situation and continuing fall in lake levels have given greater focus and awareness to the current data collection (See *Water Abstraction Survey*, p2). The fall in lake levels is attributed to the ongoing drought conditions reducing the natural recharge of the Lake exacerbated by destruction of forests, cultivation and use of riparian land resulting in siltation and pollution, over and illegal abstraction, and the transfer of water out of the basin.

In the longer term compliance with the Water Act and Water Allocation Plan will ensure that

this valuable resource is sustainably managed for the benefit of all. In the short term it is the responsibility of all water users to minimise their water use though the adoption of the most efficient systems, reduction of leakage and waste, re-cycling whenever possible and prioritising water use.

Within the catchment there are already several organisations undertaking a wide range of very valuable awareness programmes and environmental conservation activities. For example, there is high demand for the supply of indigenous tree seedlings. The SCMP proposes the setting up of tree nurseries and for farms to allocate small areas to grow trees. There are projects to supply schools in the catchment with trees for wood for cooking meals. In order to avoid duplication and waste of resources there is a very urgent need for all these activities to be coordinated through the SCMP.

Our Contact Information
LANAWRUA,
P O Box 2117,
Naivasha 20117,
lanawrua@gmail.com

Information from Ruth Vaughan





Lake Naivasha, 2008 taken from Kamere

Water Abstraction Survey

Since the formation of the LANAWRUA, it became apparent that much of the information available regarding the status of the lake, the rivers and the environment was either out of date, inadequate, or incomplete. This made the job of the LANAWRUA difficult in as far as making informed decisions when reviewing permit applications and variations. Furthermore, the lack of information would eventually make it difficult to implement the Water Allocation Plan (WAP) for Naivasha once it was adopted by the stakeholders.

The committee of the LANAWRUA agreed that the data collection process should be started immediately and with the approval of the CEO of WRMA, Dominic Wambua of WRMA Naivasha and Eugene Reeksting, LANAWRUA began

the tedious process of recording every abstraction point, legal or otherwise. The exercise is being conducted in a “non confrontational” manner in order to get full cooperation of all the users.

Eugene and Dominic are facing many challenges as it is seldom that the documentation required is available, or that the property is named, owned, leased in the names in which the permit is issued. Also many properties have been split, with portions sub-leased to various individuals who do not have any records. Some individuals who are found at the property often do not know what the arrangements are between the leaser and the lessee. It is requested that when they arrive at your farm or property that you have

your permits and authorizations in order and that you give them time as this is a worthy exercise with far-reaching consequences in terms of water management.

On the bright side, WRMA has managed to allocate personnel and vehicles to assist with data collection, something that both Eugene and Dominic greatly welcome as the process is turning out to be more complex and time-consuming than originally thought.

Information from Eugene Reeksting, LANAWRUA

DC Supports Investment and Cooperation

Stakeholders Meeting

July 19, 2009 at the Council Chambers

The meeting was convened by the District Commissioner (DC), Mr. Mohamed Birik, of Naivasha to discuss ways of avoiding conflicts such as those that had occurred in previous weeks with respect to abstraction from and access to Lake Naivasha. The general consensus was that the Lake was in a worsening state. The situation is, therefore, critical and rife for conflict. The DC expressed concern with the upsurge in the number of NGOs and Community Based Organizations in the area and their uncoordinated efforts that have led to misinformation on the situation of Lake Naivasha, as well as a lack of progress on

the ground. He warned all groups against taking the law into their own hands and asked that stakeholders use his office for conflict resolution. Furthermore, the DC will be re-installing the District Environment Committee through which most conflicts can be resolved and environmental issues considered. He acknowledged the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts of most Naivasha growers, but asked that initiatives are focused on residents of Naivasha more so than they are currently. The following were considered relevant to growers:

1. Water
 - Efficient water usage should be conducted by all

- Requesting for authorization from WRMA for all modifications to abstraction canals, and borehole drilling, [as well as ensuring that your water permit is current]

2. Access Routes

- The DC was requested to assist with obtaining the latest authenticated map showing access routes to the lake, although one was presented to him by the pastoralist group. The DC asked for time to review the map and the

(Continued on page 3)

“..compliance with the Water Act and Water Allocation Plan will ensure that this valuable resource [Lake Naivasha] is sustainably managed for the benefit of all.”
LANAWRUA, p1

DC..

situation. [The LNGG Select Committee has communicated to the DC that we are in the process of acquiring an authenticated map that we will present to him as soon as it is available]

- The pastoralist group also stated that the current access routes are overgrown with cacti and that this has limited their mobility.
3. Negative publicity

- The root cause of negative publicity on Naivasha, which is likely to affect investment, is the uncoordinated information dissemination system. The LANAWRUA was considered the best platform in coordinating all activities in their area of jurisdiction. The first meeting will be held at the Kenya Wildlife Services Training Institute (KWSTI) Naivasha at a date to be communicated by WRMA

David Kihagi



Kamere Beach, 2009

The Mapping Exercise

You may have been emailed, called or visited by me recently asking for access to the farm to conduct a mapping exercise in partnership with WWF and LNRA.

The aim of the exercise is to produce classified satellite imagery that show the various land use practices around the lake's riparian zone. The other data being collected along with the global positioning system (GPS) coordinates at the various sites will be used to create data layers, in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) terminology, that when digitally layered over the maps will provide a comprehensive database for the lake basin. In the future the database needs to be linked to the data being collected by Eugene and Dominic on water abstraction. The database will be constantly updated and will be made available in a coordinated manner to partners and other authorized parties to reduce misinformation on the lake. This database will also be used for various management and decision making processes, such as in helping to

identify the most degraded areas around the lake that will then be put under environment conservation initiatives. The database will be housed in the LNGG/LNRA offices.

The team, comprising of Sam Njoroge, LNRA, Zachary Maritim, WWF, and me from LNGG, however, is facing some serious challenges that is affecting their progress. The major ones are the suspicion of land owners, managers and guards; absentee land owners who leave behind personnel who are not authorized to divulge information requested and have to liaise with the landowners who are normally abroad and difficult to reach; and the lack of records of changes in land tenure that make it hard to identify the LR number for example.

The team is, therefore, requesting all land owners around the lake to support and cooperate with the mapping team for the exercise to be a success. They would also like that those who have not filled and returned the

forms that were sent a few weeks ago, to please do so as soon as possible so that the team can begin processing data.

Finally, they would like to thank all those who have cooperated with them and provided them with access and the data they require.

David Kihagi

“The DC expressed concern with the upsurge in the number of NGOs and Community Based Organizations in the area and their uncoordinated efforts that have led to misinformation on the situation of Lake Naivasha, as well as a lack of progress on the ground.”

Naivasha High on the Agenda of National Taskforce

Notes from the National Taskforce on Horticulture Meeting, July 23, 2009 at the KEPHIS Headquarters

The Taskforce is a consortium of private and public institutions involved in horticulture that meet as the need arises to discuss issues of regulation, trade, publicity, marketing, and so on affecting the horticulture sector

in Kenya.

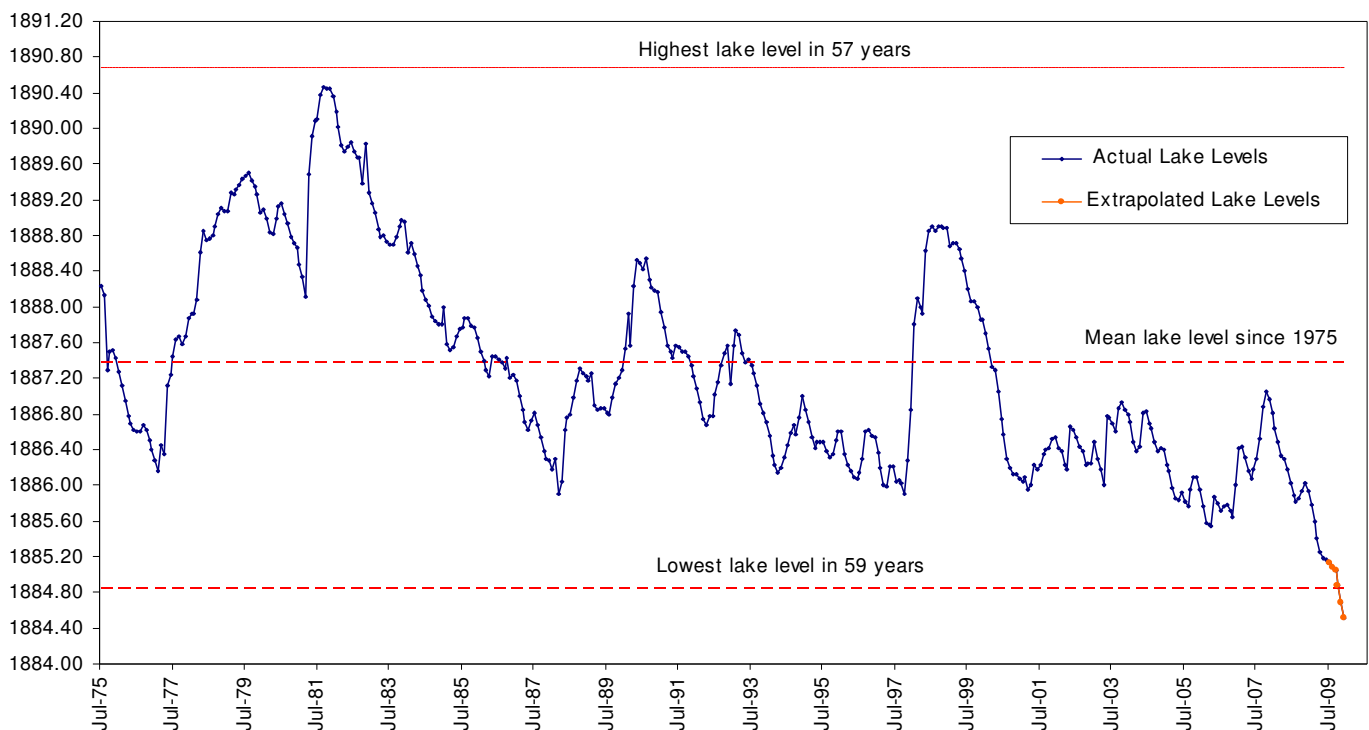
At the recent meeting Naivasha was on the agenda as a result of the recent conflicts and negative press associated with the water crisis. Sunita was there to present the facts on the ground and was asked for a strategic paper on water management in Naivasha, outlining

all the activities that we are involved in to improve the situation now and for the future. This paper will, once approved by the LNGG Select Committee, KFC and FPEAK, will be disseminated to other members of the taskforce in a bid to unify the messages that are being relayed by various players in the horticulture

sector. The Taskforce, it was felt, should also be involved in information dissemination to the press to reduce negative stories, which are regularly incorrect, on the sector.

LNGG

Going, going..... Gone (if the rains fail again)



Thank you to Eng. Gichohi, Homegrown Flamingo for lake level data

Members' Survey

In the past months I have contacted and/or visited you, in order to perform a survey of LNGG members. As you may remember the survey aims to find out from you, the member what you feel should be the priorities for LNGG. The results

of the survey will be used by LNGG to make a mid-to long term plan and to ensure that the budget is allocated appropriately. So far there have only been 11 respondents.

At the moment we are finalizing the project. Should you feel that you would still like to participate, but for some reason have not been done so yet, please contact us ASAP!

We will keep you informed

about the results of the survey.

Lieke Verbrugge

Update on Research

Revive Borehole Quality with Rainwater

Last year you were asked numerous times to assist various students with research for their Masters' theses. The students who visited farms in 2007-2008 from ITC, the Netherlands have all completed their theses, but we were informed that only one did an excellent job. George Michael Hagos worked on groundwater recharge efficiency (a copy of his thesis is in our offices) and found that in five years (depending on the quality of the groundwater) water quality can be improved by pumping rainwater into the borehole.

The benefits are two-fold:

- a) Rainwater is stored underground where evaporation is nil
- b) Since water moves very slowly (tens of years) out of the aquifer into other regions, one would be increasing water availability over the long run.

These results, though exciting, were not presented in practical terms. However, the concept is progressive and will likely be incorporated in ITC and University of Twente's new project that will include hydrological, geological, ecological and sociological aspects of Naivasha basin. For this project, 5 PhD

candidates and one post-doctoral fellow are being sought. The post-doc will have the task of bringing all the results together to give us a consolidated model for the basin. Such information will help coordinate and direct a lot of the current initiatives around the basin.

We need to decide the research questions!

LNGG would like to change the way things work when it comes to research. Currently, Universities come up with their own research questions and ask us for data, whereas we should be the ones going to universities

asking them to answer specific questions relevant to the industry, environment or social sectors. To affect this change, we request you to contact us whenever a question comes to you that needs research so that we can start being the drivers of applied research not the recipients of sometimes purely heuristic information.

LNGG

From your Secretariat

Fire Safety Training, May 18, 2009 at the Lake Naivasha YMCA

As required by the new Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act (2007), all employers must ensure that they have one trained fire marshal per 100 employees. To assist our members to abide by this regulation, the Lake Naivasha Growers' Group secretariat engaged G4S Fire Services to provide a consolidated training session for 30 fire marshals from Plantation Plants Ltd, Longonot Farm, De-Ruiters Ltd and Nor Flora Ltd. The training program was comprehensive and included practical demonstrations. First aid procedures were also taught. The participants were pleased with the consolidated training approach, especially because of the opportunity to interact and share experiences with their colleagues from other farms. In fact, some participants said that they had not known of the existent of LNGG. The secretariat would like to continue organizing such training sessions not only in fire safety but on all aspects of OHS, such as spray unit, first aid, etc. as not only are they required by law, but by bringing farms together we will increase interaction between

members, improve farm safety standards, and reduce individual farm training costs! We shall be sending training schedules via email, so stay tuned!

Sunita is back!

Since July 8, 2009 I have been part of the LNGG secretariat, albeit on a short-term freelance consultancy-basis. My main aim is to complete what I had started when in place as the executive officer and that is to complete LNGG's re-organization into an active, visible, professional and representative group for all growers in Naivasha. My main responsibilities will be to develop an organizational structure for the LNGG, job descriptions for the executive and assistant executive officers, and a vacancy announcement for a suitable executive officer, all based primarily on the results of the members survey (See *Member Survey, p4*) in order to ensure that members get what they want. I will also continue fielding questions from you my

members, dealing with partners such as WWF, CARE, and so on, and representing LNGG at national level meetings. It is good to be back!

Peace Rally, July 26, 2009 at the Naivasha Prisons Grounds

Just last week we sent another request for flowers to support the Peace Rally being held by the Naivasha MP, Mr. John Mutho. We received over 20 boxes of flowers from Oserian, Homegrown, Nini, Wildfire, and Longonot Horticulture who also donated strawberries. The flowers and strawberries were blessed by the pastor who was convening the rally and then distributed to the participants. Thank you to all who donated!

Wanted - one spare computer
LNGG is in need of a new computer as one of our machines is so old it can barely stay awake. If any of you have a spare computer for which, you are looking for a new home we would love to give it one. The only requirement is that the computer be capable of dealing with daily

usage for email, document writing and reviewing, and database work. If you have such a machine, do contact us as soon as possible. Thank you!

LNGG



CESS vs. MOU

In 2007, the Municipal Council of Naivasha (MCN) sent demands for cess levied on export produce to all horticulture producers in the municipality. LNGG, together with the Kenya Flower Council applied for an immediate court order and the commencement of judicial review proceedings as the demand was considered contrary to a parent act. The order was granted but shortly after the MCN and LNGG began discussions on collaboration as the MCN is in need of funds to improve services for residents and business in the Naivasha area, from which LNGG members would benefit directly and indirectly. Formal negotiations on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) began at the end of 2007.

The negotiations have been tough, especially with the many changes of Town Clerks, Mayors and counselors. At the moment we are on the right track and a few important parts have been agreed on. LNGG has recognized that its activities and employees utilize services and facilities provided by MCN. Often these are overstretched through lack of resources and in order to support MCN's desire to improve the delivery, the LNGG committee has sought a mutually agreeable formula that will encourage acceptance from its members to contribute financially to the MCN, and will provide assurance that funds so contributed will be used in a transparent and appropriate manner.

The MCN needs 30 million KES / annum. Due to several reasons they disagreed on a formula based on the amount of employees and wanted to charge on acreage. Various growers dislike this formulation as there are huge differences in revenue between the different crops. The formula is now being reworked.

Since then, Mavoko in Athi River have gazetted a cess of 10 KES/ kg of flowers. Our aim is to ensure that we have control on services provided, and hence, the MOU is the way forward.

An important part of the MOU is that the MCN needs to release accountant annual report of the last financial year and that the growers will have a representative on the board, which will redirect

the funds to various projects (e.g. sewage, infrastructure). Of the funds, 80% will be used for projects. Also the MOU will only be signed when the cess court case is withdrawn.

We will keep you informed of the process.

Eddy Verbeek


RISK!!

First we **Eliminate,**
then we **Protect**

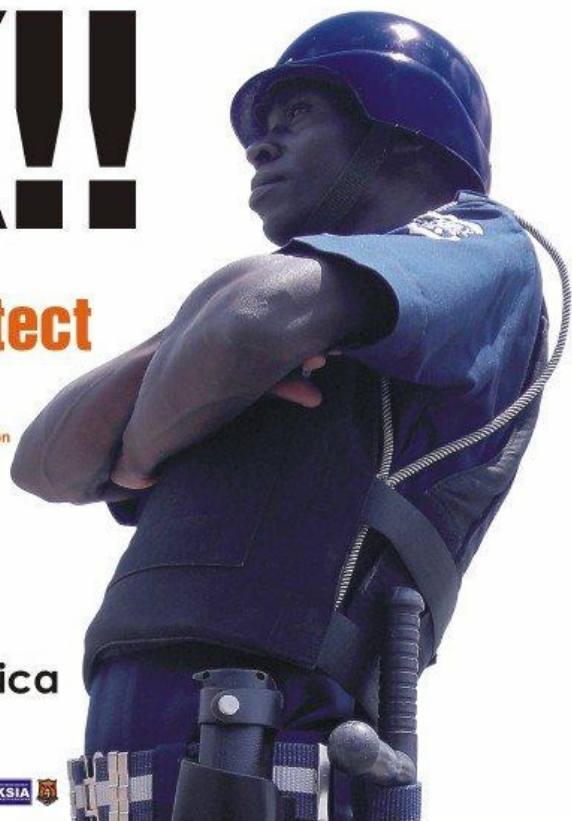
Dedicated to the safety and security of clients and their assets, Security Group Africa integrates cutting-edge technology with global knowledge and local insight. Our elite force of security officers will provide you with an effective interfusion of systems and service resulting in intelligent, reliable and effective security which complements your corporate image.

Call us. We'll listen, understand and deliver.

- Alarm Systems
- CCTV Visual Alarm Verification
- Guards & Dog patrol
- Satellite Tracking Systems
- Cash In Transit
- Perimeter Protection
- Event Security
- Ambulance & Road Rescue

 **Security Group Africa**
Tel: (0)20 531276-82, Mobil: 0720 815412
znyambu@securitygroupke.com
www.securityafrica.com

KENYA | UGANDA | TANZANIA





Lake Naivasha
Growers' Group

WE'RE ON THE WEB:
WWW.LNGG.ORG

PO Box 1356-20117, Naivasha
Phone: 020- 3510604
Mobile: 0722 272721
Email: lngg@africaonline.co.ke