



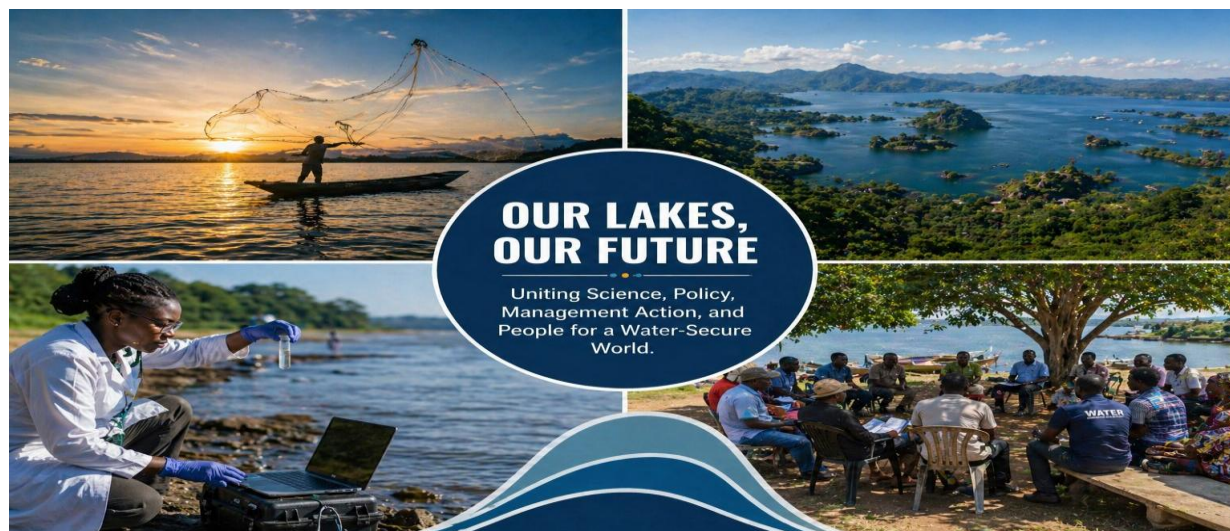
Announcement: 21st World Lake Conference

Malaika Beach Resort, Mwanza, Tanzania

Dates: 04 - 07 August 2027

Introduction:

Lakes, or lentic water systems, store nearly 90 percent of the world's accessible surface water and are among the most important yet fragile ecosystems on Earth. Lakes and their basins support millions of people's livelihoods, regulate local climates, sustain biodiversity, and are vital to food and water supplies. However, lake basins are degrading rapidly due to weak policies, inadequate governance, poor water and land use, pollution, invasive species, and climate change. Lake basin management challenges are complex and multisectoral, spanning water, environment, agriculture, industry, energy, mining (artisanal and formal), fisheries, livestock, land, tourism, foreign affairs, and multijurisdictional governance (from villages and urban centers to local and regional, state, provincial, prefectural, and national governments).



The 21st World Lakes Conference (WLC21) will be jointly hosted by the Water Institute, Tanzania, and the International Lake Environment Committee (ILEC) Foundation, Japan, from August 4 to 7, 2027, at the Malaika Beach Resort in Mwanza, on the shores of Lake Victoria, the world's second-largest lake. It will: (a) bring together experts to share global knowledge and experience, including insights into Tanzania's unique lakes: Victoria, Tanganyika, Malawi/Nyasa, Rukwa, Eyasi, Manyara, and Natron; (b) advance Integrated Lake Basin Management (ILBM), a globally recognized approach to sustainable lake basin governance that extends integrated water resources management to address the challenges of managing Africa's lentic freshwater resources; and (c)

serve as a platform for launching an African Center of Excellence for Integrated Lake Basin Management and Transboundary Water Management in Tanzania.

The conference, themed “Our Lakes, Our Future: Uniting Science, Policy, Management Action, and People for a Water-Secure World,” will bring together aquatic scientists, environmental experts, water managers, policymakers, development finance groups, civil society, and local communities. We aim to build partnerships and encourage collective action for the sustainable use and conservation of lakes, their basins, and the ecosystems they support. The four-day event will open with Her Excellency President Dr. Samia Hassan Suluhu of Tanzania, joined by the Governor of Shiga Prefecture, Japan, and other dignitaries and experts from around the world. We will focus on the crucial role lakes play in water and food security, as well as their importance to biodiversity, livelihoods, and climate resilience in the rapidly growing Great Lakes region, by advancing ILBM. A Mwanza Declaration will be developed at the conclusion of WLC21, drawing on input from the scientific community, governments, the private sector, civil society, communities, and youth, to take urgent steps to implement UN Resolutions for the sustainable management of lakes and their basins worldwide, along with the Paris Agreement, the CBD, and the SDGs. On the final day, field visits will offer attendees the opportunity to either visit the world-famous Serengeti National Park or take a boat trip on Lake Victoria.

Sub-themes.

The WLC21, featuring high-level panels, parallel technical sessions, workshops, and a Youth Day, will conclude with the Mwanza Declaration. It is organized around three sub-themes:

1. Governing the Commons: Integrated National and Transboundary Lake Basin Management Approaches. Sovereignty and institutional options. Legal frameworks and treaties, political support. Funding methods. Use of the Ostrom Principles. ILBM Strategies. Indigenous management methods. Combining traditional knowledge and modern science in lake basin management. Linking Science and policy, management actions, and political support.

2. Innovation and Technology for Lake Ecosystem Monitoring, Assessment, Restoration, and Sustainability in a Changing Climate. AI-based water quality assessment and management. Real-time water quality monitoring, detection, and alert systems. Satellite imagery for studying lake basins, land cover, and water quality. Nature-based methods for lake restoration. Bioremediation for pollution mitigation and control. Hydrological restoration. Data management, modeling, and decision support systems for lake basin management. Monitoring emerging pollutants and analytical methods. Accounting for natural resources and valuing ecosystem benefits. Managing GHG emissions from lakes. Monitoring climate change effects in lake basins. Managing lake basins sustainably to reduce disaster risks. Information, data needs, and experiences on ILBM.

3. Communities, Civil Societies, and the Youth Sector: People-Centered Stewardship. Local communities, indigenous knowledge holders, and young leaders in lake conservation. Sustainable blue economies, fair financing, gender equality, and local community action. Sustainable use of lakes alongside the development of economic activities in lake areas (blue economy). Local communication, education, and public awareness strategies. Methods for assessing carrying capacity for multiple uses of lakes. Conflict resolution mechanisms in a multi-stakeholder lake

basin. Cultural and spiritual values in lake conservation and management. Community-led environmental programs, financial tools, and long-term support. Citizen science in action.

SAVE THE DATES. CALL FOR ABSTRACTS TO FOLLOW.