A Network of Weather Buoys in the African Great Lakes

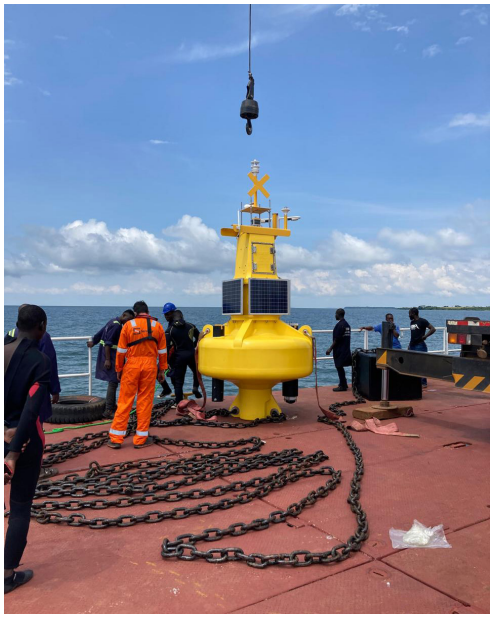
NEWSFLASH

Nestled in the heart of East Africa, the African Great Lakes region boasts a collection of stunning natural wonders that have captivated explorers, scientists, and nature enthusiasts for centuries. Among these magnificent freshwater bodies, Lake Victoria, Lake Albert, and Lake Kyoga stand out as three prominent jewels, each with unique characteristics and significance. These resource lakes provide vital resources, support diverse ecosystems, and hold significant cultural and historical importance for the surrounding communities.

An important initiative currently underway is the Multinational Lake Victoria Maritime Communication and Transport Project. The project is designed within the 4th East African Community (EAC) Development Strategy (2011-2016). It contributes to the EAC's Vision for the Lake Victoria basin to build "a prosperous population living in a healthy and sustainably managed environment providing equitable opportunities and benefits."

The project addresses the region's maritime transportation and navigation safety intervention, its ambition to provide safe, efficient transport links, and the safe conduct of fishing activities essential to poverty reduction and sustainable development.

In 2022, The Ministry of Works and Transport in Uganda took delivery of 9 Weather Buoys from Elcome International LLC in Dubai. Xylem Water Solutions Middle East supplied Xylem MOTUS Wave Buoys, assisted in their deployment, and trained local personnel in Uganda in their operation and maintenance.



Xylem MOTUS Wave Buoy on deck before deployment — advancing maritime safety and environmental monitoring in East Africa.

Monitoring Lake Victoria: A MOTUS buoy in position, supporting safer navigation and environmental data collection.

The MOTUS Buoys monitor Ocean Waves, Ocean Currents, Dissolved Oxygen, Turbidity, Conductivity, and Meteorological parameters such as wind speed and direction, temperature, humidity, barometric pressure, precipitation, and solar radiation. In addition, a visibility sensor is installed on the buoys. The loggers and sensors installed on the buoy are from Xylem brands Aanderaa and YSI.

The buoys provide real-time data for the weather forecast at the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), which coordinates all search and rescue operations on Lake Victoria and the Search and Rescue Centre (SAR). The 16 SARs around Lake Victoria support around 70,000 small fishermen's vessels operating on Lake Victoria. In addition, the data will be displayed at the MET Forecast office and the MET Port Office.

These organizations will use the data to execute live marine traffic management and build up important statistical data for analysis and future planning, aiming to increase the sustainable and prosperous use of resources in this strategically significant region.

A MOTUS buoy equipped with solar panels and sensors floats on Lake Victoria—delivering real-time data for safer navigation and environmental monitoring.

Aanderaa Data Instruments AS
Sanddalsringen 5b
5843 Bergen, Norway

+47 55 60 48 00
aanderaa.info@xylem.com
Aanderaa.com