CALL FOR ABSTRACTS AND REGISTRATION

21st World Lake Conference (WLC21) and 5th International Maji Scientific Conference (IMSC5)

Dates 04th - 07th August, 2027



Hosted by: The Water Institute Tanzania and ILEC Foundation Japan

@Malaika Beach Resort, Mwanza, Tanzania

1.0 Introduction

Freshwater lakes are among the most vital and most threatened ecosystems on Earth. Covering less than one percent of the planet's surface, lakes and their basins sustain the livelihoods of billions of people, regulate regional climates, support extraordinary biodiversity, and underpin the food and water security of entire nations, yet face mounting threats from climate change, pollution, and weak governance.



Confronting this reality, The Water Institute (WI) Tanzania and the International Lake Environment Committee (ILEC) Foundation are proud to announce the 21st World Lakes Conference and the 5th International Maji Scientific Conference (WLC21-IMSC5), to be held from **04th to 07th August, 2027** at the **Malaika Beach Resort in Mwanza**, **Tanzania** on the shores of Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake and the world's second-largest freshwater body by surface area. Anoptional excursion Day will be held on **07th August 2027** for delegates wishing to experience Tanzania's natural and heritage firsthand.

The World Lakes Conference is the foremost global forum dedicated to the science, policy, and management of lakes and their watersheds. Since its inaugural edition in 1984, the conference has brought together the world's leading limnologists, hydrologists, ecologists, water resource managers, environmentalists, policymakers, development partners, civil society organisations, and local communities to share knowledge, forge partnerships, and galvanise collective action for freshwater conservation. Each edition produces landmark declarations and advances the implementation of the ILEC Integrated Lake Basin Management (ILBM) framework as a globally recognised approach that guides sustainable governance across the full complexity of lake basin systems.

Tanzania is a country of considerable freshwater significance. It is endowed with extensive lake resources, including portions of four major transboundary lakes; Lake Victoria, Tanganyika, Nyasa and Natron as well as several inland lakes, notably Rukwa, Eyasi and Manyarabounded by the watersheds of nine major water basins. Tanzania embodies both the promise and the peril of Africa's freshwater future. Hosting WLC21-IMSC5 in Mwanza, the lakeside capital on Lake Victoria, reflects a deliberate choice: to anchor the world's foremost lake conference in a context where the stakes are immediate, visible, and deeply human Tanzania. WLC21-IMSC5 comes at a critical juncture, with UN Resolution 74/234 and major global frameworks (Paris Agreement, CBD, SDGs) demanding action that has yet to match commitment on the ground.

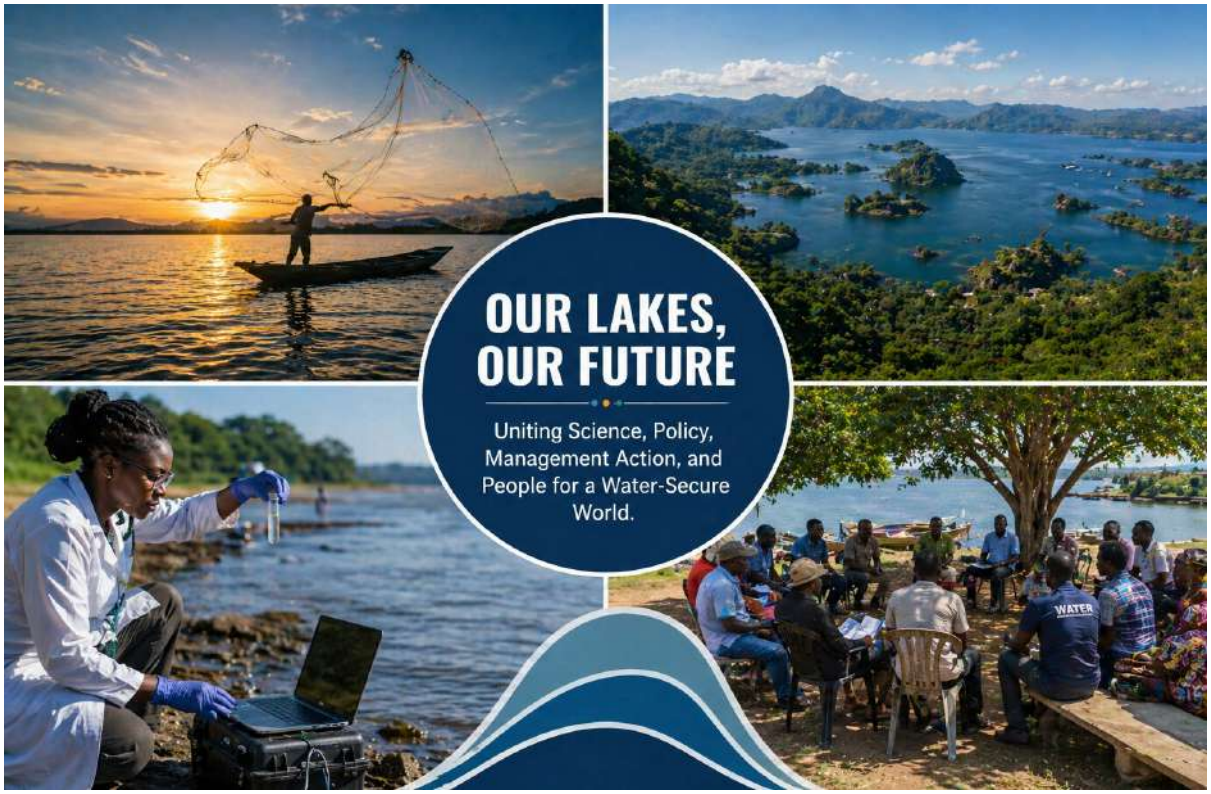
Under the theme ***" Our Lakes, Our Future: Uniting Science, Policy, Management Action, and People for a Water-Secure World,"*** the three-day conference will feature high-level

panels, parallel technical sessions, a Youth Day, and culminate in the **Mwanza Declaration** and the launch of a new **ILBM Centre of Excellence** at The Water Institute Tanzania organised around three sub-themes: governance, innovation & technology, and youth & blue economy.

2.0 Conference Theme

> ***"Our Lakes, Our Future: Uniting Science, Policy, Management Action, and People for a Water-Secure World."***

The 21th World Lakes Conference highlights the essential role of freshwater lakes in water and food security, and their contributions to biodiversity, livelihoods, and climate resilience. It serves as a definitive call to action for a Water-Secure World, urging the scientific community, governments, the private sector, civil society, local communities, and youth to take immediate, collaborative steps to implement United Nations Environment Assembly 5/4 for the sustainable management of lakes and their basins worldwide.



Sub-theme 1: Governing the Commons: Integrated, Inclusive and Transboundary Approaches to Lake Basin Management

Exploring treaties, sovereignty arrangements, multi-stakeholder frameworks, transboundary cooperation mechanisms, multi-level governance arrangements, Ostrom principles, local water rights, and indigenous management systems for co-governing shared lake basins from Lake Victoria to the world's most threatened freshwater systems.

Sub-theme 2: Innovation and Technology for Lake Ecosystem Sustainability: Lake Restoration, Conservation and Protection for Resilience in a Changing Climate

Harnessing AI-powered monitoring, satellite remote sensing, IoT sensor networks, nature-based solutions, bioremediation, nutrient removal, hydrological restoration, climate modelling and early warning systems and digital platforms to restore degraded lake ecosystems and safeguard freshwater biodiversity. Emphasis is placed on integrated lake basin management, pollution prevention and control, freshwater biodiversity conservation, ecosystem-based climate adaptation, greenhouse gas monitoring, sustainable fisheries and community-driven approaches

Sub-theme 3: Youth, Communities and the Blue Economy: Advancing Livelihood - Centred Stewardship of Lakes

Placing local communities, indigenous knowledge holders, and young leaders at the heart of lake conservation advancing sustainable blue economies, inclusive financing, gender equality, and grassroots action

3.0 Call for Abstracts

We warmly invite researchers, practitioners, policymakers, innovators, and civil society leaders worldwide to submit abstracts for presentation at WLC21. The conference offers four (4) presentation tracks:

i. **Oral Presentations**: Original or Review research findings, innovative approaches, and scientific contributions relevant to the conference themes **Poster Presentations**: Original or Review research findings, innovative approaches, and scientific contributions relevant to the conference themes displayed during dedicated exhibition sessions .

ii. **Youth Project Showcases**: Innovations and projectspresentations during Youth Day , open to primary and secondary schools' pupils, and delegates under 35 years.

iii. **Call for Workshop:** A concept note presentation for interactive workshops focusing on knowledge sharing, practical skills development, capacity building, and innovative solutions for sustainable lake and water resource management.

3.1 Suggested Topics

Abstracts are welcomed on, but not limited to, the following topics:

Sub-theme A: Governing the Commons	Sub-theme B: Innovation & Technology	Sub-theme C: Youth, Communities & Blue Economy
1. Treaties, conventions and sovereignty 2. Shared basin commissions and mandates 3. Multi-stakeholder governance frameworks 4. Ostrom principles and collective action 5. Local water rights and ILBM 6. Indigenous and traditional management 7. Catchment water balance and planning 8. Transboundary pollution governance 9. Climate change adaptation and resilience 10. Role of politics in ILBM 11. Global case studies: Lakes Victoria, Tanganyika, Chad	1. AI for real-time lake water quality monitoring 2. Satellite imaging for lake monitoring 3. IoT sensors and buoy systems 4. Digital models for predicting ecosystem change 5. Nature-based solutions for lake restoration 6. Bioremediation techniques 7. Nutrient removal and sediment management 8. Invasive species control 9. Hydrological restoration 10. Climate-smart catchment management 11. Open science and citizen participation	1. Inclusion of the marginalised in lake conservation Indigenous knowledge in lake governance 2. Community-based natural resource management 3. Women and gender equality in conservation 4. Environmental education and awareness 5. Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture 6. Blue economy enterprises in lake areas 7. Community-based financing for conservation 8. Cultural and spiritual values in lake conservation 9. Digital tools for community engagement 10. Measuring community impact 11. Disaster Risk Management in Lakeside communities

3.2 Abstract Submission Guidelines

i. Abstracts must be written in English and must not exceed 250 words, **font size 12. line space 1.15** in **times new roman format excluding Title, Author Names, Affiliations and Keywords**.

ii. Include: title, all author names, institutional affiliation(s), country, and corresponding author's contact (email and phone number).

iii. Clearly state the research/project background, problem, objective, methodology, key findings, and relevance to the conference theme.

iv. Provide 4-6 relevant keywords.

v. Indicate preferred presentation format: Oral Presentation, Poster Presentation, or Youth Showcase.

vi. Indicate the most relevant sub-theme (A, B, or C).

vii. All accepted presenters must complete registration and pay applicable fees to be included in the official programme.

viii. Abstract files must be named using the following format, combining the first author's name and the relevant sub-theme abbreviation: eg.

Firstname.Surname_Sub-theme abbreviation *Example:* Anna.Msangi_A

ix. Full papers (maximum 8,000 words) will be invited from accepted presenters for inclusion in the special issue publication in Journal of Water Resource, Engineering, Management and Policy (JWEMPO) (www.jwempo.at.tz)

x. Submissions must be made via the official online portal at www.wlc21.ac.tz and a copy through wlc21@waterinstitute.ac.tz and wlc21@gmail.com

3.3 Key Dates

Date	**Activity**
20 November 2026	Abstract submission portal opens
31 March 2027	Deadline for abstract submission
15 April 2027	Notification of abstract acceptance
30 April 2027	Early bird registration deadline
30 June 2027	Full paper submission deadline
30 June 2027	Powerpoint and Poster submission deadline
04 – 07 August 2027	Conference at Mwanza, Tanzania
07 August 2027	Excursion Day

4.0 Conference Programme at a Glance

Day 1- 04 Aug	**Official Inauguration & High-Level Panels** Cultural welcome, opening ceremony, three high-level panel discussions on Lake Conservation & Political Commitment, Transboundary Lake Basin Management, and Sustainable Financing for ILBM. Welcome Gala Dinner.
Day 2 - 05 Aug	**Youth Day, Poster Presentations & Parallel Technical Sessions** Youth keynote, youth panel, youth project presentations, poster exhibition, three parallel technical sessions (Sub-themes A, B, C), interactive youth workshops, and capacity-building workshops.
Day 3 - 06 Aug	**Technical Sessions, Closing Ceremony, Awards & Gala Dinner** Final parallel technical sessions, Mwanza Declaration adoption, inauguration of the ILBM Centre of Excellence at The Water Institute Tanzania, WLC22 host announcement, and Farewell Gala Dinner.

Tour Day - 07 Aug	**Explore Tanzania** Choose from: Serengeti National Park Safari, Lake Victoria Cruise and Saanane Island Tour, or Water Resources Management Field Visit (LVBWB & MWAUWASA).

5.0 Registration Fees

Registration fees include access to all plenary and technical sessions, conference materials, daily meals (breakfast, lunches, refreshments), the Welcome Gala Dinner (Day 1). The Farewell Gala Dinner (Day 3) and Tour Day (07 August 2027) requires a separate booking selected at time of registration.

Delegate Category	Early Bird (by 30 Apr 2027)	Standard Fee
Registration Fees		
International Delegates *Professionals based outside Tanzania*	**USD 400**	**USD 500**
Tanzanian Delegates *Professionals based in Tanzania*	**TZS 450,000**	**TZS 600,000**
Students / Youth (under 35) *Valid student ID or proof of age required*	**USD 200 / TZS 350,000**	**USD 250 / TZS 450,000**
Virtual / Online Delegates *Live-streamed session access only*	**USD 100/TZS 200,000**	**USD 150/ TZS 300,000**
Optional Dinner and Excursion Fees		
The Farewell Gala Dinner (Day 3)	**USD 100 / TZS 100,000**	**(fixed price)**
Excursion 1- Serengeti Safari *Transport, park fees, meals, guide included*	**USD 250 / TZS 500,000**	**(fixed price)**
Excursion 2- Lake Victoria Cruise *Cruise, Saanane Island, lunch, fees*	**USD 100 / TZS 150,000**	**(fixed price)**
Excursion 3- Water Resources Field Visit *LVBWB & MWAUWASA technical tour*	**USD 60 / TZS 110,000**	**(fixed price)**

6.0 Awards and Recognition Ceremony

Outstanding contributions will be celebrated at the Closing Ceremony on Day 3. All accepted presenters and poster contributors are automatically eligible. Awards include:

i. **Best Poster:** People's Choice Award (voted by delegates)
ii. **Best Youth Presenter Award**
iii. **Best Paper Presentation:** Sub-theme A, B, and C (Certificate & Trophy)
iv. **Excellence in Lake Conservation Award**
v. **Lake Innovation Award:** Most innovative project or technology
vi. **Best Lake Management Institution Award**
vii. **WLC21 Lifetime Achievement Award**

Excursion : 07 August 2027: Explore Tanzania

Extend your stay and experience Tanzania's extraordinary natural and scientific heritage. Select ONE option during registration. Transportation, guide services, meals, and entrance fees are included in the tour fee.

Option 1 USD 250 / TZS 500,000	**Serengeti National Park Safari** Full-day luxury safari departing 05:00 from Mwanza hotels. Big Five wildlife viewing, morning and afternoon game drives, professional safari guide, bush lunch, and dinner boxes on the return journey. Includes all transport, park fees, and meals.  
Option 2 USD 100 / TZS 150,000	**Lake Victoria Cruise and Saanane Island** Board a luxury cruise boat at Mwanza Port for a scenic Lake Victoria cruise with views of the Mwanza skyline and Bismarck Rock. Guided tour of Saanane Island Tanzania's smallest and only urban national park featuring wildlife, bird watching, and lakeside tilapia lunch. Culminates with a traditional Sukuma dance performance. 

Option 3

USD 60 / TZS 110,000

Water Resources Management Field Visit

Technical tour visiting the Lake Victoria Basin Water Board (LVBWB) and MWAUWASA Water Treatment and Distribution facilities. Includes presentations, water quality laboratory tours, field monitoring demonstrations, and a certificate of participation. Ideal for water professionals and researchers.



Submit Your Abstract. Register Today. Be Part of History on WLC21-IMSC5

Abstract Submissions and Registration: www.wlc21.ac.tz

Enquiries: wlc21@waterinstitute.ac.tz and wlc21@gmail.com

Phone Number:

The Water Institute Tanzania