

SWEET LAKE VICTORIA

By King Kitomondo (Student of BAED SAUT)



This is the story of my cute wife,
She is fetching me when I am thirsty,
Sometimes she cools me in the evening,
Beautiful gold sun shines on her,
She is so sweet like my baby girl.

Her name is Lake Victoria,
The name of queen of England,
The queen was in love with this large lake.
Tilapia is the original fish of her,
And this is how I appreciate your presence.

You feed the us protein,
Victoria, you are the home of Tilapia,
Of the varieties of fishes, you are unique,
You were born and raised in Mwanza - Tanzania,
That's why I love and sing about you, Victoria.

Your heart is so pure like Queen Victoria,
You're the widest lake in the globe, Victoria.
Whites come and grab you from me, Victoria,
Because they have capital to invest in you Victoria,
But I remember the shadow of the moon cast on you, Victoria.

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ORIGIN OF GREAT LAKE VICTORIA

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Lake Victoria other name is *Nalubaale* in Luganda; *Nyanza* in *Kinyarwanda* and some Bantu language. It is one of the African Great Lakes. The lake was named after Queen Victoria by the explorer John Hanning Speke, the first European to document it. Speke accomplished this in 1858, while on an expedition with Richard Francis Burton to locate the source of the Nile River. With a surface area of 68,800 square kilometres (26,600 sq mi), Lake Victoria is Africa's largest lake by area, and is also the largest tropical lake in the world. Lake Victoria is the world's second largest freshwater lake by surface area; only Lake Superior in North America is larger. In terms of its volume, Lake Victoria is the world's ninth largest continental lake, and it contains about 2,750 cubic kilometers (2.2 billion acre-feet) of water. Lake Victoria receives its water primarily from direct precipitation and thousands of small streams. The largest stream flowing into this lake is the Kagera River, the mouth of which lies on the lake's western shore. Lake Victoria is drained solely by the Nile River near Jinja, Uganda, on the lake's northern shore. (Taken from various sources)





BACKGROUND OF GREAT LAKE VICTORIA

Lake Victoria, the largest tropical lake in the world, suffers from severe eutrophication and the probable extinction of up to half of its 500+ species of endemic cichlid fishes. The continuing degradation of Lake Victoria's ecological functions has serious long-term consequences for the ecosystem services it provides, and may threaten social welfare in the countries bordering its shores. Evaluation of recent ecological changes in the context of aquatic food-web alterations, catchment disturbance and natural ecosystem variability has been hampered by the scarcity of historical monitoring data. High-resolution palaeolimnological data shows that increases in phytoplankton production developed from the 1930s onwards, which parallels human-population growth and agricultural activity in the Lake Victoria drainage basin. Dominance of bloom-forming cyanobacteria since the late 1980s coincided with a relative decline in diatom growth, which can be attributed to the seasonal depletion of dissolved silica resulting from 50 years of enhanced diatom growth and burial. Eutrophication-induced loss of deep-water oxygen started in the early 1960s, it may have contributed to the 1980s collapse of indigenous fish stocks by eliminating suitable habitat for certain deep-water cichlids. Conservation of Lake Victoria as a functioning ecosystem is contingent upon large-scale implementation of improved land-use practices. (Taken from various sources)

WORD POWER

Precipitation [n]: rain, snow, sleet, or hail that falls to or condenses on the ground

Eutrophication [n]: Excessive richness of nutrients in a lake or other body of water, frequently due to run-off from the land, which causes a dense growth of plant life

Endemic [Adj]: (Of a disease or condition) regularly found among particular people or in a certain area

Cichlid [n]: a perch-like freshwater fish of a large tropical family (*Cichlidae*) which includes the angelfishes, discuses, mouthbrooders, and tilapia.



HOW DIFFERENT PEOPLES TALKING ABOUT LAKE

Nuaja (Students of LLB SAUT)

Lake Victoria is now a source of eruption disease due to the fact that there are algae at pollutions that are directed towards the Lake Victoria such as pollution due to urban wastewater and runoff and pollution from industrial activities.

OPINIONS

Engel Bernard (Secondary School Student)

Lake Victoria is very important especially for teenagers who have failed to go to school. It employs them and a lot of them who would not be able to be employed else where they have the ability for fishing.

Janeth Mlilo (Housewife)

I know Lake Victoria as a source of fresh water. We get fresh water for our different purposes such as a drinking and our daily activities like housekeeping and industrial activities.

Mr Bashiri (Small Retailer)

Through Lake Victoria we get to develop small businesses and others get to develop large businesses whereby student can get fish as food, and at the same time we gain some amount of money to improve our life standard.

Elizabeth Paul (Student of BSCT SAUT)

Lake Victoria is one of the main tourist attraction and also acts as part of Tanzanian and some other parts of East Africa. Therefore it contributes much to the economic growth of Tanzania because we get foreign currencies from exports produced in Lake Victoria.

WORD POWER

Aquatic [adj]: relating to water

Ecological [adj]: relating to or concerned with the relation of living organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings

Phytoplankton [n]: plankton consisting of microscopic plants.

Cyanobacteria [n]: blue-green algae: