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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**AFRICAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR  
LAKE BASIN MANAGEMENT OPENS IN NAIROBI**

NAIROBI, KENYA (November 3, 2003) – An African Regional Review Workshop for Lake Basin Management opened today at the Intercontinental Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya. The four-day workshop is part of a World Bank implemented Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded Lake Basin Management Initiative that is being executed by the International Lake Environment Committee (ILEC), an NGO based in Japan. ILEC is in partnership with a US based NGO called LakeNet. The Lake Basin Management Initiative is co-financed by USAID, the World Bank Netherlands Water Partnership Program (BNWPP), Shiga Prefectural Government of Japan and ILEC.

The workshop is hosted by the Pan African START Secretariat (PASS) – a regional scientific and capacity building network formed under the auspices of the International Council for Sciences (ICSU) to conduct collaborative research on regional aspects of global environment change impacts on water resources, food production and health amongst others. PASS is located at Chiromo Campus, University of Nairobi.

The overall objective of the Lake Basin Management Initiative is to strengthen capacity for improved lake and reservoir basin management at local, provincial, national and global levels. To achieve this, the project will assess and draw lessons from the achievements and implementation of several GEF (14) and non-GEF (14) projects and evaluate their design and implementation to assess their achievements and to draw lessons. A total of 8 lakes from

Africa are included in the project, namely, Baringo, Chad, Malawi/Nyasa, Tanganyika, Victoria (GEF funded); and Naivasha, Nakuru, Kariba (non-GEF funded).

The Africa Regional Review Workshop (the 3rd in a series of 3 regional workshops) will focus on the above mentioned 8 lakes. The purpose of the workshop is to facilitate the exchange of lessons learned and sharing of experiences as well as to solicit supporting information among professionals and stakeholders working on lake basin management issues. The workshop brings together more than 120 professionals and stakeholders actively engaged in lake basin management projects from more than 20 countries.

The emphasis of the workshop will be on the need for the conservation and management of lakes and reservoirs to enter the main-stream of the economic development process through comprehensive water resources management. Actions to improve management of lake basin resources on a sustainable basis are necessary due to the high levels of direct and indirect pressure on lakes and reservoirs from large populations inhabiting lake watersheds, rapid population growth, urbanization, industrialization, mining development, growth of irrigated agriculture and impacts of climate change which are altering ecosystem processes and threatening the capacity of lakes and reservoirs to perform the requisite ecosystem functions and provide basic services to human needs. The conservation and management of lakes and reservoirs and their basins need therefore to be strengthened and assisted by sharing and exchanging knowledge, experience, technologies and dissemination of lessons learned and best practices which would be reflected in policy and institutional reforms, and individual and programmatic lending operations supported by the GEF and the World Bank Group.

More information about the Lake Basin Management Initiative is available online at the project website at: [www.worldlakes.org](http://www.worldlakes.org).