



THE LAKE REGION TRADE INVESTMENT AND BLUE ECONOMY CONFERENCE

23RD-26TH OCTOBER 2018

BOMET COUNTY, KENYA

THEME:

Optimizing Shared Resources for Prosperity

***CALL FOR PAPERS, POSTER PRESENTATIONS AND
EXHIBITORS***



Synopsis

The Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB) consists of 14 Counties (Bomet, Bungoma, Busia, Homabay, Kakamega, Kericho, Kisii, Kisumu, Migori, Nandi, Nyamira, Siaya, Trans Nzoia and Vihiga) within Lake Victoria Basin. The objective of LREB is to leverage economies of scale and shared resources in order to grow the economy of the region and improve livelihoods of the people. LREB's Vision is "*promotion of sustainable, equitable socio-economic development for a better life*". LREB's Mission is: "*To achieve sustainable development through coordination, promotion, resource mobilization, innovation and enhancement of equitable economic integration in the Lake Region.*"

Article 5(3) (e) (g) of the Lake Region Economic Bloc Agreement stipulates that

the LREB shall pursue joint investments with a view to enhancing the Lake Region’s economic growth and it shall strengthen and consolidate cooperation in agreed fields that will lead to equitable development within the member Counties and which in turn will raise the standard of living and improve the quality of life within the LREB.

As one of the prescribed activities, the Bloc, in collaboration with National Government Agencies, Private Sector and Development Partners is organizing to hold the inaugural conference on “***Trade, Investment and Blue Economy***” whose theme is “***Optimizing Shared Resources for Prosperity***”. The 3 day conference shall be held in **Bomet County** as from **23rd-26th October 2018**. The conference will be a platform to showcase the region’s opportunities and bring international, regional and national investors together with the LREB’s leaders to discuss and exchange ideas that will lead to increased investments in the region.

The Region is one of the most densely populated with over 14 million people which constitute a significant part of Kenya’s population. The Conference is expected to bring together the socio-economic aspirations of the 14 counties and seeks to boldly secure and shape the region’s destiny.

Due to immense but largely untapped resources in the region, it is paramount to pull together in a concerted effort to showcase new investment opportunities, to catalyse trade and promote sustainable utilization of resources, create jobs and improve livelihoods – whereof the Conference presents such an opportunity.

The recommendations from this conference will also be presented at the upcoming Global Blue Economy Conference in the month of November 2018 in Nairobi. This will provide a strategic opportunity for LREB to showcase its trade and investment potential in Blue Economy.

Rationale

LREB region is vast and endowed with diverse riches in natural resources (fertile land, rivers, Lake Victoria, minerals, forestry, wildlife), human resource, as well as being contiguous to two Countries (Uganda and Tanzania) and six bordering Counties (West Pokot, Elgeyo Marakwet, Uasin Gishu, Baringo and Narok) of the Lake Region, providing significant potential for development and investment, regional cooperation and economic integration. This potential remains largely underexploited due to low investments.

The Conference will provide information on flagship projects as identified in the *LREB’s Blue Print*. Emphasis is being given to the blue economy agenda at the global arena, consequently at the regional level there is need to champion the same with regard to inland waters including Lake Victoria and its entire basin. This calls for strategic programmes, projects and action plans that will drive trade and investment in the Region’s Blue economy. The resolutions, outputs and outcomes from the upcoming conference will provide the roadmap to realize the dream of enhanced sustainable socio-economic development in the Region.

Conference objectives

- i. To enhance integration and cooperation in leveraging economies of scale and optimizing utilization of shared resources including Lake Victoria.

- ii. To showcase trade and investment opportunities in the Lake Region and its environs.
- iii. To align the LREB's Economic Blue Print to the national government strategy on the Big Four and the Blue Economy Agenda,
- iv. To adopt a collaborative approach in the conservation and management of shared resources in the region.
- v. To seek to address the underlying gaps/drivers and/or challenges hindering the ability to unlock trade and investment potential of the Lake Region.
- vi. To promote entrepreneurship through research, innovation and financial inclusion in the region

Guidelines for Paper Submission

All abstracts and papers for presentation at the *Inaugural Lake Region Trade Investment and Blue Economy Conference* must focus on the following thematic areas:

Theme 1: Integration and optimization of shared resources.

Theme 2: Trade, Investment and Blue Economy: Opportunities and Challenges.

Theme 3: Transforming the Lake Region through the Big 4 Agenda and Blue Economy Strategy.

Theme 4: Collaborative Approaches to Sustainable Utilization of Shared Natural Resources.

Theme 5: Collaborative Approaches to Mitigating Hindrances to Trade and Investment in the Lake Region.

Theme 6: Innovative Approaches for Transformation: Scaling the Heights through Research and Innovation.

Theme 7: Cross Cutting Themes.

NOTE: For detailed description of the above thematic areas visit: www.lreb.co.ke

Proposal for a Panel: Researchers, theorists, and practitioners can submit a joint proposal for a special panel discussion on any of the above thematic areas.

Joint Business Proposals: Practitioners with bankable business proposals that bring together or make use of resources within a county or that span more than one county are also invited to present their business proposals.

Poster presentations and exhibitors: Individuals, companies or organizations with poster presentations or who would like to exhibit their products are advised to get in touch with Mr. Paul Towett +254 722410510 for allocation of space and other details.

Papers for presentation must be between 3,500 and 4,000 words, submitted with 300-350 word abstracts, and a biography of no more than 50 words. Authors MUST send their 300-350 word abstracts before submitting the full paper.

Deadline for submission of abstracts is **Monday 20th August, 2018, 00.00hrs.**

Selected abstracts for presentation notified by **Monday, 3rd September, 2018, 00.00hrs.**

Full paper submission deadline: **Monday, 1st October, 2018, 00.00hrs.**

