HYDROLOGICAL

QUARTERLY

REPORT

January - March

2026

Prepared by:

Lake Victoria Basin Water Board

April, 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS **1**

1.0 Executive summary **3**

2.0 Description of Water Resources Monitoring Network **5**

3.0 Rainfall Status **6**

4.0 Evaporation **9**

..... **11**

STATUS OF WATER LEVELS IN LAKE VICTORIA **11**

5.0 Water levels status in Lake Victoria **12**

6.0 Water flows in the rivers **13**

6.1 Rivers in Kagera Catchment *13*

6.4 Rivers in Mara Catchment *15*

6.7 Rivers in Simiyu Catchment *18*

7.0 Water Level and Volume of the Dams **21**

7.1 Manchira Dam *21*

7.2 New Sola Dam *22*

8.0 Conclusion **23**

Appendices **24**

Appendix I: Rainfall Data *24*

Appendix II: Evaporation Data *26*

1.0 Executive summary

The purpose of this Water Status Report is to provide an overview of the water situation in the Lake Victoria Basin during the period of January to March 2026, with a comparison to the corresponding period in 2025 and the long-term average for 2010–2025.The Lake Victoria Basin encompasses five primary catchments: Kagera to the west, Mara to the east, Isanga and Magogo-Moame in the south, and Simiyu in the south-east of the lake, with Lake Victoria situated at the centre.

During this reporting period of January to March 2026, the Lake Victoria Basin recorded a quarterly average rainfall of **454mm**, which is above the long-term average of 304mm, with values ranging from **90 mm to 1099 mm**, and March being the wettest month. The spatial distribution indicates that while several stations experienced extreme wet conditions, the majority recorded normal to above normal rainfall, highlighting uneven distribution across the basin.

Likewise, the report focuses on the flow of major rivers within the basin. In the **Kagera catchment**, the Kagera River flow decreased from **207.25 m³/s** (2025) to **200.61 m³/s** (2026), which is **24%** below the long-term average **(266 m³/s)**, while Ngono River increased significantly from **12.32 m³/s** to **28.76 m³/s**, representing about **69%** above its long-term average **(17 m³/s)**. Similarly, Ruvuvu River increased from **117.1 m³/s to 139.52 m³/s**, which is approximately **108%** above the long-term average **(67 m³/s)**.

In the **Mara catchment**, Mori River recorded an average flow of **44.77 m³/s**, significantly higher than the long-term average of **14 m³/s**. Grumeti River increased from **6.97 m³/s (2025)** to **44 m³/s (2026)**, far exceeding its historical average, while Mara River recorded **84.71 m³/s** compared to **19.01 m³/s** in 2025, indicating substantial variability and peak flow conditions within the catchment.

In the **Simiyu catchment**, Simiyu River recorded an average flow of **73.59 m³/s**, compared to the long-term average of **14.35 m³/s**, indicating a strong increase in discharge. Likewise, Duma River increased significantly to **46.27 m³/s** from **3.96 m³/s (2025)**, reflecting notable variability compared to historical records.

Moreover, the gauges monitoring Manchira and New Sola dams indicated slight variations in water volume levels. Manchira Dam recorded an average volume of **3.71**

Mm³, which is about **3% higher** than **3.60 Mm³ in 2025**, while New Sola Dam recorded **4.34 Mm³**, representing about a **4% decrease** from **4.52 Mm³** recorded in 2025. This reflects moderate but slightly fluctuating water storage conditions within the basin.

Furthermore, Lake Victoria water levels in this reporting period decreased slightly from an Average of **1134.46 m amsl (2025)** to about an Average of **1134.25 m amsl (2026)**, representing a **21 cm** decrease **(0.24%)**, although the average level of **1134.21 m amsl** remains above the long-term average of **1133.24 m amsl**, indicating relatively stable lake storage.

However, despite the variations in rainfall and water levels, the basin experienced overall evaporation rates lower than the long-term average, with monthly values ranging from **47.5 mm to 99.8 mm** and a quarterly average of **73.4 mm**, compared to the long-term average of **115.5 mm**.

In summary, the Lake Victoria Basin experienced notable hydrological dynamics this quarter, including normal to above normal average rainfall (**454mm**), increased river flows across most catchments (e.g., Ngono **28.76 m³/s**, Mara **84.71 m³/s**, Simiyu **73.59 m³/s**), slightly reduced but stable lake levels (**1134.21 m amsl**), mixed dam storage trends, and reduced evaporation rates (**73.4 mm**). These findings highlight the dynamic nature of the basin's water resources and emphasize the importance of continuous monitoring and effective management to ensure sustainable water availability in the region.

2.0 Description of Water Resources Monitoring Network

The Lake Victoria Basin Water Board has 46 rainfall stations and 21 meteorological stations; among those stations, only 40 rainfall stations and 15 meteorological stations are working. Also, the basin has 28 hydrometric stations where 19 are in rivers, 3 in dams, 6 in Lake Victoria and satellite lakes, and 13 are monitoring boreholes. **Figure 2.1** shows the spatial coverage of Rainfall stations, meteorological stations, Hydrometric stations, and monitoring wells/Boreholes.

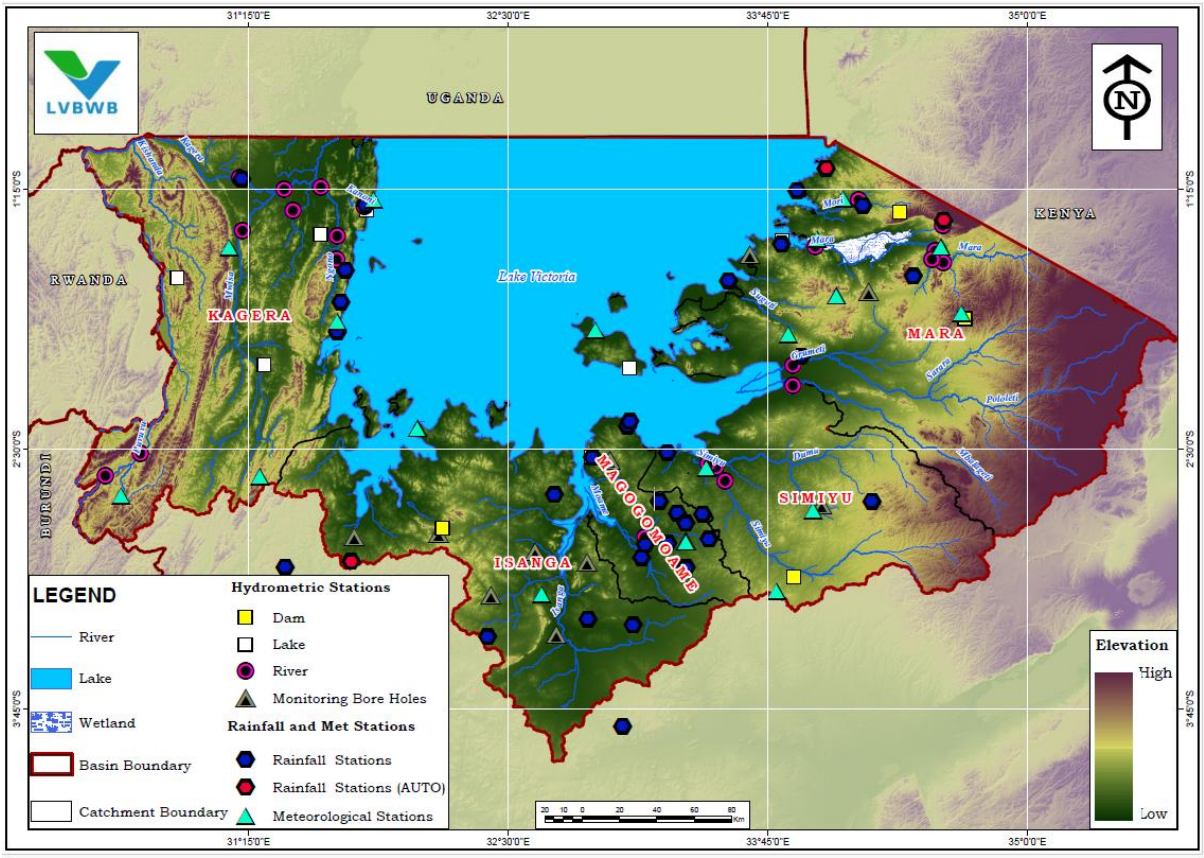


Figure 2.1: *Water resources monitoring network*

3.0 Rainfall Status

In this reporting period of January to March 2026, a quarterly average total rainfall recorded across the basin was 454**mm** which is within a range that varies from 90**mm** to **1099mm**. March was the wet month compared to the other months with a total Average rainfall of **225 mm**. However, the average total rainfall received in this reporting period is greater than the long-term average rainfall [**Figure 3.1**].

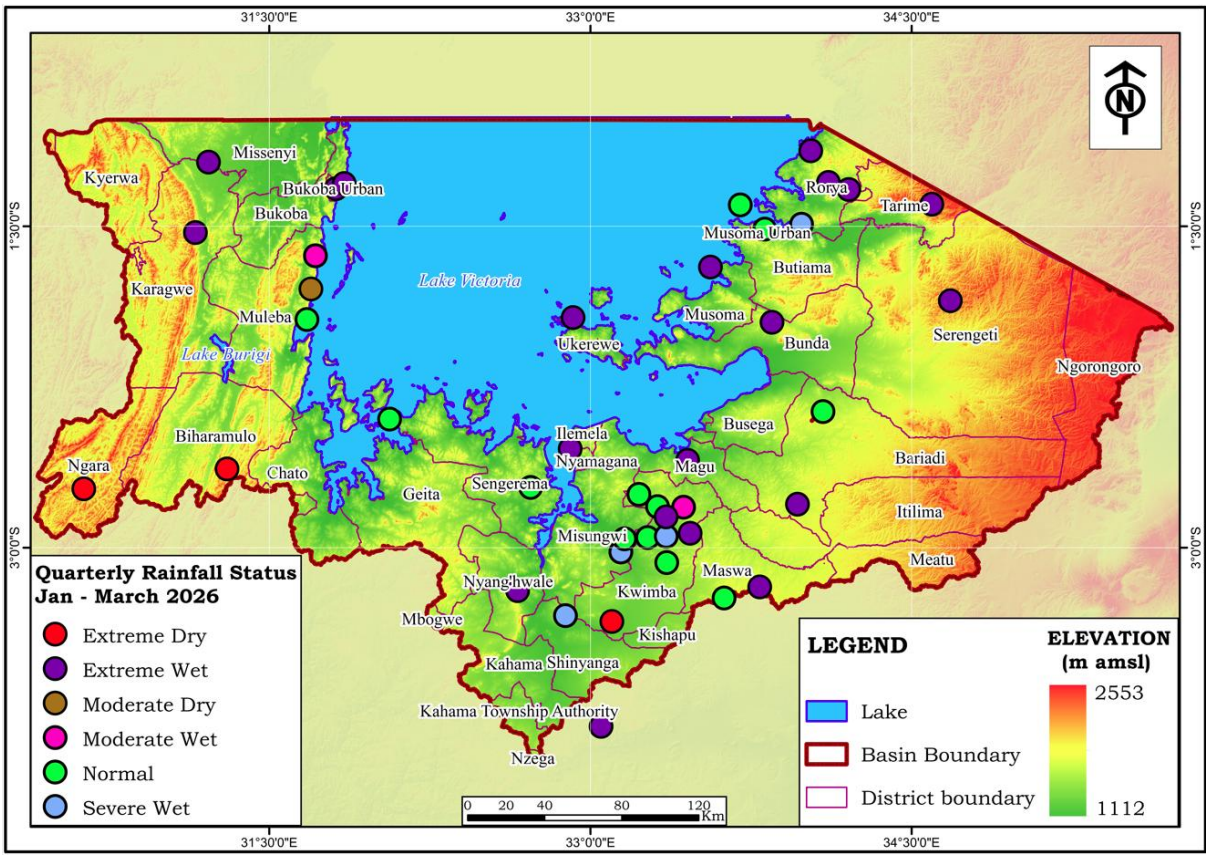


Figure 3.1: *Rainfall status in each station*

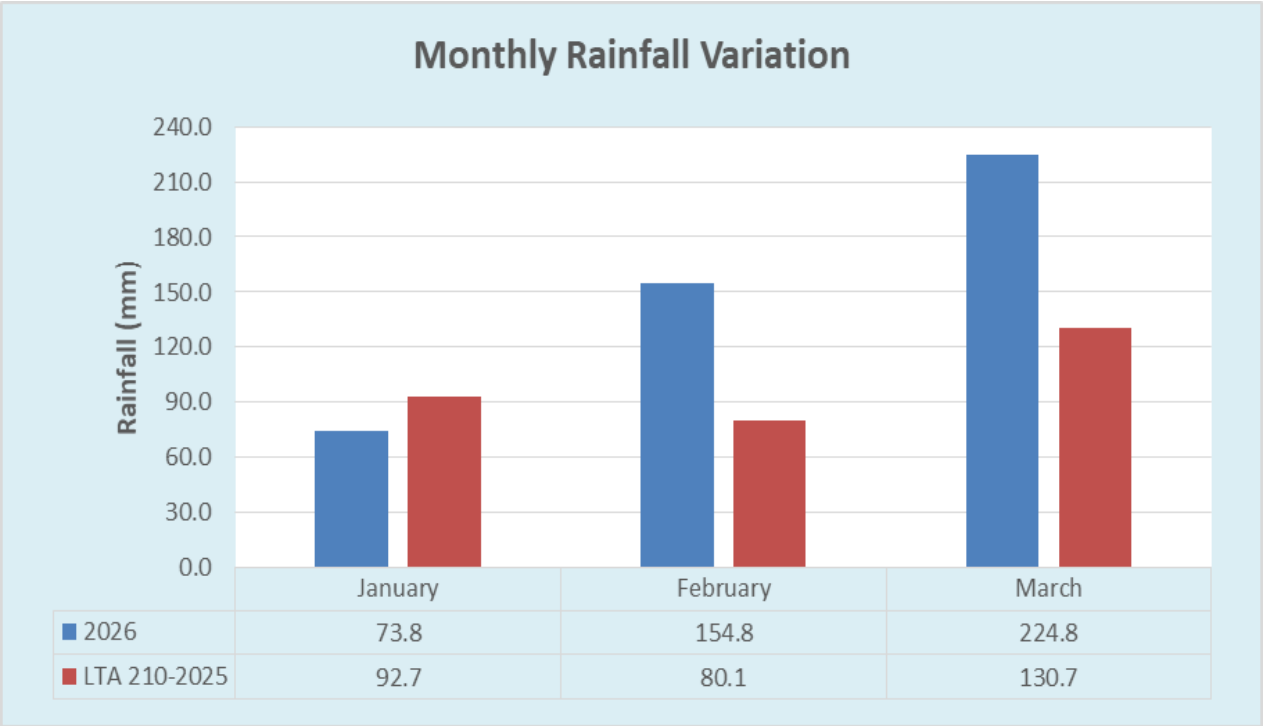


***Figure 3.2**: Average total monthly rainfall across the basin*

Figures **3.3** and **3.4** Below provide a good description of the spatial distribution of rainfall for this reporting period and LTA rainfall, respectively. Total Precipitation ranged from 90 to 1099 mm in most regions during this quarter. Rainfall station data, which all recorded normal rainfall to above in comparison with LTA rains, supports this observation.

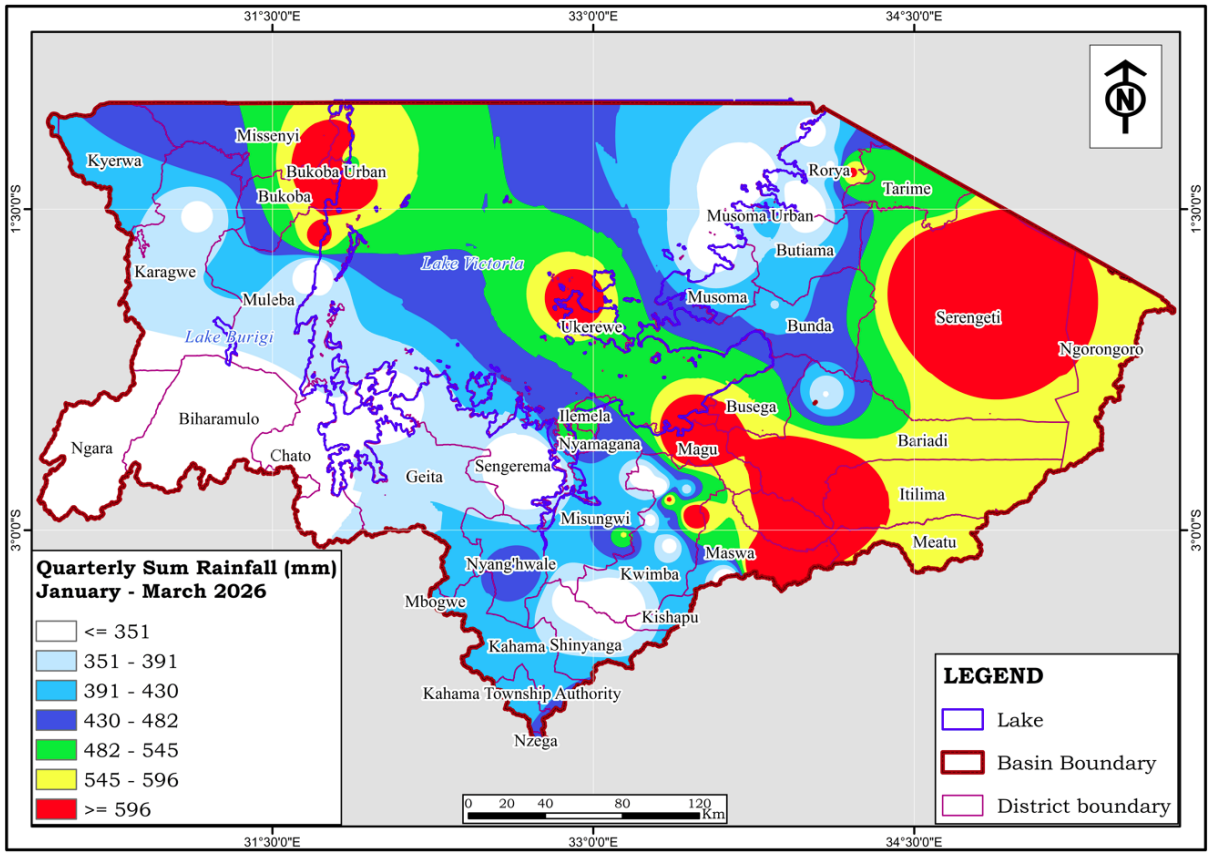


Figure 3.3: *Quarterly Rainfall Spatial Distribution*

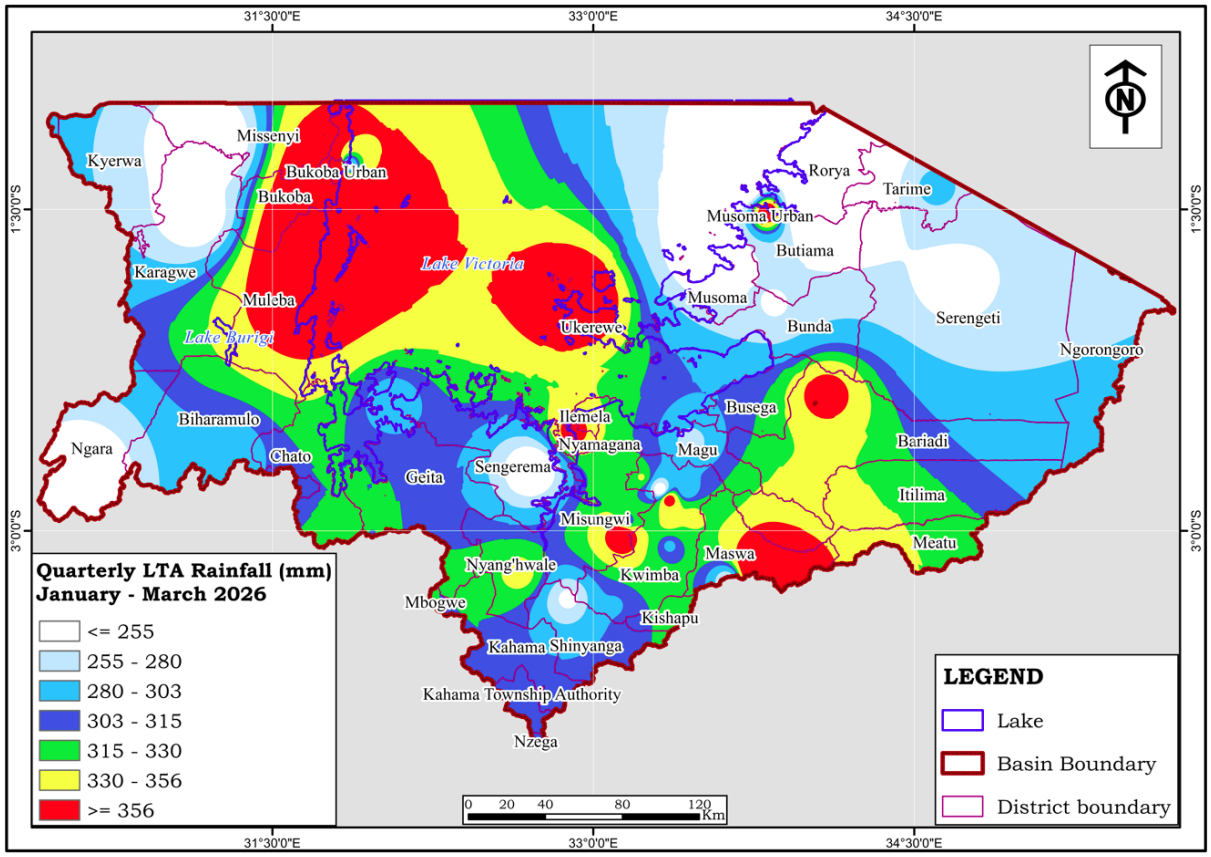


Figure 3.4: *LTA Quarterly Rainfall*

4.0 Evaporation

During this reporting period, the total monthly evaporation in the basin ranged from **47.5mm** to **99.8mm**, with an average of **73.4mm** per month. The lowest evaporation occurred in February while the highest was recorded in January 2026. Compared to the same period in the long-term span from 2011 to 2025, the recorded evaporation in this reporting period is less than the LTA (**Figure 4.1, and Table 4.1)**. The spatial distribution of evaporation throughout the Basin is well indicated in (**Figure 4.2**).

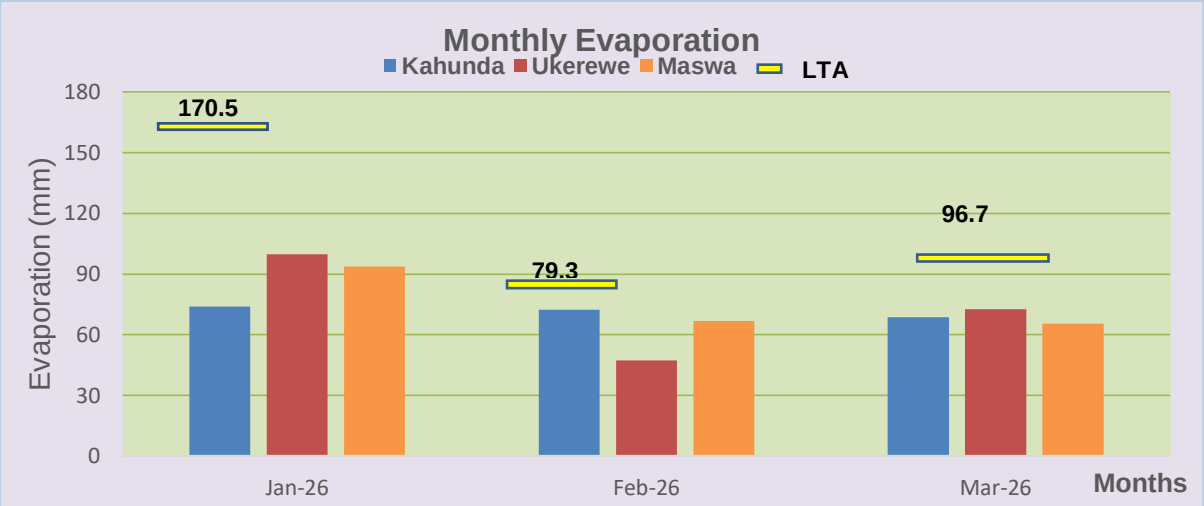


Figure 4.1: *Trend of Evaporation in some parts of the Lake Victoria Basin*

Table 4.1: *Monthly and LTA Evaporation*

Monthly Evaporation (mm)	**26-January**	**26-February**	**26-March**	**Quarterly Total Average**
Kahunda	73.8	72.4	68.7	71.63
Maswa	93.6	66.7	65.6	75.30
Ukerewe	99.8	47.35	72.65	73.27
LTA	170.5	79.3	96.7	115.50

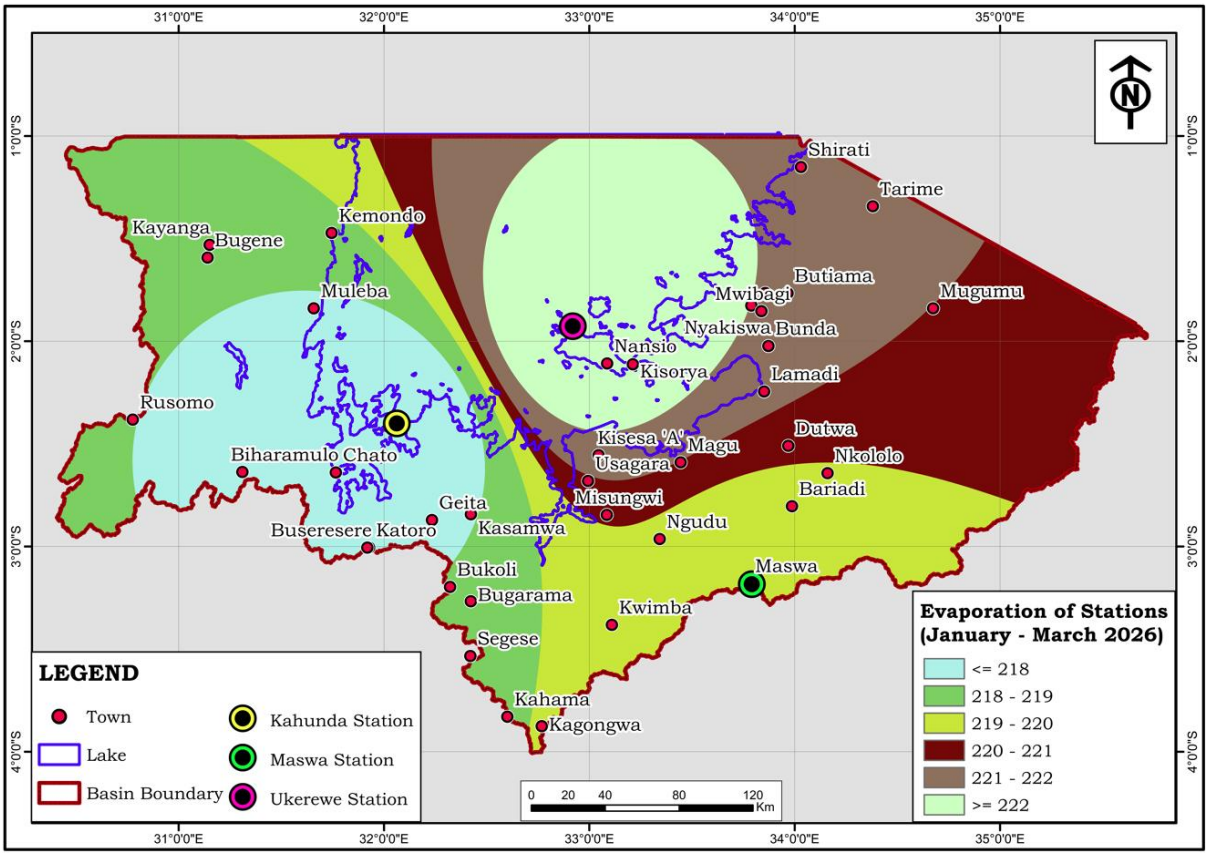
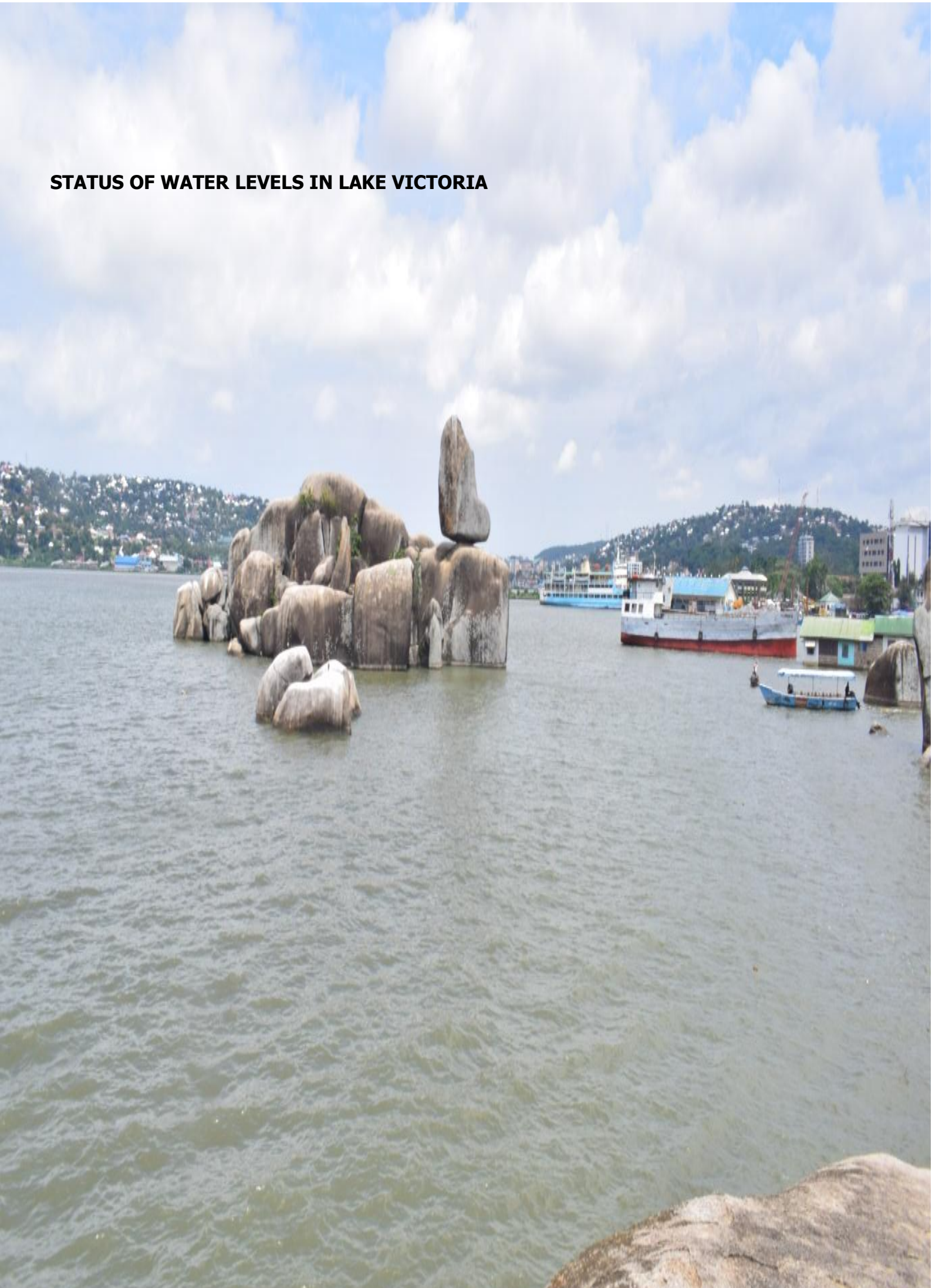


Figure 4.2: *Spatial Distribution of Evaporation in the Basin*

STATUS OF WATER LEVELS IN LAKE VICTORIA



5.0 Water levels status in Lake Victoria

Lake Victoria's water level Varied significantly between January to March 2026, decreased from 1134.46 meters above mean sea level (alms) in 2025 to 1134.25 meters alms in 2026 (a 21-centimeter decrease) as illustrated in **Figure 5.1**. A decrease of 0.24% in lake level was recorded by the year 2026 with an average water level of 1134.21 meters above sea level, which was higher than the long-term average of 1133.24 meters above sea level.

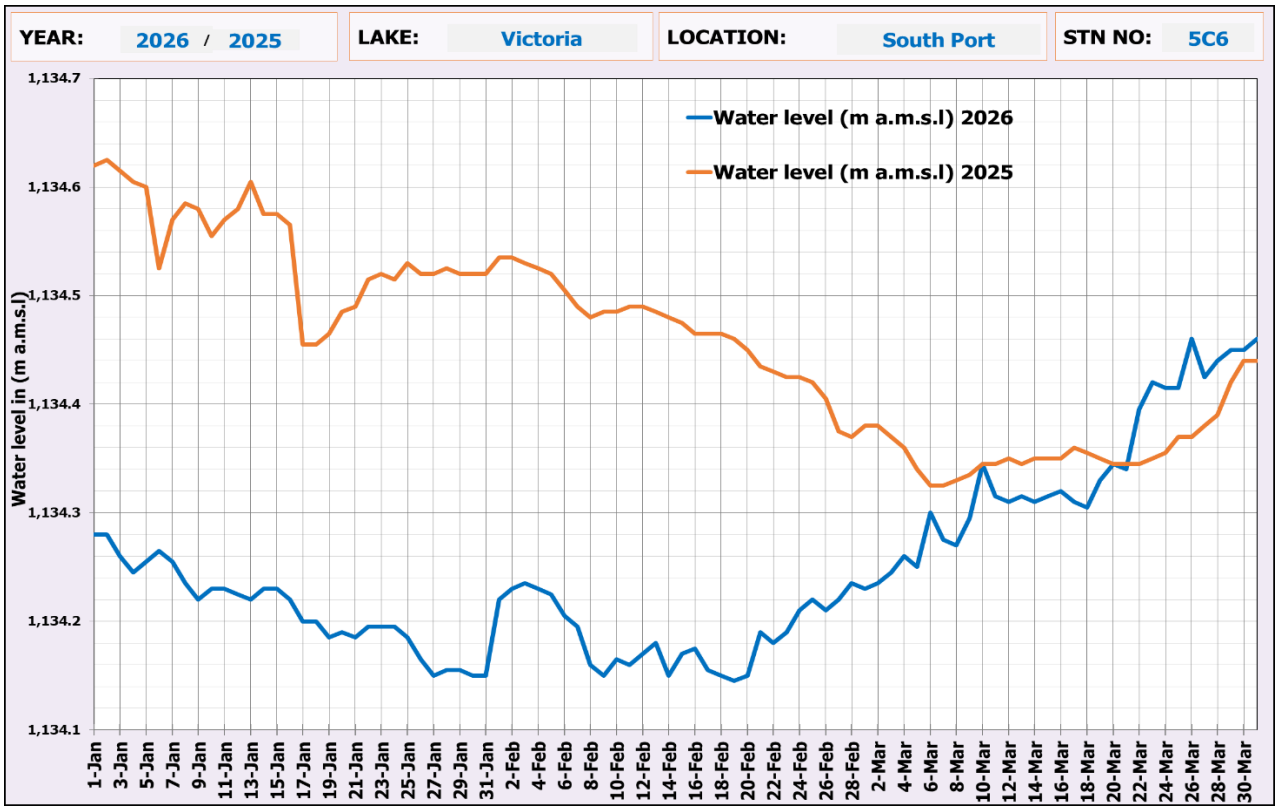


Figure 5. 1: *Lake Victoria water level*

Table 5.1: *Lake Victoria Monthly Lake Levels*

Water Level (m amsl)	**January**	**February**	**March**
2026	1134.21	1134.19	1134.34
2025	1134.55	1134.47	1134.36

6.0 Water flows in the rivers

This report provides water status updates for the Kagera, Ngono, Ruvuvu, Mara, Mori, Mbalageti, Grumeti ,Simiyu, and Duma rivers for the period of January to March 2026. The observed flow rates in these rivers have been compared with historical averages spanning the recorded historical data.

6.1 Rivers in Kagera Catchment

The water flow in the Kagera River exhibited a downward trend, a downward trend, decreasing from 207.25 cubic meters per second (m^3/s) in 2025 to 200.61 m^3/s in 2026, marking a decrease of 6.64 m^3/s. This flow represents a decrease in discharge for 65.39 m^3/s, equivalent to 24%, compared to the long-term average (266 m^3/s), as illustrated in **Figure 6.1.**

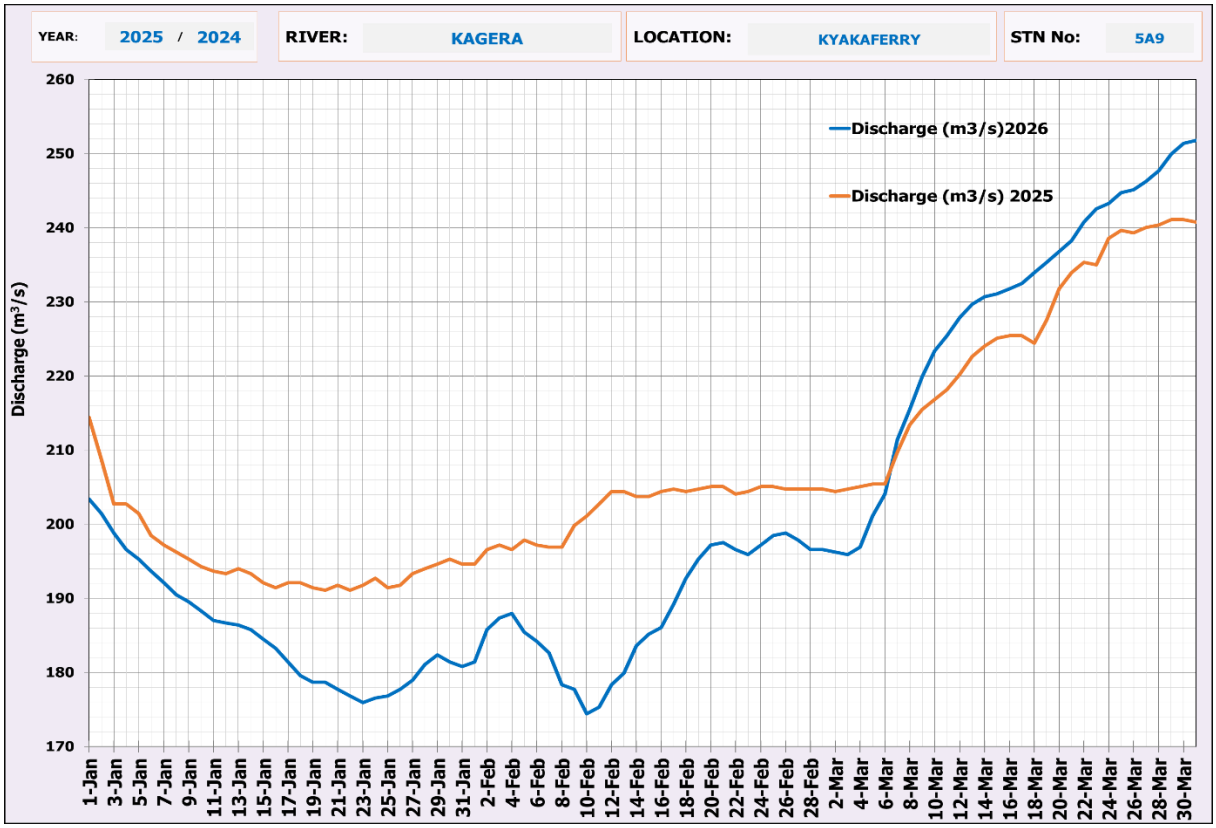


Figure 6. 1: *Kagera River at Kyaka Ferry flows status*

Table 6.1: *Average Monthly flow records for Kagera River at Kyaka Ferry*

Flows (m3/s)	**January**	**February**	**March**	**Average**
2026	185.41	188.11	228.31	200.61
2025	195.44	201.96	224.36	207.25

The Ngono River's water flow showed an increasing trend, rising by 16.44 cubic meters per second (m^3/s) from 12.32 m^3/s in 2025 to 28.76m^3/s in 2026. As shown in **Figure 6.2,** this rise represents a surge of 11.76 m^3/s, which is 69.18% greater than the long-term average (17 m^3/s).

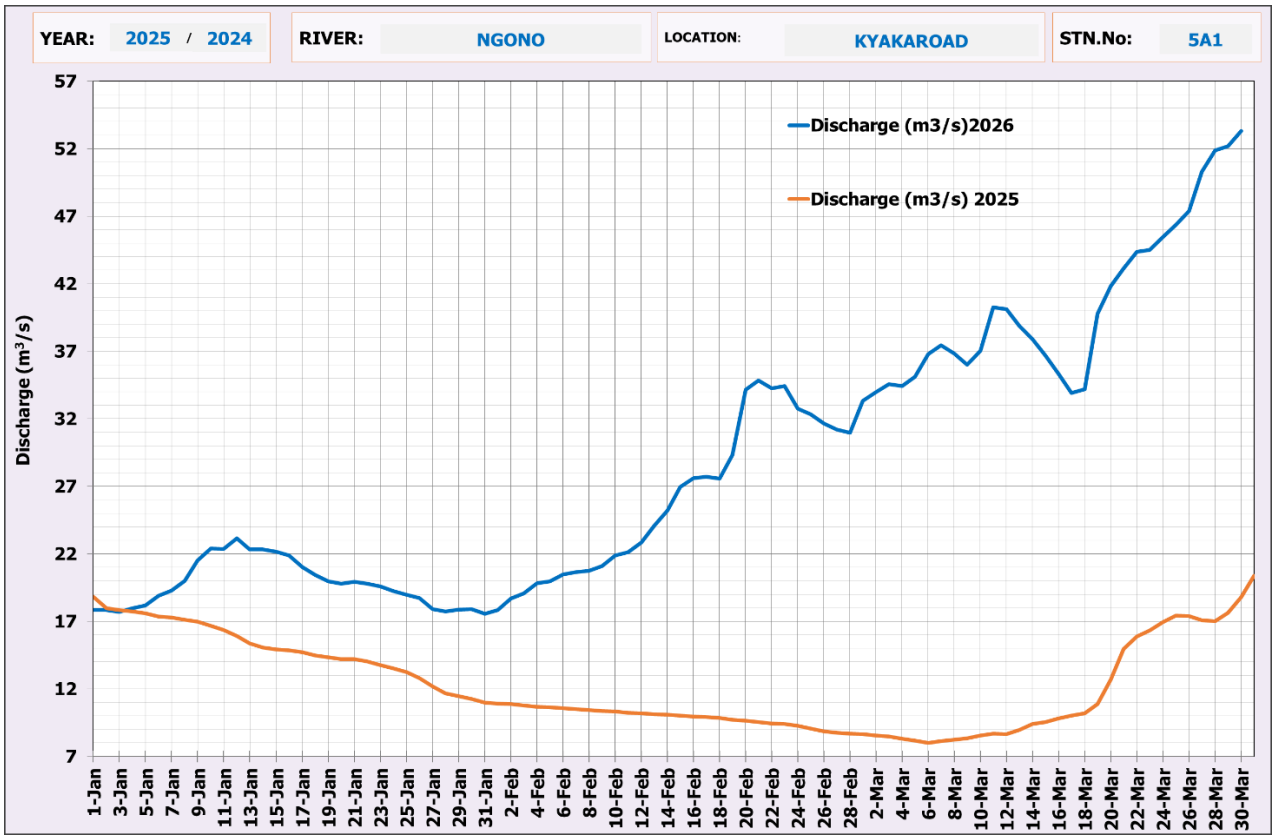


Figure 6.2: Ngono River at Kyaka flows status

Flows (m3/s)	**January**	**February**	**March**	**Average**
2026	19.75	26.08	40.44	28.76
2025	12.00	9.96	14.99	12.32

The water flow in the Ruvuvu River displayed an upward trend, rising from 117.1 cubic meters per second (m3/s) in 2025 to 139.52 m3/s in 2026, increasing to 22.42 m3/s. This increase indicates a discharge rise of 72.52 m3/s, equivalent to 108.2% above the long-term average (67 m3/s), as depicted in Figure 6.3

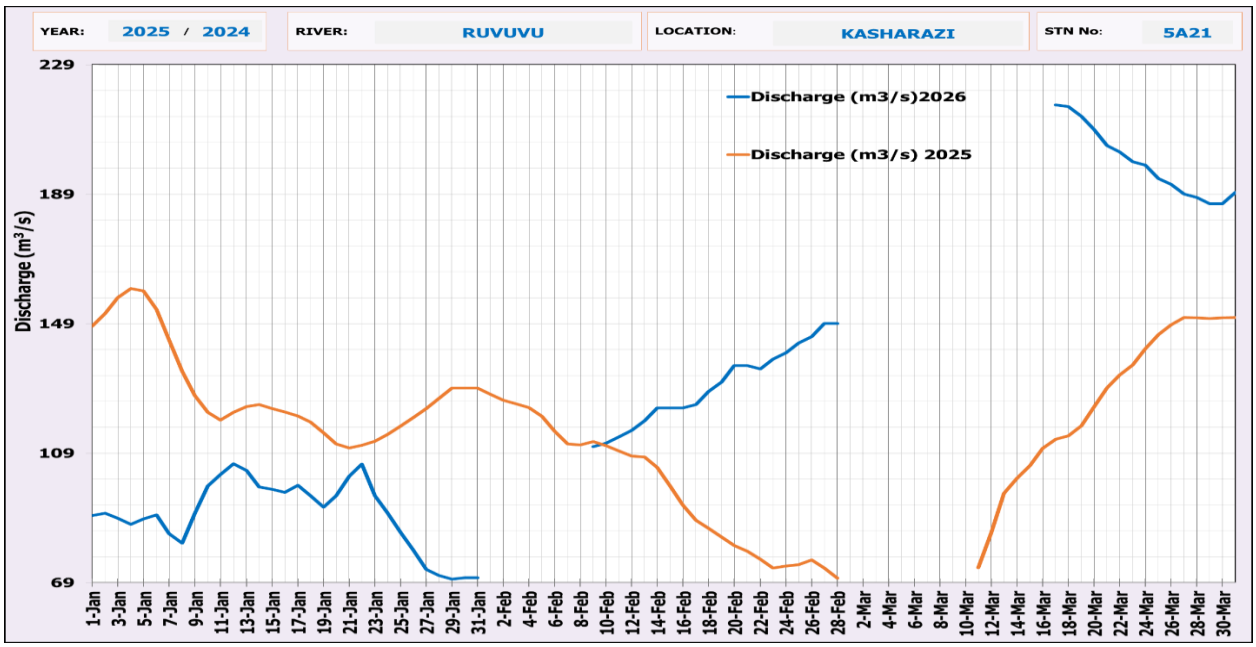


Figure 6.3: *Ruvuvu River at Kasharazi flows status*

Flows (m3/s)	**January**	**February**	**March**	**Average**
2026	90.01	129.75	198.8	139.52
2025	128.31	97.84	125.15	117.1

6.4 Rivers in Mara Catchment

During the reporting period, the average flow of the Mori River was 44.77 cubic meters per second (m3/s), while in the same quarter of the long-term average, it was 14 m3/s. Figure 6.4 shows that the rise of this reporting period (JFM) is higher than of 2025 for the same period, even though this reflects a rise of 30.77 m3/s, or 31% above the long-term average.

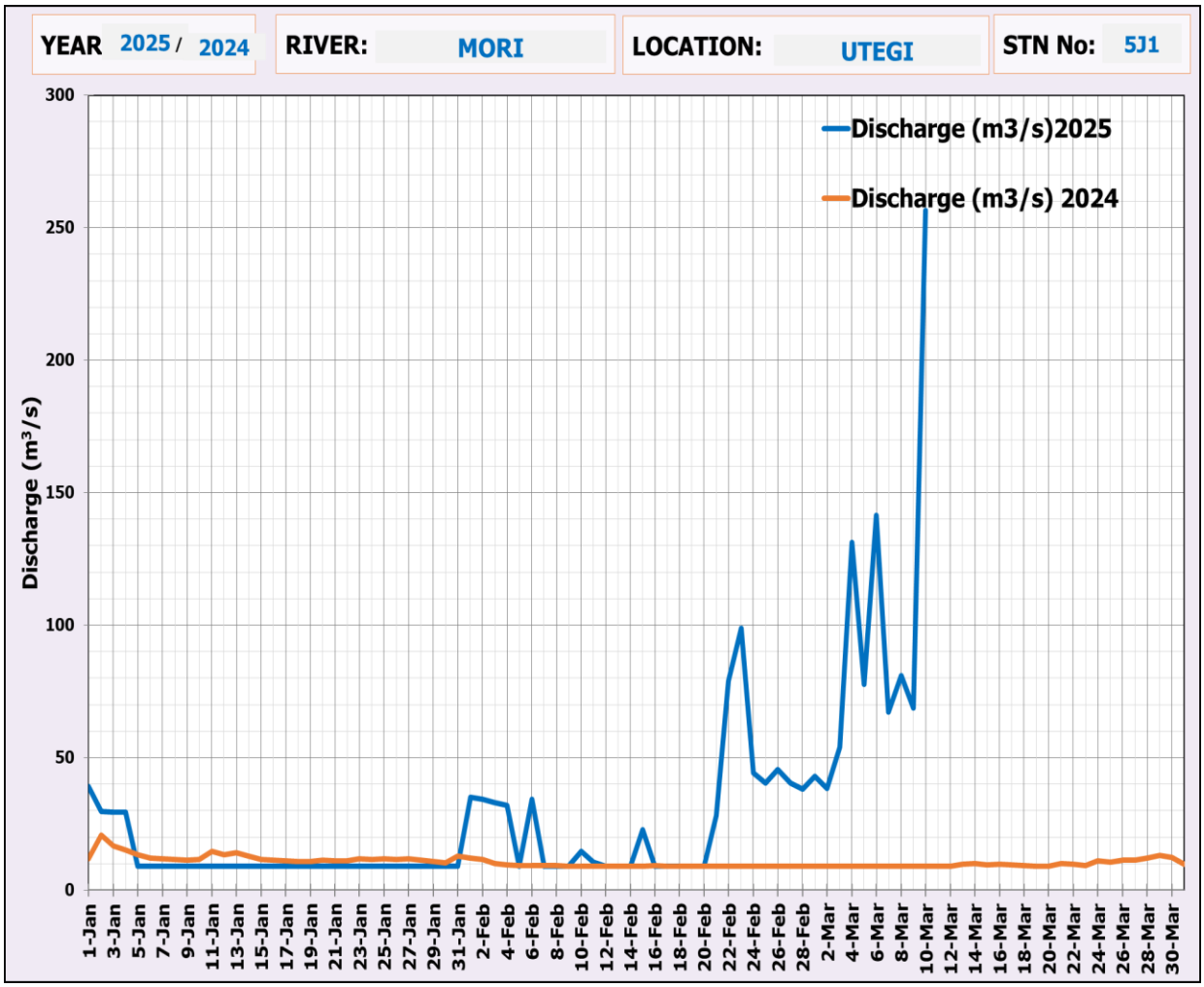


Figure 6. 4: *Mori River at Utegi flows status*

Flows (m3/s)	**January**	**February**	**March**	**Average**
2026	11.96	26.41	95.94	44.77
2025	12.43	9.37	9.83	10.54

In comparison to the corresponding quarterly average of previous years (LTA), which was 28m^3/s, the Grumeti River's average flow during this reporting period (January-March) 2026 was 44m^3/s. **Figure 6.5** shows that this is a 57% increase from the long-term average equivalent to a flow of 28 m^3/s.

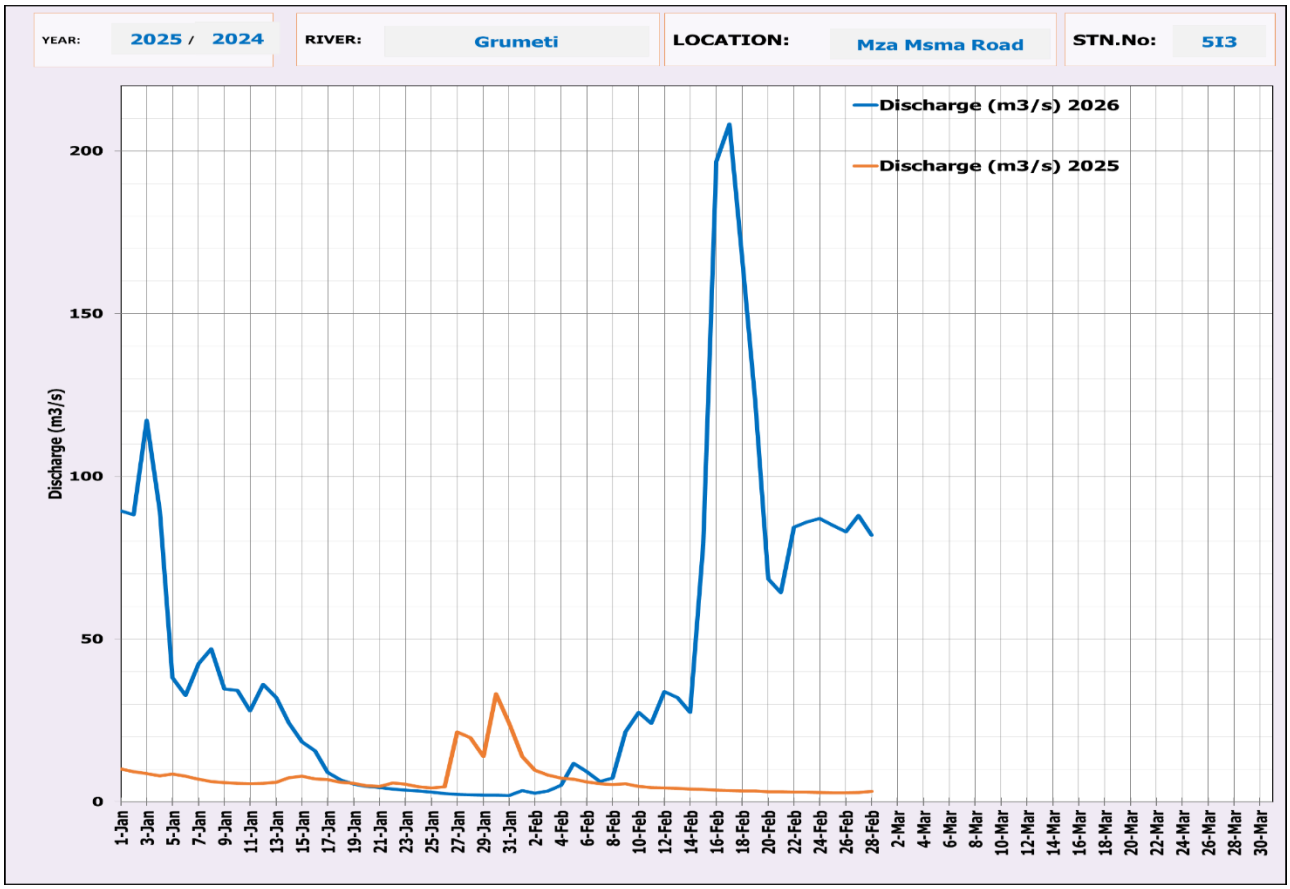


Figure 6. 5: Grumeti River flow status

Flows (m3/s)	January	February	March	Average
2026	26.61	61.39	-	44
2025	9.12	4.81	-	6.97

In the January to March quarter of 2026, the average flow of the Mara River was 84.71cubic meters per second (m^3/s). However, the corresponding quarter's average of past years (LTA) was 19.01 m^3/s. This indicates the rise of 65.7 m^3/s, equivalent to 70% greater than the historical average (50m^3/s), as depicted in **Figure 6.6**.

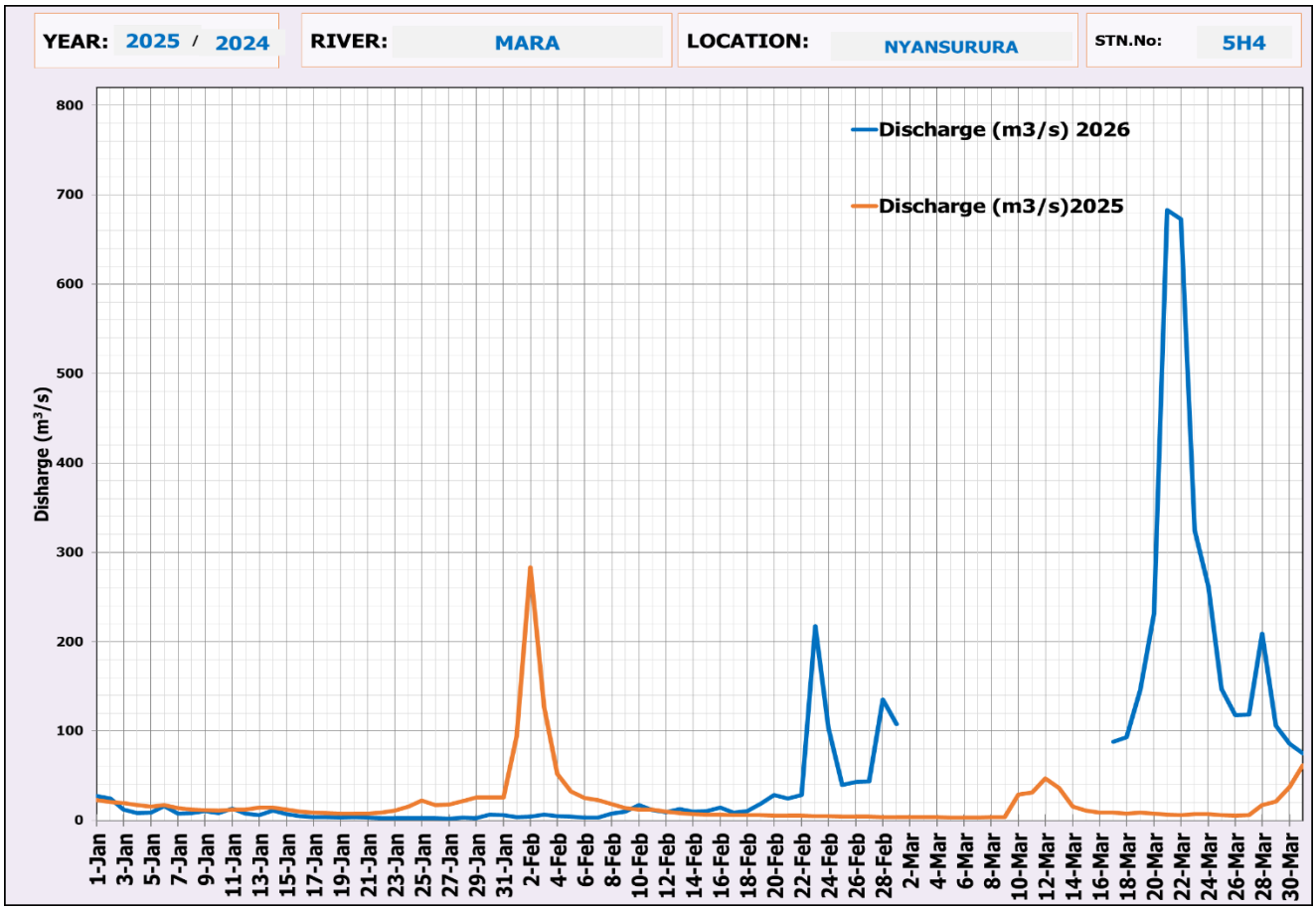


Figure 6.6: *Mara River flows status*

Flows (m3/s)	**January**	**February**	**March**	**Average**
2026	7.45	29.84	216.83	84.71
2025	15.03	28.27	13.73	19.01

6.7 Rivers in Simiyu Catchment

The average flow of the Simiyu River from January to March 2026 was 73.59 cubic meters per second (m^3/s), which was higher than the quarterly average of previous years of 14.35m^3/s. As illustrated by **Figure 6.7**, the flow corresponds to an 80 percent increase over the Long Term Average of 41 m^3/s.

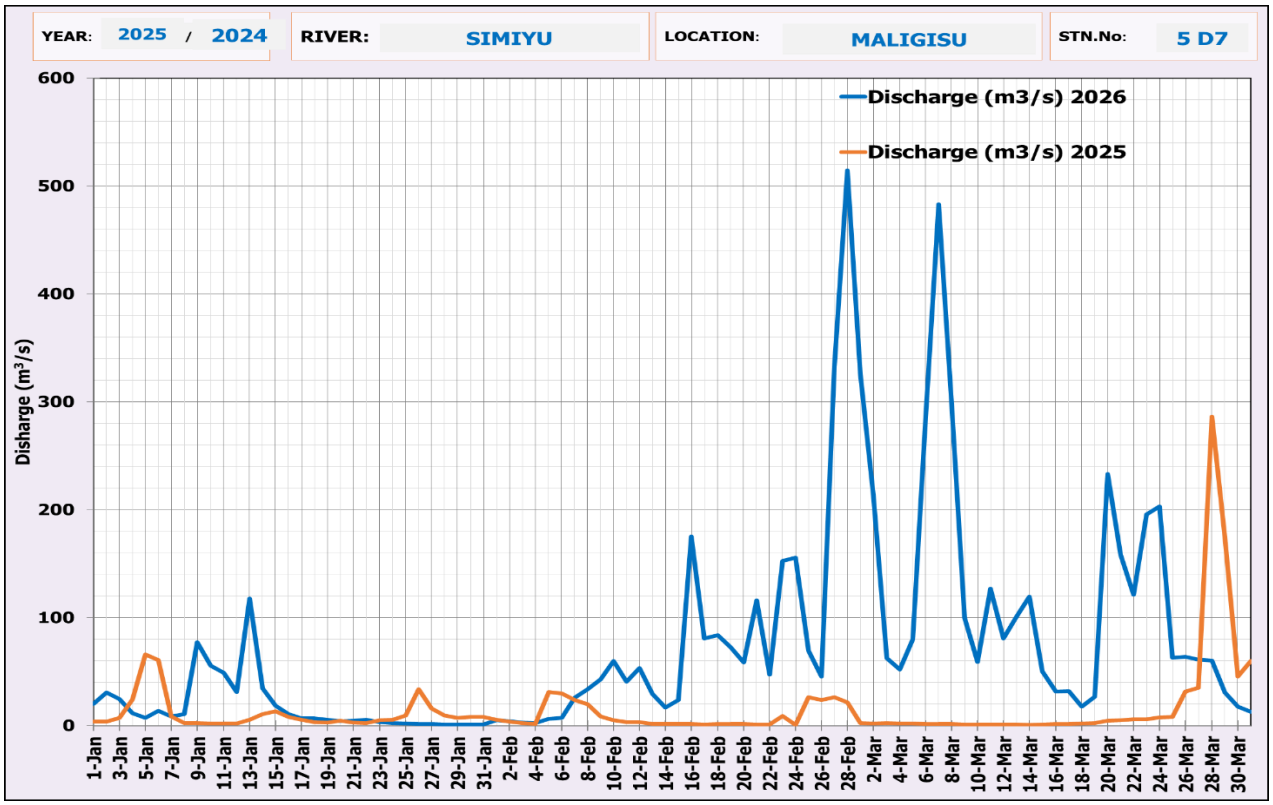


Figure 6. 7: *Simiyu River flow status*

Flows (m3/s)	**January**	**February**	**March**	**Average**
2026	18.45	80.72	121.59	73.59
2025	11.21	9.26	22.59	14.35

During the January to Marh of 2026, Duma River exhibited an average flow of 46.27 cubic meters per second (m^3/s), contrasting with the corresponding quarterly average of past years, was 3.96m^3/s. As illustrated by **Figure 6. 8**, the flow corresponds to 53 percent increase over the Long Term Average of 30 m3/s.

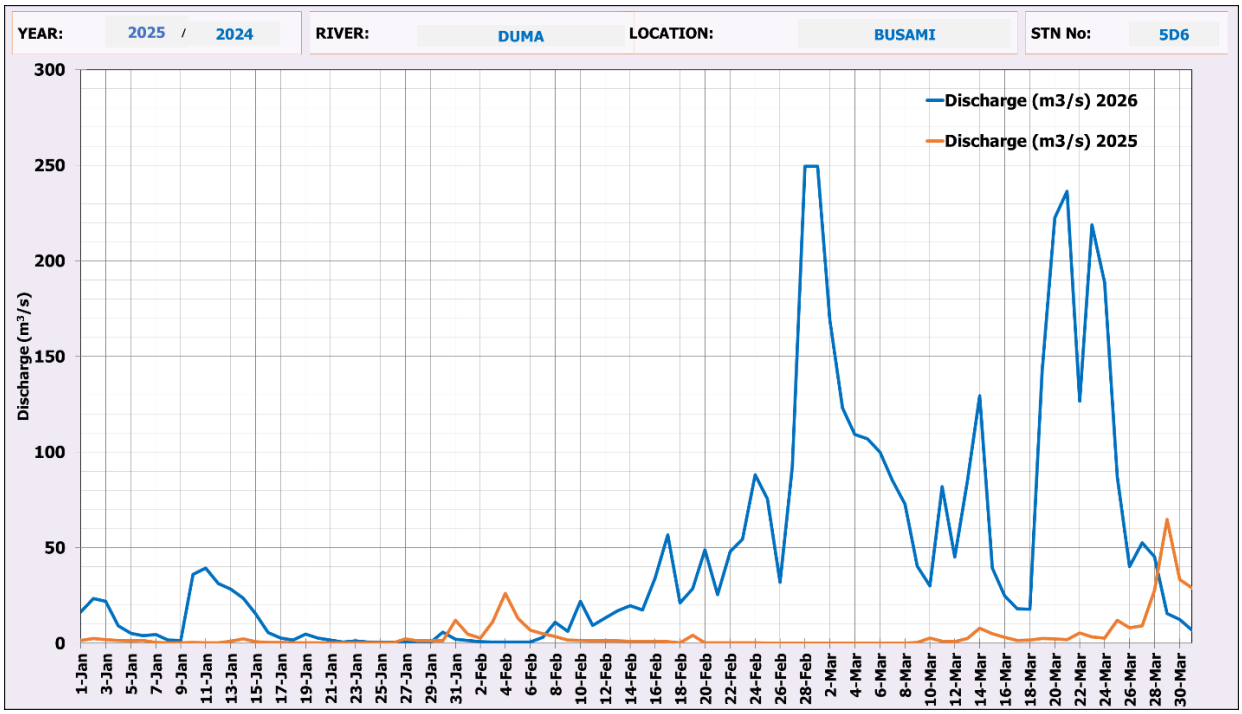


Figure 6. 8: *Duma River flow status*

Flows (m3/s)	January	February	March	Average
2026	9.51	34.99	94.32	46.27
2025	1.24	3.24	7.41	3.96

7.0 Water Level and Volume of the Dams

7.1 Manchira Dam

The volume trend in Manchira Dam for this reporting period (January to March) of 2025 and 2026 was noted to be similar but with distinct patterns. In 2026, the dam stored a volume of 3.71million cubic meters (Mm3), which is 3% higher than the average volume for the year 2025, as illustrated in **Figure 7.1**.

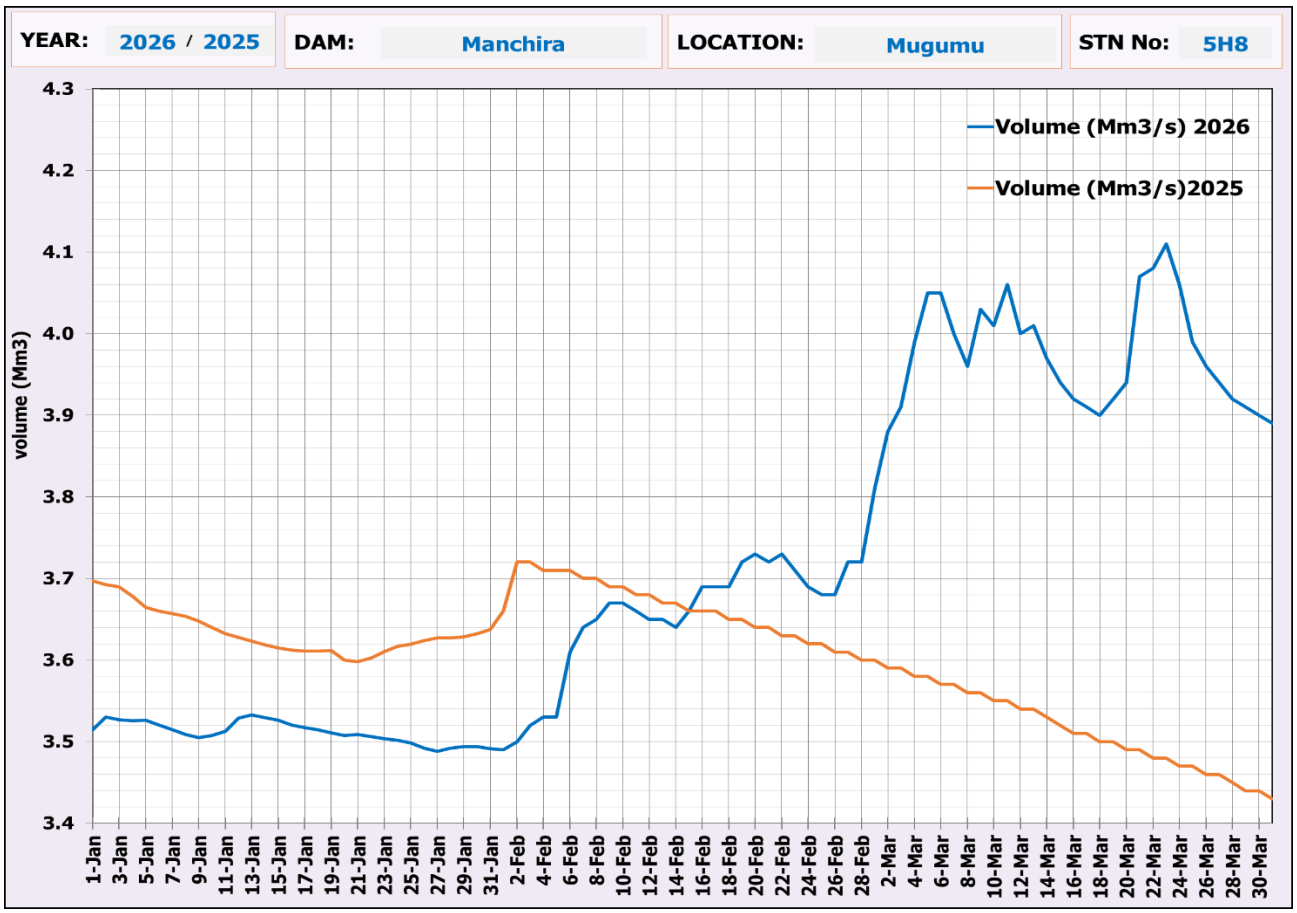


Figure 7. 1: *Manchira Dam water volume status*

Volume (Mm^3)	January	February	March	Average
2026	3.51	3.65	3.97	3.71
2025	3.63	3.66	3.52	3.60

7.2 New Sola Dam

During the period of January to March 2026, the New Sola Dam stored a volume of 4.34 million cubic meters (Mm^3), marking a 4% decrease compared to the same quarter in 2025, as shown in **Figure 7.2**.

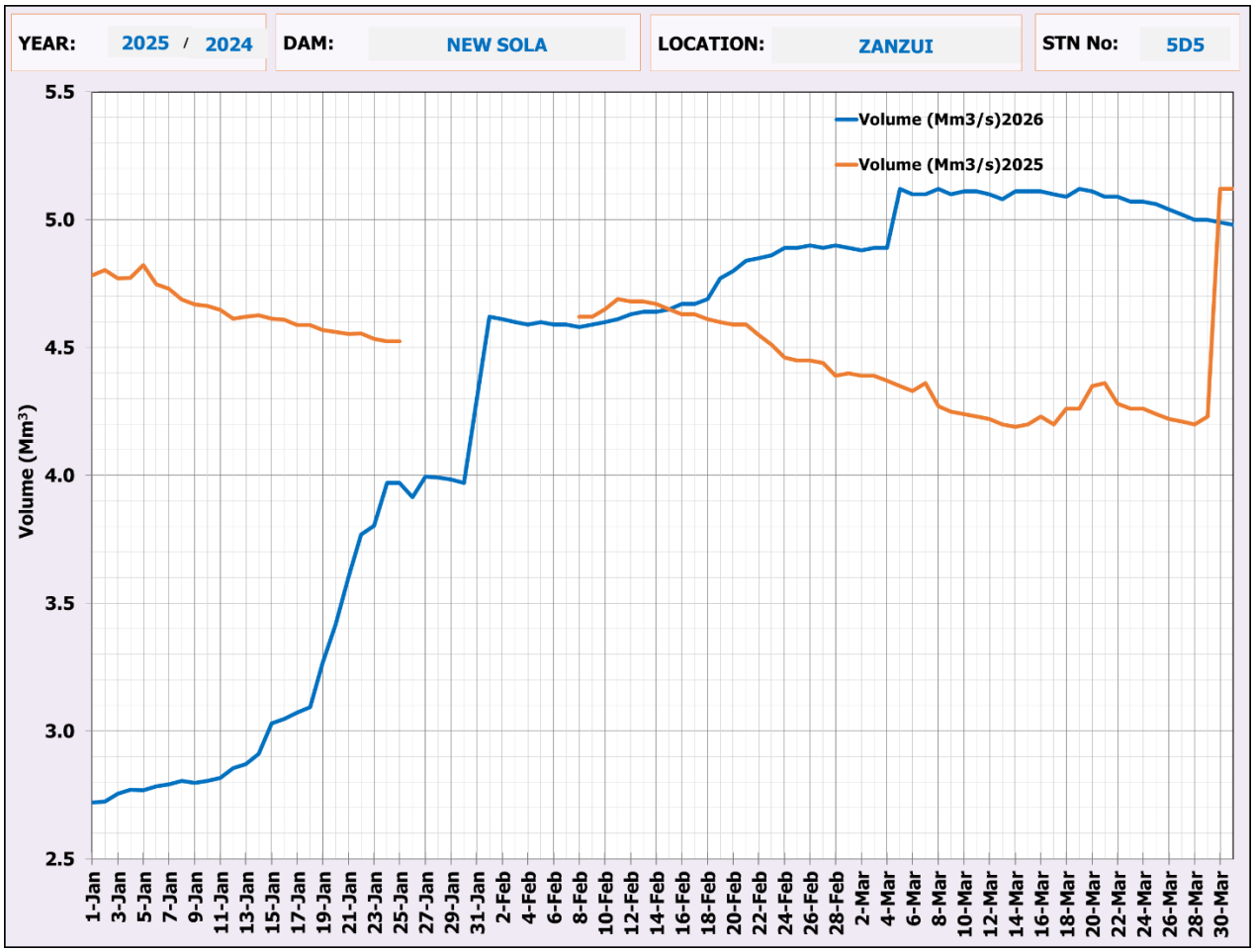


Figure 7.2: *New Sola dam water volume status*

Volume (Mm3)	January	February	March	Average
2026	3.27	4.71	5.05	4.34
2025	4.65	4.58	4.33	4.52

8.0 Conclusion

The Lake Victoria Basin, during the January to March 2026 quarter, exhibited mixed hydrological conditions, characterized by normal to above normal rainfall across most parts of the basin. River flows generally demonstrated an increasing trend in several catchments; however, some rivers showed inconsistencies when compared with long-term averages.

Lake Victoria water levels recorded a slight decline relative to the previous year, but remained above the long-term average, indicating relatively stable water storage. Meanwhile, evaporation rates were below historical averages, while dam volumes exhibited slight increases. These patterns emphasize the need for continuous monitoring and adaptive water resources management to ensure sustainable utilization under varying climatic conditions.

Appendices

Appendix I: Rainfall Data

Table 1: Average monthly rainfall across the basin.

Rainfall (mm)	January	February	March	Quarterly Average
LTA (2010-2025)	92.7	80.1	130.7	101.2
2026	73.8	154.8	224.8	151.2

Table 2: Average monthly rainfall data per station across the basin

No.	Station Name	Latitude	Longitude	Quarterly LTA	Quarterly Rainfall 2026(mm)	Status
1	Biharamulo	-2.63177	31.30299	292.8	90.1	Extreme Dry
2	Bitaraguru	-1.94746	33.84818	251.0	389.4	Extreme Wet
3	Bugisi	-3.83333	33.05	305.3	477.1	Extreme Wet
4	BUKOBA MAJI	-1.32359	31.81231	556.2	967.5	Extreme Wet
5	Busulwangili	-2.71811	32.72105	187.0	148.7	Normal
6	Bwai	-1.69	33.56067	174.4	303.0	Extreme Wet
7	Chanongu	-2.80764	33.31364	211.7	230.8	Normal
8	Izigo	-1.63711	31.71619	541.2	643.4	Moderate Wet
9	Kahunda	-2.3994	32.06258	288.9	316.3	Normal
10	Kayanga	-1.52859	31.15545	212.3	335.1	Extreme Wet
11	Keisangora	-1.3968	34.59483	289.3	491.5	Extreme Wet
12	Kharumwa	-3.19982	32.66007	340.6	477.8	Extreme Wet
13	Kidinda	-2.79651	33.96718	334.0	987.0	Extreme Wet
14	Kikubiji	-3.34383	33.10014	301.1	193.5	Extreme Dry
15	Kikuku	-1.79222	31.69492	364.6	257.4	Moderate Dry
16	Kisesa	-3.01953	33.14244	428.6	558.6	Severe Wet
17	Kuruya	-1.48981	33.98613	164.5	249.7	Severe Wet
18	Kyakakera Met	-1.3	31.85031	231.5	414.9	Extreme Wet
19	Lukuba Island	-1.4	33.7	186.5	228.8	Normal

No.	Station Name	Latitude	Longitude	Quarterly LTA	Quarterly Rainfall 2026 (mm)	Status
20	Magu	-2.59156	31.30299	264.5	1075.7	Extreme Wet
21	Maswa	-3.18244	33.05	538.4	798.8	Extreme Wet
22	Matongo	-2.36446	31.81231	379.6	349.3	Normal
23	Mugumu	-1.84707	32.72105	237.8	1098.8	Extreme Wet
24	Musoma Maji	-1.51272	33.56067	394.0	441.4	Normal
25	Mwabagole	-3.06894	33.31364	296.9	314.2	Normal
26	Mwadubi	-2.95225	31.71619	324.3	314.3	Normal
27	Mwanangwa	-2.95792	32.06258	299.1	389.4	Normal
28	Mwanza Yard	-2.538	31.15545	372.8	528.6	Extreme Wet
29	Ngudu	-2.94605	34.59483	343.3	428.9	Severe Wet
30	Nshambya	-1.93478	32.66007	391.9	354.3	Normal
31	Nyakanyasi	-1.2	33.96718	175.7	466.9	Extreme Wet
32	Randa	-1.29499	33.10014	211.8	341.0	Extreme Wet
33	Rulenge	-2.72442	31.69492	220.1	112.0	Normal
34	Sanga Village	-3.23415	33.14244	256.1	276.1	Normal
35	Shirati AR	-1.14703	33.98613	111.4	329.7	Extreme Wet
36	Sumve	-2.75061	31.85031	333.1	288.1	Normal
37	Talaga	-2.93217	33.7	338.6	778.0	Extreme Wet
38	Tallo	-2.81044	33.45397	281.1	362.6	Moderate Wet
39	Ukerewe	-1.92578	31.74184	451.7	677.6	Extreme Wet
40	Utegi	-1.3278	33.79097	231.6	615.4	Extreme Wet
41	Walla	-2.85567	34.08633	390.9	623.6	Extreme Wet
42	Zunzuli	-3.31667	34.6812	243.4	319.8	Severe Wet

Appendix II: Evaporation Data

Table 3: Monthly Evaporation in the Basin

Station Name	26-January	26-February	26-March	Quarterly Sum
Kahunda	73.8	72.4	68.7	214.9
Ukerewe	99.8	47.35	72.65	219.8
Maswa	93.6	66.7	65.6	225.9
LTA	170.5	79.3	96.7	346.5

MINISTRY OF WATER

LAKE VICTORIA BASIN WATER BOARD

Headquarter Office

P.O.Box 1342, Mwanza.

Website: www.lvbwb.go.tz

Email: victoriabasin@lvbwb.go.tz