



LAKE VICTORIA BASIN WATER BOARD



HYDROLOGICAL BULLETIN May 2026

INTRODUCTION

Lake Victoria Basin covers an area of about 115,400 square kilometers. The Basin is located on the Northern side of Tanzania and lies between 1° 00' S, 3°45' S, and 30° 15' E 35°45' E.

The Basin is divided into five catchments known as Kagera, Mara, Simiyu, Isanga and Magogo-Moame (**Figure 1**).

This hydrological bulletin provides an overview of water status within the Lake Victoria Basin for the Month of May 2026.

It presents analysis of rainfall, river flows, water levels in lakes and reservoirs to support water resources planning and management.

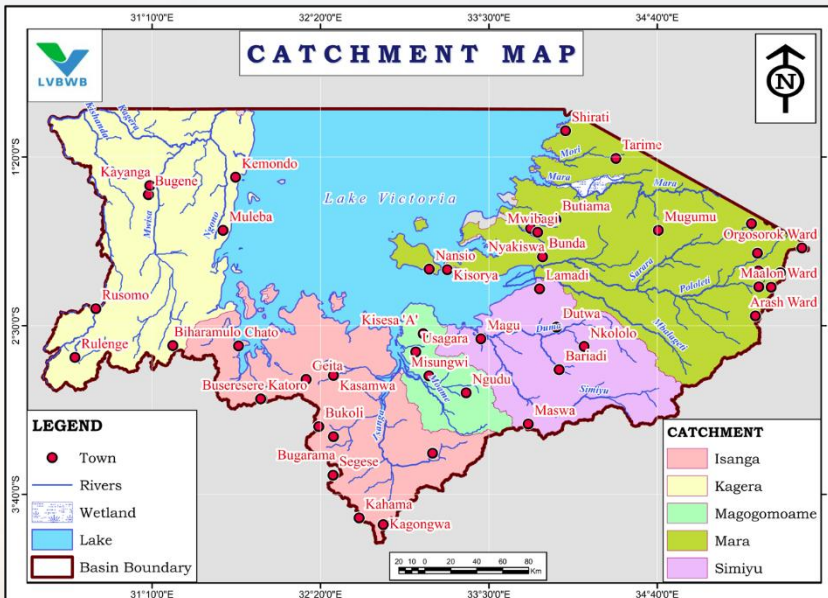


Figure 1: The five catchments in the basin



RAINFALL TRENDS

During May, the Basin is typically within the long rainy season (MAM); However, most part of the basin in May received below normal rainfall. The amount of rainfall received within the Basin for this month ranging from 0.0 mm to 246 mm, with an average of 63 mm. This condition caused decrease of flow trend in rivers, Lake and Dams. Spatial distribution of rainfall is well described in **Figure 2** below.

Figure 3 below shows that the long-term average (2010–2025) rainfall recorded in the month of May is **81 mm**.

The observed rainfall during this reporting period was approximately 23% less than the Long term Average (LTA) recorded at each station.

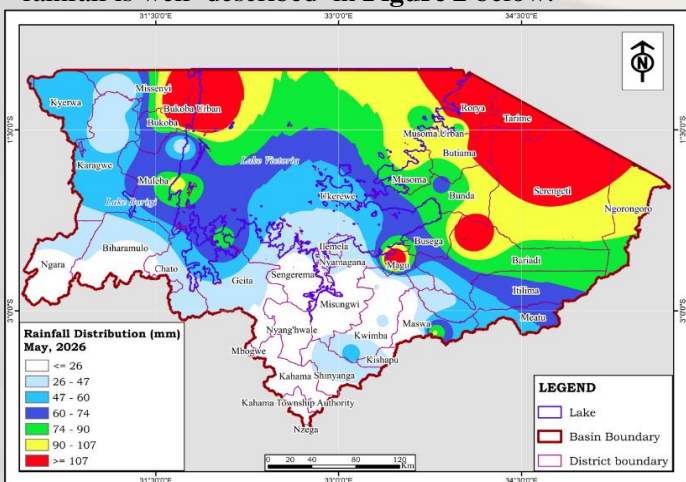


Figure 2: Spatial variation of Rainfall for May, 2026

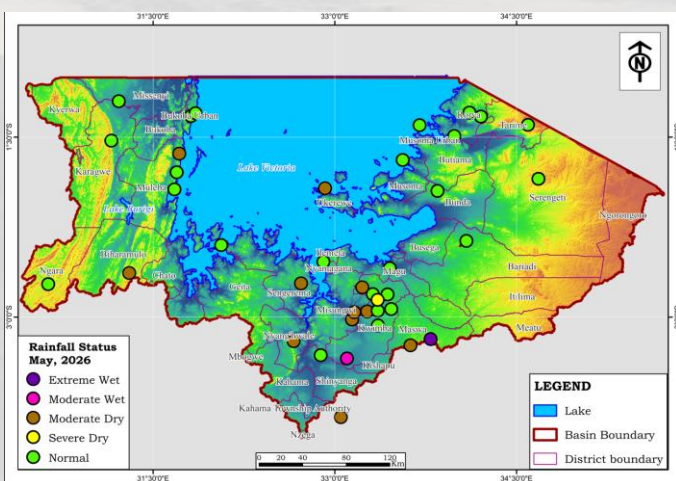
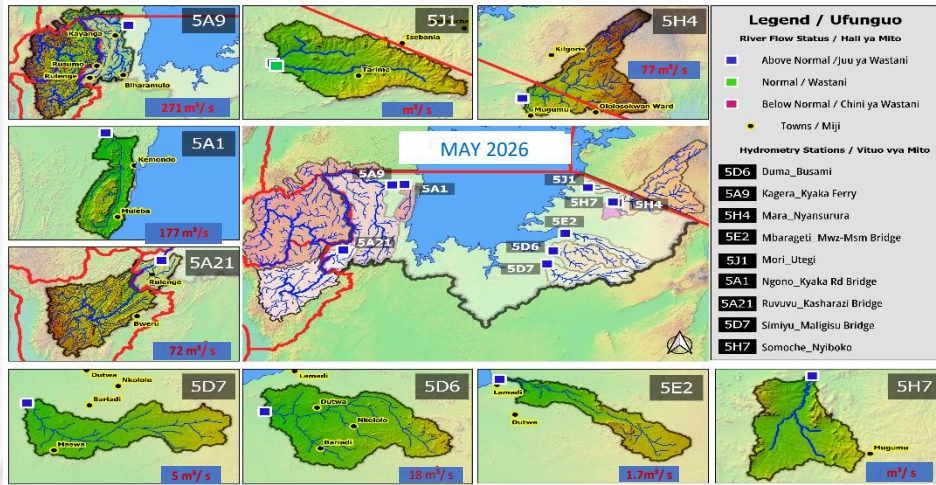


Figure 3: Nov Rainfall Characteristics at each station.



FLOW IN RIVERS

Figure 4: Daily flows variations



Legend / Ufunguo

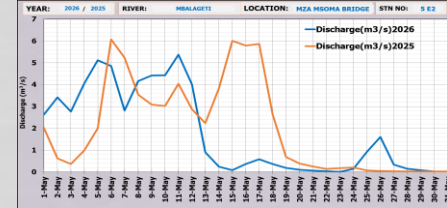
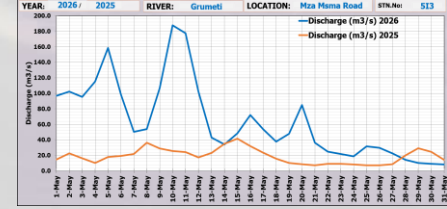
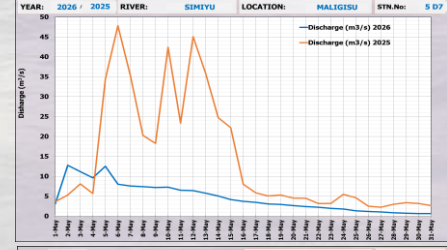
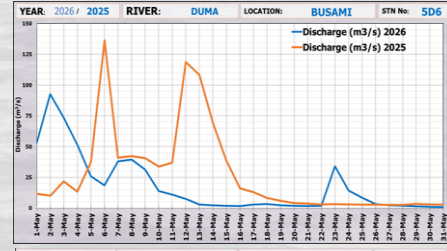
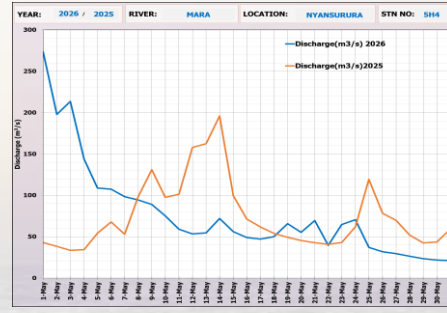
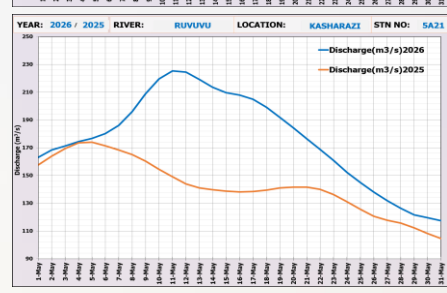
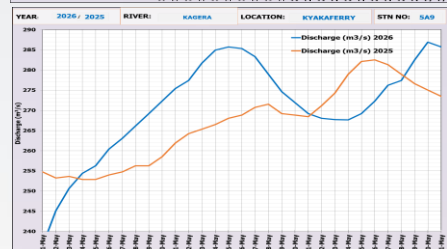
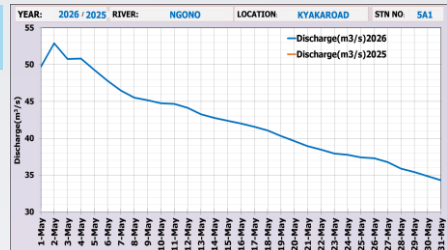
- Above Normal / Juu ya Wastani
- Normal / Wastani
- Below Normal / Chini ya Wastani
- Towns / Miji

Hydrometry Stations / Vituo vya Mito

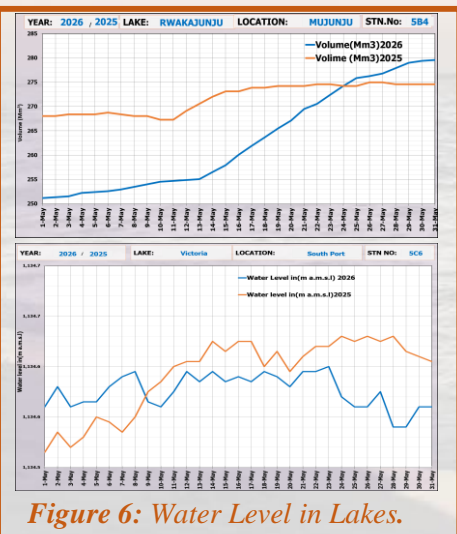
- 5D6 Duma_Busami
- 5A9 Kagera_Kyaka Ferry
- 5H4 Mara_Nyansurura
- 5E2 Mbarageti Mwz-Msm Bridge
- 5J1 Mori_Utegi
- 5A1 Ngono_Kyaka Rd Bridge
- 5A21 Ruvuvu_Kasharazi Bridge
- 5D7 Simiyu_Maligisu Bridge
- 5H7 Somoche_Nyiboko

Analysis of river gauging stations for May 2026 against the long-term average indicates that most gauging stations recorded below-normal flows, except for the Kagera and Ruvuvu Rivers, which recorded above-normal flows, as presented in Figure 4.

Furthermore, a comparison between flows recorded in May 2026 and those observed in May 2025 indicates that most rivers experienced relatively lower flows in May 2026, except for the Kagera and Ruvuvu Rivers, as illustrated in Figure 5.



WATER LEVEL IN LAKES



Generally, there were slight changes in water levels in Lake Victoria and Lake Rwakajunju (Figure 6). Compared to May 2025, the water levels recorded in May 2026 decreased by 0.001% in Lake Victoria and by 3% in Lake Rwakajunju.

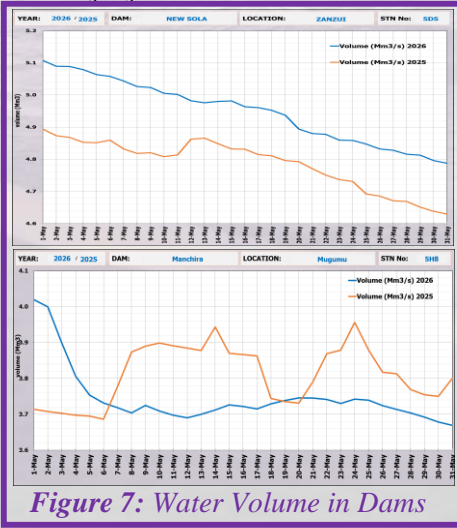


Figure 6: Water Level in Lakes.

Figure 7: Water Volume in Dams

VOLUME IN RESERVOIRS

The New Sola Dam showed an increasing volume trend, with volumes higher by 3.4% compared to those recorded in May 2025. In contrast, Manchara recorded a decrease in volume of 1.7% compared to May 2025 (Figure 7).

CONCLUSION

Despite the decline observed in most water sources within the Basin during May 2026 compared to May 2025, the Basin did not experience water stress or shortages. Water levels in Lake Victoria remained 0.11% above the long-term average, while dams maintained adequate storage due to the rainfall received during the season.

Figure 5: Daily flows variations



BODI YA MAJI BONDE LA ZIWA VICTORIA



JARIDA LA HALI YA MAJI MEI 2026

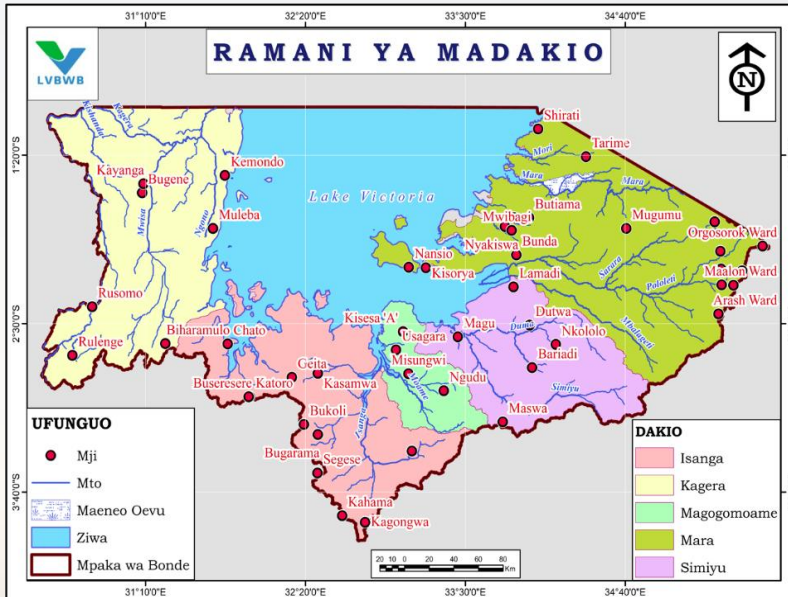
UTANGULIZI

Bonde la Ziwa Victoria lina ukubwa wa takribani kilomita za mraba 115,400. Bonde hili linapatikana upande wa kaskazini mwa Tanzania na lipo kati ya latitudo 1°00' Kusini na 3°45' Kusini, pamoja na longitudo 30°15' Mashariki na 35°45' Mashariki.

Bonde hili limegawanywa katika madakio matano ambayo ni Kagera, Mara, Simiyu, Isanga na Magogo-Moame (**Kielelezo 1**).

Jarida hili la Kihydrolojia linatoa muhtasari wa hali ya maji ndani ya Bonde la Ziwa Victoria kwa mwezi Aprili 2026.

Linawasilisha uchambuzi wa mvua, mtiririko wa maji mitoni, viwango vya maji katika maziwa, na ujazo katika mabwawa ili kusaidia upangaji na usimamizi wa rasilimali za maji.



Kielelezo Na. 1: Madakio tano katika Bonde la Ziwa Victoria

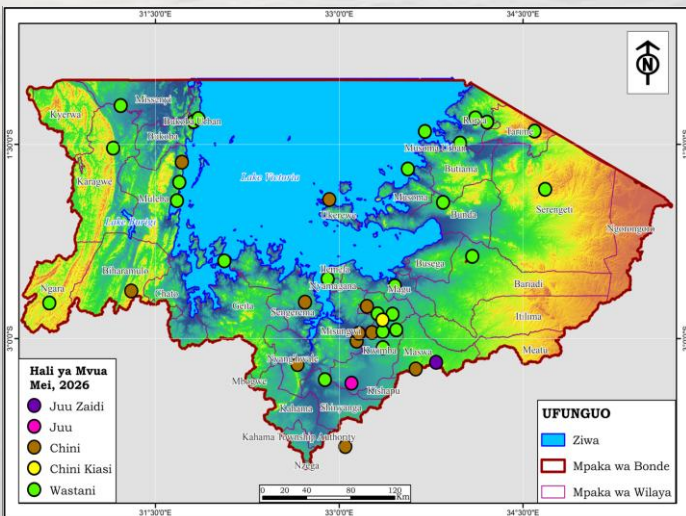
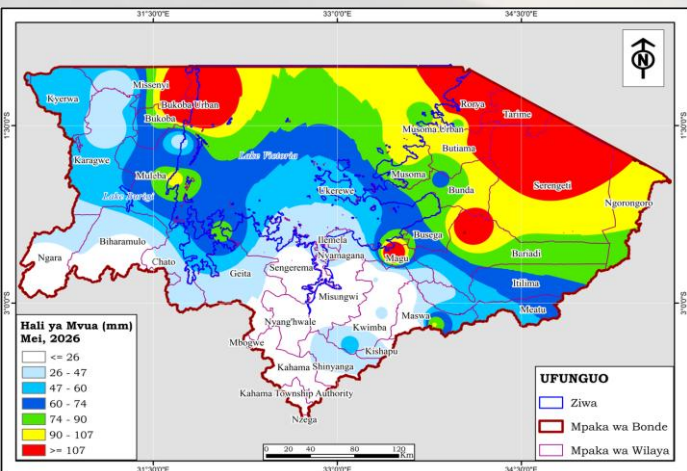


HALI YA MVUA

Katika mwezi wa Mei, Bonde kwa kawaida huwa katika kipindi cha mvua za masika (MAM). Hata hivyo, maeneo mengi ya Bonde yalipokea mvua za chini ya wastani kwa mwezi Mei 2026. Kiasi cha mvua kilichonyesha ndani ya Bonde kwa mwezi Mei kilikuwa kati ya milimita 0 hadi 246, kwa wastani wa milimita 63. Hali hii ilisababisha kupungua kwa mwenendo wa mtiririko wa maji katika mito, maziwa na mabwawa. Mtawanyiko wa mvua katika maeneo mbalimbali umeoneshwa vizuri katika Kielelezo Na. 2 hapa chini.

Kielelezo Na. 3 hapa chini kinaonyesha kuwa wastani wa muda mrefu (2010–2025) wa mvua zilizorekodiwa mwezi Mei ni milimita **81**.

Mvua zilizorekodiwa katika kipindi hiki cha taarifa zilikuwa takribani **asilimia 23** pungufu ya wastani wa muda mrefu (LTA) uliorekodiwa katika kila kituo.



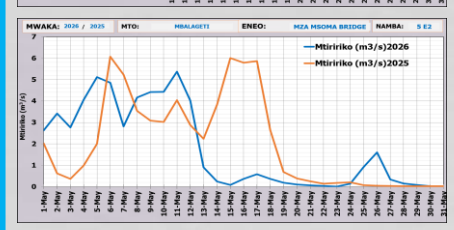
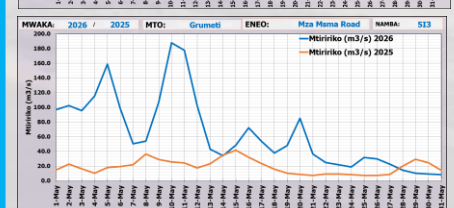
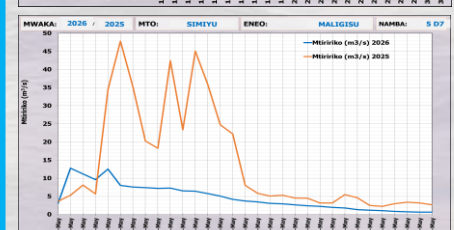
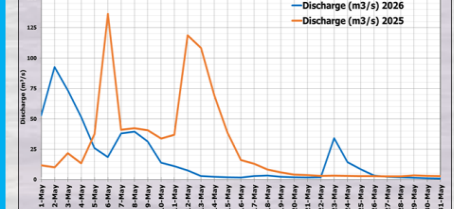
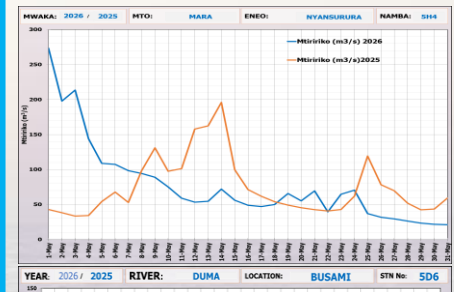
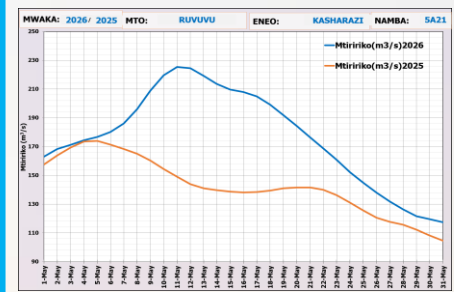
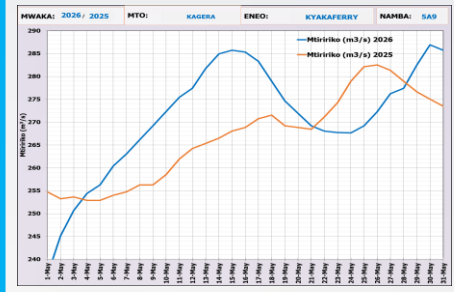
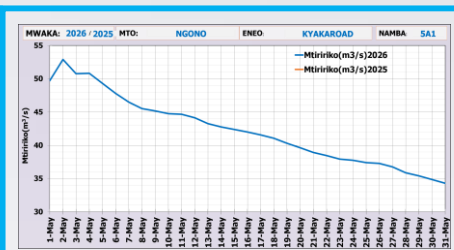
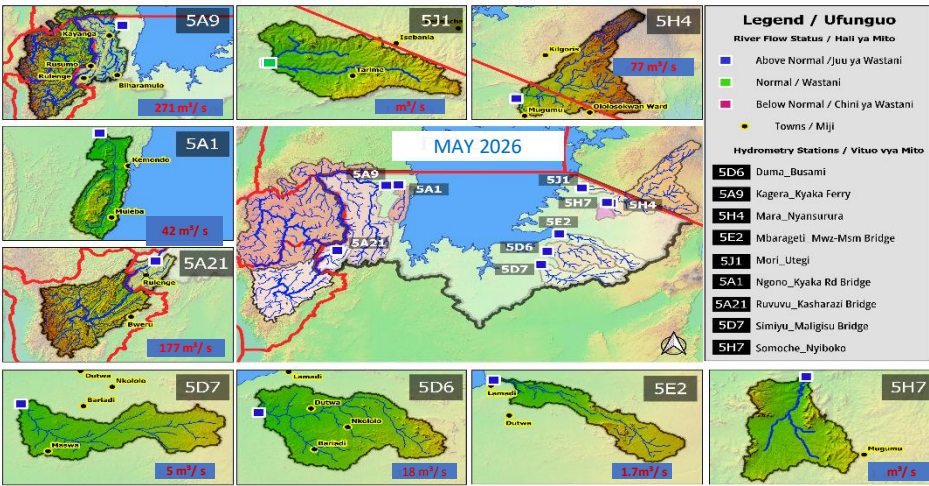
Kielelezo Na. 2: Hali Ya Mvua Mwezi Mei 2026

Kielelezo Na. 3: Hali ya Mvua kwa kila kituo Mwezi Mei 2026.



WINGI WA MAJI KATIKA MITO

Kielelezo Na. 4: Hali ya Maji Mitoni



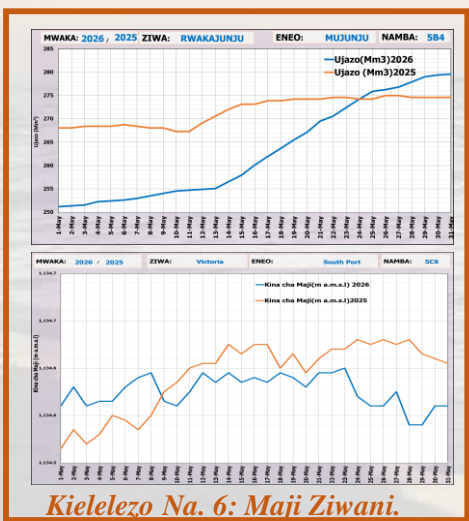
Kielelezo Na. 5: Mtiririko wa Maji katika Mito

Uchambuzi wa vituo vya kupima mtiririko wa maji mito kwa mwezi Mei 2026 ukilinganisha na wastani wa muda mrefu unaonesha kuwa vituo vingi vilirekodi mtiririko wa maji chini ya wastani wa kawaida, isipokuwa mito ya Kagera na Ruvuvu ambayo ilirekodi mtiririko wa juu ya wastani wa kawaida, kama inavyooneshwa katika Kielelezo Na. 4.

Aidha, ulinganisho kati ya mtiririko wa maji uliorekodiwa mwezi Mei 2026 na ule wa Mei 2025 unaonesha kuwa mito mingi ilikuwa na mtiririko mdogo zaidi mwezi Mei 2026, isipokuwa mito ya Kagera na Ruvuvu, kama inavyooneshwa katika Kielelezo Na. 5.

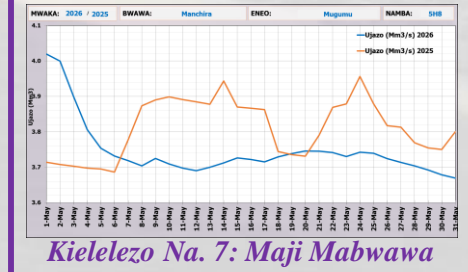
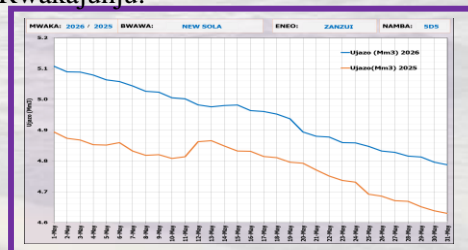


WINGI WA MAJI KATIKA MAZIWA



Kielelezo Na. 6: Maji Ziwani.

Kwa ujumla, kulikuwa na mabadiliko madogo ya viwango vya maji katika Lake Victoria na Lake Rwakajunju (Kielelezo Na. 6). Ikilinganishwa na Mei 2025, viwango vya maji vilivyorekodiwa Mei 2026 vilipungua kwa asilimia 0.001 katika Ziwa Victoria na asilimia 3 katika Ziwa Rwakajunju.



Kielelezo Na. 7: Maji Mabwawa

WINGI KATIKA MABWAWA

Bwawa la New Sola lilionyesha mwenendo wa ongezeko la ujazo wa maji, ambapo ujazo wake ulikuwa juu kwa asilimia 3.4 ikilinganishwa na ujazo uliorekodiwa mwezi Mei 2025. Kwa upande mwingine, Bwawa la Manchira ilirekodi kupungua kwa ujazo wa maji kwa asilimia 1.7 ikilinganishwa na Mei 2025 (Kielelezo 7).

HITIMISHO

Licha ya kupungua kwa viwango vya maji vilivyoonekana katika vyanzo vingi vya maji ndani ya Bonde mwezi Mei 2026 ikilinganishwa na Mei 2025, Bonde halina upungufu wa maji. Viwango vya maji katika Ziwa Victoria viliendelea kuwa juu kwa asilimia 0.11 ikilinganishwa na wastani wa muda mrefu, huku mabwawa yakihifadhi kiwango cha kutosha cha maji kutokana na mvua zilizopokelewa katika msimu husika.

Kielelezo Na. 5: Mtiririko wa Maji katika Mito