



19TH MEETING OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN & ISLANDS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

NATIONAL REPORT - UGANDA

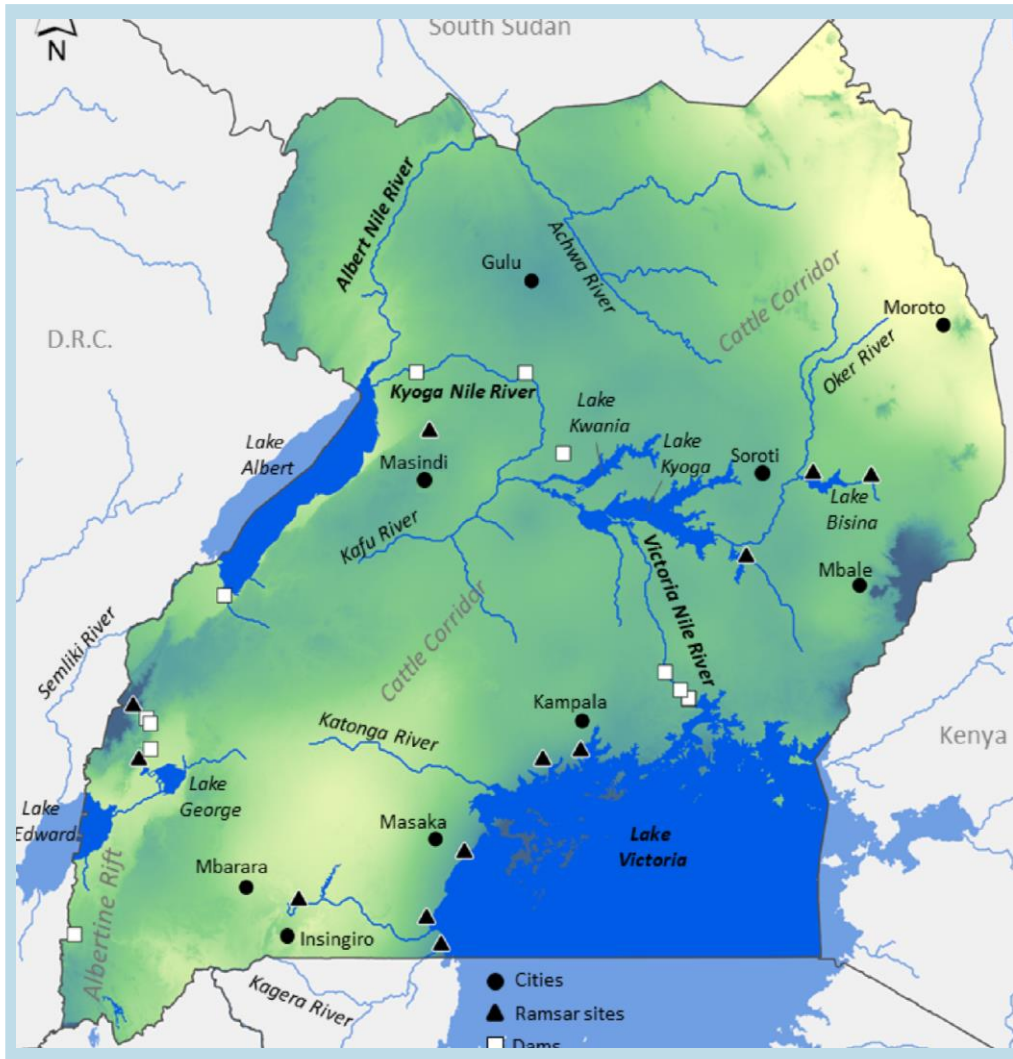
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Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission



Navigable waterways

2



Uganda is a landlocked state with only Inland waterways that cover 18% of the surface area.

Lake Victoria a transboundary lake shared by Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. It is a 2nd largest freshwater lake in the world and it's the source of R.Nile the longest river in the world (6650km) pouring in the Mediterranean sea.

Introduction

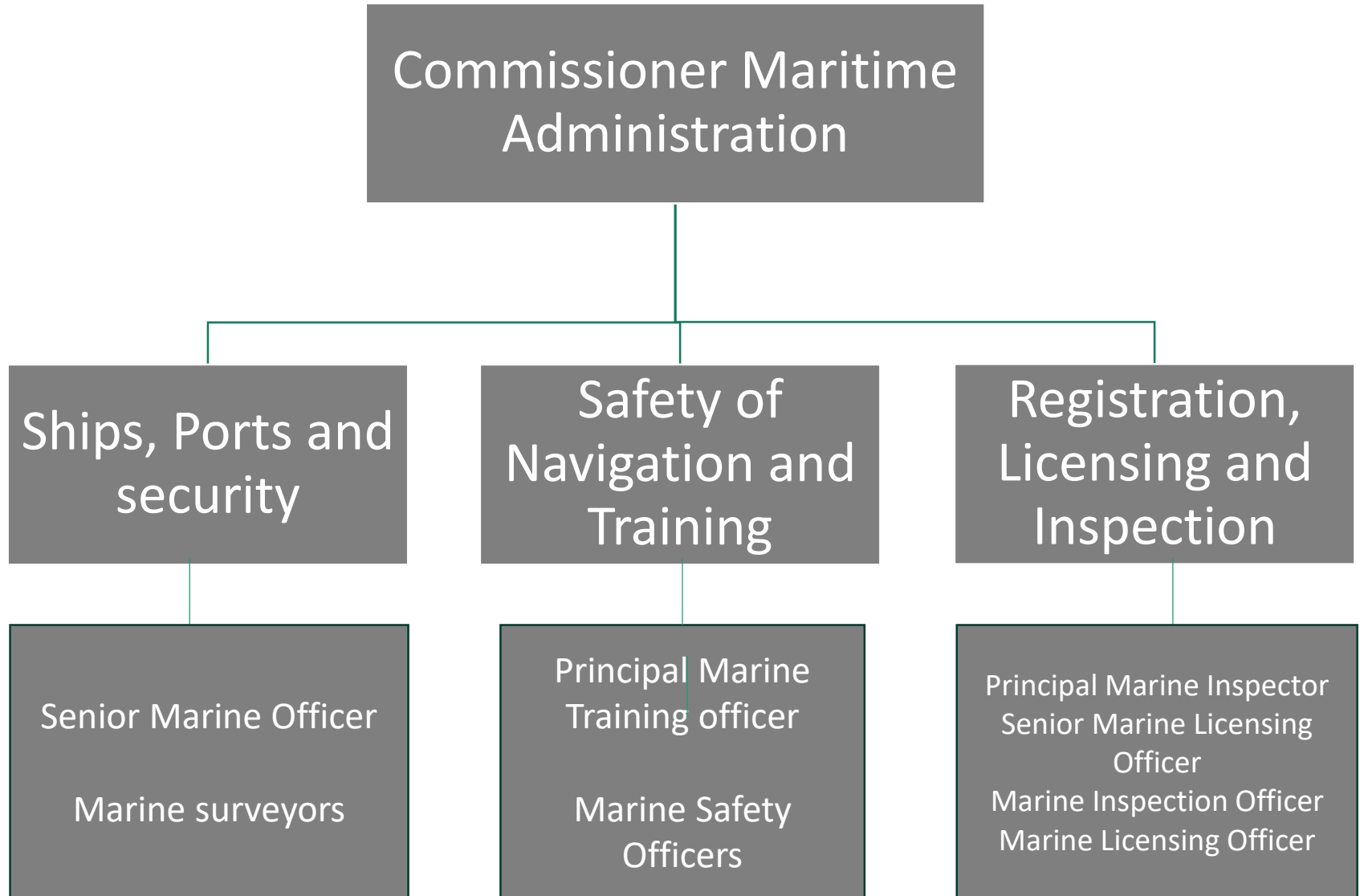


Uganda became the 7th non-coastal state and 169th member of the IMO in 2009.

Maritime Administration was formulated in 2017 as one of the Departments in the Ministry of Works and Transport with the mandate to regulate water transport in the country.

The Department is headed by a commissioner and falls under the Directorate of Transport of the Ministry.

Maritime structure



Legal frameworks

National

- Inland Water Transport Act, 2021

Regional

- Lake Victoria Transport Act, 2007
- Lake Victoria Transport Regulations, 2010

International

- IMO Conventions like SOLAS, MARPOL, L.L, SAR etc.

Recent surveys



No major surveys have happened except A private shipping company called Mahathi Infra Ltd that did a route survey for its oil tanker from Kisumu to Bukasa(location of the oil jetty and storage terminal on L. Victoria)

Mahathi Oil Tanker(MT Kabaka Mutebi II)



The oil tanker has a cargo capacity of up to 4.4 million litres of petroleum cargo with a deadweight of 3,687 tonnes measuring 118m by 23m and a draft of 2.5m

Ports



Major ports on L. Victoria include Port Bell and Jinja Port.

New Mahathi Oil jetty on L. Victoria and Ntoroko Port on L. Albert



Atons on Inland waterways



Some ports and major landing sites have Atons at the docking facility



Port bell has a number of wrecks floating and submerged at its pier



MV Barbus sunk just next to the dry dock at Port Bell causing a danger to navigation.

Also MV Kabalega sunk on the international route to Kisumu and Mwanza a distance of about 25 nm from Port bell.

Weather forecast



A total number of 9 weather buoys has been deployed on major inland lakes

The buoys are equipped with navigation equipment to direct sailors.



The buoys are to provide real time recording of the prevailing weather conditions on the lake.

Maritime communication and search and rescue



Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre has already been established to aid communication on Inland waters. The MRCC is to also start issuing notice to marinas



Construction of 9 search and rescue centers has commenced across major lakes(L. Victoria, Kyoga and Albert) to improve maritime safety.



The centers have been designed with training facilities for seafarers and fish drying shades for fishermen.

Maritime Incidents



Maritime safety still a challenge due to poor boat standards by fishermen and local communities. Lake Victoria receives strong winds and tides from the months of June to September

The recent accident happened on 2nd August 2023 where a wooden canoe boat capsized on L. Victoria drowning over 14 people.

Maritime resources



Government has procured a new research vessel deployed on L. Albert. The vessel was built in Mwanza by Songoro Marine.

Capacity building

1

- 1 staff from Uganda benefited from the IALA capacity building program through completing a risk assessment course in Paris

2

- Uganda was represented at the 5th African Great Lakes & Rivers Working Group in Malawi

Challenges

1

- The lack of a hydrographic office to initiate and coordinate surveys. The Maritime department and the ministry of lands incorporate surveys

2

- Limited knowledge and expertise to conduct surveys

3

- Lack of modern survey equipment

Capacity building requirements

- Training in areas of hydrographic surveying and cartography
- Regional coordination to share resources especially the survey equipment

Actions from SAIHC 19

To take note of this report

Consider Uganda in capacity building programs of IHO and SAIHC.



• THANK YOU