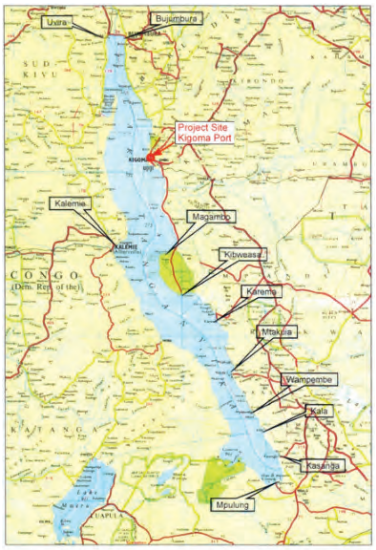
11. Extension of National ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB) to DRC by construction of optical fibre cable across Lake Tanganyika and point of presences (PoPs) for providing connectivity with DRC

Project description and objectives

The government of Tanzania constructed a **National ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB)** connecting all Regions in Tanzania and cross-border connectivity to Zambia, Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. The NICTBB has a total length of **7,910 Km**. The aim of NICTBB is to **provide connectivity to all neighbouring** countries. Now the government is planning to connect with DRC by construction of optical fiber cable. The ideal of connection is between Kigoma in Tanzania and Kalemie in DRC, where the submarine optical fiber cable will be constructed. To achieve direct cross border link across lake Tanganyika requires understanding of **lake Tanganyika's bottom terrain and hydrology**, landscape of beach sides, assessment of risks for marine activity and analysis of environmental factors for an in-depth design.

Map of the Project



Location Map of Major Ports and Local Ports along Tanganyika Lake

Link: https://pp2.au-pida.org/approved-project/entry/lnbt6/

Project status	Financial needs
The project is in **Pre-feasibility** stage (S2A)	Preparation Cost Estimate : USD 4 Million
Key parties	**Private sector opportunities**
 	► The process will need to involve desk study, preliminary system design, route survey then detailed system design, which will determine the requirements for its implementation and operation ► However, for a generic understanding of requirements, possible locations of cable landing points along the shores of lake Tanganyika have been identified. The direct water distances between the two points is approximately 150 km and the maximum depth of lake Tanganyika 1 470m. ► Considering that the cable will need to be laid down at the bottom of the lake, about 200 km of submarine OFC would be needed for laying it between the two points.