

UTILIZATION OF SHORT CODE 110 FOR RESCUE OPERATIONS IN LAKE VICTORIA

Introduction

- L. Victoria is Africa's largest lake with an area of 69,000km² spanning Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda
- It is considered a shared natural resource for people of East Africa

Introduction (Contd.)

Lake Victoria's social economic importance is associated with the following facts;

- It is the largest freshwater lake in Africa producing 800,000 tones of fish annually worth about US \$ 600 million
- It is a major inland waterways facilitating transportation of goods, people and services across the lake
- It is a source of water for domestic, industrial and commercial purposes

Introduction (Contd)

- It is a major reservoir for hydro-electric power generation
- It is a major climate modulator in the region
- It provides employment and source of income to about 4 million people living along its shores
- There are about 200,000 fishermen with about 70,000 fishing boats in the lake

Safety and Security Challenges

- Need for security and safety of the lake for people to benefit from the lake's potential
- Essential for sustainable development and poverty eradication
- According to LVBC, about 5,000 lives are lost annually on the lake
- Lack of effective SAR facilities cause drowning after boats capsize.
- Cases of robbery and piracy are also regularly reported by fishermen who venture deeper into the lake for their living.

Decision by EAC Council of Ministers

- EAC Council of Ministers approved the MCLSV project after a study by IMO and SDA
- Main components of the project are:
 - Telecoms Network for Maritime Communication
 - Regional Rescue and coordination centre (MRCC)
 - SAR Facilities

Initial PPP initiative

- 2006- LVBC commissioned a study “*Study on Technical Solution for Maritime Communication for L. Victoria*”
- Study undertaken by Scanbi Invest HB of Sweden
- Then resources were mobilized by industry for the commercially viable and sustainable connectivity component
- Zain (Now Airtel), Erickson and GSM were

Initial PPP initiative (Contd)

- Several BTS's were installed in the lake
- Coverage extended to 20km inside the lake accounting for 30% of the lake surface and 80% of the fishing zones
- Using the facilities at the NLRI, in Kampala Uganda the network provides;
 - voice and data services
 - Value added platform
 - Pilot Emergency Response Control Centre
 - Positioning system on Zain (Airtel) Network

Initial PPP initiative(Contd)

- Kenya Marine Fisheries and Research Institute uses the system for their *"Enhanced Market Information Service"*
- Industry players are able to get up-to-the-hour fish pricing and other relevant information

Current Status of the Implementation of MCSLV

- Besides Zain (Airtel) Erickson and GSMA, ITU and AfDA are collaborating through LVBC in project implementation within *Connect Africa Goals* framework
- LVBC through Scanbi Invest of Sweden undertook a detailed pres-investment analysis
- Purpose was to bring the project to a bankable stage with partners and promoters
- Final report submitted to Steering Committee on Maritime Communication for the Safety of L. Victoria (SCMCSLV) on 19th and 20th

Current Status of the Implementation of MCSLV

- EAC Council of Ministers identified Mwanza as the MRCC
- In Line with the EAC Sectoral Council Of Ministers for LVBC, EACO Regulatory Authorities dedicated code 110 for emergency and rescue services in L. Victoria

Milestones of the MCSLV Project

- Pres-investment study completed and Final Report submitted to SCMCSLV
- LVBC to facilitate approval of Final Report by EAC Sectoral Council of Ministers for LVBC
- Financial support from AfDB for the project was terminated on 30th September, 2010
- LVBC to mobilize funds to expedite the implementation of next phase of the project
- Funding expected from partner states and regulatory authorities are requested to consider utilizing USF fund for this purpose

Milestones of the MCSLV Project (Contd.)

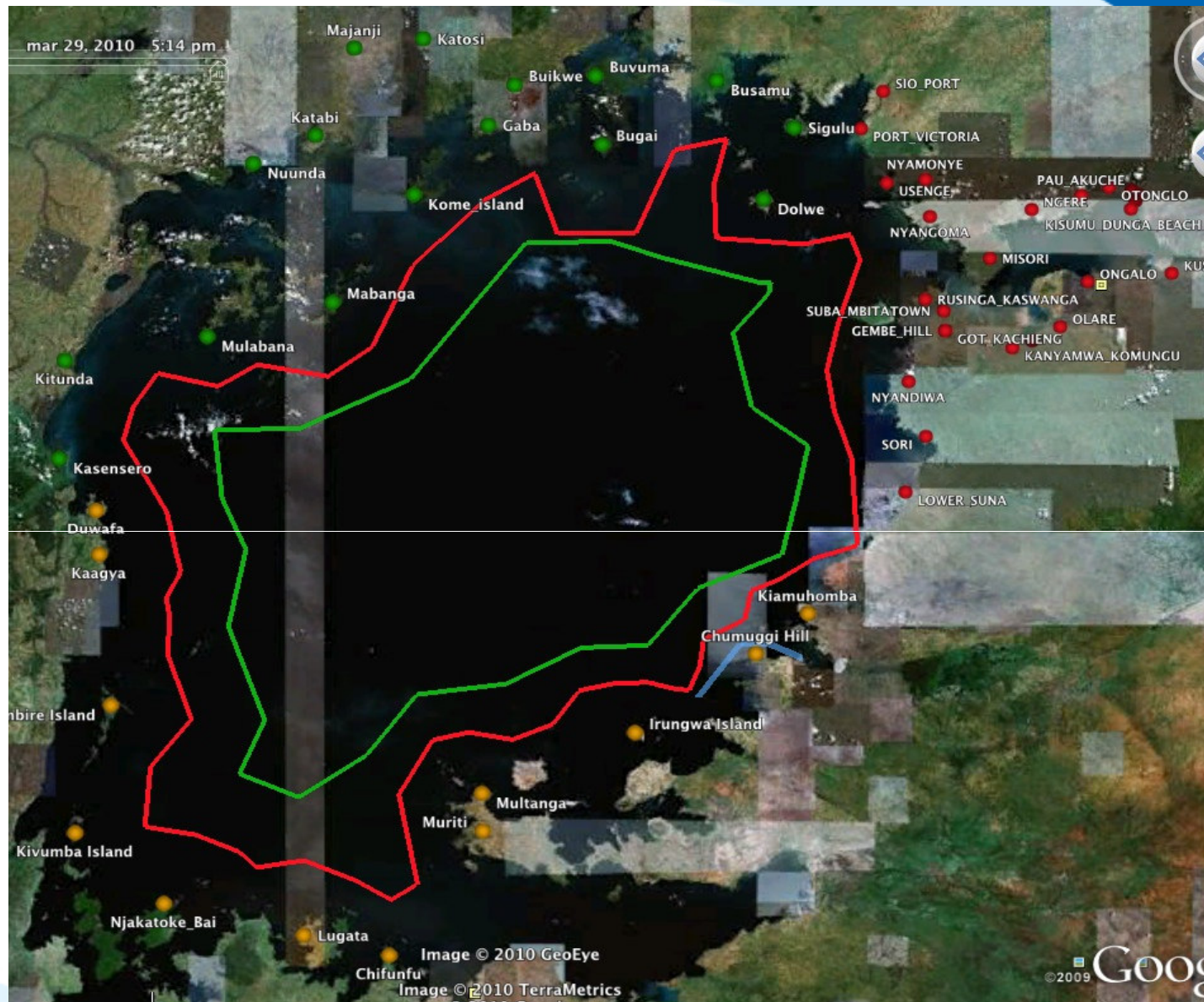
- MRCC in Mwanza being prepared to commence operations
- Mobile operators in Kenya and Uganda have been asked to direct their signal to MRCC in Mwanza
- SAR stations are being established with collaboration with Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization

Conclusion/Recommendations

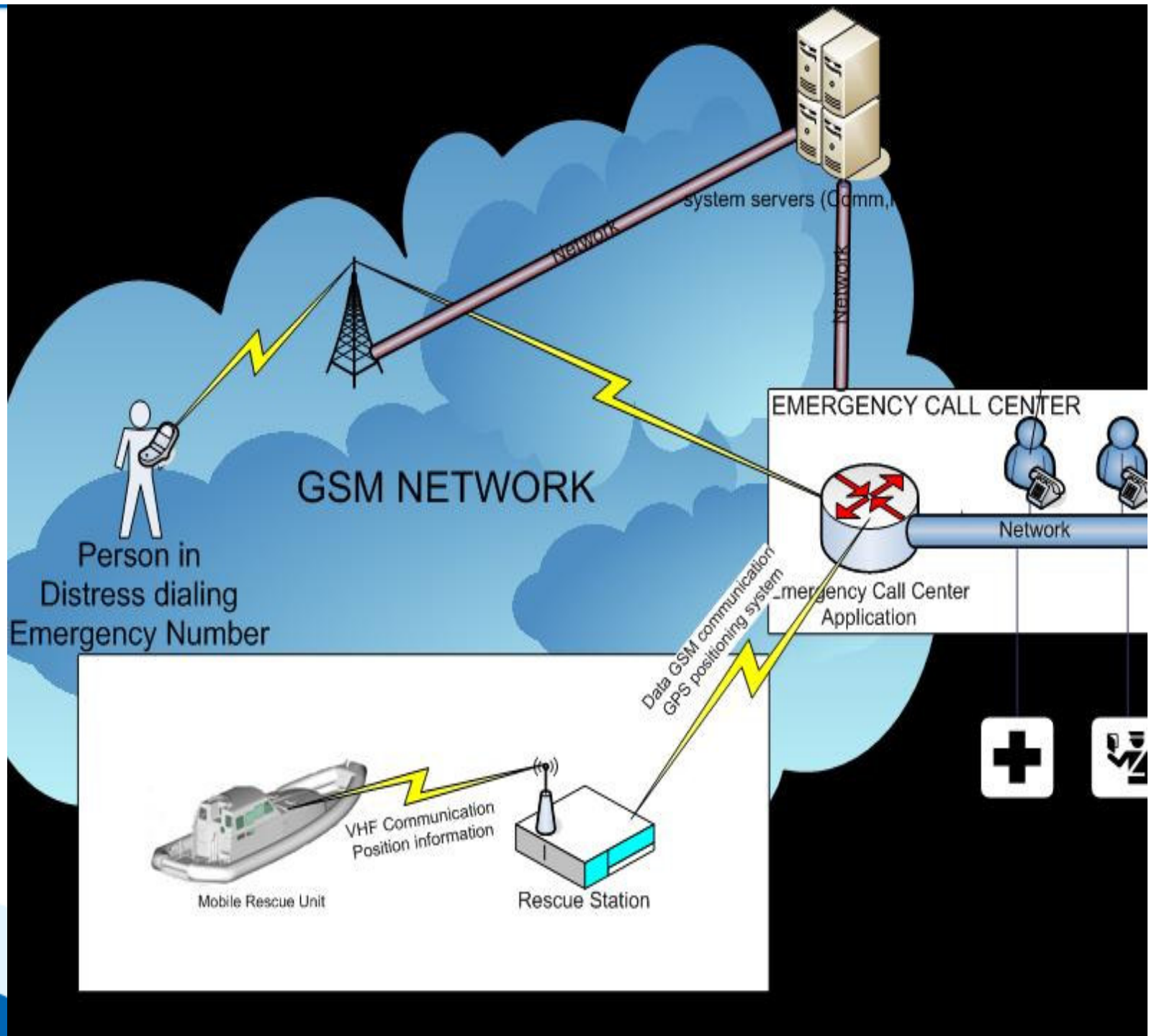
- EACO members requested to enter into an MOU with EAC for the implementation of MCSLV Project
- EACO Members requested consider using USF to sustain the project
- EACO members requested to extend such a project to other waterways in the region with similar risks
- EACO members to consider to second technical experts during the initial stages of implementation of the projects











Cooperative SAR

Boats A, B and C have GPS units. Their position is known by RCC.
All phone numbers of all black triangles are known to RCC - can relay a voice alert to all.

