



Water
Resources
Programme

Does groundwater contribute to lakes and wetlands?

Lakes and wetland habitats serve an important role in maintaining water quality within catchments. Managing these systems depend on knowledge of the sources of water, especially at a time of stress such as extended droughts.

For example, the water balance of Lake Victoria is dominated by direct precipitation and evaporation. Isotopic data show that no significant lake water is lost by flow into the adjacent shallow aquifer system. Furthermore, the wetlands at the fringes of Lake Victoria are sustained by groundwater and not lateral flow from the lake.

