

# Lake Rescue

## East Africa

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### **Lake Rescue history: 27<sup>th</sup> April 2002 to date**

- First meeting organised by Tim de Wet on the 27th April 2002, held to discuss the formation of a dedicated Search and Rescue Organisation for the Great Lakes Region. At the same meeting the Lake Rescue Steering Committee is formed at Speke Resort, Munyonyo, Kampala. Tim de Wet elected as Chairman and Jerry Burley as Vice Chairman.
- Steering Committee Chairman (SCC) visits the Senior Local Chairmen (village chief) in the Mwanga, Makindye Division area. Meeting held during which the National Lake Rescue Institute NGO formation was proposed and unanimously accepted and signed by all members in attendance, ensuring that protocol observed according to the structure of the current political system and that stakeholders from lowest levels of authority to the highest remain involved.
- SCC visits LC111 and Resident District Commissioner, who sign and voice their support for the NLRI NGO.
- SCC submits NGO application to the Chairman of the NGO Board.
- SCC meets with the Chief Executive, National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) of South Africa in SA during May 2002.
- SCC briefed on NSRI operation and visits Rescue Station 3 at The Waterfront, Cape Town, South Africa.
- SCC visits Gemini Inflatables, SA, manufacturer of NSRI-approved Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) rescue boats for the past 25 years, and inspects the factory and operation.
- SCC and NSRI Chief Executive agree to NSRI / NLRI affiliation.
- SCC in return invites Chief Executive and Operations Director of NSRI to visit Uganda.
- Lake Rescue runs a public awareness stand at the annual Entebbe Sailing Club Goat Races, Munyonyo.
- 7<sup>th</sup> July 2002 Minister of State for Internal Affairs agrees to provide the NLRI with Emergency NGO Registration Certificate.

- SCC is offered a piece of land on Kawuku, Bunga with its own marina and partly completed structure, on which to build their East African HQ and training facility.
- SCC visits the South African Ambassador to Uganda and through him, protocol observed, officially requests President Thabo Mbeki (Patron of the NSRI) to introduce the NSRI of South Africa to President Museveni of Uganda.
- SCC arranges full sponsorship for NSRI visit to Uganda with SAA, the South African High Commission and Kabira Country Club.
- NSRI Chief Executive Officer and Operations Director arrive in Uganda 5<sup>th</sup> July 2002 for official one-week visit to NLRI.
- The NLRI receive an Emergency NGO registration certificate from the Uganda Government on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2002.
- On the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2002, the Minister of Transport Hon Andraule Awuzu officially launches NLRI at the Sheraton Hotel. The South African High Commission (SAHC) sponsors the launch. Ian Weinberg, Chief Executive Officer of the National Sea Rescue Institute of South Africa, is guest speaker.
- Ian Weinberg and Alan Cramb reciprocate NLRI hospitality by offering to pay for conference fees and accommodation for CEO, OD and PRO plus spouses for 19<sup>th</sup> ILF Conference in Cape Town.
- Project proposal discussed with the Swedish Development Agency (SIDA).
- Project proposal submitted to the German Embassy, through Ambassador Klaus Holderbaum.
- Project proposal submitted to the European Union Councillor.
- Project proposal submitted to Barclays Bank, Mr Frank Griffiths (Chief Executive)
- Project proposal submitted to MTN, Mr Eric van Veen and Mike Blackburn.
- Project proposal submitted to Uganda Breweries, Mr Patrick Cardwell (Managing Director)
- Project proposal submitted to Security Group, Mr Lawrence Harcourt (General Manager)
- (The above being sample “tests” within the business community).
- NLRI Board of Directors appointed from the Steering Committee and elsewhere and the Steering Committee subsequently dissolved. Tim de Wet appointed as the organisations first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) along with Jerry Burley as its first Operations Director (OD), Elly Karuhanga appointed as the Organisations first Chairman.
- CEO and OD meet with the Assistant Inspector General of Police to discuss Memoranda of Understanding and a closer working relationship, facilitated by Captain Joseph Katuramu (Officer Commanding Police Marine Unit). The Inspector agreed to sensitise his counterparts in Kenya and Tanzania in terms of the Lake Rescue initiative.

- CEO meets with the Chief of Staff of the Ugandan Peoples Defence Force, who voiced his support for a Memorandum of Understanding between the UPDF and the NLRI, facilitated by Captain Memory Bariyo (Officer Commanding UPDF Marine Unit).
- CEO meets with the Director of Airports to discuss Memoranda of Understanding between the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and the NLRI, facilitated by Chief Fire Officer Andame Olikua (also Officer in Charge of the CAA Marine Rescue Unit).
- Volunteers from Jinja approach NLRI (!) to set-up auxiliary lifeboat station in Jinja. Volunteer skills include commercial diving, qualified swift water rescue, advanced first aid and CPR.
- Kaazi Sailing Club approach NLRI to set-up auxiliary lifeboat station at their club premises.
- Bushnet approach NLRI to set-up auxiliary lifeboat station next to Munyonyo.
- CEO and OD meet with Dr Hannah Akuffo from SIDA, who offers funding to construct the NLRI East African Headquarters at Bunga.
- CEO visits NSRI in Cape Town, South Africa, to attend their National Operations and Technical Committee (NOTC) meeting and to meet the NSRI Board of Directors.
- CEO meets with the Head of International Development (now CEO) of the ILF, Mr Gerry Keeling, to discuss NLRI membership to the ILF. Mr Keeling offers the first NLRI instructors advanced training in England at the Royal National Lifeboat Institute Training Centre. Mr Keeling also discusses how the ILF can help the NLRI with its implementation and roll out on Lake Victoria.
- CEO invites Mr Keeling to visit the NLRI in Uganda on a fact-finding mission on behalf of the ILF.
- CEO meets with Gemini Inflatables in Cape Town to discuss boat design for the demanding high altitude, fresh water environment of Lake Victoria.
- CEO meets with manufacturers of Motorola VHF trunking systems and discusses the communication problems faced by the NLRI on Lake Victoria. Motorola present CEO with proposal for a VHF trunking system, which would cover the whole of Lake Victoria.
- CEO and OD, invited by area MP Fred Badda, travel by personal boat to Kalangala Island to address all the local Chairpersons, political leaders and local Members of Parliament, filmed by local WBS television. Local leaders offer land to NLRI for lifeboat station.
- CEO and OD meet with Lieutenant-Colonel Richard K. Orth, Defence and Army Attaché, American Embassy and Head of Operation Medflag in Uganda, to discuss the involvement of the American Government in the Lake Rescue project.
- CEO addresses the Kampala and Ssesse Island Rotary Club, raising their awareness about lake safety and to request their support.

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- CEO and OD meet with the Hon. Amongin Aporu Christine Hellen, Minister of State for Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, to request a Letter of Recommendation for the NGO Board.
- CEO meets with representatives from Engen Petroleum of South Africa with reference to possibilities of their company moving bulk petroleum products across Lake Victoria. Also meet with Mr Bruce Bodmer (Engen) and Senior Cox (Large Rescue Craft), NSRI South Africa who offers to provide NLRI with Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) on video and CD.
- NLRI CEO signs forty-nine year renewable lease for land (and partially constructed building thereon) at Kawuku, Bunga.
- Futures Architects Ltd design new Lake Rescue East African Headquarters and training facility and produce plans for pricing up construction work.
- CEO flies in Mr Les Biggs (Chief Technical Engineer Mariner/Mercury South Africa) and Senior National Sea Rescue Institute Engineer (Outboards) to inspect the NLRI Gemini 8.5m Rescue Boat and advise on servicing and maintenance programmes.
- CEO and crew support swimmers with their first 8.5 metre rescue boat from Bulago to Munyonyo to raise money for Banunule School for Orphans, and awareness of Lake Rescue.
- CEO meets with the Press "post swim" and is invited to speak on Capital Radio Talk Show programme.
- CEO and OD attend NEPAD conference at Kampala Sheraton Hotel, hosted by the South African High Commission during which CE and OD meet with the Egyptian Ambassador, a major environmental stakeholder in Lake Victoria and her discharge into the Nile, and one of President Museveni's advisors.
- CEO and OD meet with Michèle Baherle, Head of Co-operation and Development for the French Development Agency. The French offer to fund a pilot sensitisation campaign until the end of 2002. An understanding is reached where the French Development Agency agree to more substantial funding for 2003.
- NLRI develop lake safety and environmental awareness cartoon strip for the Bukedde (vernacular, tabloid newspaper popular along the lake shores and similar communities). A six-week programme is launched, appearing daily in Bukedde, funded by the French Embassy. This includes a cartoon hero who will be metamorphosed into a real-life Ugandan to be the "face of NLRI".
- CEO and OD personally fund the purchase and modification of a large mobile demonstration unit (box trailer) ready for practical lake awareness initiatives to begin.
- OD writes and presents lifejacket manufacturing feasibility proposal document to USAID for funding.
- CEO present the Lake Rescue HQ building plans and b.o.q's to Roko Construction, Execl Construction and Spencon for quotes.

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- CEO contacted by IMO Technical Assistant from the EAC, Mr Gerson Fumbuka, to voice his support for the NLRI and to propose that the NLRI contact the National Focal Point for Uganda, Mr Patrick Sanya.
- CEO contacts Mr Patrick Sanya, Commissioner of Transport Uganda to inform him about the NLRI.
- Mr Finn Forsberg, First Secretary, SIDA, Uganda presents IMO document on the Implementation of a regional Search and Rescue Service on Lake Victoria to CEO.
- CEO receives quotes from Roko, Excel and Spenco for the construction of the Lake Rescue Search and Rescue (SAR) School and the regional SAR Headquarters.
- NLRI Attorneys process land title through the relevant ministries and await extraction of new title in the name of NLRI from the Lands Office (recd second week December '02).
- CEO e-mails a copy of the NLRI Constitution and Regulations to all three EAC Member State contacts mentioned in the IMO Document, as well as to Dr Kipyego Cheluget (Deputy Secretary General Projects and Programmes), Dr Kapyas W. Kipkore (Lake Victoria Programme Officer), Mr Enock Yonazi (Engineer Planner Communications) and Col. Zephania Urio (Defence Liaison Officer, EAC) at the EAC Secretariat in Arusha, Tanzania.
- CEO emails IMO consultant, requesting IMO Lake Victoria SAR implementation document electronically.
- CEO contacted by Marie-Hélène Williams, Technical Programme Officer, Maritime Safety Division, IMO Head Office, London, who explains that the IMO document had not yet been ratified by the EAC or the donors, and suggests that the NLRI be invited to the first technical meeting in Arusha on the 12 February 2003. To quote from the correspondence, "We are currently preparing a Steering Committee meeting for this programme, which will take place at the Headquarters of the EAC in Arusha from 13 to 14 February 2003. The meeting will be attended by the EAC and its Member States, as well as other interested parties such as the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IMO, IALA and IHO. Prior to the meeting, we are also scheduling an informal technical meeting with all concerned parties on 12 February 2003. I would suggest that you approach the EAC Secretariat to ascertain whether they would concur with your participation in the technical meeting on 12 February 2003. This would give us all a good opportunity to meet and discuss possible future co-operation on this important issue".
- CEO replies to the IMO, stating its objectives and goals to be recognised by the EAC as the first full regional Search and Rescue Service in East Africa and the whole of Africa.
- IMO reply by stating, " Many thanks for your reply. I very much hope that you, or a representative, will be able to attend the meeting on 12 February 2003, as there are obviously a number of issues we should discuss further".
- NLRI fly in Gemini Inflatables team to fit new NLRI corporate yellow tubes to two of its rescue boats. On completion of the refit, the Gemini 8.5m to be stationed near the Training

School site and the Gemini 6.0m to be stationed at the Bushnet first auxiliary lifeboat station.

- **To date the National Lake Rescue Institute has met with and spoken to virtually every department involved with directly, or affected by, the safety, navigation, mapping and environmental protection of Lake Victoria.**
- **In the process it has gained the support of civil society, the Government of Uganda, the East African Community, the International Lifeboat Federation, the International Maritime Organisation and the two main donors to the Lake Victoria project, the French and Swedish Development Agencies.**
- NLRI has already identified initial local volunteers from all walks of life with specific skills that include pilots (helicopter and fixed wing), divers (commercial and military), ex-special forces soldiers (SAS and SBS from UK, South African and French), sailors (Royal Navy, South African Navy and Merchant Navy), fishermen/trawler men (North Sea, Icelandic and European commercial), emergency medical (doctors, nurses, paramedics and advanced first aiders), communications specialists (VHF/GSM trunking, HF, marine band, satellite comms, microwave and various other disciplines), training and expertise (National Sea Rescue Institute of South Africa, Royal National Lifeboat Institute of Great Britain and the International Lifeboat Federation), rescue boats and equipment (Gemini Inflatables, supporters of SAR organisations for 25years), NGO's sharing common ground (AMREF and AAR), other potential donors and benefactors (American, Danish, Dutch, South African and German), GIS and satellite imagery experts (to start the re-mapping and inventory control of the lake), perhaps most importantly the first two black Ugandan volunteer crew and last but not least, two highly committed individuals who have brought the NLRI to the point it is at today and who fully intend to see this project implemented but have now come to the absolute end of being able to self-fund, as has been almost exclusively the case to date.
- CEO signs funding agreement with Sida for consultancy fees to facilitate a sensitisation meeting for the NLRI with the members of the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat, responsible for the Lake Victoria Safety of Navigation Project in Arusha prior to the EAC/IMO Conference in February. The funding will also cover costs for the CE and OD to attend the EAC/IMO meeting at the EAC Headquarters in February, as well as pay for flights for the CE and OD to the ILF Conference in Cape Town in March, a years ground rent for the NLRI East African Headquarters and Training Facility and a years membership to the ILF.
- The French and Swedish Governments, through their respective Development Agencies have made it quite clear to the NLRI that they would like to see the NLRI be appointed by the EAC as the organisation responsible for SAR in the East African Region.
- Once the NLRI has been recognised by the EAC as their appointed SAR for the EA region, the Donors have indicated that they would then be more willing to assist the NLRI with it's roll-out.
- CEO requests a meeting with the EAC Secretariat through IMO Technical Representative at the EAC headquarters, Mr Gerson Fumbuka.

- CEO's request to make a presentation to the EAC Secretariat accepted and confirmed in writing, scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2003 by Dr Kipyego Cheluget, Deputy Secretary General (Projects and Programmes) at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha.
- CEO prepares EAC presentation using IMO report on Search and Rescue implementation for Lake Victoria 2002 and the NEPAD Action Plan 2002 as reference documents for presentation.
- CEO and Ms Lilian Kinalwa the NLRI Public Relations Officer (PRO) travel to Arusha for presentation.
- 20<sup>th</sup> January 2003 at 11h15 CEO makes presentation to EAC Secretariat.
- EAC Secretariat offers to facilitate a working relationship between themselves and Lake Rescue so as to expedite the implementation of a regional Search and Rescue service by the NLRI.
- EAC Secretariat request for a complete Search and Rescue implementation proposal from the NLRI, which they suggest would assist them in accessing regional donor funding for the project.
- EAC Secretariat invites the CEO to attend the EAC/IMO/Development partners and Stakeholders meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2003 in Arusha, until the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2003. CEO accepts the invitation
- CEO invites IMO Technical Assistant, Gerson Fumbuka to accompany the NLRI to the ILF Conference in Cape Town in March 2003, as the ILF have offered to pay for Mr Fumbuka's Conference fees. Mr Fumbuka accepts the invitation
- CEO and PRO compile a post meeting report, which is presented to SIDA, the French Development Cooperation and the EAC Secretariat.
- CEO meets with the Heads of Development for the French (ADF) and Swedish (SIDA) at the French Embassy. ADF and SIDA agree to pool their available funding to assist the NLRI commence the regional implementation process.
- CEO meets with the Hon Tim Lwanga (NLRI Board Member) and requests that H.E. President Y.K. Museveni be approached to request his future Patronage of the organisation. Protocol observed.
- Hon Lwanga advises that he would write on behalf of the organisation requesting His Excellency to become the organisations first Patron.
- CEO meets with Elly Karuhanga (NLRI Chairman) to request a meeting with Ambassador Onen (Ministry of Foreign Affairs). Chairman and CEO meet with Ambassador Onen in his office. CEO informs the Ambassador about who NLRI are and what their stated objectives are.
- Chairman requests Ambassador Onen to write a letter to the EAC Secretariat, introducing the NLRI and recommending the organisation on behalf of the Ugandan government.

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Ambassador Onen expressed his willingness to comply with the NLRI request once he had been presented with the NLRI's regional implementation proposal, mission statement and regional objectives.

- Ambassador Onen agreed with the CEO that Uganda was indeed the best location for the NLRI Search and Rescue Regional Headquarters and Training facility. The Ambassador raised three very valid points which were positive attributes and in favour of Uganda hosting the regional NLRI SAR Headquarters, which were, Uganda has the largest surface area of the Lake within its borders, Kampala's location relative to the Lake shores in terms of backup and available infrastructure and that Uganda's International airport at Entebbe is located on the Lake shores.
- Ambassador Onen mentions that he hopes to attend the Safety of Navigation meeting in Arusha on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2003.
- Dr Tom Okurut from the EAC Secretariat informs the CEO that the EAC would support the NLRI lifejacket proposal to USAID in the form of a covering letter. Dr Tom Okurut, requests that the NLRI contact the relevant Ministries in Kenya and Tanzania, responsible for the Safety of Navigation on Lake Victoria and send them an Organisational brief on the NLRI and it's regional objectives and implementation strategy in the region.
- CEO, OD and PRO attend the 19th International Lifeboat Federation Conference in Cape Town, South Africa. Lake Rescue delivers a presentation on the current status of Search and Rescue on Lake Victoria and the other inland bodies in the region and is commended by the Deputy Secretary General of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), Admiral Efthimios E. Mitropoulos for its efforts in making the inland waters of the Great Lakes Region safer.
- Admiral Efthimios E. Mitropoulos makes a request to all of the International Maritime Search and Rescue community present, to support Lake Rescue in their efforts to improve the current state of Search and Rescue on the Great Lakes of East Africa.
- Lake Rescue CEO, Tim de Wet elected to the International Lifeboat Federation Council.
- CEO invited to Sweden, to meet the Managing Director of the Swedish Sea Rescue Society (SSRS), Capt. Rolf Westerstrom, Chairman Elect of the ILF Council.
- ILF Chairman, Dr Thore Hagman (SSRS International Relations) and CEO travel to meet the Director of International Projects, Mr Willand Ringborg at the Swedish National Maritime Authority (SNMA).
- Mr Ringborg pledges that once Lake Rescue is recognised by the East African community as the independent SAR provider on the inland waters of East Africa that the SNMA would approach SIDA for funding to enable the SNMA to assist Lake Rescue with its regional implementation strategy.
- ILF Chairman, Dr Thore Hagman and CEO travel by 'Victoria' Class rescue boat to the SSRS Training School with the SSRS Advertising Agency.

- ILF Chairman, Dr Thore Hagman and CEO travel to meet with the Chairman of the SSRS, Mr Folke Patriksson (B&N Nordsjofrakt).
- CEO invited to speak at the International Conference on Safety in Transportation in Italy, Province of Benevento.
- Mr Gerson Fumbuka (IMO Technical Assistant to the EAC) visits with Lake Rescue for two days to write a report on the current status of Lake Rescue for the IMO and the EAC. CEO and Mr Fumbuka meet with the Minister of State for Transport, Hon. Awuzu and arrange for a site visit. CEO and Mr Fumbuka meet with the Officer Commanding the Ugandan Police Marine Unit, Joseph Katuramu. CEO and Mr Fumbuka meet with Ambassador to the EAC, Ambassador Onen and Ambassador Katende at the Foreign Affairs Office. Ambassador Onen informs Mr Fumbuka that the Government of Uganda is in full support of this project and will ensure that Lake Rescue is given all the necessary support to ensure the success of this Organisation in the East African Region.
- Ambassador Onen proposes that once Lake Rescue is appointed as the regional SAR that the organisation will then be proposed by the EAC for observer status to the African Union.
- Lake Rescue receive a copy of the letter of recommendation from Dr Maggie Kigozi, Uganda Investment Authority and Chair of the East African Investment Agency, addressed to the Hon. Amanya Mushega, Secretary General East African Community and Hon. James Wapakhabulu, 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign affairs.
- Hon. Andruale Awuzu, Minister of State for Transport, Government of Uganda visits the Lake Rescue Training School site and is show around by the Chairman, Mr Elly Karuhanga and CEO. Letter of recommendation for Lake Rescue from Hon. Andruale Awuzu, Minister of State for Transport, addressed to Hon. A. Nshimye Sebutulo, Minister of State (Regional Cooperation), Ministry of Foreign Affairs delivered to Foreign Affairs Office 11th July 2003.
- CEO travels to Poole, Dorset, UK for the first International Lifeboat Federation (ILF) Council meeting. CEO to work on SAR Development working group and the Education and Awareness working group within the ILF Council.
- CEO travels to Scotland to visit Maritime Rescue International Director and fellow ILF Council and SAR Development Committee Member, Hamish McDonald at his training school and International Headquarters in Stonehaven. Lake Rescue and MRI agree to a development partnership for SAR development and training in Africa for further development as a model for the third world component of the IMO / ICAO Global Search and Rescue Plan.
- Once funding in place, MRI will send the initial SAR and Maritime safety instructors to Lake Rescue Training Institute in Uganda for an interim period during which SAR training systems are set up and East African Instructors are trained. MRI to provide a continual evaluation and review mechanism to ensure the Lake Rescue Training Institute conforms to Internationally recognised standards of training laid down by the ILF and facilitated through the MRI / Lake Rescue development relationship.
- The MRI / Lake Rescue relationship will ultimately serve to compliment the ILF and its Council's (Both Organisations being working members of the ILF "SAR Development" +

Education and Awareness Committee's) stated development objectives. This relationship will help develop the Lake Rescue Training School, which in time will help build the capacity required for the operation of the Organisations regional Search and Rescue service in East Africa, working towards recognition as the ILF/IMO SAR / Maritime Safety training hub for Equatorial Africa. Lake Rescue (As a potential ILF 'SAR Development' model) would then be recommended by the SAR Development Committee as a possible 'blueprint' for SAR implementation in the developing world in accordance with the IMO 'Global SAR Plan' objectives.

- Hon. Tim Lwanga introduces CEO to the Inspector General of Police, Major. General Katumba Wamala at the Police Headquarters.
- French Development agrees to fund the Lake Rescue delegation to SAR 2004 Conference in the United Kingdom including the three Inspector General's of Police from the region (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda).
- Chairman, CEO and OD invite the three Inspector Generals from East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda) to the SAR 2004 Conference.
- CEO attends the Partnership Consultative Committee meeting in Kampala as an observer with the French delegation. EAC Secretariat, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, France, Norway and Sweden present.
- Belgian Development agrees to fund a consultant for the purposes of writing the Lake Rescue Project document.
- Chairman of ILF and CEO of Swedish Sea Rescue Society (SSRS) agrees to send his Operations Director and another to Kampala for a week in January 2004 to assess Lake Rescue and report back to the Swedish National Maritime Authority.
- OD invites National Geographic Television (NGT) to shoot a documentary on problem crocodiles in Uganda. OD enters into agreement with NGT on behalf of Lake Rescue to provide all marine safety and logistical support (land, sea and air) for a documentary on crocodiles to be filmed in Uganda.
- OD meets with Arthur Mugisha, Head of the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) to arrange for two of their best rangers to be seconded to the NGT documentary. OD arranges with NGT Dr. Brady Barr to carry out a, hands on training crocodile capturing/relocation training course for the UWA rangers, which would then be included as part of the documentary.
- CEO ILF and Operations Director of the SSRS visit Uganda in February 2004 for the purposes of assessing Lake Rescue and its current status.
- NGT arrive in Uganda in February 2004 and shoot the documentary with the support of the Lake Rescue team in conjunction with the Uganda Wildlife Authority.
- CEO on behalf of Lake Rescue, submits the Phase One - International Maritime Safety Training School Project Proposal in late April 2004 to the European Union in Kampala for funding.

- Chairman, CEO and OD invite the three Inspector Generals from East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda are invited to visit the ILF and SSRS in the UK and Sweden instead of the SAR 2004 Conference so as to receive a more personalised, in depth look at how civilian SAR is conducted in these countries and how this type of SAR system would compliment the safety on Lake Victoria and other inland waters in the region.
- The visit is postponed until later in the year so as to provide the ILF sufficient time to prepare for the visit.
- CEO requests a letter of introduction for Lake Rescue from the Japan Association of Marine Safety in London to the Japanese Ambassador in Uganda for the purposes of presenting the Lake Rescue Project Proposal to the Embassy of Japan for funding, accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation, delivered by the CEO.
- IMO and EAC inspect Lake Rescue training school and administration site and express their support for the project. Lake Rescue architect, Peter Mwesigwa presents his plans to the visiting delegation. J.P Mundi (IMO Regional Co-ordinator Eastern and Southern Subregion of Africa) on behalf of the delegation compliments Peter on his vision for the facility.
- J.P Mundi informs CEO and OD that he had spoken to the Ministers of Transport from Kenya and Tanzania, who were very interested to be updated on the current status of Lake Rescue. He asks the CEO to travel to Nairobi and Dar es Salaam to make a presentation of the Organisation and its regional objectives to both Ministers as soon as possible. He states that following approval from Kenya and Tanzania, the East African Community would then be in a position to formally recognise Lake Rescue as a regional SAR operating within the EAC legislative framework in support of the SAR component of the Lake Victoria Safety of Navigation Project (LVSNP).
- CEO visits BTI Uganda and requests sponsorship support in terms of the airfares required for Lake Rescue to visit Kenya and Tanzania. Declan Peppard (MD – BTI Uganda) agrees to support Lake Rescue and cover the costs of the airfares. Thanks Deckie!!
- 20<sup>th</sup> May 2004: Lake Rescue phase one website: [www.lake-rescue.org](http://www.lake-rescue.org) is launched, kindly sponsored by **CSBS** and designed by Aberdeen-Internet.
- CEO on behalf of Lake Rescue, submits the Phase One - International Maritime Safety Training School Project Proposal in May 2004 to the Belgian Development Cooperation in Kampala for funding.
- CEO on behalf of Lake Rescue, submits the Phase One - International Maritime Safety Training School Project Proposal in May 2004 to the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) in Kampala for regional funding.
- CEO on behalf of Lake Rescue, submits the Phase One - International Maritime Safety Training School Project Proposal to the East African Community for funding consideration and submission to the Partnership Consultative Committee for regional basket funding support.

- CEO on behalf of Lake Rescue, submits the Phase One - International Maritime Safety Training School Project Proposal to the Japanese Ambassador to Uganda, Ambassador Ito for funding consideration by Japanese Development in Tokyo.