

**Session II – Envisioning New Approaches to Managing Great Deltas, Great Rivers,  
and Great Lakes**  
**12:20 PM**

**Macrophytes of the River Nyando Delta, Lake Victoria, Kenya**

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**Abstract**

The paper gives a historical in-depth account on macrophyte establishment, distribution and succession in Lake Victoria in relation to other ecological changes. Emphasis is placed on the delta of one of the major rivers, Nyando. Up to the 1960s, establishment of macrophytes in the lake was hindered by disruption of the lake bottom by the numerous haplochromine fishes. These were later decimated by Nile perch. The distribution and composition of macrophytes has since then been affected by various events including: eutrophication, siltation and invasive plant species among others. The paper highlights the dominant plant species in the delta and the latest general macrophytic succession trends in the lake.