



# Greenhouse Footprints

## Lake Naivasha

Unlike other lakes in Kenya's Eastern Rift Valley, Lake Naivasha is a freshwater lake, receiving most of its inflow from the Aberdare Mountains to its east. Naivasha has a history of fluctuating depths and surface area due to its shallow depth and rainfall variability in its catchment. It is a valuable freshwater resource for human uses and for a diverse population of waterbirds and large mammals, including hippopotamuses. The lake supports a range of economic activities including commercial flower growing, fishing, and a geothermal power plant.

In recent years, pressure on the Lake has increased as population and human activities have intensified throughout

its catchment. Several of these changes can be seen in the differences between the 1973 and 2008 satellite images. The footprints of Naivasha town and Karagita have grown considerably, reflecting the increased population throughout the catchment, now well above 600 000. Many commercial greenhouse flower farms have been built since the early 1980s. These are visible surrounding the lake as bright white and light blue squares of greenhouse roofs. The boundary of the Eburru Forest also retreats noticeably between the two images.