



## **The Passenger and Cargo Ship M.V. Liemba on Lake Tanganyika – A 100-year-old History with a Future! Paths to a Unique Partnership for Development with Tanzania**

Having proven itself worthy of the notion of quality “made in Germany” for almost 100 years, the Liemba (former “Goetzen”) now desperately needs a complete overhaul.

The initiative *Run Liemba e.V.* advocates this general overhaul of the ship and its continued and lasting service. Moreover, the initiative supports the coordination and communication between all parties concerned with the project in both Germany and Tanzania.

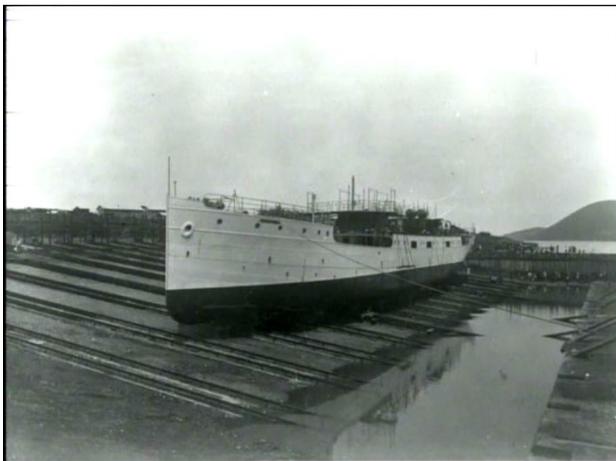
This present info-letter provides you with an insight into the history, as well as the present situation, and the possible future of the Liemba. Particularly, the info-letter will demonstrate the idea that a general overhaul of the ship could be the first step towards a sustainable private-public partnership and cooperation for development.

## HISTORY

In February 1915, the steamship *Goetzen* (built by the Meyer Werft in Papenburg) went into operation on Lake Tanganyika, at that time partly belonging to German East Africa. Since then, the passenger and cargo ship has been up and running in times of colonial era, of wars and of struggling for independence in East Africa. The *Goetzen* was renamed *Liemba* (a local expression for Lake Tanganyika) in 1927 and has long been a living piece of history itself. However, to the people of Lake Tanganyika, the *Liemba* provides, more than anything, hope for a better present and future.

Several milestones of the history of the ship are listed below:

- Ordered by the colonial East African Railroad Company (Berlin) as passenger and cargo ship.
- 1914 - 1915: Built and delivered by the Meyer Werft, Papenburg/Ems, preassembly in Papenburg, shipment of parts in 5000 boxes to Dar es Salaam, capital city of the then colony German East Africa, embarkation onto the Midland Railway and journey to Kigoma at Lake Tanganyika, there final assembly, launching and naming the ship *Goetzen*, after the former governor Gustav Adolf Graf von Goetzen. End of July 1916 withdrawal of German colonial forces ("Schutztruppen") from Lake Tanganyika and sinking of the *Goetzen* at a shallow spot in the lake.



- After completion in 1915, hand-over to the Marine of the imperial German military force, due to warfare. Use as an auxiliary ship for military supply trips, securing the border on the lake, etc.



- End of July 1916: withdrawal of the German military force from Lake Tanganyika and deliberate sinking of the *Goetzen* in shallow waters.
- 1916: retrieval of the *Goetzen* by the temporarily ruling Belgian mandate powers. Renewed sinking during a storm.
- Up until 1927: retrieval and restoration by the British mandate powers. Renaming the ship *Liemba*.
- Until the early 1970s: dependable service of the *Liemba* as passenger and cargo ship, then temporary decommissioning.
- Up until the end of 1976: partial overhaul including replacement of the steam engines by diesel engines, and once again commissioning of the *Liemba* – no general overhaul!

- 1993: So far the last partial overhaul by DANIDA, the Danish national organization for development cooperation – no general overhaul!
- 2012: The Tanzanian Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism declares the Liemba as national heritage under the protection of the Antiquities Act in the resolution of April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The explanation cites: „*The MV. Liemba currently operating in Lake Tanganyika which is valuable national heritage because of its historical value is hereby declared to be protected object for the purpose of the Antiquities Act.*”



## PRESENT

Up until today, the Liemba is the biggest and most important ship for passenger and cargo transport on Lake Tanganyika. Not only is she the most important link between people of the riparian states of the lake, but she is also the driving force for the economic, social and cultural development of the entire region. She is the lifeblood of the lake region. Not only does the Liemba play an important role for the economy and trade around the lake, her services are evenly important for the welfare of the population. Shutting down the Liemba would result in a substantially worsened feasibility for travel, transport and supply for the 10 million people living around the lake.



Häfen und Haltestops der *Liemba*.

The Liemba has a capacity for 600 passengers and 200 tons of cargo. She is run by the national Marine Service Company Limited (MSCL), located in Mwanza. The enclosed sketch by the MSCL shows the 17 stations that the Liemba stops at. The ship's native port is in Kigoma. The ports at the Congolese side are presently only stopped at as a special exception (UNHCR transports of refugees), due to the current security situation.

In 2011 the Liemba has completed a total of 27 return journeys à 1142 km on the route Kigoma-Mpulungu (according to MSCL Kigoma), and has transported 41.885 passengers as well as 4.908 tons of cargo. Due to frequent repairs the Liemba is currently only operating every 14 days, usually she would start on her journey once a week.

In summary: for the people and their goods the ship is still an irreplaceable medium of transport, for trading and last but not least for peace in the region of the Great Lakes. After years of intensive use, an extensive and high-quality overhaul of the Liemba is very necessary.

## **THE PROJECT LIEMBA**

The German-Tanzanian private-public development partnership has two goals: (1) the general overhaul of the Liemba and (2) the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a cornerstone for possible projects that may come in the future.

### **(1) The general overhaul of the Liemba:**

- Rehabilitation of the hull (inside and out)
- Interior construction completion
- Renewal of the ship engines, laid out for operation also with organic fuel from local productions
- Renewal of electric and electronic facilities
- Renewal of safety facilities
- Further development and/or adjustment of the technical and economic operational concept
- Establishment of specific training programs for respective professions
- Planning and expansion of piers
- Expansion of the dockyard in Kigoma

### **(2) The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015:**

The following is being discussed:

- Together with Tanzanian partners (NGOs and local authorities) launch of the Liemba after the general overhaul
- Touring exhibition about the history, technique, culture and function of the Liemba on Lake Tanganyika, in cooperation with the exhibition experts beier+wellach projekte (they are members of Run “*Liemba*” e.V.) by involving also competent Tanzanian partners (e.g. National Museum)
- Oral history project “Tales of Liemba” in cooperation with German and Tanzanian universities: “Bringing to life the importance and the long history of the Liemba by telling the tales of the people”
- Events “Future of the Lake and the Water– Future of Life at Lake Tanganyika” in cooperation with German and Tanzanian universities as well as international organizations such as Lake Tanganyika Authority
- Music and culture festivals in Kigoma in 2015 (inspired by an old idea of the musician and songwriter Hubert von Goisern)
- Tourism Courses: green tourism routes at and around Lake Tanganyika
- Initiation of a city partnership between Kigoma and Papenburg
- Initiation of a lake partnership between Lake Tanganyika and Lake Constance (Bodensee)

## DEVELOPMENT AND RESULTS SO FAR

- **Media:** Consolidation of the subject Liemba in the press, broadcasting and on TV in Germany and in Tanzania – see Media list at [www.run-liemba.de](http://www.run-liemba.de)
- **Tanzania:** Since 2007 dialogues with authorities on district and regional levels; discussions within the Marine Service Company Limited (MSCL), that is continuously working on the realization of the general overhaul of the Liemba. Sensibilization of local and international NGOs in Tanzania; Foundation of the *Friends of Liemba Foundation* in Kigoma in 2009; A visit to Germany by a MSCL-delegation in 2009, and first contacts with the Tanzanian ambassador in Berlin; in 2011 official application for a general overhaul of the Liemba by the Government of Tanzania; 2012, Tanzanian Members of Parliament visit Germany to talk about the Liemba; the new Minister of Transport, Dr. Harrison Mwakyembe, visits Germany with a delegation of 13 people, meetings with ministries, German private companies and the State Chancellery of Lower Saxony, amongst others. The Government of Tanzania proclaims the Liemba as National Heritage in 2012.
- **The German Embassy in Dar es Salaam:** The German Embassy in Dar es Salaam has always supported the German activities on the subject of Liemba. In some cases, the German Embassy has even accompanied some activities, such as the visit of delegates from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the State Chancellery of Lower Saxony, as well as *Run Liemba e.V.*
- **Deutsche Afrika Stiftung (DAS e.V.) [German Africa Foundation]:** Support of the communication and public relations concerning the topic of Liemba since 2009, as well as public relations relating to the political sector. The DAS e. V. views the general overhaul of the Liemba as a flagship for the German East African partnership. In February 2012, the DAS e.V. therefore hosted a parliamentary evening with the motto “MV Liemba – History with a future”, in cooperation with the State Chancellery of Lower Saxony, the Meyer Werft, and *Run Liemba e.V.*, the DAS e.V. has established contact with German industrial enterprises, which, at the parliamentary evening, has led to a first statement by HeidelbergCement for a financial engagement in cooperation with other companies.

On June 29, 2012, the Tanzanian Embassy invited to a parliamentary meeting with Tanzanian members of parliament. The Deutsche Afrika Stiftung e. V., the State Chancellery of Lower Saxony, the Meyer Werft and *Run Liemba e. V.* all took part in the meeting and informed the attendees about the joined efforts concerning the overhaul of the Liemba. An extensive publication on the Liemba and the Liemba project is currently being prepared and is scheduled to appear in the series of “DASdossier”.

- **State Chancellery of Lower Saxony:** Lower Saxony has always been especially engaged in debates about the future of the Liemba. After two visits by a delegation of the State Chancellery of Lower Saxony to Tanzania in 2010 and 2011, Liemba’s general overhaul has been once again incorporated in the series of Lower Saxony’s partnership projects. Navigation on Lake Tanganyika is of strategic and utmost importance for the development of the riparian states Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia and Tanzania. Therefore, the Government of Lower Saxony has attempted to use its political influences to obtain the support for a general overhaul from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. However, so far the bilateral talks with the government have not resulted in incorporating the general overhaul of the Liemba in the projects of the national-bilateral developmental cooperation.

By now, within the European policy concept of the State Chancellery of Lower Saxony, the extensive restoration of the Liemba is seen as the project with the highest symbolic value among all projects for cooperation with Tanzania. There are efforts from the side of the EU to support the riparian states of Lake Tanganyika to improve the infrastructure around the lake. The Lower Saxony State Chancellery is seeking to support this initiative too.

- **Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ):** In bilateral negotiations with the Government of Tanzania, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development has explored the possibilities of supporting the general overhaul of the Liemba as a project of joint development cooperation. To do so, the BMZ has consulted expert opinions that have led to technically specialized disputes. Even though

there seems to be emerging a potential willingness for support, so far there has been no stable solution, due to obviously inadequate development budgets of both countries.

- **Engagement of German Industry and NGOs:**

- **Meyer Werft:** It has been involved in the Liemba project with technical consultation; according to expert assessments, the general overhaul of the Liemba has been approved as feasible and economically reasonable. The Meyer Werft has also shown interest in partaking, with their own in-house trainee-academy, in dual schooling of local specialists, such as craftsmen and technicians.
- **HeidelbergCement:** A statement by HeidelbergCement has been rendered at the parliamentary evening in 2012, as mentioned above. This statement offers the prospect of a financial engagement under the condition that other industrial companies also participate in a joint financing.
- **Run "Liemba" e. V.:** The non-profit organization shall be understood as a complementary-operating civil society initiative that supports the Liemba project, including both concepts of the general overhaul of the Liemba and the preparation for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Tanzania.

The initiative has been in close contact with partners in Tanzania since 2007: Marine Service Company Limited, Friends of Liemba Foundation (FLF) in Kigoma, churches, local, national and international authorities and institutions and organizations. The initiative supports and connects Tanzanian and German partners in the Liemba project, and engages in public relations. Run "Liemba" e. V. advocates a private-public partnership with German, Tanzanian and European partners participating in the Liemba project.

## **PROSPECT:**

Now, the main objective is to gain interest and support from private industrial enterprises in order to realize the Liemba project, jointly sustained by both public and private entities. The parliamentary evening "MS Liemba: History with a Future" by the Deutsche Afrika Stiftung has done its share by sending a clear message concerning this objective on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

The very necessary general overhaul and the ongoing service of the Liemba during the following decades is an important prerequisite for the basic care of the people and for the realization of possible long-term goals of German and European development cooperation with Tanzania at Lake Tanganyika: **promote development, strengthen peace, reflect history, protect the Lake.**

The upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Liemba will serve as a starting point of this vision.

Aachen / Konstanz, October 2012

Michael Berg, M. A. (Chairman)  
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