THE NYANDO BASIN

Nyando is located at 34 degrees 45 minutes 0 seconds east and 0 degrees in western Kenya between Lake Victoria to the west, Tinderet hills to the east, Nandi escarpment to the north and Mau escarpment to the south.

The general drainage pattern of Nyando basin is controlled by the level of lake Victoria in the west which now stands at approximately 1138 meters a.s.l, and the peak of the Tinderet volcano at 2930meters a.s.l. the north_eastern portion of the basin. The1300 meter contour line approximately delineates the edges of the Nandi and Mau escarpments. At the base of the scarps numerous streams cut deeply through poorly sorted beds of coarse gravel, sands and sandy clays in the Kano plains .Steep hydrological gradients occur in this area with long slopes in excess of 20 degrees inclination.

The soils in Kano plain are primarily derived from Holocene sedimentary deposition. Luvisol,vertisol,planosol,combisol and soonest type are common often in saline or sodic phase.

Nyando river basin has a catchment area of 3,625km squared and lies in the western part of Kenya. The river drains into Winam gulf of lake Victoria. Its discharge is approximately 15m per second. The mean annual rainfall within the basin is 12298mm .Nyando river flows in the basins of Kano plains. The river basin receives frequent flash floods and torrential showers.