



DRAFT MISSION REPORT

Experience Sharing Visit on Fisheries Co- Management of Transboundary Shared Water Resource at Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) (Uganda, April 11th -14th 2023)

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1. INTRODUCTION

The “Contribution of Sustainable Fisheries to the Blue Economy of Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean region (ES-SA-IO) - “ECOFISH” is financed by the 11th EDF CrossRegional Initiative.

For this project, the Financial Agreement was signed by the European Union and the Indian Ocean Commission, on behalf of the five Duly Mandated Regional Organizations (DMRO) of the EA-SA-IO region on the 13th September 2018. The programme is managed by the EUD Mauritius and implemented by the IOC Secretariat in collaboration with the sub-regional development partners.

The overall objective of the programme is “to enhance equitable economic growth by promoting sustainable fisheries in the EA-SA-IO region”.

The specific objective is “to support sustainable management and development of fisheries in order to contribute to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security while addressing climate change resilience and enhancing marine biodiversity”.

The programme consists of three inter-connected Results which are as follows:

Result 1 Enhanced Policy and Institutional Frameworks

Result 2 Improved Monitoring, Control and Surveillance capacities

Result 3 Call for proposals to demonstrate Sustainable Management/Development and Inclusive Governance in the inland and marine small-scale fisheries.

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is one of the implementing Regional Economic Community for the ECOFISH project under Result 3 Call for proposal **Lot 1: Actions in the Eastern Africa region**, IGAD applied and granted a 3-year project on: **Support to Sustainable Utilization, Development and Management of Two Transboundary Basins Fisheries of Baro-Akobo-Sobat River Basin (BASRB) between Ethiopia and South Sudan, and Lake Turkana Basin (LTB) shared between Ethiopia and Kenya.**

The overall objective of the project is to develop gender-responsive and climate-smart sustainable utilization of fisheries resources, and foster use of fisheries for building of resilience and bolstering of food and nutrition security and local economies especially for the fishing and “Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs)” communities in the two basins. This will include provision of support to the fishing communities and fisheries managers in each of two basins to facilitate their active participation and engagement in fisheries management.



2. Rationale

This work is meant to provide a framework for harnessing the fisheries potential and to foster sustainable utilization and exploitation of the fisheries for improving the livelihoods, food security and nutrition, and incomes of members of the communities in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) that these three rivers traverse.

The project has achieved several milestones on developing co-management plans, capacity need assessment, produced baseline reports, policy briefs, trainings and awareness created on joint management of transboundary fisheries management.

In IGAD region there are organizations like Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (?>) fully dedicated on the management of shared water & fisheries (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda). This organization has also community-based co-management (Beach Management Unit). Since transboundary fisheries management is new in IGAD region, it will be advisable to have experience visit to LVFO by IGAD team and the project focal persons from the three countries under the ECOFISH project namely Ethiopia, Kenya and South Sudan.

3. Objectives:

1. To visit the fisheries department and fisheries research centers (Department of Fisheries Resource Management and Development and the National Fisheries Resources Research Institute in Entebbe and Jinja respectively)
2. To visit the fisheries co-management units (BMUs) in Uganda side of Lake Victoria
3. To visit Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization offices (LVFO).

4. Activities

I. MEETING WITH DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES RESOURCES

The meeting took place at the Department of Aquaculture Development and Management, (Management and Development) Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries of the Republic of Uganda. The Acting Commissioner for Fisheries Resources Management and Development welcomed the mission team.

The highlights of the meeting:

1. Remarks from the IGAD head of delegation
 - He gave a detailed description of the ECOFISH program, which includes co-management of the two shared basins of Lake Turkana (shared between Ethiopia and Kenya) and Baro Akobo Sobat basins (shared between Ethiopia and South Sudan).
 - Gave the objectives of the field mission which included what is highlighted in the introduction of this report.
 - The team is on mission to learn and exchange experiences and lessons.



2. Remarks by the Acting Commissioner:

- The Structure of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries of the Republic of Uganda.
- The organizational structure for the management and development of fisheries resources in the country.
- Described the co-management units and outlined the areas to be visited.
- He highlighted the fisheries and aquaculture production levels and systems in the country

The mission also visited:

NaFIRRI, under NARO, in Jinja which is a national institution that falls under MAAIF. The deliberations while at NaFIRRI include:

- Brief description of the center and the core role of NaFIRI towards the development of the fishery sector was presented by Dr. Winnie Nkalubo, director of research at the center,
 - She emphasizes on the Development of Fish Base for Africa
 - Genetic improvement of aquaculture production
 - She presented the country fisheries profile, the challenges on the capture and aquaculture systems, and explained ongoing research areas of the center
 - She presented the fishery and aquaculture potentials of the country

II. MEETING WITH LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

This is a regional organization like IGAD mandated to coordinate the sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management in the member states: Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.

While at the LVFO, the Executive Secretary welcomed the mission team and the technical staff made presentation on the regional roles and ongoing activities of the LVFO.

The meeting there underlined:

- Establishment of Interregional (LVFO-IGAD) communication platform
- Formulation of guidelines to generate data sharing clouds
- Hold a side meeting during the upcoming knowledge share fare event in Mombasa organized by IGAD-AU-IBAR in June 2023.
- Agreed jointly to develop CN to mobilize resource for sector development on the Regions (LVFO-IGAD)

III. VISITS TO CO-MANAGEMENT UNITS

With the guidance from the Commissioner for Fisheries resource Management and Development the Ministry and the mission,(Development and the Ministries, the mission) visited the following Co-management Unites (Units)



a. BUGONGA LANDING SITE

This co-management unit is found in Wakiso District in Entebbe Municipality. It is for Tilapia and Nile Perch. While at Bugonga, the mission met with members of the executive committee of the Landing site.

While in this landing site, the mission team met the executive committee members of the “Fish Landing Site Committee” who explained the team:

- The committee is responsible for the core landing site management
- Challenge observed:
 - no fish landing physical infrastructure
 - low capacity to informant
- minimal involvement of the fishers (resource users) in the co-management practices

b. CHIGUNGU(KIGUNGU) LANDING SITE

This co-management unit is found in -Wakiso District , Entebbe Municipality

At this landing site, the mission team visited the executive committee members of the “Fish Landing Site Committee” and the chair; who is also the National Landing Site Network Chair, explained the team the roles and responsibilities of the Committee.

- Among the other challenges he explained us are:
 - law of involvement of the key stalk holders (Fishers) in co-management activities
 - there is conflicts of interest in enforcement
 - a privately-owned fish landing site infrastructure is observed in place which the users are paying for the service.
 - fish for export market is observed
 - government has deployed fishery quality inspectors for effective quality assurance

c. KIYINDI LANDING SITE

Located in Buikwe district, Kyagwe County.

This landing site was constructed by government with support from AfDB (Fisheries Development Project funded by African Development Bank - FDB). They operate under Association of Fishers and Lake Users.

Members of the mission met the co-management committee and government fishery inspectors.

- This landing site is Nile Tilapia, Nile Perch and Silver Fish
- The landing site is better in that it has two ice production plants
- The numbers of mobile refrigerated tracks to collect the catch for further processing marketing are more here
- The site has relatively more storage facility
- It was observed that there is a transboundary conflict among Nile Perch and Silver fish fishers from Uganda side fishing ground and those from the Kenyan side over the use of



solar powered lamps which are more brighter and attractive to silver fish than the Kerosene powered lamps used by the Ugandan and suitable for catch of the Nile Perch

- The role of women in the co-management and postharvest lose management at this landing site is appreciated by the mission in that women are using improved smoking facility (shock oven).

d. KATOSI LANDING SITE

Located in Mukono District.

- It has a privately-owned fish landing site infrastructure with well-established co management team.

While at Katosi, the mission team met the executive committee who explained the team the roles and responsibilities of the committee noted some few observations:

- The election process of the officials of the executive committee office bearers is subject to abuse and the manipulation compromising the function of the co-management
- Limited networking and collaboration with other co-management with in the Lake
- Mush-rooming of undesignated landing sites accelerating malpractices

IV. SHARING BY KENYA

The mission team colleague from Kenya shared a power-point presentation on experiences and lessons on fisheries co-management (BMU). He shared the following:

- The organizational structure of fisheries administration and governance in Kenya,
- Fisheries resources,
- BMU structure and operations,
- Co-management challenges
- Opportunities for regional cooperation in fisheries co management

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Conclusion

The lessons and experiences shared during the mission need to be contextually replicated in the member states to promote sustainable fisheries resources management and development in the region. There is need for more experience sharing on co-management practices among the member states in the region.



5.2. Recommendations:

- Presentation of field experience by the directors with their respective countries
- Learn from LVFO on how to develop Co management manuals
- Identification of technologies in post-harvest lost management in the region for up-scaling-
- Promotion of benchmarking tours between the Lake Victoria co-management units and the shared basins of Lake Turkana (shared between Ethiopia and Kenya) and Baro Akobo Sobat basins (shared between Ethiopia and South Sudan).
- Promotion of involvement of resource users in co-management activities
- Resource mobilization for investment in the fish landing sites infrastructures
- Promotion of Public Private Partnerships in co-management infrastructure development in the region



6. ANEXES

6.1. List of participants

6.2. The Programme

6.3. Photo gallery