

IGAD-Ecofish PROJECT REPORT

Workshop on Establishment of Fisheries Co-Management Units and Building Capacities of Lake Turkana Fishing Communities to Manage the Shared Fish Resources

March 11 – 13, 2022, Lodwar, Turkana County (Kenya)



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1, OPENING SESSION OF THE WORKSHOP

1.1 Opening Remark by IGAD Secretariat

Dr. Wassie Anteneh, Regional Fisheries Management Expert of IGAD, made an opening and welcoming remarks for the workshop participants.

Honorable Mr. Bonface Muthama Wambua, Turkana county Commissioner

Directors and Experts from State Department for Fisheries Aquaculture and Blue Economy (Kenya) Turkana and Marsabit Counties and fishers from BMUs and other stakeholders

Distinguished Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Fisheries sector in Africa generates a variety of benefits, including nutrition and food security, livelihoods, employment, exports and foreign currency and conservation and biodiversity values that are of global significance. However, in many countries of Africa there is less attention and focus to develop the fisheries.

The IGAD region has very rich water resource potential. The fisheries sector in IGAD member countries has been recognized as one of the important growth sectors in the region. The potential fish production in the IGAD region is estimated to be more than 3 Million tons annually but the actual production is about one million tons annually. Fishery sector can contribute to accelerated economic growth and development, income generation, nutrition, employment and export earnings and overall food security. The focus should be on increased production and value addition since fish has high domestic market demand, can contribute to improved domestic nutrition, offer good trade opportunities at the global, regional and intra-regional levels; and have potential to foster backward and forward linkages to support efficient value addition.

Dear Participants

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is one of the implementing Regional Economic Community for the ECOFISH project. On 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.

Dear Participants:

The IGAD Secretariat has developed and validated an integrated fisheries management plan (IFMP), or simply called fisheries co-management plan for Omo Turkana Basin. In the fisheries co-management plan, one of the most important milestones stated is to establish fisheries co-management units. During the last decades, there has been a shift in the governance of fisheries to a broader approach that recognizes fishers’ participation, local stewardship, and shared decision-making in the management of fisheries. Thus, the Omo Turkana Basin Fisheries Co-Management Plan is prepared based on the assumption that the resource users (fishing communities) will be involved in all the processes of the fisheries management system of the basin. The principles of fisheries co-management and the fisheries co-management document for this basin is prepared with the above assumption, i.e., involving the fishing communities. Some model fisheries co-management units in the Turkana County Beach Management Units (BMUs) fishing in Lake Turkana will be established in the Kenyan side of the lake. A

similar workshop will be organized in the Ethiopian side to establish fisheries co-management units. In the coming 2 days we will have fruitful deliberation on capacity building of the Fisheries Co-Management Unit Members about the principles and practices of fisheries co-management in the Lake Turkana fishing communities. Discuss challenges and possible interventions to make the Co-Management Units/BMUs more effective.

I would like to thank the Government of Kenya and Turkana County for hosting this workshop here in Lodwar and European Union for the financial support of the project. I would also like to thank for the workshop organizing team from IGAD and Government of Kenya for the smooth communication and timely coordination.

I thank you all.

1.2 Official Opening

The official opening was made by Honorable Mr. Bonface Muthama Wambua, Turkana county Commissioner. He warmly welcomed all the participants to the emerging town of Lodwar. He expressed that directly or indirectly almost all the economic activities in Turkana County are linked with fisheries in Lake Turkana.



Honorable Mr. Bonface Muthama Wambua appreciated IGAD Secretariat and the Government of Kenya for choosing Turkana County to organize this workshop and to support the fisheries BMUs. He also appreciated the project since the fisheries in Turkana is still untapped. He promised that his office is ready to support facilitation of any of the project activities when needed. Finally, he thanked all the participants and wished fruitful training for all young fishers.

2. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Dr. Wassie Anteneh, regional Fisheries Management Expert (IGAD) presented the workshop objectives and expected outputs of the workshop. He explained that the IGAD Secretariat has developed and validated an integrated fisheries management plan (IFMP), or simply called fisheries co-management plan for Omo Turkana Basin (OTB). The OTB Fisheries Co-Management Plan is prepared based on the assumption that the resource users (fishing communities) will be involved in all the processes of the fisheries management system of the basin. The principles of fisheries co-management and the fisheries co-management document for the OTB is prepared with the above assumption, i.e., involving the fishing communities. Some model fisheries co-management units in at least two fishing communities of Turkana County located in the shore areas of Lake Turkana will be established. A similar workshop will be established in the Ethiopia side of the lake to establish fisheries co-management units.



Objectives:

- *To establish pilot fisheries co-management units in the basin*
- *To introduce the principles of fisheries co-management for local fishers*
- *To build capacity of local fishing communities to involve in fisheries management*

Expected Output:

- The pilot fisheries co-management units established in the Turkana County
- Awareness of local communities on fisheries co-management raised
- Capacities of local communities in managing fish resources improved
- Some guiding rules and community-based bylaws developed

3. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN KENYA

Mr. Rodrick Kundu, Director, State Dep of Fisheries and Aquaculture – Kenya provided summarized information how the fisheries management of Kenya evolved. He expressed that before 1990s the fisheries management in Kenya was commanding and controlling type. He added that this kind of fisheries management considers the fishing communities to perceive that fisheries belongs to the Government. Thus, there was no community ownership. He said that, gradually the Government realized that fishing communities have interest in fisheries management. He highlighted that BMUs as a collaborative or cooperative fisheries management establishment was started in the late 1990s in Lake Victoria and this gradually expended to other water bodies in Kenya.



He also added that in 2007, BMU role was established. He finally stressed that currently, BMU fisheries management system in Kenya is almost implemented in the whole Rift Valley Lakes to coast. He also mentioned that Lake Turkana has a huge fish resource potential which could have key contribution for food security, job creation for the youth and for livelihood diversification.

4. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN LAKE TURKANA

This presentation was made By Robert Kibunja, County Director of Fisheries Turkana county. As an introduction he characterized the fisheries in Lake Turkana as follows:

- It is the world's largest permanent desert lake & world's largest alkaline lake
- Home to over 48 fish species including 12 endemic
- Over 12 species are exploited for subsistence & commercial purposes
- Nile tilapia, Nile perch and Catfish constitute over 70% of the total catch
- Over 12% of the Turkana Population depend directly on fisheries

- Epicenter of fisheries activities is an emerging town of Kalokol

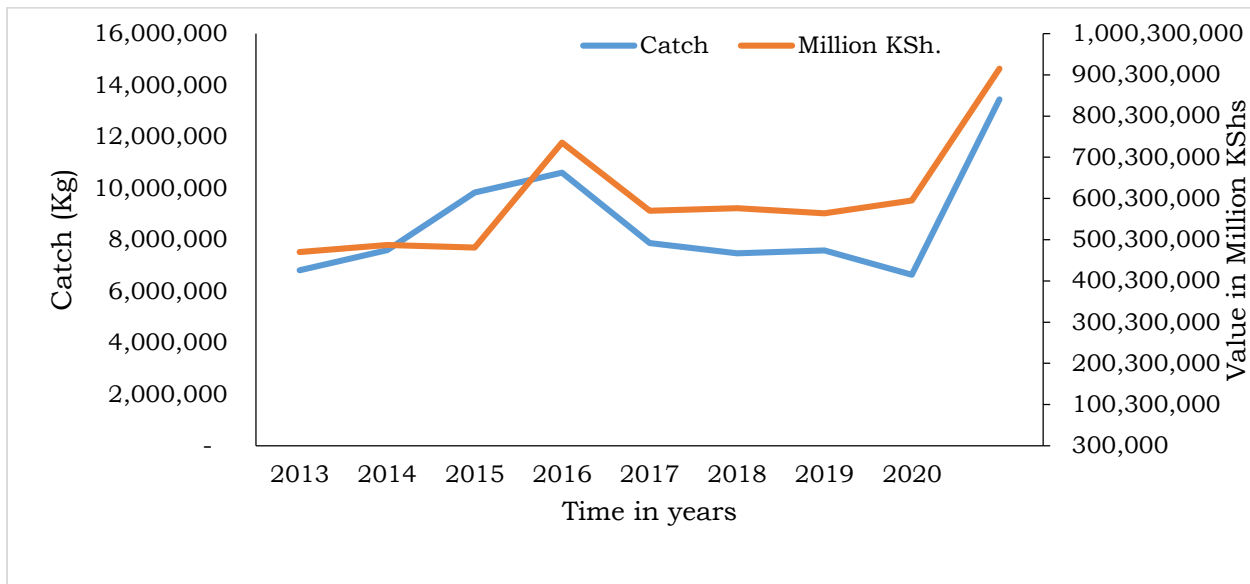
He also stated the current fishing effort as follows:

- Over 2000 fishing and transport boats and over 1000 rafts
- Multifilament net is commonly used though there's an increase in use of prohibited monofilament nets
- There are over 5000 active fishermen and raft users
- Most fishing activities happen at the Fergusson gulf

The current fisheries management system according to Robert's explanations are:

- County Government of Turkana plays a lead role in the management
- Other agencies include; KeFS and KCGS
- TCG has a Directorate of Fisheries, HQ in Lodwar with 8 satellite stations along the western shores of the lake
- The directorate has 23 technical staff most of whom are stationed at the lake
- The fishery is co-managed by the community and the government through the BMUs
- 28 BMUs along the western shores

Production:



Fish handling in Lake Turkana:

- High post-harvest losses estimated to be above 35%
- Inadequate preservation facilities i.e. cold chain systems
- Less than 2.5T of ice produced locally hence can't meet the demand
- Most preservation done by sun drying, smoking, deep frying and salting
- Poor infrastructure e.g. inaccessible roads, lack of power supply, lack of clean water supply etc. contributes majorly to high PHLs

Challenges:

- Undersize fishing and destructive fishing methods
- High Post-harvest losses
- KWS/Fishermen conflicts on fishing areas

- Resource use conflicts in the trans-boundary Omo River delta.
- Inadequate BMU capacity to co-manage the fishery
- Poor catch and effort data collection
- No frame survey ever done in this lake

Prospects:

- Construction of A1 Kitale-Juba road and the Lodwar-Kalokol road has contributed to re-emergence of fresh fish market
- Off-grid power production in Long'ech, Eliye Springs, Kataboi, Lomekwi and Lowareng'ak
- Availability of labour to work in the fisheries sector
- Coming up of cottage industry i.e. boat making in Kalokol and Lowareng'ak
- High number of development partners willing to support the fisheries sector

5. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF BEACH MANAGEMENT UNITs (BMUs) IN LAKE TURKANA

This presentation was made by the BMU chairman of Turkana County. His presentation points are narrated below.

BMUs:

- Are legally registered community organization through fisheries department. They are almost (30) in Number Across western part of Lake Turkana.
- Mainly involved in management and utilization of fisheries resources
- Community involvement in management of fisheries resources was conceptualized and legalized through enactment of BMU regulations and Act of Parliament 2007.
- The need to involve the community in management of BMUs arose following grave destruction of fisheries resources due to mass retrenchment of civil servants in 1992

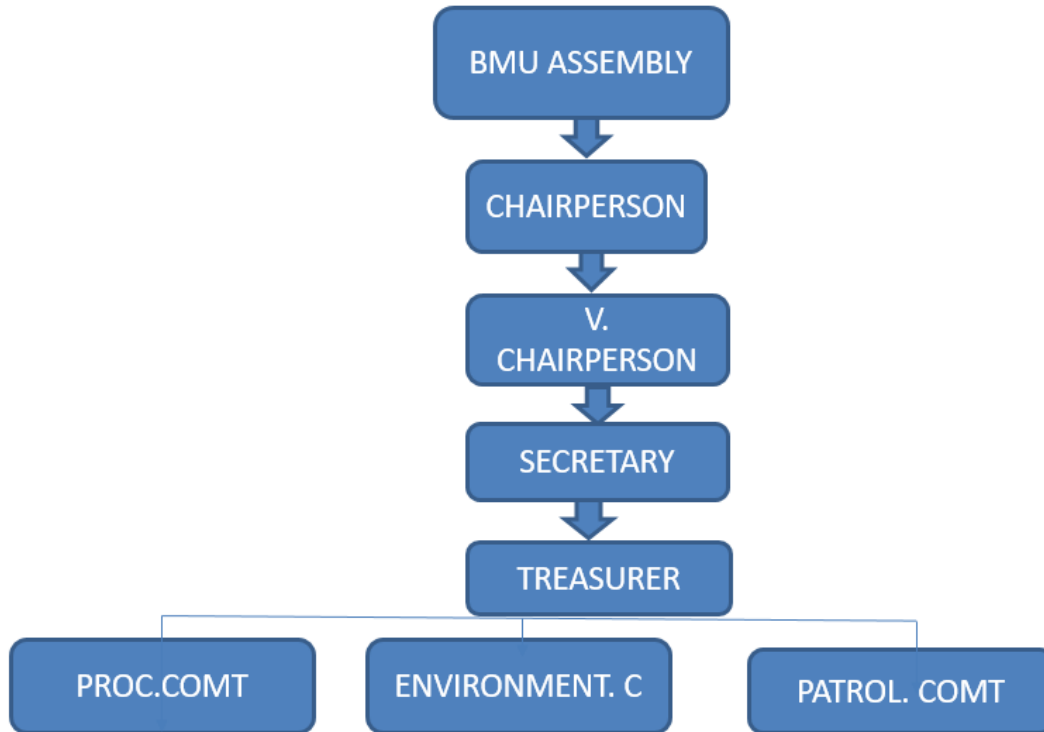
Roles of BMUs:

- Control of IUU {illegal, unregulated and unreported activities
- Fisheries statistical data collection and submission to fisheries office
- Development of beach bands along their fish landing sites for fish handling
- Capacity building of their members on fisheries co-management, fish handling practises and value addition techniques
- Marketing of fish on behalf of their members

BMU Management:

- General assembly is the supreme decision making organ in BMU
- BMUs are on daily basis managed by an elected executive committee
- Executive committee is composed of a minimum 9 members and maximum of 15 members according to respective BMU by-laws
- For effective service delivery, executive committee members re-elect themselves to various sub-committees as per respective BMU by-laws

BMU MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE



BMU finance and funding:

- BMUs are allowed by BMU regulations to levy various fees to finance their activities
- Such fees involve membership fee, landing fee
- BMUs also receive grants from various NGOs and Government Sector.

BMU Boundaries:

- BMU boundaries are mostly arrived based on provincial administration boundaries.
- Each BMU should have main landing site and at least three minor landing sites

Challenges:

- Security- lake piracy especially within OMO delta
- Lake accidents- more often erratic lake turbulence causes vessels capsize resulting to loss of life and property
- Fishing gears- lack of adequate fishing gears mostly witnessed hence underproduction
- Fish handling facilities- high postharvest losses experienced due to lack of such facilities

- Fish handling practises- poor handling practises currently results to production of poor fish products
- Security- lake piracy especially within OMO delta
- Lake accidents- more often erratic lake turbulence causes vessels capsizes resulting to loss of life and property
- Fishing gears- lack of adequate fishing gears mostly witnessed hence underproduction
- Fish handling facilities- high postharvest losses experienced due to lack of such facilities
- Fish handling practices- poor handling practices currently results to production of poor fish products

Recommendations:

- Capacity building- fish mongers should be capacitated on appropriate fish handling practices
- Fish handling facilities- such facilities should be availed at each landing site so as to reduced high postharvest losses
- Credit facilities - to enable fishermen acquire fishing gears, they should be provided with cheap credit facilities
- Artisans training- more artisans should be trained on vessels building and outboard engines repairs
- Security- adequate security and peace building should be heightening to eliminate lake piracy
- Life skills training- all fishermen should be trained on LIFE SKILLS course
- Rescue unit- reliable rescue unit should be established at each BMU

6. BAS RB FISHERIES CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN

Dr. Wassie Anteneh, Regional Fisheries Management Expert (IGAD), made presentations on the integrated fisheries management plan (IFMP) document prepared for BAS River Basins. The presentations for the IFMP document focused on the following outlines and detailed interactive discussions made in each points below

- Approach for Development of IFMP
- Background information
 - o Why and nature of IGAD involvement
 - o Status of ecosystem and its fishery
- Existing fisheries policy and legal frameworks
- Fisheries Management Interventions
- Key lessons that informed the development BAS River Basin IFMP
- Development of shared data bases
- Management Actions
- IFMP implementation framework
- Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- Conclusions, Recommendations and Opportunities

7. GROUP DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION

There were two groups. Both groups were discussing on the challenges of BMUs and possible interventions in line with fisheries co-management system. The summaries of the group discussions are stated below.

GROUP 1 DISCUSSIONS

MEMBERS

1. Mr. Samuel Amuroi-secretary
2. Sarah Atiir
3. Lotulia Daniel Esinyen
4. Emuron Stephen Namuya
5. Nancy Losinyono
6. Rodah Kuya
7. Sharon Ekamais
8. Alfred Kole

S/NO	Challenges	Intervention
1.	<p><u>Lack of Capacity Building</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ inadequate human and institutional capacities to fully exploit the potential of the fisheries resources ✓ Lack of Capacity building on role of co-management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on co-management units with all stakeholders • Capacity building of BMU Assembly and BMU members on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fisheries co-management ➤ Fish handling practices and value addition techniques ➤ Artisans training is critical. They should be trained on vessels building and outboard engines repairs
2	<p><u>Inadequate Fisheries Infrastructure</u></p> <p>Cold storage facilities, landing sites, Poor road infrastructure or market access roads resulting to high post-harvest losses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improving fisheries infrastructure such as cold storage facilities, landing sites

<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Poor Fish Handling Process</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Inadequate knowledge on fish handling process resulting to high post-harvest losses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Capacity building of their members on fish handling practises and value addition techniques ➤ Construction of Fish handling facility ➤ Construction of fish rags and provision of cold storage ➤ Training on fish handling process to minimize post-harvest losses ➤ Fish handling facilities to be designated at fish major landing sites to reduced minimize post-harvest losses
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Insecurity issues around Lake shores</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Security along the fish landing sites and around lake shores poses a great threat to fisher folks community ✓ Stealing of fishing gears and nets 	<p>Beefing up security with law enforcement agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ -KMA, ➤ Police ➤ Coast Guards
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Lack of rescue boat and Lake accidents</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lack of rescue boat unit for BMUs to offer rescue services in case of emergencies ✓ Frequent accidents due to erratic lake turbulence causes vessels capsize resulting to loss of life and property 	<p>-Provision of rescue boats to offer rescue services in case of accidents and emergencies both in Turkana and Marsabit</p> <p>-County government to offers Rescue boats both in Turkana and Marsabit</p> <p>- Training on Life skills Course is critical to all fisher folk community in case of accidents and emergencies in the lake</p>
<p>6</p>	<p><u>Illegal fishing gears and methods</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Use of destructive illegal fishing gears and methods and undersize fishing nets ✓ Overfishing and use of destructive fishing methods resulting to Poor catch 	<p>Use of right fishing gears and BMUs to intensify their patrols along the beaches</p> <p>On Poor Catch-Strengthen on new fishing methods</p>

		<p>NB- fisher folk to have knowledge on illegal fishing gears</p> <p>BMUs to strengthen on its by-laws on illegal fishing gears</p>
7	<p><u>Conflicts along the Shores:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Conflicts on resource use-eg KWS/ Fishermen ✓ Transboundary conflicts-eg. Todonyang and Lowarengak ✓ Conflict of interest among the BMUs and various stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Building up resolution mechanisms through BMUs and other stakeholders ➤ Transboundary Conflict-Peace meeting with neighbors
8	<p><u>Lack of credit facilities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To purchase right fishing gears- There is low investment in this sector due to perceived risk of investing in both fisheries. ✓ This is exacerbated by cash economy where fisher folks have a poor saving culture coupled with limited re-investment along the fish value chain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provision of grants from NGOs, Well Wishers, County governments and National government
9	<p><u>Breeding areas and critical Habitats</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Destruction of fishing breeding areas/Nurseries areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identification and demarcation of fishing breeding areas or grounds ➤ Protection of critical fish habitats. ➤ Key involvement of all stakeholders in management of fisheries resources and protection of critical fish habitats

LAKE TURKANA BEACH MANAGEMENT UNIT CHALLENGES AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

GROUP 2 MEMBERS

1. NabwelCharles - SECRETARY
2. Stephen Ekuwom - CHAIRPERSON
3. Paulo Erot Lokaala
4. Emmanuel Lokol
5. Simon Tata
6. Edapal Erika
7. Akiru Ewoton
8. Mary Asirite
9. Peter Amonia
10. Pamela Elibit

CHALLENGES		INTERVENTION STRATEGIES
1	Capacity building and life skills training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The BMUs are in need of capacity building on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach management, good governance and group dynamics • Financial management and resource mobilization • Data collection and provision with necessary tool for data collection. • Environmental management
2	Lack of proper fish handling facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Construction of modern fish handling facilities along all landing sites with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ice making plant • Cold/chiller units for preservation of fresh fish • Storage space for storing dried fish • Enough water • Enough power
3.	Lack of enough fiber glass fishing boats with safety equipment's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provision of modern fiber glass boats with modern equipment's that will necessitate deep sea fishing hence good production. ➤ Training of coxswain at least 10 BMU members in every beach
4	Lack of credit facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strengthen beach management units network: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMUs to fund BMU network to mobilize and fund raise more resources on their behalf.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMU Network to partner with local financial institutions so as to provide credit facilities to fishermen •
5	Lack of rescue units in the beaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reliable rescue unit should establish at every beach ➤ Purchase a rescue boat with all required equipment that will be stationed in every beach for easy response to lake accidents. ➤ Train the coxswain on safety and boat management training
6	Inadequate infrastructure along the beaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lobby with national and county government to improve road network along all the beaches. ➤ Lobby with member of parliament and county assembly members during budget public participation to include improvement of beach access roads in the budget in every FY
7	Insecurity along the border with Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Avoiding paying revenue. ➤ Kenya coast guard to cooperate with BMU along the border. ➤ Sensitization of BMUs on peaceful co-existence.
8	Market linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Facilitating link between fisher folk and traders at national and international markets ➤
9	Lack of Beach offices after displacement by the rising lake water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Construction of BMU offices along the beaches to assist the BMU executive committee to efficiently and effectively run daily activities.

8. ACTION PLANS (WAYFORWARD) SUGGESTED BY BOTH GROUPS

ACTIVITIES	Target	Actors	Activities for co-piloting	Timelines
Training of TOTs	County & National technical officers	Officers- KCGS,coop, trade,KFS,kws, Kmfri, Turkana university,KMA, County fisheries,,Water,public health,environment		
Sensitization	County Leadership	GVN,CECM,CCOs		
	Political Leadership	Committee on Agriculture,Riapian MCAs		
	County & National Administarion	SCA,Ward Admins,ACCs		
	CBOs,NGOs,			
	BMU leadership	Executive committee		
	BMU assembly	Bmu members		
	Judiciary	Prosecutors, magistrates		
	Security	, police		
Establish 2 county coordination units with budgets	Turkana and Marsabit i.e County director fisheries to be County coordinator Turkana and County Coordinator Marsabit repectively	County Directors of fisheries		

9. ANNEX

Workshop on Establishment of Fisheries Co-Management Units and Building Capacities of Lake Turkana Fishing Communities to manage the shared fish resources

March 11 – 12, 2022 Lodwar, Kenya

Agenda

Date/Time	Time	Activity	Responsibility
Day 1: March 11, 2022	9:00	Registration of Participants	IGAD
	9:05	Welcoming Remark	Dr. Wassie (IGAD)
	9:10	Opening Remark	County Commissioner, Turkana County, Kenya
	9:20	Introduction of participants	IGAD
	9:30	Workshop Objective	IGAD
	10:00	Brief overview of Fisheries Management in Kenya	Mr. Rodrick Kundu, Director, State Dep of Fisheries and Aquaculture - Kenya
	10:30	Health Break and Group Photo	
	10:50	Brief overview of Fisheries Management in Lake Turkana (Turkana County)	Fisheries County Director, Turkana County
	11:10	Brief Overview of the BMUs in Lake Turkana (Turkana County)	BMU Delegate
	11:40	Overview of the Lake Turkana Fisheries Co-Management Plan	Dr. Wassie
	12:40	Discussion	Chair
	13:30	Lunch Break	
	14:30	Group discussion: Group1: Prepare draft action plan for Unit Group2: Prepare draft guideline for the Unit	Chair
	4:00	Health Break	
	5:30	Group Discussion (Cont'd)	
Day 2: March 12, 2022	8:30	Group discussion (Cont'd)	
	10:00	Group Presentation and discussion	IGAD
	11:00	Health Break	
	13:30	Way forward and Recap	
	13:30	Lunch Break	
	14:00	End of the Session	



Enhancing equitable economic growth
by promoting sustainable fisheries in the EA-SA-IO region



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION