

EAC Headquarters, Arusha, Friday 25 July 2008: The Secretary General of the East African Community, Ambassador Juma Mwapachu held a meeting with the newly appointed Executive Secretary of the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO), Mr Dick Nyeko in Arusha on 24 July 2008.

The Secretary General was accompanied during the meeting at the EAC Headquarters by the Deputy Secretary General of the EAC, Dr Julius Rotich and the Executive Director of the East African Community Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA) Mr Mtesigwa Maugo. Mr Nyeko was accompanied during the mission to EAC by the Deputy Executive Secretary of the LVFO Mr Mathias Wanyama Wafula.

The discussions centred on the progress of the LVFO Strategic Plan (1999-2015) in particular the Fisheries Management Plan for sustainable fisheries on the Lake Victoria. They also discussed institutional matters related to streamlining of linkages between the LVFO and the Secretariats of other EAC institutions such as the Lake Victoria Basin Commission that have complementary roles.

Mr Nyeko said that a lot of environmental changes were taking place affecting fisheries stock on the lake. He said that, in particular, the Nile Perch stocks were threatened. Noting that the Nile perch was the major traded commodity internationally, he said its decline presented a special concern for livelihoods of millions around the lake.

Mr. Nyeko said the Lake Victoria Fisheries Conference is planned to be held in Entebbe, Uganda in October this year to review the situation of fisheries in Lake Victoria as well as focusing on poverty alleviation among the majority of the populations living around the Lake.

The conference is expected to bring together over 700 participants representing both State and non State actors, Parliamentarians, local government, Beach Management Unit , Non governmental organizations and community based organizations leaders, regional institutions and international collaborators.

On the institutional matters, the Secretary General of the East African Community, Ambassador Juma Mwapachu said the current Convention establishing the LVFO would be reviewed to bring the LVFO under a Community law that would structure it into a legal and regulatory framework that fits the EAC Treaty. The Secretary General said that steps were also being taken to formalize the full membership of Rwanda and Burundi in the LVFO.

Directorate of Corporate Communications and Public Affairs
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