

LAKE VITORIA FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

First Session

Kampala, 19 December 1996

REPORT OF FIRST SESSION

1. The First Session of the Council of Ministers of the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation, convened by the Director General of FAO, was held in Kampala on 19 December 1996. Kenya and Uganda were represented by Hon. Darius M. Mbela, Minister of Tourism and Wildlife and Hon. Lawrence Kezimbira-Miyingo, Minister of State for Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries respectively. The United Republic of Tanzania was represented by Ms Rose Lugembe, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism. The list of all participants to the Session comprising, the delegations of the three countries concerned, representatives of FAO as well as observers of countries, intergovernmental organisations and other entities invited to attend as observers is given in Annex 1

List of documents

2. The list of documents of the Session (document LVFO/CM.1/2) is attached as Annex 2.

Opening of the Session

3. The Session was opened by the Guest of Honour, H.E. Dr. Specioza Wandira Kazibwe the Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries. Mr. N.A.L. Lexander, FAO Representative in Uganda, who chaired the session until the Chairman was elected, delivered a speech, on behalf of the Director General of FAO. In his speech, he emphasised the importance of regional collaboration in the management of the fisheries of Lake Victoria and the urgent need of the International Donors Community in assisting the three countries to save the Lake from further environmental deterioration and depletion of fish.

The Vice President of the Republic of Uganda and Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries H.E. Dr. Specioza Wandira Kazibwe on behalf of the Host Government, Uganda, addressed the Session. The Vice President welcomed the Honourable Ministers and delegates from the sister states as well as, FAO, and the International Organisations who have assisted the three countries in solving the fisheries management problems. H.E. emphasised the importance of the lake as a source of protein and food security. In addition, the Vice President stressed the following:

- the importance of Lake Victoria which produces over 500 000 tons of fish for the population of the three countries.
- Lake Victoria as a corridor for transport between the states.

- this regional asset being threatened by the changing environment.
- the inflows into Lake Victoria impacting on the lake itself and requiring consultation with the neighbouring states.
- the need for sustainable methods of harvesting of fish
- the need to improve the rural income of the poor people
- reduction of the post-harvest loss
- need for harmonising fisheries legislation and regulations
- establishment of pollution guidelines for industrial and domestic sources
- education of the fisherfolk
- encouragement of fish farming to reduce pressure on fish stocks in the lakes, and
- establishment of a gene bank for the fauna and flora of the lake.

The speech of the Vice President is attached as Annex 3.

4. The First Session adopted the agenda and timetable shown in Annex 4.

Adoption of the Rules of Procedure of the Council of Ministers

5. The Council adopted the Rules of Procedure attached as Annex 5.

Election of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

6. In accordance with Article V.3 of the Convention and Rule IV.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council of Ministers, Uganda was elected as Chairman of the Council of Ministers to serve for a two-year term until the Second Regular Session starts. Hon. Lawrence Kezimbira-Miyingo, Minister of State for Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries in Uganda took the Chair. The Council of Ministers elected Tanzania as Vice Chairman; Ms Rose Lugembe,

Principal Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism of Tanzania took the Chair.

Approval of the Organisation's Programme of Work and Budget.

7. The Council of Ministers adopted the Programme of Work and Budget as Annex 6 covering the two coming years from First January 1997. The equal contributions to be paid by each of the three countries, in accordance with Article XIV.1 of the Convention is US dollars 70,000= for each year of the biennium. The contributions for the year 1997 should be paid by 31 March 1997.

Decisions regarding the Organisation's Financial Regulations and appointment of the External Auditor.

8. The Council of Ministers adopted the provisional Financial Regulations to be attached as Annex 7. In accordance with Rule XII.1 of the Financial Regulations the Auditor General of Uganda was appointed as External Auditor of the LVFO on a permanent basis.

Decisions regarding the General Standards and Guidelines for the Management of the Organisation.

9. The Council of Ministers adopted the General Standards and Guidelines attached as Annex 8.

Decision regarding the Organisation's Staff Regulations

10. The Council of Ministers adopted the Draft Provisional Staff Regulations with amendments in Rules 51 and 52. The Provisional Staff Regulations are attached as Annex 9.

Adoption of Management and Conservation Measures

11. The Council of Ministers adopted with minor changes the first management and Conservation measures proposed. The list of the measures is attached as Annex 10. In accordance with Article XII.1 of the Convention, the Member States of LVFO will take all necessary measures, including legislative measures when appropriate, in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures and national laws, to implement these measures. On the control of water hyacinth the Council of Ministers adopted the recommendation made in Nairobi for the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project which is an integrated approach involving manual, mechanical, biological and chemical methods. With respect to chemical control, there should be limited application in restricted areas for short periods. It was however, agreed that any information on control activities should be circulated to all member countries.

Adoption of the Rules governing the appointment of the Executive Secretary and of the Deputy Executive Secretary of LVFO

12. The Rules attached as Annex 11 were adopted.

Appointment of the Executive Secretary and the Deputy Executive Secretary of LVFO

13. Dr. M.J. Ntiba of Kenya was appointed as Executive Secretary. The Council of Ministers decided that the post of Deputy Executive Secretary should be occupied by a national of Tanzania. In the absence of nomination from this country for this post, it was decided that the Government of Tanzania should propose nominations to the Executive Committee in the next few weeks. The Permanent/Principal Secretaries will exchange notes and advise the Council of Ministers on the nomination, after which the Ministers will exchange notes and confirm the appointment.
14. The Council of Ministers noted that the Principal/Permanent Secretaries of the Ministries responsible for Fisheries should be more closely associated with the work of LVFO. It was proposed that the Convention establishing LVFO be amended, in accordance with its Article XX, to provide that the Principal/Permanent Secretaries constitute a policy steering committee which would be above the Executive Committee. In addition it was proposed that the Heads of the National Secretariat of LVEMP, be members of the Executive Committee as ex-officio.

Date and place of the next regular Session.

15. The Second Regular Session of the Council of Ministers will be held in Kenya in November, 1998 at a Venue to be communicated by the Government of Kenya.
16. The report adopted by the council of Ministers is duly signed by the following Ministers:

for Kenya

Hon. Darius M. Mbela, EGH, MP.,
Minister of Tourism and Wildlife.

for Tanzania

for: Hon. Dr. Juma Ngasongwa, MP.,
Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism.

for Uganda

Hon. Dr. Lawrence Kezimbira-Miyingo, MP.
Minister of State for Agriculture, Animal Industry and
Fisheries.