



**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**  
LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES ORGANIZATION  
SECRETARIAT



**REPORT OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF LVFO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

**NORFOLK HOTEL, NAIROBI KENYA**

**29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016**

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**29 JANUARY 2016**

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

BMU	Beach Management Unit
CAS	Catch Assessment Survey (fisheries)
CoM	Council of Ministers (LVFO)
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CPUE	Catch Per Unit Effort
DBN	District BMU Network
EAC	East African Community
EAFish	East African Fisheries database
EAIFFPA	East African Industrial Fishing and Fish Processing Association
EC	Executive Committee (LVFO)
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMC	Fisheries Management Committee (LVFO)
FMP2	Lake Victoria Fisheries Management Plan 2009-2014
FS	Frame Survey (Fisheries census)
IFMP	Implementation of a Fisheries Management Plan
LVEMP	Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project
LVFO	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
NBN	National BMU Network
NPFMP	Nile Perch Fisheries Management Plan
NGO	Non-Government Organizations
NWG	National Working Group
OPSN	Operation Save Nile Perch
RBN	Regional BMU Network
RPOA-Capacity	Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity on Lake Victoria
RPOA-IUU	Regional Plan of Action for Reducing Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing on Lake Victoria and its Basin
RWG	Regional Working Group
SA	Stock Assessment (RWG)
SC	Scientific Committee (LVFO)



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**REPORT OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF LVFO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
NORFOLK HOTEL, NAIROBI, KENYA  
29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the LVFO Council of Ministers was held at Norfolk Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The Meeting was attended by the members of the LVFO Council of Ministers, Policy Steering Committee and Executive Committee; and the Executive and Deputy Executive Secretary of LVFO; representative of Secretary General - EAC Secretariat and the Counsel to the Community, Regional BMU Network (RBN) Chairman; Representative of Fish Processors Association; the LVFO Country Focal Officers and other LVFO Secretariat staff attended as organizing team. The list of participants is attached (**Annex I**)

The Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Tanzania, took over as the Chairperson and the Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Uganda as the Vice-Chairperson of the LVFO Council of Ministers.

The 9th Regular Session of the LVFO Council of Ministers (CoM) considered among other things recommendations from 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the LVFO Policy Steering Committee.

## **1. OPENING SESSION**

### **1.1 Adoption of Agenda and Program**

The agenda and program for the meeting was adopted as attached (**Annex II**)

### **1.2 Welcoming Remarks by the Republic of Kenya (Host)**

The Chairperson LVFO Council of Ministers and Cabinet Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Kenya, Hon. Willy Bett, welcomed everybody to the meeting. He thanked the Govt of the Republic of Tanzania and Uganda for attending the meeting bearing in mind the importance of the fishing sector.

### **1.3 Remarks by the Republic of Uganda**

The State Minister to the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Uganda, Prof. Nyiira Zerubabel Mijumbi, thanked Hon. Willy Bett for the warm welcome in Kenya and Nairobi. He congratulated Hon. Mr. William Ole Nasha upon his appointment to office of Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, United Republic of Tanzania. He stated that like Tanzania which had just concluded her National Elections, Uganda will also be holding her National elections for Presidential, Parliamentary and other lower institutions down to the grassroots and hence requested for prayers in ensuring a successful electoral process.

He thanked LVFO secretariat for the continued organisation of such important meetings including the recent Special CoM meeting held in 2015 in Jinja, Uganda. He stated that Uganda, as a partner state, will continue to support the LVFO by ensuring that the mandatory country contributions and the "Operation Save Nile Perch" are paid considering the need for the Secretariat to meet its operational costs and support Fisheries Resource Monitoring, Monitoring Control and Surveillance and development of Aquaculture strategies. He appreciated the support from the

development partners who are supporting small scale commercial farmers in Uganda. He however stated that more financing is needed if the illegalities are to be reduced and move the fishermen out of poverty.

He stated that Uganda had developed a National Agriculture Policy (NAP) and an Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan (ASSP) with fish as one of the priority commodities. He stated that while

Uganda has not moved fast on the process of establishing and operationalising the Fish Levy Trust Fund (FLTF), which Council approved in 1999, to provide for sustainable funding of LVFO institutions and programs, they shall build on the current fish levy being collected on all exported fish and fishery products that started in FY 2013/14.

He informed members that Uganda is still committed to fighting illegalities and is currently undertaking reforms in the fisheries sector to operationalise a Fisheries Enforcement Task Force composed of the Agriculture Police, Uganda Revenue Authority, Uganda Fish Processors and Exporters Association (UFPEA), District Local Governments (DLGs), the Judiciary, representative from fish BMUs/Landing Site Committees, and any other linked government department/agency.

He stated that Uganda has increased efforts to reduce fishing pressure through limiting entry by instituting a more stringent licensing exercise with the introduction of Fishing Vessel Identification Plates (FVIP) and will also institute mobile licensing for all fishing activities along the value chain in the hard to reach areas like the islands.

He stated that Aquaculture management and development is key in wealth creation, and Uganda is promoting commercial aquaculture interventions to ensure increased production and productivity, value addition and market access of aquaculture products. He stated that this is expected to increase household incomes by promoting aquaculture and as Partner States there is need to support such initiatives and relieve the lake capture fisheries.

He concluded by thanking all stakeholders in the management and Development of the fisheries of the Lake Victoria. He also thanked the LVFO organs for implementing the Council directives and management measures, and the Secretariat for coordinating the programs and activities of the Organization.

#### **1.4 Remarks by EAC Representative**

The representative of the Secretary General, Mr. Michel Ndayikengurukiye, Principal Legal Officer, East Africa Community, conveyed apologies from the Secretary General for not being able to attend the CoM meeting. He noted that LVFO is one of the institutions which existed during the first EAC and is still a very important Institution. He however noted that LVFO is not fully mainstreamed in EAC. He stressed the need to expedite the process of amending the LVFO Convention, to fully mainstream the organization to EAC and hence enable it to benefit from EAC wider development partnership.

He wished the meeting fruitful deliberations.



### 1.5 Remarks by the Executive Secretary, LVFO

The Executive Secretary, LVFO, Mr. Godfrey V. Monor, on behalf of LVFO, welcomed everybody to the CoM meeting and expressed his gratitude to everybody for finding time to attend the meeting. He thanked the host country, Kenya, for the warm welcome and stated that he believed that with the collaborated efforts the challenges faced in the Lake will be resolved. He assured the members that the fisheries sector is the way to go and that the Institution is in the process of mainstreaming to the African Union framework.

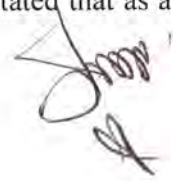
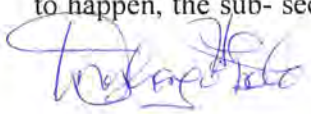
### 1.6 Statement of the Out-going Chairperson

The outgoing Chairperson, LVFO CoM, Hon. Willy Bett welcomed everybody to the meeting in Kenya and especially Nairobi. He congratulated United Republic of Tanzania for peaceful elections. He stated that he wished Uganda unity and success in the forthcoming election considering that Peace and stability is key for the development of the region and wealth creation. He stated that peace and stability is key for economic stability. The outgoing chair stated that this was his first meeting to attend since his appointment as the Cabinet Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries but was not new to the challenges faced pertaining to the shared natural resources within the Lake Victoria Basin. He stated that LVFO has accomplished a lot towards the sustainable management and development of the fisheries and aquaculture in the region but more must efforts are needed to ensure the sustainability of this resource. He assured the members that the Government of Kenya has supported the fisheries sector as they move towards a "Blue Growth Economy". He stated that they have supported Aquaculture with very positive results and had witnessed many people make a livelihood from the activities.

The outgoing chair emphasized a few issues including the fact that there has been continued decline of the Nile Perch fish Stocks in the Lake from 60% in 1999 to 42% in 2014. He stated that since the sustainability of Lake Victoria fisheries has been, and still is a priority to all of the East Africans, there is need to ensure that there are sustainable funds for fisheries management. He reiterated that as Partner States, they should take the challenge now and make deliberate effort to ensure that the national budgets are adequately funded for proper management in the areas of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS), Resource Monitoring Surveys and strengthening of Beach Management Units (BMUs).

He also noted that the composition of Dagaa (omena) has increased from 20% in 1999 to 44% in 2014 and that this fish is highly popular as it is traded and fed on by people from far and wide in our countries. He stated that the onus is on them to find new innovative ways of sustainable utilization of the huge Dagaa resources to create wealth, employment as well as food and nutrition security through processing and product development.

The outgoing chair emphasized on the Aquaculture promotion and development and stated that The East African region has enormous opportunity for the promotion and development of aquaculture. He reminded the members that they are currently faced with a growing fish supply gap as natural fish catches decline whilst the population of our people grows. He stated that it is anticipated that aquaculture, like elsewhere in the world, will be able to assist in filling this gap. He however noted that for this to happen, the sub- sector must be rejuvenated and re-orientated. He stated that as a



Country, Kenya is committed to the development of aquaculture and has invested heavily in aquaculture infrastructure nationally, as an intervention for reducing the pressure on the Lake. He stated that Kenya continues to see the fruits of this intervention where aquaculture production has surpassed the Indian Ocean in National fish production. He stated that he was happy to note that aquaculture is also being embraced rapidly by other East African States and it was, therefore, his hope that the Regional Aquaculture Strategy, which was developed by EAC, will be implemented in the respective Countries.

The outgoing chair also pointed out the importance of the Promotion of Cage Culture and stated that the private sector is keen to invest in cage culture in the Lake. He stated that there's need to ensure that responsible cage culture is taking place and that it is important that as Governments they put in place proper harmonized standards and guidelines so that they do not compromise the health of the Lake environment and the fish which is already enjoying access to lucrative global markets. He stated that he has also been informed that the process of developing Regional draft guidelines is ongoing and emphasized that the process should be expedited due to the huge interest in cage fish farming. He stated that a sector without an enabling environment cannot pull together nor attract good investments and noted with satisfaction the progress being made towards ensuring that policies and other legal frameworks to guide the development of fisheries and aquaculture in the region are being put in place. He thanked the Secretary General of EAC Secretariat for the support towards the eventual achievement of these processes including the Strategic Plan (2016-2020) which focuses on Sustainable Fisheries for Wealth Creation and hoped that the development of both the Fisheries Management Plan III and the Nile Perch Fisheries Management Plan II, will not only accelerate but also foster the harmonized management of Lake Victoria as one ecosystem. The outgoing chair stated that he was informed that the LVFO Secretariat was also developing Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy for East African Community which will provide a framework for a harmonized approach to management and development of the sector. He therefore urged that the finalization of this policy should be given priority as it would promote coherence, coordination and intra-trade in fisheries and aquaculture. The outgoing chair appreciated the communities living around Lake Victoria since for many years, they have co-existed with various species of fauna and flora within the lake ecosystem. He however stated that new challenges have emerged that threaten that very ecosystem and that calls for the communities living around Lake Victoria to take charge and ensure sustainable management of the Lake resources. He encouraged various Beach Management Units (BMUs) to take the lead role in assisting in the management this important resource and stated that in order to ensure sustainable funding to support activities of critical importance, they needed to establish and also operationalize the Fish Levy Trust which will support the BMUs and stakeholders to effectively take part in resource sustainability. He urged the Partner States to expedite this process. He stated that the current global trend is working through synergies for efficient and effective use of resources and as such the Fisheries Management bodies are quickly aligning to the regional Economic Commissions in their regions. It is for this reason that LVFO as a fisheries body should also be aligned to the EAC, as soon as possible. He stated that he was aware of the Recommendation of the 8<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of LVFO Council that was held in 2013, that amendment of the Convention establishing LVFO be undertaken to enable the intended alignment. He stated that The Republic of Kenya, as Chair and on behalf of the Partner States, initiated the process as provided for in the Convention and that the amendments were communicated to the Member States in May, 2015 by the Director



General of FAO, who is the Depository of the convention. He hoped that they would conclude the process to bring both Rwanda and Burundi on board, amongst other recommendations. The outgoing chair stated that an organization requires reliable funding to discharge its functions and his colleagues are aware, the primary source for LVFO has been the contributions from the Partner States and sometimes this has delayed making LVFO constrained by inadequate resources for implementation of agreed fisheries and aquaculture management and development activities. I have noted that the LVFO has developed a draft resource mobilization strategy. This strategy needs our unrelenting support for it to succeed. He urged his colleagues to ensure that Partner States make full and timely contributions to LVFO and appreciated the Ministry of East African Community in Kenya for ensuring that they remit the contributions in time.

On behalf of the Government of Kenya, he assured the members of his commitment to the implementation of the Decisions of the Council of Ministers by deploying both human and financial resources to ensure the sustainability of the lake resource. He stated that in complying with the Decisions of the Council of Ministers, the State Department of Fisheries has developed the Fisheries Management and Development Bill, 2015 and the Bill is already adopted by the National Assembly and has gone through the second reading in the Senate.

He acknowledged the Development Partners and the Regional Organizations and Bodies that have supported the organization in various ways in the management of the fisheries resource over the years. He encouraged the Partner States to remain united, committed and focused on matters of fisheries and aquaculture management for the benefit of our present and future generations.

He concluded by thanking the colleagues for the support Kenya has received as the chair of the Council of Ministers and hoped that the incoming Chair from Tanzania, will continue to enjoy the same cooperation as they move forward.

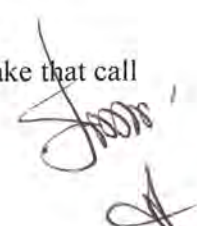
### **1.7 Statement of the In-coming Chairperson**

The incoming chair of LVFO CoM and the Deputy Minister to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Tanzania, Hon. William T. Ole Nasha (MP) thanked the Government of Kenya for hosting the meeting and for the warm welcome. He welcomed everyone to the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the CoM and thanked the outgoing chairperson for the peaceful passing over of the chair and the good work done over the last two years he served as the Chairperson.

He congratulated the outgoing LVFO Chairperson for initiating the meeting which was to deliberate on specific matters or pertinent issues regarding the sustainability of the fisheries resources of the Lake Victoria. He stated that he was looking forward to learn more since that was his first time to congregate with the fisheries experts.

The incoming chair stated that Fisheries and Aquaculture have an important role to play in building the national economies by increasing incomes, forex earnings to the countries, employment opportunities, food security and nutrition, as well as livelihood through rational utilization of the available fishery resources.

He stated that he has been informed of some of the challenges facing the lake that call





for joint and concerted efforts as well as commitment. Some of the challenges that he mentioned included the illegal fishing activities, over capacity in terms of number of fishers, fishing gears and fishing crafts, high fish post harvest losses, illegal fish and fishery products trade ,increased inputs of nutrients and contaminants discharged directly to the lake, Climate Change impact, destruction of critical habitats and the piracy and insecurity in the Lake .

He urged Partner states to take necessary actions considering the Lake Victoria ecosystem as a top priority due to its importance in food security, socio-economic and political contributions to the Partner States and beyond. He stated that the members have to acknowledge that the lake's endowed resources are their national heritages and also serve the international communities through trade.

The incoming chair stated that the lake resources need to be governed by science and hence, the research Institutions are required to come up with science based management policy briefs to rescue the lake situation. The incoming chair stated that in order to achieve such obligations, the United Republic of Tanzania is committed towards honouring the annual contributions in support of the Organization and its activities.

He stated that Aquaculture development in the region is important as it is an alternative source of livelihood for the ever increasing population and is also a source of employment, incomes and food security. He stated that Aquaculture can assist to reduce fishing pressure in the lake and in order to meet the ever increasing demand for fish, there is need for embracing efficient technologies in aquaculture of which Cage culture is one. He however stated that there is need to be focused and allow Cage Culture investments that will not cause degradation of environment and bring conflicts with other users of the lake.

He requested the members to take very seriously the responsibility entrusted to them to ensure that fisheries resources of the Lake Victoria are sustainably managed for the benefit of the people in the riparian countries. He also emphasized the need to fasten development or finalization of the EAC Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy to promote aquaculture as this will help to reduce over dependency on the capture fisheries.

He appealed to all the Partner States and the LVFO CoM to remain united, committed and focused on matters of fisheries management of Lake Victoria.

He wished the members fruitful deliberations.



## 2. Status of the Amendment of LVFO Convention to Integrate the Republic of Burundi and the Republic of Rwanda

Following the directive by the 8th Session of the LVFO Council of Ministers held on 13th November 2013, Arusha Tanzania (LVFO/CoM13/RS8/D6.2I) and as provided under *Article XXI* of that Convention, the EC presented the proposed amendments as were communicated by the Depository of the Convention, the Director General, FAO, Rome to the Contracting Parties on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

The CoM deliberated and underscored the urgent need to ensure that the Republic of Burundi and the Republic of Rwanda are incorporated into LVFO. The scope should expand to cover fisheries, aquaculture, trade and statistics.

The need for instruments and any other requirements for the new institutional structures will take place progressively using the existing rules and procedures of the EAC.

The amended Convention is presented as *Annex III*.

**Action: The CoM considered and approved the amendments to the Convention.**

## 3. Status of Fishing Capacity and Control of Effort in Lake Victoria

The previous LVFO Council directed the Partner States to control fishing effort, remove illegalities and also approved minimum gear sizes to allow the stocks to rebuild and ensure the fisheries and the related benefits are sustainable. There has been continuous assessment of the status of the fishing capacity and effort through Regional Frame Surveys on biennial basis from 2002. The regional Frame Survey Report for 2014 show that fishing capacity has increased above the reference point of FS 2006. Research Institutions were directed to provide guidance on effort limits to guide species specific licensing

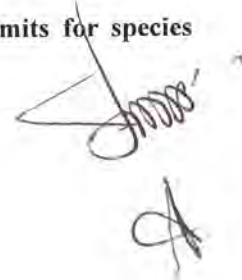
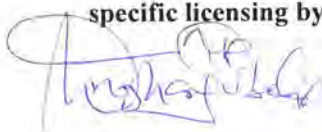
The CoM also noted that although the Lake Victoria fisheries continue to contribute significantly to the regional economy generating USD 840 million at beach level in 2014; the fishing communities still have inadequate facilities and services.

The CoM noted the main challenges include:

- i. The weak linkages between National and Devolved/Decentralized Governments and agencies involved in licensing and Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) in all the Partner States leading to dysfunctional MCS structure.
- ii. Lack of adequate scientific information on the gear selectivity for Dagaa and impact of the triple paneled gill-nets for enforcement of regulations;
- iii. Political interference
- iv. Low funding for MCS activities at both levels of governance and low penalties
- v. Lack of harmonization of access to fishing in the Partner States.

**Action: The CoM:**

- I. Noted the status of fishing effort as per the Frame Survey 2014 Report;
- II. Urged Research Institutions to provide guidelines on effort limits for species specific licensing by June 2016;



- III. Urged Partner States to centralize licensing in order to control entry to fishing and target the investors and crew and ensure licensing is completed by March of each year;
- IV. Urged Partner States to conduct socio-economic studies to calculate the true value of fisheries in the economies of the EAC;
- V. Directed the LVFO Secretariat to coordinate development of harmonized guidelines for Species Specific licensing;
- VI. Urged BMUs and Local/County Governments to put appropriate markings for the 2 km distance from the shoreline for Dagaa fishery; and
- VII. Urged Partner States to implement the LVFO Strategy on HIV/AIDS

**4. Status of Fish Stocks and Provision of Scientific Information to guide Management of the fisheries resources**

The CoM reviewed information on status of the fish stocks as generated from resource monitoring studies (hydro-acoustic, CAS, Frame survey; Trawl surveys) and generated a Stock Assessment Report (*Annex IV*). The following key issues were noted:

- a. An increase in the biomass of Nile perch though 94% were juveniles;
- b. An increase in the catches of Nile perch with 40% below recommended slot size of 50 cm. This may result in the collapse of the fishery if not checked.
- c. Increase of Dagaa biomass and catches though it still fetches low prices
- d. The total beach value of fish landed increased from 550,000,000 USD in 2011 to 840,887,252 USD in 2014.

The new developments to target Nile perch Swim Bladders require urgent monitoring and better understanding of the market since it is targeting fish above the recommended upper slot size. The CoM was informed that implementation of research activities was largely hindered by inadequate funding.

**Action: The CoM urged:**

- I. Partner States to intensify protection of juveniles through protection of breeding and nursery grounds and removal of illegalities including trade in immature fish;
- II. Research Institution to provide updated information on Dagaa selectivity, impacts on joint panel gill nets; hook sizes for protection of upper slot size;
- III. Partner States to enforce the 2006 Council Decision to limit fishing capacity by not to licensing new Nile perch fish processing factor and new entry in Nile perch fishery;
- IV. The Research Institutions to avail information on the relationship of fish size and fish swimming bladder and carry research on the product development of the swim bladders;
- V. Partner States to promote value addition, product development, better handling and packaging in dagaa fishery to increase returns.
- VI. Partner States to prioritize the Council Decisions in their annual work-plans and budgets; and
- VII. Research and Management Institutions to work with the LVFO

**Secretariat to mobilize funds to facilitate the implementation of the directives.**

## **5. Status of MCS, BMUs' Operations and Co-Management in Lake Victoria**

The CoM took note of the need to strengthen MCS to prevent catching and trading in juvenile fish to ensure sustainability of the fisheries for livelihoods and the contribution to the economies of the Partner States. They also noted that the BMUs had weakened over time and were not serving the original intended purpose due to political interests and inadequate facilitation. The CoM recommended review and strengthening of BMUs to make them more accountable. They also emphasized the need to have in place Directory of stakeholders along the fishery value-chain to allow for control of effort and address the open access.

**Action: The CoM:**

- I. Urged Partner States to establish a functional MCS inter-agency structure and support a single spine enforcement from the Center to BMU level with appropriate funding;**
- II. Directed the LVFO Secretariat to review the BMU regional guidelines; and**
- III. Urged Partner States to establish a Directory of fishers and all in the fishery value-chain.**

## **6. Operationalizing the Fish Levy Trust Funds (FLTFs)**

The 8th LVFO Regular Council of Ministers held in November 2013 requested Partner States to expedite the process to set up and operationalize the Fish Levy Trust Fund by June 2014 and LVFO Secretariat to coordinate the process.

Tanzania is forming Lake Victoria Fisheries Trust Fund (FLTF). The constitution for the FLTF has been developed and a body of Trustees of nine members has been established. The Trustees are taking the initiatives to register the Fund. Registration and submission of Cabinet Paper to Cabinet are in the process to get the approval for Government contribution to the Fund.

In Kenya, the Fish Levy Trust Fund (FLTF) is provided in the Fisheries Bill which has been approved by Parliament. They have updated the FLTF Business Plan and developed draft FLTF Regulations.

Uganda is collecting a Levy on fish exports as per the Finance Bill 2013 and it is remitted to the consolidated fund. Uganda is implementing a single Treasury Account and therefore cannot have a separate fisheries levy trust fund. Funds are transferred to the fisheries sector through the normal recurrent budgetary provisions.

**Action: The CoM:**

- I. Took note of the progress made by the Partner States on the operationalization of the FLTF; and**



- II. Urged Uganda to follow the method that would avail more funds to the sector.

## 7. Aquaculture Development in the three Partner States

Aquaculture production in the three Partner States has a high potential both for pond and cage culture to meet the fish deficit occasioned by declining catches from capture fisheries. However, the sector is faced with main challenge of lack of quality seeds and feeds, limited technical management capacity of farmers and inadequate extension services. In addition the region lacks adequate regulations, standards and guidelines for all aquaculture production systems and especially regional cage culture guidelines. Therefore, there is need for Partner States intervention through Private Public Partnership (PPP) arrangements.

### Actions

The CoM took note of the status of aquaculture development in the region and:

- I. Urged Partner States to have tax exemption on importation of aquaculture inputs and equipment including fish feed ingredients and feed producing equipment to support the local feed cottage industries;
- II. Urged Partner State to ensure production of quality seed through harmonization of certification of hatcheries;
- III. Directed the Secretariat to support development and harmonization of relevant guidelines, standards and manuals within 3 months; and
- IV. Urged Partner States to Support establishment of aquaculture infrastructure e.g. aquaculture parks.

## 8. Development of Policy and Technical Documents to guide operations of the Organization and management of the fisheries

### 8.1. LVFO Strategic Plan 2016-2020

The strategic Vision of LVFO (1999-2015) which guided the programs of the Organization embraced a healthy ecosystem approach. With support from EAC-Partnership Fund a new Strategic Plan to guide the programs of the Organization has been developed through stakeholders' participation. The New Strategic Plan focuses on "*A Competitive and Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Industry in the East African Community*" with a mission "*To promote Sustainable Management and Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the East African Community for Food Security and Wealth creation*". The Strategic Plan for the period 2016-2020, is expected to substantial increase the production to contribute to food security and economic growth in the region. The cost to implement of the Plan for the five years is estimated at **USD 117.79 million**. The final Draft is attached for approval (*Annex V*).

**Action: The CoM approved the LVFO Strategic Plan (2016-2020).**

### 8.2. Revised Lake Victoria Fisheries Management Plan III (2016-2020)

Lake Victoria had FMPI (2003-2008) and FMPII (2009-2014) which had limited implementation due to financial limitations. The lessons learnt from the two plans were used

during the review process to come up with the Lake Victoria Fisheries Management Plan III (FMP III). The Plan focuses to empower and support primary fisher and aqua producers to invest and own assets and enterprises.

The FMP III has the objectives to manage the fishery to increase export earnings, promote national and regional trade, contribute to increased per capita fish consumption, food security, improved livelihoods and well-being of communities as well as addressing other emerging issues in the Lake Victoria.

The strategies include: introduction of user rights; domestication of Fishing Craft Management System (FCMS); market driven reforms; development and value addition of products; increasing financing to the sector; introduction of fisheries and aquaculture incubation enterprises; installation of beach seine deterrent devices in tilapia breeding areas and Nile perch nursery grounds. (*Annex VI*). The cost of implementation is estimated at **USD 42.2 million**.

**Action: The CoM approved the Lake Victoria Fisheries Management Plan III (2016-2020)**

### **8.3. Revised Nile perch Fishery Management Plan II (2015-2019)**

The NPFMPI was developed as one of the species specific management plans in the FMP II as provided for in the RPOA Capacity. This NPFMP II was teased out of the FMPIII to address the declining stocks of Nile perch.

The Specific Objectives of NPFMP II are to rebuild the biomass of the Nile perch stocks, increase wealth generated by Nile perch and improve wealth sharing to the benefit of the local communities.

The strategy to achieve the objectives includes ending open access to the fishery, ensuring compliance of all actors involved in the fishing and post-harvest activities with existing regulations with priority given to prevent the most harmful fishing practices.

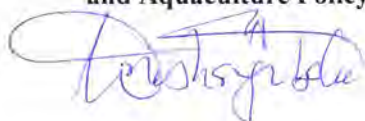
The estimated cost of the action plan is approximately **USD 57.3 million** over a period of 5 years from 2015 to 2019 to be co-financed by Partner States, Development Partners, Projects, Trust Funds and friends of Lake Victoria. The expected benefits are, above all, that the sustainability of the NP resource is ensured and the current significant contribution of the fishery to the national economies and local communities is maintained. It is estimated that **USD 451 Million** will be generated in addition to the other benefits if implemented fully (*Annex VII*)

**Action: The CoM approved the Revised Nile perch Fishery Management Plan II (2015-2019).**

### **8.4. Draft Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy for EAC**

The LVFO Secretariat obtained funding under LVEMP II for harmonization of fisheries policies, and legal frameworks. As part of the harmonization process, the process of formulation of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy for East African Community (EAC) was initiated in December 2013. The policy provides a negotiated position to guide the management and development of fisheries and aquaculture in contributing to economic growth and development. The trade in fish and fishery products form a significant portion in the intra and inter regional trade, and the policy addresses building capacity for inspection, traceability and monitoring trade on fish and fishery products for better understanding of their contribution in the EAC. (*Annex VIII*).

**Action: The CoM took note of the progress made towards development of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy for EAC.**



#### **8.5. Draft Guidelines for Cage Culture**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Special Session of LVFO Council of Ministers held at LVFO Secretariat on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014 noted the pressures of investors to start cage farming in Lake Victoria and directed for the development of Standard Operating Procedures and guidelines for the development of cage culture on the lake. LVFO Secretariat coordinated production of regional guidelines for the development of cage culture on Lake Victoria. (*Annex IX*). The Regional guidelines provide guidance on requirements for establishment of cage culture, suitable sites for placement of cages, production practices and institutions responsible for approval and relevant policies and regulations to abide to. Partner States are at different levels of mapping the suitable sites and the preparation of the SOPs is still work in progress. The remaining processes include national consultations and regional validation before taking to LVFO Organs for adoption and approval.

**Action: The CoM took note of the progress made on the development of cage culture guidelines.**

#### **8.6. Draft LVFO Communications, Advocacy and Information Strategies and Plans**

The draft LVFO communications, advocacy and information strategies and plans (*Annex X*) will ensure that all significant information is dispersed to the correct people, both internally and externally. It will have all people on the same page which is essential to a highly efficient workplace. This will enable staff members to be always aware of key information and they will also be able to complete their duties properly. The strategies are expected to improve the organization's image by way of having standardized and professional method of communicating with the public and the external business contacts.

**Action:**  
**The CoM took note of the progress made in the development of the Communications, Advocacy and Information Strategies and Plans.**

#### **8.7. Draft Resource Mobilization Strategy**

LVFO through support from EAC-Partnership Fund engaged a consultant in 2014/2015 to develop a resource mobilization strategy. The draft will be circulated to stakeholders for validation before it is submitted for approval. A draft is attached (*Annex XI*).

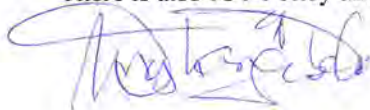
**Action: The CoM took note of the work in progress regarding the development of the LVFO Resource Mobilization Strategy**

#### **8.8. LVFO Disaster Recovery Plan, Policy and Steering Committee**

The LVFO Secretariat has prepared a draft Information, Communications and Technology Disaster Recovery Plan (*Annex X*) which if approved, should ensure that LVFO business continues in the event of an interruption.

The organization's disaster recovery plan provides a structured approach for responding to unplanned incidents that threaten an ICT infrastructure, which includes hardware, software, networks, processes and people. Protecting LVFO's investment in its technology infrastructure, and protecting the organization's ability to conduct business with minimal interruptions.

There is also ICT Policy and ICT Steering Committee to guide the program.



**Action:** The CoM noted the Developed ICT Policy, Disaster Recovery Plan, and Established ICT Steering Committee at LVFO Secretariat as approved by the LVFO Executive Committee.

## 9. Human resources and finance matters

### 9.1. Finance Matters

#### 9.1.1. The Budgets

##### 9.1.1.1. Approved Annual Budgets for FY 2013/2014; 2014/2015 and 2015-2016

The approved annual Budget for the FY 2013/2014 was US\$3,203,041.00 of which at the end of the FY Performance stood at 40.20%. The approved annual Budget for 2014/2015 was US\$ 2,813,772.00 and its overall implementation was at 78%; the approved budget for the FY 2015/2016 is US\$3,091,097.00 (**Partner States USD 1,554,207.00 & Dev. Partners USD 1,536,890.00**) and as 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2015 the performance stands at 32% (*Annex XII*).

Table 1: Budget Allocations

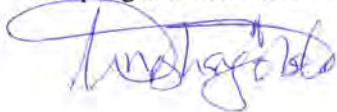
S N	Approved Annual Budget				Performance (%)
	Financial Year	Partner States	Development Partners	Totals	
1	FY2013/2014	810,150	2,392,891	3,203,041	40.20
2	FY2014/2015	1,030,794	1,782,978	2,813,772	78.00
3	FY2015/2016	1,554,207	1,536,890	3,091,097	32 (as at 31 Dec 2015)

**Action: The CoM:**

- I. Took note of the status of the budget performances for the FYs 2013/2014, 2014/2015 and the period up to December for 2015/2016; and
- II. Approve retrospectively the LVFO Budget for the FYs 2015/2016.

##### 9.1.1.2. Proposed MTEF Budgets for the FY 2016-2017

The proposed budget for the FY2016/2017 totals to US\$2,522,272 with US\$1,923,372 anticipated from Partner States while US\$598,900 is from Development Partners. The overall budget has decreased by 18% with the Development Partners component reducing by 61% and the Partner States component increasing by 24%. The increase in the Partner states funding has been attributed to by the newly filled department of Internal Audit, Capacity Building costs of staff, Consultancy costs to harmonize the LVFO procedural manuals with the EAC manual and program activities which were not reflected in the 2015/16 budget. (*Annex XIII*).






**Action: The CoM approved the LVFO Budget for FY 2016/2017 of USD 2,522,272 (Partner States USD 1,923,372.00 & Dev. Partners USD 598,900.00)**

**9.1.1.3. Budget Re-allocations**

Some of the core program activities and regional meetings were under budgeted and some donors have not remitted the funds as were committed. The Secretariat is requesting reallocations as below:

- i. The Secretariat planned to hold a regional meeting to discuss the progress on the implementation of MCS management measures and council Directives. This activity was budgeted for under Partnership Funding at a total cost of US\$68,870. As at to-date, no funding has been realized from the EAC. Given the criticality of the activity management proposes for a re-allocation of US\$5,463.00 from the line of Fisheries Management Committees with a total budget of US\$23,300, under Partner States funding to the MCS activity line.
- ii. The Secretariat realized some income from the sale of the bid documents and old vehicles totaling to US\$6,011.00. Management proposes this amount be allocated to Operational activities of the institution.
- iii. The budget performance on Insurance cover for assets stands at 46% with a balance of US\$7,559.12. Management proposes to re-allocate US\$3,800 to the newly filled audit department for effective deliverance of the audit mandate.
- iv. Consumption of the budget for regional meetings stands at 90%. Management proposes to re-allocate an extra US\$3,500 from Insurance cover for assets to the line of regional meetings to enable the Secretariat carry out her mandate effectively.

**Table 2: Budget Re-allocations**

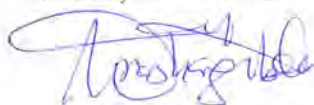
SN	Approved Activity	Approved Budget US\$	Re-allocation		Source of Funding
			From (US\$)	To (US\$)	
1	Fisheries Management Committees	23,300	5,463.00	0	Partner States
2	Implementation of council decisions	68,870	0	5,463.00	Partnership Fund
3	Insurance Cover for Assets	13,909.00	7,300.00	0	Partner States
	Internal Audit Department	0	0	3,800.00	Partner States
	EAC/LVFO Regional meetings	55,000	0	3,500.00	Partner States
	Totals	104,209	12,763	12,763	

**Action: The CoM approved the budget re-allocations.**

**9.1.2. Status of Partner States Contributions, 'Operation Save Nile Perch and other Sources of Funding for the Organization**

**a) Status of Partner States Contribution**

The 8th Regular Session of LVFO Council of Ministers of November 2013, Arusha Tanzania, recommended that Country Contribution be routed through the Ministries of




East African Community Affairs in the respective Partner States (The Communiqué Article 9). This was further emphasized by the 28th EAC Council of Ministers Session in November 2013 held in Kampala, Uganda (EAC/CM28/Directive 54). So far the Republics of Kenya and Uganda started remitting their respective contributions through Ministry of East African Community Affairs (MEACAs) from the FY2014/2015. United Republic of Tanzania is yet to follow suit.

As at to-date, the Status of Country Contribution is as summarized below:

**Table 3: Status of Partner States Contribution**

No.	State/Country	Contributions Outstanding as at end of (2014/2015)	Contributions due for (2015/2016)	Total Contributions due for	Contributions received during (2015/2016)	Balance due (To date)
1	Republic of Kenya	102.26	518,069.00	518,171.26	518,119.91	51.35
2	United Republic of Tanzania	520,871.78	518,069.00	1,038,940.78	69,501.22	969,439.56
3	Republic of Uganda	180,810.88	518,069.00	698,879.88	245,114.52	453,765.36
	<b>Total</b>	<b>701,784.92</b>	<b>1,554,207.00</b>	<b>2,255,991.92</b>	<b>431,424.65</b>	<b>1,423,256.27</b>

**b) Status of 'Operation save Nile perch' Contribution**

The last regular session, the 8th Regular Session of the Council of Ministers in November 2013 requested Partner States to fulfill obligations towards operationalizing the plan by June 2014 (The Joint Communiqué of the Council of Ministers issued in Arusha, Tanzania on 13th November 2013, Article 5.

The Status as to-date is as presented below:

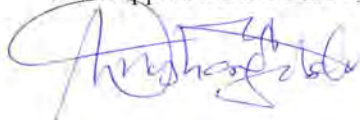
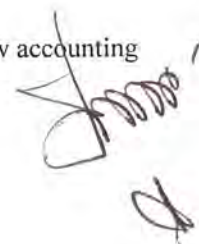
**Table 4: Status of 'Operation Save Nile perch' Contribution**

No.	Country	Partners State Obligations	Contributions to Date	Balance owing Due to date
1	Republic of Kenya	600,000.00	570,907.00	29,093.00
2	United Republic of Tanzania	600,000.00	185,013.00	414,987.00
3	Republic of Uganda	600,000.00	440,159.98	159,840.02
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,800,000.00</b>	<b>1,196,079.98</b>	<b>603,920.02</b>

**Action: The CoM took note of the status of Country Contribution and 'Operation Save Nile perch' and Urged Partner States to pay their respective outstanding contributions by June 2016.**

**9.1.3. Financial and Management Systems**

With support from the EAC, LVFO upgraded her financial systems, with a new accounting

system – The SUN System Accounting Package; the finance staffs were also trained in 2014.

The Budget Management System (BMS) used to prepare and monitor the budget has also been installed and is operational at LVFO Secretariat. This system is centrally networked to the EAC central budgeting system.

**Action: The CoM took note of the developments in financial management in-line with the EAC Financial management systems.**

#### **9.1.4. Audit Matters**

Audited Accounts for the FY 2013/2014

The EAC Audit Commission issued an unqualified opinion following the audit of the Financial Statements for the FY 2013/2014. (*Annex XIV*). The EC Considered the Audit report and applauded the Secretariat for the unqualified Audit for FY 2013/2014.

**Action: The CoM took note of the unqualified opinion of the LVFO Financial Statements for FY 2013/2014.**

### **9.2. Staff Matters**

#### **9.2.1. Recruitments**

The LVFO Secretariat has been operating with very lean staff after termination of project staff who were supported under the European Union-European Development Fund 9 (EU-EDF 8) Project. The 5<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the LVFO Council held at Munyonyo, Kampala, 2010; approved a number of positions to strengthen the Secretariat operations but had to be filled as per availability of resources. The budgets for 2014/2015 accommodated one position for a Principal Internal Auditor, who was recruited towards the end of that financial year through a competitive recruitment process as provided for in the LVFO Staff Rules and Regulations. Mrs. Kefine Kerubo Oluteyo reported for duty in August 2015. The Position of the Senior Scientist/Director Resource Monitoring and Research which fell vacant after the former staff took up another responsibility was also filled in July 2015 by Dr Robert Jeremiah Kayanda. The Budget for FY 2015/2016 provides for the recruitment of a Database Administrator and the process has been initiated.

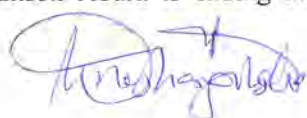
With the current developments in Aquaculture in the region, Secretariat is also requesting to include in the budget for FY 2016/2017 the position of an Aquaculture Specialist which was approved in the Council meeting of 2010.

The Audit Commission strongly recommended for a position of 'Procurement Expert' to strengthen the organization internal controls.

#### **9.2.2. Renewal of Contracts**

Under the Staff Rules and Regulations, Rule 14.4., requires staff who are appointed for a specific term to be in service of the Organization for five years and renewable where there has been satisfactory performance for three years subsequently.

The Contract of the Director, Information, Communication and Technology (IC&T), Mr. Samson Abura is ending in July 2016. Performance appraisal was done and was found



satisfactory. It is recommended that the contract is renewed for another three years term.

**Action: The CoM:**

- I. **Noted the recruitment of the Principal Internal Auditor and Director Fisheries Resource Monitoring and Research as were filled in August and July 2015 respectively;**
- II. **Noted the process to recruit Principal Database Administrator in FY 2015/2016;**
- III. **Approve the inclusion in the FY 2017/2018 budget funding for the Aquaculture Expert.**
- IV. **Approve the position of 'A Procurement Expert' and**
- V. **Approve the contract for Mr. Samson Abura Director – IC&T.**

**10. Any Other Business**

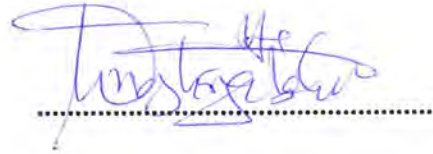
The Next LVFO Council of Ministers Meeting will be in the Republic of Uganda at a date and venue to be communicated by the chairperson of the Council of Ministers.



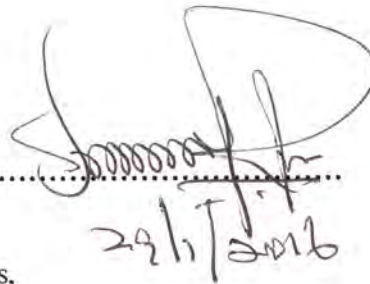
**11. Adoption of the LVFO Council of Ministers Report**

The report of the 9<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the LVFO Council of Ministers was adopted at the Norfolk Hotel, Nairobi - Kenya on 29th January 2016.

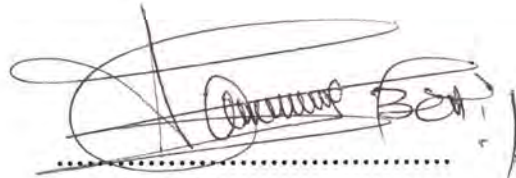
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# 9<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE LVFO COUNCIL MINISTERS

Norfolk Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya; 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016

## *PROVISIONAL AGENDA*

1. Arrival and Registration
2. Country Consultations
3. Informal Consultations of Council of Ministers
4. Opening Session
  - a. Adoption of Agenda and Program
  - b. Welcoming Remarks by Kenya (host)
  - c. Remarks by Uganda
  - d. Remarks by EAC Representative
  - e. Remarks by the LVFO Executive Secretary
  - f. Handing over of LVFO Council of Ministers Chairmanship
  - g. Statement of the Out-going Chairperson
  - h. Statement of the In-coming Chairperson
5. Consideration of the Report of the LVFO Policy Steering Committee
6. A.O.B
7. Preparation of the Report of the LVFO Council of Ministers

## SESSION OF THE LVFO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

### *PROVISIONAL PROGRAM*

FRIDAY 29 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2016		
	<i>ITEM</i>	<i>TIME</i>
1.	Arrival and Registration	08:30 a.m. – 09:00 a.m.
2.	Country Consultations	09:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
	<b><i>TEA/COFFEE BREAK</i></b>	<b><i>10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.</i></b>
3.	Informal Consultations of Council of Ministers	10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
4.	Opening Session	11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Adoption of Agenda and Program</li> <li>b. Welcoming Remarks by Kenya (host)</li> <li>c. Remarks by Uganda</li> <li>d. Remarks by EAC Representative</li> <li>e. Remarks by the LVFO Executive Secretary</li> <li>f. Handing over of LVFO Council of Ministers Chairmanship</li> </ul>	
5.	Consideration of the Report of the LVFO Policy Steering Committee	11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
6.	Signing of the Communiqué	12:00 p.m. – 12:20 p.m.
7.	A.O.B	12:20 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.
8.	Preparation of the LVFO Council of Ministers report	12:30 p.m.
9.	Closure	
	<b><i>LUNCH BREAK</i></b>	<b><i>01:00 p.m. – 02:00 p.m.</i></b>