



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

SECRETARIAT



**U N I K A S S E L
V E R S I T Ä T**



UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND PROJECT KICK-OFF WORKSHOP

**MultiTip project: A full-cycle, multi-method approach to the Lake
Victoria Nile perch fishery**

**Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization Secretariat, Jinja Uganda
Friday, 26th July 2019**



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A: INTRODUCTION

The regional stakeholder engagement and project kick-off workshop for the MultiTip project: a full-cycle, multi-method approach to the Lake Victoria Nile perch fishery was held at the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) Secretariat in Jinja Uganda on 26th July 2019. The main objective of the workshop was to raise awareness to key stakeholders on the project objectives, expected outputs and implementation modalities with the aim of having better policy through better science.

B: PARTICIPATION

The workshop was attended by the LVFO Senior Official members (Directors of Fisheries Management and Research Institutes), Regional BMU Network Chair, Lake Victoria Basin Commission, Fisheries experts from the Partner States, MultiTip core team from Germany and LVFO staff. The details of the participants are given as **Annex I**.

C: THE OPENING SESSION

After a round of introductions and adoption of agenda (**Annex II**), Mrs. Joyce Ikwaput-Nyeko, Ag. Commissioner from the Directorate of Fisheries Resources in the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries on behalf of the Director welcomed participants to Uganda. She informed the participants that Ugandans are warm people and welcoming. She urged the visitors to feel at home and enjoy their stay.

Ms. Susan Imende, the chair of senior officials committee, welcomed everyone and expressed her gratitude that all member states were represented and hoped that there will be free discussions leading to better understandings of the project.

Dr. Shigalla Mahongo, the Executive Secretary of LVFO, welcomed all participants to LVFO Secretariat. He then informed the participants that LVFO was as an institution mandated to coordinate the management and development of fisheries and aquaculture in the East African Community. He informed the participants that Multi-tip was a collaboration project between LVFO, University of Kassel and Heidelberg University – Germany. The collaboration started way back in 2016 – when the writing of the proposal and collecting preliminary data to help in building up the full proposal. He mentioned that Multi-tip means multiple tipping points. In sociology for instance, a tipping point is a point in time when a large number of individuals rapidly and dramatically changes their behavior by widely adopting a previously rare practice. This implies, the event of a previously rare phenomenon becomes rapidly and dramatically more common. The phrase was first used by Morton Grodzins when he adopted the phrase from physics where it referred to the adding a small amount of weight to a balanced object until the additional weight caused the object to suddenly and completely topple, or tip. Grodzins studied integrating American

neighborhoods in the early 1960s. He discovered that most of the white families remained in the neighborhood as long as the comparative number of black families remained very small. But, at a certain point, when "one too many" black families arrived, the remaining white families would move out en masse in a process known as white flight. He called that moment the "tipping point". The idea was expanded and built upon by Nobel Prize-winner Thomas Schelling in 1972. A similar idea underlies Mark Granovetter's threshold model of collective behavior. Apart from social tipping point, there also tipping points in the climate system, as well as ecological tipping point, etc. On Lake Victoria, so far we have had one significant tipping point. This is an ecological tipping point when the Nile perch, a commercially valuable species, was introduced into the lake in the 1960s. However, we all know that given the open-access nature of the Lake Victoria fishery, combined with poor compliance with fishing regulations, will likely lead to another tipping point, which is the collapse of the commercial Nile perch fishery in the near future. This is likely to happen if harvesting or exploitation levels are not controlled and compliance strengthened.

So, MultiTip is coming in to apply science with the goal of averting the collapse of the Nile perch fishery, which is the second tipping point. For this project to succeed, socio-economic data will be collected around the lake, which will then be combined with historical data on frame surveys, catch assessment surveys and all other necessary information, to advise on the future management of the fishery. The E.S. therefore kindly requested all members to collaborate with the research team accordingly. He finally declared the Regional Kick-off Meeting for the MultiTip Research Project officially opened, and thanked all members for their attention.

Mr. Fredrick Mngube from Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) conveyed greetings from the Executive Secretary of LVBC. He mentioned that Lake Victoria Basin is very rich in natural resources with more than 45 million people dependent on those. The resources are depleted and causing conflicts. LVFO and LVBC are collaborating to ensure that there is sustainable management of these resources within the basin. He further mentioned that, though the project is more inclined in fisheries, the LVBC is going to play a key role in managing the catchment in which most of the pollutants come from. He further commended the project team to come up with such project idea which will benefit the fisheries and people of East African. He finally wished the team fruitful deliberations.

Prof. Timo Goeschl, the MultiTip team leader from Heidelberg University, Germany thanked everyone for their collaboration in developing the project. He further mentioned that the project will look into human component and how different decisions will affect the management of the fisheries. He underscored the importance of collaboration in the implementation of project activities, and he looked forward for successful implementation of the project.

D: THE WORKSHOP

Prof. Timo Goeschl gave a presentation on the antecedents, the main goals of the project and the MultiTip team. He mentioned that the project is mostly on social science research. Economic incentives, institutional environments, stakeholders' system understanding and their role in the sustainable management of the LV Nile perch fishery will be subjects of investigation. He then provided three phases of the projects, which are Pre-phase which took place from 2016 to 2018, Main phase from 2019 to 2022 and Extension-phase up to 2025. He further provided the details of four Working Packages (WP) and the area of focus for each and individuals to participate in each of them. He then provided an example of Chilean Hake fisheries in which stock was reduced to 82% below sustainable level. A fishing ban was instituted on September of each year, but consumers ignored the ban, sellers adapted to the ban. He detailed how sellers were trying to avoid the ban by selling frozen fish.

Tanzania team gave presentations on fisheries enforcement challenges and research in Lake Victoria. Fisheries resources management arrangement, Legal and Regulatory Framework, and other Regional Fisheries Management Tools were presented. In addition, challenges in fisheries resource Management were detailed such as inadequate Sense of resources ownership among fishing communities and other fisheries Stakeholders, Village and BMUs leaders and members being compromised or threatened by illegal fishers, Persistent use of illegal fishing Practices, limited participation of Fisheries Stakeholders in the management, inadequate sustainable funding to BMUs among others. In addition, the research need was detailed which included an understanding on how stakeholders' knowledge, attitude and perception on Nile perch stock changes can be employed to enhance management of the fishery, stakeholders to have a sense of ownership of the fisheries resources vs extraction, conservation and sustainability, design of an alternative Nile perch management intervention that can supplement or strengthen the existing regulatory measures, the intervention to match with the drivers of intense fishing and illegality (poverty, open access ecosystem, market demand, increased population), capacity building of scientists through training and mentoring.

Ugandan team presented fisheries management situation in Uganda. A background and current situation on Ugandan fisheries sector was provided. The current situation included overall catch declined by 18% leading to revenue loss although there is recovery in Lake Victoria. Decline in catches led to closure of fish processing factories 21 to 6 leading to: loss of Jobs; foreign exchange earning; Loss of livelihoods especially to artisanal women; There is loss of contribution to nutritional food security. The recovery in stocks/catches in Lake Victoria has seen re-opening of 6 factories and increase in exports to 19,716 tons worth \$146 m. Low value is due to decline in prices. In addition, current management regime and measures, challenges and issues were detailed. Last enforcement challenges were detailed. Proposed reforms are amendments of current fishery acts, improving licensing process, introducing closure of fishing seasons, introducing a total allowable catch, and re-establishments of BMUs.

Kenyan team first explained the institutional landscape in Kenya that is involved in fishing governance. They would like to use this opportunity to understand the drivers of non-compliance of fishers and how the informal institutions contribute to the continuation of illegal fishing practices. The main challenges with enforcement are a lack of compliance to regulations, limited

resources for monitoring the illegalities, corruption, low participation of fishery stakeholders, poor coordination and collaboration between institutions (e.g. government and BMUs), unregulated maw trade, and a lack of timely information to make decisions. It was proposed that MultiTip could look into the issue of low compliance, the role of informal institutions and economic and social incentives that drive the fishery.

KMFRI gave an overview on the current situation of Nile perch stock in LV including the drivers of the decline of the stock, which vary from non-harmonized policies to the use of illegal gear and climate change. They expressed the need to harmonize governmental policies, improve the infrastructure for marketing along beaches to reduce post-harvest losses, improve the gazettements of demarcated critical breeding areas, and formalize trade of fish maws.

NaFIRRI gave an overview of the structure of the institution and the challenges that impact their research. They emphasized the need to update the CAS and FS data, especially considering the many changes that have occurred at the lake in recent years. They express the challenge to address low capacity, infrastructure, instruments, and staff. They emphasized that research in the fish maw trade results in more illegal fishing practices and a wasting of Nile perch resources. The question on how best to communicate knowledge with local communities to change attitudes and misperceptions that continue illegalities at the lake, was raised. Research ideas were proposed where RCTs could address fish breeding areas or licensing of boats and incentives to move to alternative livelihoods. They also stressed the need to assess the impact of the recent changes in enforcement in Uganda on the fishery. They recommended that MultiTip investigates the contribution of Nile perch to the GDP.

TAFIRI gave a short background on the need to devote more effort to manage the Nile perch fishery. They laid out the following research needs: Create a better understanding of stakeholders' knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions of Nile perch stock and how changing these can enhance management by enhancing ownership. Furthermore, alternative Nile perch management interventions need to be developed to supplement or strengthen current approaches. Another important factor would be building capacity among fishers to manage the fishery, research institutions, and dissemination of the findings.

The MultiTip team presented the four work packages outlining the expected outcomes and methods. The research plan consists of four phases: exploring, investigating, implementing and integrating. The communication strategy was presented, in which various methods will be employed to reach the different levels of stakeholders.

E: DISCUSSION

- The participant requested that reports are written in a way that all stakeholders, especially fishermen, can understand them.
- A discussion was held on the importance of boat owners vs. crew members. Some participants noted that boat owners are the decision makers and should therefore be the focus of the research, whereas other participants noted that it is the crew members who tend to develop and propose illegal fishing gear that is consequently picked up and purchased by boat owners. It was concluded that both stakeholders play a crucial part in

the continuation of the use of illegal gear. Hence, both need to be included in research samples.

- The participant stated that a change of behavior does not only affect fishermen but on all levels of stakeholders.
- Participants agreed that research played a role in shaping policy.
- Participants agreed that this capacity building should start at the local research institutions where tandems will be built to set up collaborative teams for the different work packages.
- The MultiTip team requested the other participants to aid with access to data that is not currently housed by LVFO. This data should cover export/market data, possible tax receipts, and details on enforcement both in terms of input and outcome. A draft of a data management plan has been developed between LVFO and the MultiTip team. Participants agree to inspect the current draft and contribute where possible.
- Partner states requested for the project to share the budget and workplan.
- The MultiTip team should find a proper way to reach stakeholders during data collection and dissemination,

F: RECOMMENDATIONS AND WAYFORWARD

- Project entry point is Research institutions in the Partner States.
- LVFO to write to the Research Institutions to nominate three people, one from each institution to implement the project by 2nd of August 2019.
- Market data (import/export), enforcement inputs and outcome
- Data needed for the implementation of the project activities should be requested from the Partners States by LVFO
- The MoU between LVFO and University of Heidelberg should be updated and Data Management Plan document should be annexed and shared with the Partner States for comments
- LVFO and LVBC will facilitate access to relevant actors of the Fisheries sector
- LVFO and LVBC are committed to incorporate the results of this project in policy developments.
- Publication of scientific articles that will be “jointly co-authored as appropriate“
- Budget for Project proposal should be shared with Partner States;
- Long term capacity building such as MSC/PhD should be considered.

G: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

The report of the Regional Stakeholder engagement and Project Kick-off Workshop for the MultiTip Project: a full-cycle, multi-method approach to the Lake Victoria Nile perch fishery was adopted at the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) Secretariat in Jinja, Uganda on Friday 26th July 2019.

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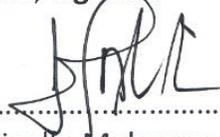
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Annex II: Regional Stakeholder engagement and project Kick-off Workshop: MultiTip project: A full-cycle, multi-method approach to the Lake Victoria Nile Perch fishery, LVFO SECRETARIAT, Jinja, Uganda, Friday 26th July, 2019

PROGRAM

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY
09:00-10:45	Opening and introduction of the Workshop. 1. Round of introduction 2. Opening Remarks-Host Country 3. Opening Remarks-LVFO 4. MultiTip presentation: Antecedents, the main goals of the project, the team.	Uganda Dr. Shigalla Mahongo Prof. Timo Goeschl
10:45-11:10	Coffee break	LVFO
11:10-12:00	Round of feedback from EAC participants: Enforcement challenges of fisheries regulations in each country and how they see they can relate to the project. Fisheries Directors (10 minutes each Fisheries Management Directors). Research needs from Research institutions and how they relate to the project (10 minutes each Research Institution Directors).	Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania
12:30-13:00	Discussion on what expectations can the project fulfil.	All
13:00-14:00	Lunch	LVFO
14:00-14:45	Detail review of expected outcomes in terms of scientific results and information that is valuable for Fisheries Management.	Prof. Timo Goeschl / Prof. Astrid Danneberg / Jun. Prof Florian Diekert
14:45-15:20	Proposal on how collaboration can take place (logistics, data access and sharing, co-authorship, field interventions and responsibilities of each participating institution)	Prof. Timo Goeschl / Dr. Karlijn van den Broek / Dr. Santiago Gómez / Dr. Paul Tuda.
15:20-16:00	Discussion	All
16:00-16:30	Coffee break	LVFO
16:30-17:00	Open discussion on the way the different participants see paths of collaboration with the project and the challenges that they see to implement it.	All
17:00-17:30	Conclusions and final agreements on the way forward.	Prof. Timo Goeschl
19:00	Closing Event: Dinner	LVFO