Final Technical Report

BUILDING CAPACITY TO REDUCE THE ILLEGAL FISH TRADE AROUND LAKE VICTORIA

Project ref. N° EA-2.2-B9

Region: Eastern Africa
Country: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

25 November 2013

Assignment by:
Pescares Italia Srl

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### Abbreviations and acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACP</td>
<td>African, Caribbean, and Pacific (Group of States)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACP Fish II</td>
<td>ACP Fish II Programme</td>
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<td>AFipek</td>
<td>Association of Fish Processors and Exporters of Kenya</td>
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<td>BFT-SOPs</td>
<td>Border Fish Trade Standard Operating Procedures</td>
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<td>BMU</td>
<td>Beach Management Unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMESA</td>
<td>Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>CU</td>
<td>Coordination Unit (ACP Fish II Programme)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
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<tr>
<td>EA</td>
<td>East Africa</td>
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<td>EAC</td>
<td>East African Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDF</td>
<td>European Development Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>EEZ</td>
<td>Exclusive Economic Zone</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESA-IO</td>
<td>Eastern-Southern Africa and Indian Ocean</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>FA</td>
<td>Fisheries Authorities</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</td>
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<td>GEF</td>
<td>Global Environment Facility</td>
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<td>ICBT</td>
<td>Informal Cross Border Trade</td>
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<td>IFMP</td>
<td>Implementation of a Fisheries Management Plan</td>
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<td>IO</td>
<td>Indian Ocean</td>
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<td>ITR</td>
<td>Interim Technical Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>IUU</td>
<td>Illegal, unreported and unregulated (fishing or trade)</td>
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<td>KE</td>
<td>Key Expert</td>
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<td>LVEMP</td>
<td>Lake Victoria Environment Management Project</td>
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<td>LVFO</td>
<td>Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization</td>
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<td>MCS</td>
<td>Monitoring, Control and Surveillance</td>
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<td>OE</td>
<td>Other Experts</td>
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<td>PE</td>
<td>Programme Estimate</td>
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<td>RFU</td>
<td>Regional Facilitation Unit (ACP Fish II Programme)</td>
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<td>SOPs</td>
<td>Standard Operating Procedures</td>
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<tr>
<td>TNA</td>
<td>Training Needs Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>ToR</td>
<td>Terms of Reference</td>
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<tr>
<td>TT</td>
<td>Technical Team</td>
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<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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Executive summary

Fishing on Lake Victoria has been going on for centuries, but in recent decades there has been serious over-fishing which has endangered the stocks. In an effort to rebuild the stocks, various rules and regulations have been introduced, including minimum and maximum sizes of capture for the various species of fish. While the commercial processors on the shores of Lake Victoria have managed to introduce a system of self-control, there is still a lot of under-sized fish that is landed, and this fish is being traded around the lake and beyond.

Exports from the region are dominated by the three riparian countries of the lake, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Much of the exports go to neighbouring countries, especially Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan, and Ethiopia. The total exports from the three riparian countries amount to about 100,000 – 120,000 tonnes per annum. But the illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) trade is probably just as important as the formal trade. However, no reliable statistics on this informal trade exist, although some countries (especially Rwanda) have made an effort to study the informal trade.

In 2011 a study of the informal trade was commissioned by ACP Fish II, and this study concluded by recommending a number of actions, including training of border inspectors and the improvement of data collection on both formal and informal trade in an effort to formalize all trade.

The present assignment is the follow-up of that study, and during the first phase of this assignment (the Inception Phase) the Key Experts visited six countries in the region: the three Lake Victoria riparian countries (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda) and three of the main markets: DRC, Burundi and Rwanda. The objective of these visits was to update the 2011 study in order to do an analytic review of regional trade, to discuss training needs with stakeholders, and to prepare the programme for the training workshop, which was held during the Implementation Phase of the assignment (in October 2013).

The output of this phase was reported in the Interim Technical Report (see Annex 2), which included an Analytical review of regional fish trade and illegal practices and a Training Needs Assessment.

During the visits, it was found that another EU-funded project is involved in training of border inspectors, but not specifically to fight IUU trade. The SmartFish Programme implemented four such training courses between December 2012 and September 2013. In order to avoid duplication of effort, the present assignment was therefore examined with a view to developing a complementary training programme based on some of the training needs identified.

The result of this was that the present assignment would focus on efforts to formalize regional trade in products originating from Lake Victoria. Specifically, the training workshop would teach participants about the need and how to register all forms of cross-border fish trade, and would
instruct them in the methodology of registration, product knowledge, and the use of such information in fisheries and trade management. Consequently, participants from various public and private sectors were identified as target groups, including representatives of fisheries authorities, trade and industry authorities, customs, and the private sector (traders, representatives of associations).

The training workshop was held in Entebbe, Uganda, 7 -11 October 2013. The workshop was held over five days, including one day’s excursion to the Kenya – Uganda border post at Busia. A total of 18 participants from the six target countries attended.

Based on the information collected and the discussions and experiences from the Training Workshop, it is recommended that a simple system for recording all cross-border fish trade in the region is introduced. The system is described briefly in Chapter 5. The participants in the Training Workshop supported this recommendation and suggested the system should be developed and introduced as soon as possible.

The Key Experts developed a Trainers Manual based on the experiences of the Training Workshop and the suggestions for the proposed system. The Trainers Manual is attached as Annex 10. The Consultant further suggests that a proposal to develop and introduce the system is developed and submitted to donor agencies in search of funding.
1. Background

The five East Africa Community (EAC) Partner States (namely Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda) are the subject countries of this assignment alongside the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Although the DRC is situated outside the ACP Fish II defined Eastern Africa (EA) region, fish exports from the East African region to this country are reported to be so impressive that no action against illegal fish trade in the region would achieve the expected results without taking these exports into consideration. Liaison with DRC was therefore maintained with the Programme Regional Facilitation Unit (RFU) for Central Africa to ensure the full involvement of the stakeholders of that country.

1.1. Current state of affairs in the relevant sector

The target countries are endowed with numerous water bodies, including lakes (Lake Victoria, which is Africa’s largest and second world’s largest, and single most important source of inland fishery; Tanganyika, Nyasa, Albert, Edward, Kivu, Kyoga, small lakes and reservoirs), rivers (Victoria Nile, Congo, Rufiji, Kagera, Mara and their tributaries), swamps and other wetlands, a coastline of approximately 5,084 km long and an Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) of some 362,436 km², all of which support significant fishery resources.

The Lake Victoria fishery is one of the biggest fisheries in the region with over 200,000 direct fishers and around 3 million people in the lake basin directly or indirectly depending on the fisheries for their livelihoods. The value of the fishery at beach level in 2011 has been estimated at US$550 million with Nile perch contributing US$372 million (68%). The average catch of Nile perch from Lake Victoria between 1985 and 2011 is estimated to be 255,363 tonnes per annum, although between 2005 and 2008 the levels fluctuated widely. Preliminary findings from Catch Assessment Surveys for 2011 suggest a total catch of 198,624 tonnes (LVFO, CAS Report 2011). Despite these fluctuations, the present threats to the sustainability of the Nile perch fishery are of great, and increasing, concern.

Illegal fishing on the lake in general and Nile perch fishing in particular continues to threaten not only the sustainability of the stocks, but also the profitability of the fishery and the viability of the industrial fish processing and exporting industry. Despite efforts made over many years by the industry (through self-monitoring and control initiatives most notably, but also through support to other initiatives), the Fisheries Administrations and the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) of the EAC, illegal and destructive fishing practices on the lake have continued.

One major driver of these illegalities is the demand from the regional market for fish of all shapes, sizes and quality. One segment of this market demands small Nile perch and tilapia, which are below the legal landing size and are rejected by fish processing industries, and consequently drive the fishing practices on the lake itself. Furthermore, stakeholders are now united in the opinion that lake-based efforts to eradicate illegal fishing are unlikely to be successful without sufficient attention to this trade in illegal fish and fishery products.

ACP Fish II supported in Programme Estimate 1 (PE1) a study on action planning for improved regional fish trade for sustainable fisheries management carried out in Uganda, Kenya, Sudan,
Rwanda and DRC in May 2011. The study noted the importance of improving effectiveness of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) in addressing the regional fish trade and re-stated the need to build capacity among multiple stakeholders to enable a combined response against this illegal trade.

Based on the findings of the foregoing study and other related studies, the present assignment was intended to build capacity among key stakeholders (the Fisheries Administrations, Border Authorities, the police, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission and the private sector) to jointly address the damaging regional trade in illegally caught fish, particularly the trade in under-sized Nile perch. The involvement of these key stakeholders is recognition that the problem cannot be solved by regulation alone but requires a series of measures agreed with industry and resource users (processors and traders, fishers) to bring about the required change in trading and/ or processing and ultimately redesign harvesting practice.

1.2. Related programmes and other donor activities

A number of related programmes and projects are operational in the region aiming at supporting national, regional or international trade. The most prominent of these recently completed or ongoing programmes at regional level are briefly reviewed below.

- The European Commission (EC) has supported a number of projects around Lake Victoria in recent years to assist the riparian countries in their fight against illegal fishing and trade. One of these projects is the Implementation of a Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) Project worth € 29 million, from 2004 to 2010.
- The Lake Victoria Environment Management Project (LVEMP) II, a five-year (2009–2013) regional project involving EAC Partner States aims, among others, at fostering regional cooperation and protecting the integrity of the Lake Victoria basin ecosystem. Its estimated cost amounts to US$ 105.8 million on the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding.
- The Implementation of a Regional Fisheries Strategy for the Eastern-Southern Africa and Indian Ocean (ESA-IO) Programme (SmartFish) — Funded by the EC under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF), the overall objective of this programme is to support the implementation of a fisheries strategy for sustainable management and development of the fisheries sector in the region. A key component of the programme is the development and implementation of a regional fish trade strategy, as part of which the programme has conducted two studies between June and August 2011, namely trade assessment study, and a regional market assessment (supply and demand survey). The programme is also supporting training for border inspectors and the production of a Fish Border Inspection Manual for the region. This programme includes four sub-regional training courses between November 2012 and September 2013.
- ACP Fish II Programme supported a number of training sessions and studies including regional training on co-management, regional training for monitoring, control and
surveillance (MCS) on Lake Victoria, and a study on action planning for improved regional fish trade for sustainable fisheries management.

2. **Approach to the assignment**

Illegal trade in under-sized fish is one of the main issues of illegalities on Lake Victoria, and a number of continued actions to eradicate the damaging regional trade are necessary. One major driver of these illegalities is the demand from regional markets for fish of all shapes, sizes and quality. One segment of this market demands small Nile perch and tilapia, which are below the legal landing size, and consequently drive the fishing practices on the lake itself.\(^2\)

The assignment is focused on trade. But very little is known about the magnitude of the illegal trade. In fact, even the information available on the legal trade is uncertain and probably unreliable, too. In the preliminary study on illegal trade completed in 2011 (Hempel & Kariuki, 2011), one of the conclusions was that an attempt at formalizing the trade should be made, and a first step in formalizing trade would be to register all trade, both “traditional” livelihood related trade and commercial trade.

Building on the 2011 study, the present assignment would undertake an updated assessment of the current situation by a review of existing documents, interviewing stakeholders to establish a training needs assessment, and design a training course during the Inception (planning) Phase. During the Implementation Phase of the assignment, this training course would be held and further conclusions drawn.

3. **Comments on Terms of References**

The Terms of Reference were discussed during the inception period, and this discussion is referred to in the Interim Technical Report, which is part of this report (please refer to Annex 2).

4. **Organisation and methodology**

Three expected achievements were specified in the Terms of Reference:

- An Analytical Review of Regional Fish Trade and Illegal Practices;
- A Training Needs Assessment;
- Training of 18 persons from the six countries in border point operations to reduce illegal trade.

\(^2\) Source: Terms of Reference
4.1 Delivery of Terms of Reference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>How delivered through the assignment</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Analytical review of regional fish trade and illegal practices</td>
<td>Accomplished. Based on the 2011 study on regional trade, the information was updated and some additional analysis included.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Training needs assessment to address the most urgent issues on illegal cross-border trade.</td>
<td>Accomplished. Details in paragraph 4.4 below.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Training of 18 nominated individuals from six beneficiary countries in border point operations to reduce illegal trade.</td>
<td>Accomplished. Due to activities and training courses already undertaken by SmartFish, the focus of the training workshop was changed to address some of the challenges identified in the 2011 Final Technical Report. The Training Workshop was held in Entebbe, Uganda in October 2013 and 18 people participated. The workshop was held over 5 days.</td>
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4.2 Conduct and details of the assignment

The Consultant engaged to execute the project was Pescares Italia Srl, Milan, Italy. The two Key Experts who worked in the field were Mr Erik Hempel, Key Expert 1 (KE1) and Team Leader (TL) and Mr Johnson Kariuki, Key Expert 2 (KE2).

In addition, Other Experts (OE) were engaged to help the Key Experts collect information and conduct meetings in their respective target countries. These were as follows: Mr Gaspard Ntakimazi (Burundi), Mr Daniel Kasololo (DRC), Mr Charles Oduol (Kenya), Mr Kyambadde Suleiman (Rwanda), and Mr Paul Namisi (Uganda).

A Technical Team (TT) of four persons was established in accordance with the Terms of Reference (ToR) to support the implementation of the assignment and this TT was headed by a representative of the LVFO Secretariat. The TT functioned remotely and served to guide the Consultant’s team of Key Experts (KEs) in undertaking the activities and particularly in conducting the assessment phase and identifying the focus areas of the training.

The TT proposed by LVFO consisted of the following persons:
3. Rhoda Tumwebaze (chairperson, LVFO)
4. Paul Okware (Uganda)
5. Roseline Okwach (Kenya)
6. Lamech Mongo (Tanzania)

4.3 Analytical review of regional fish trade and illegal practices

An analytical review of regional fish trade was presented in the Interim Technical Report (Annex 2). This review was based on the study undertaken in 2011, but updated with the latest statistics and information available, and with additional information collected during June – July 2013.
The review showed that there was a serious lack of reliable and complete information about regional cross-border fish trade. Even the official statistics of formal and registered were not entirely reliable, and virtually no information on the informal trade existed.

Furthermore, there was a lack of harmonization of procedures on the border, and there was extensive trade in illegal products, often using small-scale traders who cross the border without any formalities, carrying small consignments on behalf of larger operators who in this way avoid inspection and payment of any fees.

4.4 Training needs assessment

During the Inception Phase of the assignment, the Key Experts discussed the training needs with a number of different stakeholders. The difficulty was to decide which part of the intervention the training should focus on.

In view of the fact that training of border inspectors in actual inspection procedures, apprehensions and arrest procedures had been undertaken by the SmartFish Programme, it was felt that it would be necessary to focus on a different, but complementary, intervention activity for this assignment. This dilemma therefore became a key point of discussion in the Key Experts’ interviews with stakeholders.

4.4.1 Training priorities

The report from 2011\(^3\) specified a number of areas where improvements were needed. During Phase 1 of the present assignment, further needs were identified. These were as listed below:

- Statistics: collect and compile statistics on informal trade;
- Regional harmonisation and elaboration of fisheries, customs, and trade regulations;
- Development of harmonised national and regional Border Fish Trade Standard Operating Procedures (BFT-SOPs);
- National and regional harmonisation of practical applications of legal provisions including handling of persons, exhibits and prosecutions;
- Integration of national and regional trade data collection and analysis in and around Lake Victoria region;
- Intergovernmental cooperation in the area of trade of fish and fish products around Lake Victoria region;
- Development of methodology and procedures to be applied in the gathering of fish trade information;
- Development of national and regional fish and fish products trade strategy;
- Documentation: knowledge of the correct documents and how to inspect them;

\(^3\) Hempel & Kariuki: op. cit.
- Product knowledge: many inspectors do not have sufficient knowledge of the products and what is legal and what is not;
- Methodology of data collection from illegal fish trade through the surveys of the illegal fish trade.

However, in order for a training need to be addressed and actual training undertaken, there need to be established regulations or procedures that can be referred to during training. The training workshop cannot just discuss what needs to be harmonised or how it needs to be harmonised, because the purpose of the training workshop is to build capacity in the areas identified. But if no agreed regulations or procedures exist, no training can be implemented.

One therefore has to identify those regulations and procedures among the ones identified in the TNA where actual harmonised regulations exist, or where established procedures exist.

In consultation with stakeholders, it was therefore decided to focus on that part of the border inspection activity which would contribute to formalising the trade, i.e. registration of all trade.

### 4.4.2 Intended learning outcomes

The intended learning outcomes of the training course were consequently identified as an understanding of the importance of capturing this information, and on how to register the information.

Furthermore, in order to secure adequate analysis of the registered information, the training participants should also receive training on how to compile and analyse the data, and how and where to submit the data collected.

### 4.4.3 Characterisation of most appropriate trainees

Based on discussions with stakeholders, the following types of positions were identified as of interest to participants:
- Border inspectors
- Fisheries inspectors
- Fisheries authorities
- Representatives of Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Representatives of the private sector (associations).

LVFO felt that the training should be linked to the on-going work on regional trade strategy development that SmartFish is undertaking, as regional trade is a central activity and greatly influenced by IUU trade.

### 4.5 Training Workshop

A Training Workshop was held in Entebbe, Uganda from 07 to 11 October 2013. There were 18 participants from six countries: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
4.5.1 Introduction

The Training Workshop on trade information as a tool to reducing illegal fish trade around Lake Victoria was organised as a five-day event. The workshop was organised by the consultant, Pescares Italia Srl, and the two Key Experts, with assistance from the ACP Fish II Regional Manager for East Africa, Mr Koane Mindjimba, and the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization, Dr Rhoda Tumwebaze. Participants were invited from various institutions in the five member countries of the East African Community (EAC), plus representatives of the authorities and private sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). A detailed list of participants is given in Annex 7.

The trainer team consisted of the Team Leader, Mr Erik Hempel, and the MCS Expert, Mr Johnson Kariuki, who had both followed this project over a period of two years, and who had also undertaken the study on cross-border trade in the region in 2011, as part of the ACP Fish II Programme.

4.5.2 Methodology

The subject matter was relatively little known beforehand, as most efforts in fighting illegal fishing and illegal trade have been focused on border inspection and illegal products. In this workshop, the focus was on capturing information about all trade, both formal and informal, in an effort to obtain a full view of the scope and magnitude of this trade, and to use this information as a basis for measuring progress in the fight against illegal trade.

The methodology was therefore a mix of presenting facts and engaging the participants in discussions about how best to capture and treat the data needed for this purpose. Through these discussions, and including a full-day excursion to the Kenya – Uganda border post at Busia, where participants could observe this work in practice, the experts drew conclusions and summarised the proposed system for collecting, handling and distribution trade information regarding cross-border trade in the Great Lakes region (see Chapter 5).

4.5.3 Administrative matters

Administrative matters were handled very capably by Ms Lemonia Kathariou of Pescares/ HCL Management. Thus the Key Experts did not have to take on these tasks, but were free to concentrate on subject matter.

However, one problem worth mentioning did occur. In East Africa, US dollar bank notes older than the year 2000 are not acceptable. Ms Kathariou had been given a lot of older notes from the bank in Athens, Greece but these could not be used. The matter was solved by the Team Leader, who withdrew sufficient funds on his private account and exchanged into new dollars at a local bank, and then exchanged these with the old bank notes that Ms Kathariou had been given in Athens. This incident is worth noting for future operations in East Africa.
4.5.4 Choice of venue

It was desirable that the Training Workshop should be held close to a border post so that the participants could observe inspection and information handling first-hand. Several border posts were considered. For example, the possibility of holding the Training Workshop in Kasese, in reasonable proximity to the important Uganda – DRC border post at Mpondwe, was explored. It was found, however, that the logistical challenges were too great, and that the choice of Kasese as the venue would also lead to serious cost increases.

Consequently, it was agreed upon by all partners (LVFO Secretariat, ACP Fish II Programme, Pescares Italia Srl and the two Key Experts) to hold the Training Workshop at Entebbe, which is a transport hub in the region, and which has a number of suitable conference facilities. A one-day excursion to the Uganda – Kenya border at Busia was organised so that the participants could observe border post procedures first-hand.

4.5.5 Training programme

Based on the conclusions of the study undertaken in 2011, and on the training needs assessment undertaken in June 2013, it was decided to focus on improving the collection, storage and distribution of information on trade as a tool in fighting IUU trade.

The training programme is shown in Annex 6.

4.5.6 Training Workshop activities

The Training Workshop was held at the Imperial Golf View Hotel in Entebbe, Uganda from the 7th to the 11th of October 2013. The workshop was attended by 18 participants, representing different institutions in the public and private sectors in the six countries concerned: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Day one began with the official opening undertaken by the ACP Fish II Regional Manager for East Africa, Mr Koane Mindjimba. Following this, the participants were introduced.

The Team Leader, Mr Erik Hempel, gave an overview of the background for and the objective of the Training Workshop.

Mr Hempel then presented an analytical review of regional fish trade, followed by a description of what actually happens at the border posts in relation to information collection, presented by the MCS Expert, Mr Johnson Kariuki.

After lunch, representatives from each country made short presentations of the situation in their respective countries with emphasis on cross-border trade.

Day two started with a presentation of proposed data collection procedures for both formal and informal trade, presented by Mr Kariuki. The participants were then organised into four work groups, which were asked to discuss and prepare group conclusions on the following subjects:

- Forms to use for the collection of information
Procedures
Reporting
Information distribution/sharing of information.

This work went on until lunch, and after lunch each group chairperson presented the groups’ conclusions. These presentations resulted in fairly detailed discussions, and in some cases discussions wandered away from the subject matter, as many were concerned with control and enforcement rather than information collection.

On Day three the participants had an early start as they departed on a bus excursion to Busia on the Uganda – Kenya border. At the border the Fish Inspector in charge of fish inspection on the Kenyan side of the border, Ms Joyce Lugonzo, took the group across to the Kenyan side and together with her staff gave a thorough introduction of how they handled trade consignments going across the border. They also showed the group all documents and registers that were used in this work. The group was also invited to meet representatives of the Internal Revenue Ministry, the Customs Department, and the head of Security at the border.

After the visit to the Kenyan side, and a visit to the fish market on the Kenyan side, some of the participants met with Ugandan officers on the Uganda side of the border. However, due to some communications failures and time constraints, this visit was not as comprehensive and complete as the visit to the Kenyan side.

Day four started with a summary of observations from the excursion on Day three. In general, the participants found the visit very interesting and valuable, but were a little frustrated by the lack of information they experienced by having an aborted visit to the Ugandan side of the border.

In view of the previous day’s observations on the border, the participants reviewed their conclusions regarding Forms, Procedures, Reporting and Distribution. This discussion went on in great detail and with differing views on how things could be done. At the end of the day, Mr Kariuki’s presentation on methodology for harmonisation of rules, regulations and border operating procedures and guidelines was cut a bit short because of time constraints.

Day five started with the Team Leader summarising a proposed system for collection, storage and distribution of information about cross-border trade (see Chapter 5). This was followed by a short discussion, in which some of the concerns that had been expressed during the week were repeated. In general, though, the participants had no major objections to the proposed system, and expressed their interest in implementing this system.

The Team Leader then summed up the Training Workshop and the discussions, and proposed a way forward in order to establish the system and introduce it to participating countries. After this, the participants were asked to complete an evaluation form, which formed the basis for evaluation of the Training Workshop.

The ACP Regional Manager for East Africa, Mr Koane Mindjimba then presented Certificates of Attendance to all participants, and formally closed the Training Workshop.
4.5.7 Evaluation

On completion of the training the participants were asked to fill out an evaluation form regarding the Training Workshop. The evaluation showed that participants in general were satisfied with the Training Workshop. Overall, almost 97% of them thought the workshop had been either “Very good” or “Good”, while only 6.3% rated it as “Fair”. A summary of the evaluation is given in Annex 8.

4.5.8 Visibility activities

A number of visibility items were produced, such as T-shirts and cloth bags, notebooks, and banners that were displayed in the training room. In addition, several notes were delivered in hardcopy to the participants during the event. Moreover, a commemorative photograph of all participants and a certificate of attendance were given to them during the last day.

A week before the event, an information note on the objectives and results and on the workshop was sent to the concerned Fisheries Administrations/ Regional Fishery Bodies/ Regional Economic Communities in order for them to mobilise local media and to ensure full coverage of the event.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

As stated in Mr Mindjimba’s concluding remarks at the closing of the Training Workshop, it was a very useful and successful event. Although ACP Fish II was coming to an end in November 2013, Mr Mindjimba reminded the participants that proposals and initiatives that had been received, including the proposal from the present workshop, would have to be considered for future implementation under some other programme.

The Training Workshop concluded in a proposal for a system for the collection, storage and distribution of information about cross-border fish trade in the Great Lakes region to be implemented by EAC member countries and the DRC.

5.1 Conclusions

The Key Experts proposed the development and introduction of an information system, and this proposal was supported by the participants.

The Regional Training Workshop agreed that the introduction of such a system was desirable, and encouraged ACP Fish II to facilitate the full development and implementation of the system. It is foreseen that this will require the following steps:

- Development of the system, including procedures for capturing data, registering data, development of a simple database system;
- Testing the system on a small scale;
- Improving the system based on the testing;
- Introducing the system to the participating countries;
- Training of border fish inspectors to use the system (particularly the input part);
Establishing a regional handling unit;
Normal operation.

5.1.1 Follow-up

The conclusions from the Regional Training Workshop and the recommendations put forth by the Consultant and the Key Experts will require a relatively rapid follow-up, especially in view of the fact that the ACP Fish II Programme will close in November 2013.

- Report from experts to ACP Fish II, including proposal for introduction of a system, will be submitted to the ACP Fish II Coordination Unit (CU);
- Proposal for implementation of the system should be developed by the CU in cooperation with LVFO;
- An implementation plan should be included in this proposal;
- Fisheries Administration (FA) financing plan should also be included;
- Different Donors should be approached by ACP Fish II and/ or the Programme that will follow ACP Fish II for financing of the plan.

5.1.2 Costs

The costs of developing, introducing and operating such a system will consist of two major components:

- Development and introduction of the system (a one-time cost);
- General operating costs (annual, recurring costs).

At the present time, the costs of operating such a system are not known, but must be calculated for each border post, and for each country based on the number of border posts in each country (or the number of border posts participating in the scheme).

The setting-up costs will include:

- Design of the system;
- Testing of the system;
- Training of border officers;
- Implementation of the system.

In addition, there will be normal operating costs, but these will be relatively modest.

5.1.3 Financing

External financing for the initial set-up of the system and for training of border post officers should be sought. It would be reasonable to approach the EU for financing of this part, and this should be part of the proposal submitted by ACP Fish II.

The regular operation of the systems should be financed by the participating countries.

A project proposal to this effect should be prepared by ACP Fish II or some other agency.
5.2 Recommendations – Proposed system for collection, storage and distribution of information about cross-border fish trade

The objective of establishing such a system about all cross-border trade – formal and informal – in the region is to establish a more complete and reliable base of information about this trade than what is currently available. One needs to know what the situation is at the starting point, and regular feedback on how it develops over time is also needed, especially in relation to initiatives taken to improve the situation.

The system is only concerned about information about the cross-border trade, not about control or enforcement.

5.2.1 Content – what information should be captured?

One trap could easily fall into is that of being too ambitious and too comprehensive. The system one designs must be very easy to comply with, it must not require too much work on the part of those who report, and it must be very quick to administer at the border.

Consequently, one must limit the questions asked to a few, absolutely important ones. At this stage, what one needs to know is:

- Reporting country
- Border post
- Year
- Currency used
- Date
- Registration serial No.
- Trader/transporter name
- Species
- Product form
- Import/export/transit
- Weight in kg
- Value in local currency
- Origin of consignment
- Destination of consignment
- Transport means

(See Annex 9 for the proposed form).
5.2.2 Capturing the data

In order to capture data regarding informal trade, it would be necessary to introduce a combination of methods.

The data can be collected in several ways. At some border posts, information about informal trade is already being collected, while at other border posts, only formal trade is being registered.

One can use the information collected at the border post as a source by extracting the information from the existing register and registering this in a special form, or one may have to introduce a new form and procedures for collection of data.

In addition, a methodology of data collection through surveys on illegal trade should be established on a regular basis. Such surveys are being undertaken by Rwanda Government today once every quarter. The collected data is then consolidated once a year and published in the form of an annual report.

If the other countries could do the same surveys as Rwanda, one would get a much better view of the illegal as well as the informal cross-border trade.
Information system flow-chart

Registration of consignments base on existing registers at border post

Registration in a simple handwritten form

Reporting to the national Competent Authority every fortnight

Entering data in a computer format

Submitting computer files to LVFO

Consolidating national data into Regional Database

Generating reports

Distribution of reports

Statistical data base of trade

External users searching data base
5.2.3 Obtaining data from existing registers

At some border posts, information about formal as well as informal shipments is already being registered in different ways. These data are entered into registers, and can therefore be transferred from these registers to a uniformly designed form (Annex 9), which can be sent to the national Competent Authority.

5.2.4 Capturing data using a special form

At border posts where such data are not registered (where, for example, informal trade is not registered), the form shown in Annex 9 may be used for this purpose. All trade crossing the border should be registered, whether or not it is subject to export or import duties or levies of any kind. By using the form shown in Annex 9, this registration will take a very short time, and the forms should be kept in a safe place until they are to be despatched to the Competent Authority, once every two weeks.

5.2.5 Reporting

The customs officers at the border will fill out the form for every consignment passing the border crossing, and submit these forms electronically (if possible) to the Central Handling Unit. If electronic submission is not possible due to lack of computer equipment or Internet access, the forms should be sent by ordinary mail to the Competent Authority.

The filled out forms should be submitted to a national centre (Competent Authority) weekly or bi-weekly.

At the national centre, the raw data are entered into the computer system (simple and well-known software is suggested, for example Excel).

5.2.6 Registering the data in the computer system

Upon receiving the data in raw form (i.e. the hand-filled forms in Annex 12), the Competent Authority must transfer this to electronic form by inputting it into the system.

Several simple computer programmes can be used, but Excel has been chosen because it is probably the most widely used programme of this sort.

5.2.7 Submitting the data to the Regional Handling Unit

The data recorded by the Competent Authority are to be sent electronically to the Regional Handling Unit, which is Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization in Jinja, Uganda.
If it is not possible to send the files electronically by e-mail, a copy should be made and sent by ordinary mail once a month.

5.2.8 Consolidating and aggregating the data

At LVFO, data from all participating countries are consolidated in a simple Excel programme which consolidates and aggregates the data by country, by region, by export or import, and by formal and informal trade.
LVFO officers will be trained separately in this task, but the system is so simple that anybody with a reasonable knowledge of Excel can do it.

5.2.9 Generating quarterly and annual reports

Based on the consolidated data, quarterly and annual reports can be generated. Again, this is a simple aggregation of data using the data from each country.
In addition to the aggregated statistical tables, a limited analysis will be undertaken by LVFO to capture any changes that are significant over time. This is particularly important when measuring the effect of specific initiatives that have been introduced to improve the situation.
Any negative changes in the situation will also have to be examined and an attempt made at explaining why.

5.2.10 Storing reports and statistical data

The data is stored by LVFO in their data system, with normal back-up procedures to ensure that data is not lost.
The LVFO Focal Point for ACP Fish II stated in her closing remarks at the Training Workshop that the LVFO would accept this proposal.

5.2.11 Accessing data by outside institutions (users)

The compiled information should be published in a quarterly report, and these reports should be consolidated into annual reports. These reports (both quarterly and annual) will be distributed to the Competent Authorities of the participating countries.
Outside users, i.e. institutions or persons who are not involved in the collection, storage or distribution of this information may have access to the data on request. Users in participating countries will be given free access to the data, while users from non-participating countries will have to pay a fee for obtaining this data.
5.2.12 Feedback – using the data

It is important that any initiatives taken by individual countries or by the EAC as a region aiming at reducing or eliminating IUU trade be reported to the central handling unit so that any impact of such initiatives can be measured in the trade activity reported through the system.