

Sustainable Fisheries in Uganda



Context

The Nile perch fishery in Lake Victoria is one of Africa's most important value chains. It contributes to the livelihoods of two million people in the region. By 2020, the population of East Africa is set to grow by up to 27 million. This growth will aggravate the food insecurity that already exists in Uganda and East Africa. The Nile perch fishery currently provides up to 25 million people with protein and micronutrients. In 2014, the annual catch was estimated at 251,000 tonnes, with a value of USD 545 million. This turnover was achieved by tens of

thousands of small operators working in the Nile perch value chain. However, this important source of nutrition and income for the people of the three countries bordering Lake Victoria (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda) is under threat. Open access to fish stocks, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and a lack of a sufficient supervisory and monitoring system for the laws and regulations applicable to the fisheries sector add to the pressure on the resource. The results are heavy losses of fish products and income for the local population.

Our objective

The food insecure population in Uganda and East Africa has more fish products available as well as an increased income from sustainable and resource-conserving Nile perch fisheries.

Activities in Uganda

- **Business development services:** Training programmes and advisory services teaching basic business skills to small and medium-sized enterprises and especially women entrepreneurs.
- **Resource monitoring:** Stock assessment surveys, catch assessment and economic impact assessment surveys
- **Organisational and financial preconditions for a resource-conserving Nile perch fishery:** Cooperation in reviewing existing laws and regulations and developing new ones, and the provision of (technical) advice on their implementation.
- **Improving the supervision and monitoring of the Nile perch fishery:** Supporting the introduction of registration and licensing systems and effective controls.
- **Developing a Fisheries Businesses Management App:** The app gives small and medium-sized enterprises in the fishing sector access to key information at all times and thus enables them to make sound decisions.



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Region

Uganda, with some activities in Kenya and Tanzania

Term

October 2016 to March 2023

Budget

10.95 million EUR

Implementing partners

Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO),
Directorate of Fisheries Resources (DiFR),
Processing and export associations (EAIFPA, UFPEA, AFALU, FFOU),
Non-governmental organisations (KATOSI WDT)

Lead executing agency

Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO)

Target group

Workers in small and medium-sized businesses whose livelihoods depend on the Nile perch value chain.

WHERE WE WORK



A real-life example

Many small and medium-sized businesses in the fishing sector manage their affairs in the simplest way: with a pencil and notepad, or often even with just a scrap of paper. That rarely survives the day, not to mention the week, so the fishermen have neither reliable data nor an overview of the long-term development of their business. This also means that they are denied access to loans and investments.

The ABALOBI app that has already been trialled in South Africa provides effective assistance in this situation. The fishermen can use the app to enter relevant data into their smartphones, such as expenses for the crew, fuel and repairs, as well as income and the prices obtained for their catch.

In this way the fishermen gain a long-term overview of their costs and receipts. Moreover, every day they gather data that is indispensable for the sustainable management of Nile perch stocks and the prediction of changes in fish stocks. As part of the project, a version of the app adapted to the conditions on Lake Victoria is being piloted in collaboration with representatives of local associations (fishers, fish distributors and transport firms).



Results

Using the app, the fishers can send their data to a central server. This enables them to be actively involved in the sustainable conservation of stocks based on the accumulated data.

A long-term overview of their business data will contribute to better business management and make it easier for the fishers to gain access to loans.

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