



TBT PROGRAMME
OVERCOMING TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE



ACP-EU TBT Programme

**090-16 - Training for Regulatory Authorities, Businesses
and Communities in Regulatory Frameworks: Towards a
Better Management of Risks**

*Ggaba, Kampala, Uganda - EAC
23 to 24 November, 2016*

Assessment of Uganda's Fisheries Regulatory Frameworks

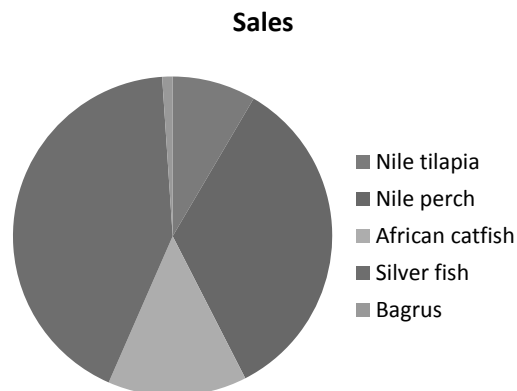
Background

- International and Regional fisheries trade = USD 200 million
- Local fisheries consumption = USD 400 million
- Employees between 1,100,000 to 1,700,000 people directly and indirectly fisheries related activities
- 50 to 70% of the fish comes from Lake Victoria
 - Other major sources include lakes Albert, Kyoga, Edward, George, Nabugabo, and Albert Nile

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- Faced with excessive fishing pressure
 - Heightened use of illegal destructive fishing gear
 - Estimated to lose USD 50 to 80 million in value annually due to fishing malpractices
- By 2005 – 21 fish exporting establishments of which 15 had own fish processing factories
 - Currently reduced to less than 10 and only a handful of factories

Total Production Volumes (tons) by Key Fish Species in Uganda, 2010 by Rutaisire et al. 2013



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Challenges in fisheries sector

- Trade Barriers
 - Cost of meeting/overcoming technical demands by better paying markets
 - Increasingly stringent market requirements
- Inappropriate governance system
 - Civil service based system
 - excessive red tape and slow to respond to threats and risk in sector
 - Inadequate human and fiscal resources and lengthy process in accessing resources
 - Limited technical skills in fisheries management services
 - Largely ineffective legislation in face of new challenges
- Excessive and destructive fishing pressure
 - Number of people fishing and fishing effort per fisher have more than tripled since 2000
 - There is emergence of highly destructive gears such as monofilament gill nets
 - Heightened use of beach and boat seines
- Poor and ineffective Monitoring, Control and surveillance system
 - Poorly organized and funded
 - Lack of appropriate and technically advised plans

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- Ecosystem challenges
 - Ecological
 - Loss of over 200 species
 - Displacement of previous leading fisheries species
 - Unnatural change in trophic relations
 - Eutrophication and pollution
 - Increased occurrence of algal blooms
 - Change from predominantly diatomous to blue-green algal mass dominated waters
 - Anoxia
 - Increased depth of bottom layer without oxygen
 - Habitat loss
 - Aquatic weed infestation
 - Water hyacinth – ekido
 - A number of new weeds that are choking whole lakes

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Regulatory framework

- Fish Act (2000)
 - Largely believed by actors to be obsolete and ineffective to address threats to the fisheries sector
- Several subsidiary legislations
 - Fish (Fishing) Rules, 2010
 - Fish (Aquaculture) Rules, 2003
 - Fish (Quality Assurance) Rules, 1998
 - Fish (Co-management) Rules, 2004
 - lessons learned, and other factors
- Subsidiary legislations espouse the:
 - FAO precautionary approach and Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries,
 - CODEX Alimentarius for hygiene and market requirements/obligations

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- Worked Closely with fish processing and exporting entities
 - To put in place a robust fish certification and inspection system
 - Traceability and product labelling system
 - Regular inspections by FVO as part of the requirements to access EU fish market
 - Self policing system against processing of illicit immature Nile perch
- With support from EU brought on board communities in fish production control as Beach Management Units
 - Control of fishing and fishing effort;
 - Control of fish movement;
 - Hygiene and environmental control of landing sites;
 - Resource conservation – protection of breeding grounds;
 - Data collecting.

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Cross cutting issues

- Environment management
 - Not ably covered yet it is a potential source of critical risks to the sector
- Health concerns – HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Bilharzia
 - Fishing communities in Uganda remain the most vulnerable – a situation which directly impact on the performance of the sector
 - No regulatory provisions/risk management plans or frameworks exist
 - There are some strategies which have been implemented with varying levels of success
- Gender
 - Some efforts have been made through local governments legislation to ensure balance or representation of all gender
 - Efforts need to be made to capture the risks posed by limiting and undervaluing the role of women and youth in fish production and marketing in fisheries regulatory framewok

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Integrating Risk Management in Fisheries Regulatory Framework

- No known existing efforts exist to use the Risk Management process in tackling technical barriers to trade
- However, from the past challenges including a fish ban on international exports
 - Crisis Management approach was used to put in place systems with guidelines, processes and regulations for handling especially the international fish export value chain
 - However many of the provisions made need to be backup by the principle Fish Act and Standards Act to have the intended bearing – especially for domestic and regional market value chain
- There is need for a working group to establish to promote and foster the risk management approach in fisheries regulatory framework
 - Engenders collaboration and consultative effort as opposed in the past which only involved technical consultation
 - Requires consideration of viable and implementable risk treatment options rather than previously where the best option /standard was first choice solution



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