

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Uganda's total surface area covered by water is 18%. The major lakes include Victoria, Albert, Kyoga, George and Edward. There are also over 160 minor lakes and many rivers, floodplains and swamps all of which are critical fish breeding and nursery grounds.

Fisheries resources are among the most significant natural endowments in Uganda not only because of their magnitude and diversity, but also because they represent a major source of protein in the diet of most Ugandans, in addition to employment and income for over one million people. Lake Victoria is the world's second largest freshwater lake and the largest in Africa, with a total catchment of 250,000

### **MOTIVATION**

For the past 30 years Lake Victoria has been under considerable environmental pressure from a variety of interlinked human activities, including over-fishing, destructive fishing practices, pollution from human and industrial activities, siltation from the erosion of deforested watersheds and enhanced urban runoff with high sediment loads and large volumes of waste products. The cumulative impacts of these activities are now clearly in evidence and have resulted in the drastic decline of fish stock in the lake.

### **SCOPE OF THE AUDIT**

This study covered 138 landing sites in all the thirteen Districts in Uganda surrounding Lake Victoria and the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) which also borders the lake. Random sampling method was used to select the landing sites within the surrounding Districts and KCCA. The Districts which surround the lake are: Mukono, Buikwe, Buvuma, Namayingo, Mayuge, Mpigi, Masaka, Rakai, Kalangala, Wakiso, Jinja, Bugiri, Busia and KCCA. The study analysis covered three financial years from July 2008/09 to June 2010/11 but field data is based on observations in the 138 landing sites (Appendix 2) done in the month of December 2011 and January 2012

### **KEY FINDINGS**

#### **Implementation of Measures to Combat Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing**

The measures instituted by the state through the key players in fishery: MAAIF, Local Governments and BMUs to combat illegal, un-regulated and unreported fishing are

inadequate. The level of illegality is on increase as evidenced by the fact that there is no significant reduction in the level of illegal practices. The inadequacy of the measures is reflected in the weaknesses in the implementation of registration and licensing of the fishers and fishing vessels, general lack of capacity in terms of financial, equipment, personnel numbers and competence leading to conducting patrols irregularly and with inadequate patrol coverage. There is also inadequate conducting of awareness campaigns and lack of satisfactory information sharing on fisheries activities in the Lake.

### **Management Measures to Combat Overfishing in Lake Victoria**

There is overfishing basically for the three main commercial fish species: Nile perch, Dagaa and Tilapia while other species indicate almost a double increase in biomass with the rest having no established commercial value. The management measures put in place by Uganda through its implementing arms to combat over fishing in Lake Victoria is generally not effective. Uganda carried only 3 catch assessment surveys out of required 12 in three years which amounts to only 25% performance. Only one of the six recommended hydro-acoustic surveys in three years was done while performance on frame survey has been consistent and done after every two years since 2000 jointly by three east African countries coordinated by LVFO. There is glaring lack of control on breeding grounds for juvenile fish. There is no evidence of monitoring and control of operations on Lake Victoria BMUs by MAAIF with only one annual report of department of fisheries accessed for the three years under study representing 33% performance level.

### **Infrastructure for Post-harvest handling at Landing Sites**

The infrastructures at landing sites are largely inadequate. The cold storage facilities at the landing sites are largely not modern and are rudimentary. The sanitary situation remains worse. The ratio of people to toilet stance remains high and may imply others resort to alternative means other than toilets to dispose human waste; a situation that poses health hazard. Clean water supply at landing sites remains a big challenge with 62% not having safe water but instead use the untreated lake water in its rawness. Access roads to landing sites are another challenge to the extent that 51% of the landing sites have seasonal access roads and are in bad state.

## **KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Implementation of Measures to Combat Illegal, Un-regulated and Unreported Fishing**

- The MAAIF should liaise with districts and BMUs to harmonise the registration and licensing policy and process.
- The MAAIF should facilitate the districts and BMUs to carry out registration and licensing of fishers and vessels since it delegated these duties.
- The MAAIF, districts and BMUs should strengthen their regulatory framework to enable them carry out their enforcement of illegal activities.
- The districts should strengthen the operational capacity of the department of Fisheries to intensify supervision and support to BMUs in order to combat illegal, un-regulated and unreported fishing through prioritising financial support to the department.
- The MAAIF should develop guidelines to streamline, harmonize and coordinate the operation of various parties involved in the patrol to avoid overlaps between patrol parties.
- The MAAIF should strengthen the operational capacity of the districts and BMUs to enable them conduct their monitoring, control and surveillance activities
- The MAAIF and the districts should provide technical support to the BMUs to enable them identify, demarcate and gazette breeding zones.
- The MAAIF and the districts should set parameters for guiding BMUs to identify breeding grounds.
- The MAAIF, district and BMUs should prioritize awareness activities in their plans.

### **Management Measures to Combat Overfishing in Lake Victoria**

- The MAAIF and the districts should enforce recording of fish caught and issuance of fish movement permits by BMUs.
- The MAAIF, districts and BMUs should sensitize the fishers on the importance of daily recording of fish caught.
- The MAAIF should explore possibilities of carrying out joint hydro-acoustic surveys with LVFO and share the results of the surveys with all stakeholders.

### **Infrastructure for Post-harvest Handling in Lake Victoria**

- The MAAIF and Local Governments should provide cooling facilities at the landing sites.
- The MAAIF, District and Sub-County councils should prioritize the provision of safe water to the landing sites.
- The MAAIF, District and BMUs should prioritize the provision of toilet facilities to the landing sites.
- The Central Government, Local Government, UNRA and the local community should prioritise construction, maintenance and rehabilitation of access roads to the landing sites.