



## GIZ - Global Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Projects



**Responsible Fisheries Business Chain Project (RFBCP)**

**Project No: 2016.0126.9-002**

# Performance Report 2018 -2020

## To Our Stakeholders/Partners

### Strategic Highlights

GIZ is implementing the Global Program on Sustainable Fishery and Aquaculture in Mauritania, Malawi, Madagascar, Zambia, Cambodia and Uganda. The overall objective is to ensure food security and poverty reduction by increasing fish supply and income. The Global Program is part of the special initiative “One World - No Hunger” (SEWOH) of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Program aims at improving supplies of and access to high-quality protein and nutrients to the local population. The Responsible Fisheries Business Chain Project (RFBCP) is focusing on sustainable management of Nile perch fishery on Lake Victoria. The Nile perch fishery in the lake supports about 2 million livelihoods with over 250,000 tons of fish estimated at 545 million USD and 300 million USD in export (Mkumbo and Marshall 2015<sup>1</sup>). Thus, this fishery has the potential for food and income security in East Africa. The RFBCP focuses on 3 objectives areas of; i) More fish More income, ii) Sustainable fisheries management and iii) reduction of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. RFBCP operates regionally, around Lake Victoria in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. However, its focus is on 21 districts within the Lake Victoria basin in Uganda, which include Bugiri, Buikwe Bukomansimbi, Busia, Butambala, Buvuma, Gomba, Iganga, Jinja, Kalangala, Kalungu, Kampala, Kyotera Luuka, Masaka, Mayuge, Mpigi, Mukono, Namayingo, Sembabule and Wakiso. RFBCP implements its activities through partners that include Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO) where its offices are hosted, Directorate of Fisheries Resources (DiFR), Uganda Fish Processors and Exporters Association (UFPEA), Katosi Women Development Trust (KWDT), Federation of Fisheries Organizations Uganda (FFOU), Association of Fishers and Lake Users of Uganda (AFALU), Perfect Events (PFT), Uganda National Women Fish Organisation (UNWFO) and many others. RFBCP supported partner`s planned activities and financed other activities directly through consultancy services.

### Operating Highlights

RFBCP was officially launched at the 2018 LVFO Council of Ministers meeting. The project has implemented several activities under the three output areas in collaboration with government and non-governmental partners within the fisheries sector.

RFBCP conducted value chain and market analysis for Nile perch and fish maw (swim bladder) in East Africa, Hongkong and China, to improve income for the local traders. RFBCP financed 2018 and 2019 Hydroacoustic Surveys that documented an increase in fish biomass in Lake Victoria. RFBCP have supported DiFR's registration and licensing of boats and fishermen to curb illegal fishing operations as well as the development and piloting of the ABAVUBI App, and the installation of the electronic Catch Assessment Survey (eCAS) tool on Lake Victoria. The collaborations and linkages with institutions and partners have been maintained and new ones acquired. RFBCP supported the daily operations of partners with office equipment such as computers, printers and servers, furniture and mobility resources including bicycles and

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<sup>1</sup> Mkumbo, O. C., and B. E. Marshall. 2015. The Nile perch fishery of Lake Victoria: current status and management challenges. *Fisheries Management and Ecology* 22:56-63.





motorcycles. The legislative environment has also been supported through the review and updating of the regional Co-management guidelines on Lake Victoria and the consultative review meeting of the national fisheries and aquaculture bill 2018 (2020). RFBCP also facilitated the review of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for self-checks in the fish factories, which were used for 444 inspections in 11 fish factories. To ensure continuity in capacity building, several trainings have been supported for the different stakeholders and partners e.g. fish processors, and boarder post fisheries inspectors. RFBCP has supported awareness creation and dissemination of relevant materials during the annual agricultural shows, fish festival and both print and media adverts during the lockdown following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.



**Participants of the first regular session of the fisheries and aquaculture sectoral council of ministers meeting in Entebbe in 2018**

The RFBCP team would like to thank LVFO, the respective Ministries of Fisheries and all its other partners in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, the fisheries officers at district and sub county level, its free-lance consultants and all other stakeholders in the fisheries sector for the very good working relations, which enabled the RFBCP to reach many of the agreed targets.

**Adolf Gerstl**

**Project Leader, Responsible Fisheries Business Chain Project  
Global Program “Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Country”**



## A. More fish, more income

The field of action "More fish, more income" aims at establishing the prerequisites for value addition to fish of sustainable and resource conserving Nile perch fishery. The field of action planned several activities in the 2018 - 2020 interval and achieved the following:

### Target activities and achievements

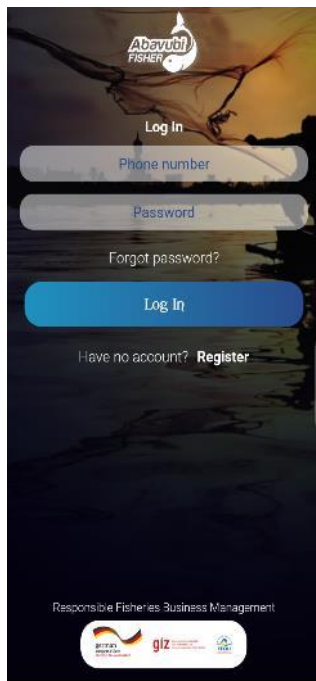
i) Organisation and implementation of training and advisory services on business development services (BDS) with special consideration of women.

- Conducted a training needs assessment of the associations as Business Service Providers within the fisheries sector. This evaluated the know-how, capacity and need for strengthening efforts of the potential BDS Providers. Additionally, it also allowed to identify current needs to ensure the development of impactful BDS trainings within the target community and the most suitable providers for developing and implementing such trainings.
- Conducted a *Think Tank* meeting for the proposal development for the implementation of BDS trainings aimed at enhancing application of business skills of SMEs across the fisheries value chain. The Think Tank meeting was attended by participants of Fisheries associations, Business Organisations as well as academic institutions. The proposal suggests that trainings will be implemented by FFOU, AFALU and KWDT targeting 2000 enterprises in the category of boat owners, traders and fish and fish by-product processors.

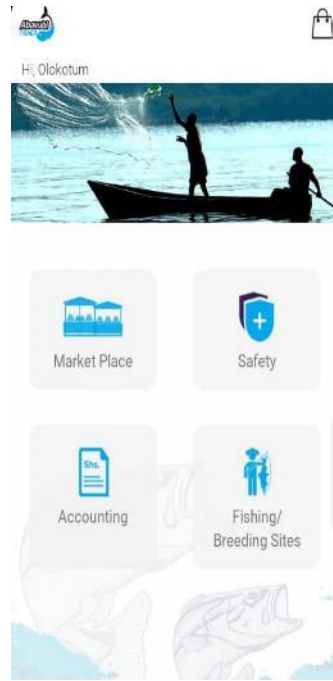
ii) Piloting the ABALOBI App and adaption of the system according to the needs of Ugandan fishers

- In collaboration RFBCP and FFOU developed and adapted the ABAVUBI App from the South African ABALOBI App. The Mobile App application will strengthen the management of fisheries businesses through recording business data and marketing of fish and fisheries products. A user training manual was developed and 35 IT administrators from FFOU were trained as trainers. The App is currently hosted under the **Digital oceans** cloud server for management of the ABAVUBI App data in compliance with EU and Uganda data privacy policies. The app can be downloaded from Google play store as "*Abavubi Fisher apk 1.2.7*" for Android





The ABAVUBI App interface once installed on a mobile phone



Field testing of the ABAVUBI App at a fish market, in Wakiso district

iv) Capacity building for partner groups/women groups to legalize their fisheries businesses

- RFBCP signed a grant agreement with KWDT. Based on this agreement, KWDT conducted 42 trainings to strengthen the capacities of women groups under KWDT with 951 participants (140 males and 811 females) trained in teamwork building, leadership and conflict management
- 459 group members (43 males and 416 females) were trained in fish hygiene handling and processing while 358 (120 males, 238 Females) were trained on FAO Voluntary guidelines for small scale fisheries
- Installed 5 energy-efficient smoking kilns at Katosi landing site, Bugula, Bulebi, Mumumza and Bugoye landing sites on Lake Victoria to ensure quality fish products.
- RFBCP supported the Ugandan National Women in Fisheries (UNWFO) consultative workshop to develop the constitution and action plan that facilitates the establishment of the network for women processors and traders in Uganda. This meeting was attended by 55 members (49 women and 6 men) comprising of women fish processors, traders, fish farmers and fisherwomen, and lead public sector agencies (MAAIF, MGLSD, and NaFIRRI).
- Supported the 1<sup>st</sup> African women's Fish processors and trader's symposium and trade fair in Kampala. The meeting was attended by 164 fish traders and processors (132 females and 32 males) 80% of participants were from the East African Community and 20% from African Union member states.
- Facilitated the development of a training manual in fish processing, storage, transport, and marketing of fish that was used to train women groups in Kiyindi and Katosi.







**Panellist and participants at the first ever African Women's fish processors and traders symposium organized by UNWFO with funding from GIZ - RFBCP**

v) Capacity building for partner organisations

- RFBCP supported the review and development of a five-year strategic plan for FFOU to harmonise its strategic direction and increase membership subscription.
- RFBCP supported the development and finalisation of FFOU's code of conduct and the training of 100 fishers (members) in resource mobilization
- Supported the consultative meeting that developed AFALU's strategic plan and financial tool
- Provided 03 motorcycles and 03 sets of office furniture and 03 desktop computers to FFOU and 02 laptops, 01 desktop computer, 01 printer and 01 projector to AFALU.
- Provided 02 motorcycles, 30 bicycles 03 laptops, 01 printers, 50 plastic chairs and 01 outdoor tent to KWDT.

vi) Implementation of surveys and studies on the Nile perch fishery on Lake Victoria to address information gaps concerning the local and regional Nile perch value chain.

- RFBCP facilitated the Nile perch value chain analysis for the local and regional trade in East Africa.
- Conducted the value chain analysis of the Nile perch maw (swim bladder) trade in East Africa with focus on processing and trade of the Nile perch maw to optimize its economic benefit.
- Conducted the Ugandan Nile perch fish maw value chain analysis in Hongkong and China in 2018
- Developed guidelines for the extraction, processing, and trade of Nile perch fish maw (swim bladder) awaiting approval by the Council of Ministers
- Established the status of co-management structures, gaps and challenges, and best options for effectively implementing the revised co-management guidelines in Uganda
- Established the status of protection of fish breeding areas on Lake Victoria

vii) Setting incentives for new and innovative business ideas for marketing fisheries products from slot size Nile perch on the local and regional market with a focus on women.



- Organized fisheries Business Competition to identify innovative and profitable business ideas and their dissemination.

## Outcome and impact dissemination

- i) The local fisheries associations and organisations capacity has been strengthened in strategic planning and resource mobilisation



**KWDT women groups participating in Nile perch product diversification into sausages (left) and marketing of smoked large Nile perch (right)**



**GIZ - RFBCP team handing over motorcycles to members of the FFOU in Jinja**



## B. Sustainable fish

The field of action of "Sustainable fish" is aimed at improving the organisational and financial conditions for sustainable and resource-efficient Nile perch fishing. The stakeholders require long term funding mechanisms and deliberations of the managers in the fisheries sector.

### Sustainable fish activities and achievements

The RFBCP:

i) Support commission of technical experts and studies concerning biological and management issues, e.g. catch selectivity for different mesh sizes, sales, market and socio-economic data on consumers

- Through a financing agreement, RFBCP facilitated LVFO to:
  - Facilitate the meeting for the 2018 and 2019 LVFO “Fisheries Management Committee and Scientific committee to harmonise the fisheries legislation of the East African States.
  - Review the hydroacoustic method, data analysis and reporting and implementation of the annual hydroacoustic surveys 2018, 2019 and the planned 2020 study.
  - Support the planning meeting and implementation of Lake Victoria's economic and financial impact assessment of the Nile perch fisheries in 2020.
  - Review and update the methodology and standard operating procedures for Bottom Trawl Surveys, Catch Assessment and Frame Surveys for the assessment of fish stocks,
  - Successfully install the Electronic Catch Assessment System (e-CAS) for the electronic recording of catches.
  - Facilitate the regional workshop of experts that agreed on the piloting of the e-CAS system and training of 74 users (11 females: 63 males)
  - Develop the Nile perch book. The book is aimed at creating awareness and guidance on the sustainable management of the Nile perch fishery.
  - Review and updated the regional guidelines for fisheries Co-management on Lake Victoria.
  - Organise a consultative meeting with district-fisheries officers from the 21 districts of Lake Victoria to discuss effective ways on the implementation of the revised co-management guidelines and protection of fish breeding zones on Lake Victoria
  - Procure 120 mobile phones for e-CAS data transfers, 3 laptops and 3 computer servers for data processing and storage.
  - Procure a new server for LVFO for storing the ever-increasing fisheries data from the EAC that will be linked to the electronic Catch Assessment System (e-CAS) for Lake Victoria.
- Supported the UFPEA and grass-root consultative meeting in the review of the draft Fisheries and Aquaculture bill 2018. All the proposals for amendments in the bill (two reports) were presented at the final validation meeting organised by DiFR and FAO.
- RFBCP supported the development of 3 proposals on the sustainable financing mechanism for the management of the fisheries.
- Supported awareness campaigns in agricultural show and trade fair.
- Supported the production and printing of awareness and dissemination material by DiFR and NaFIRRI.



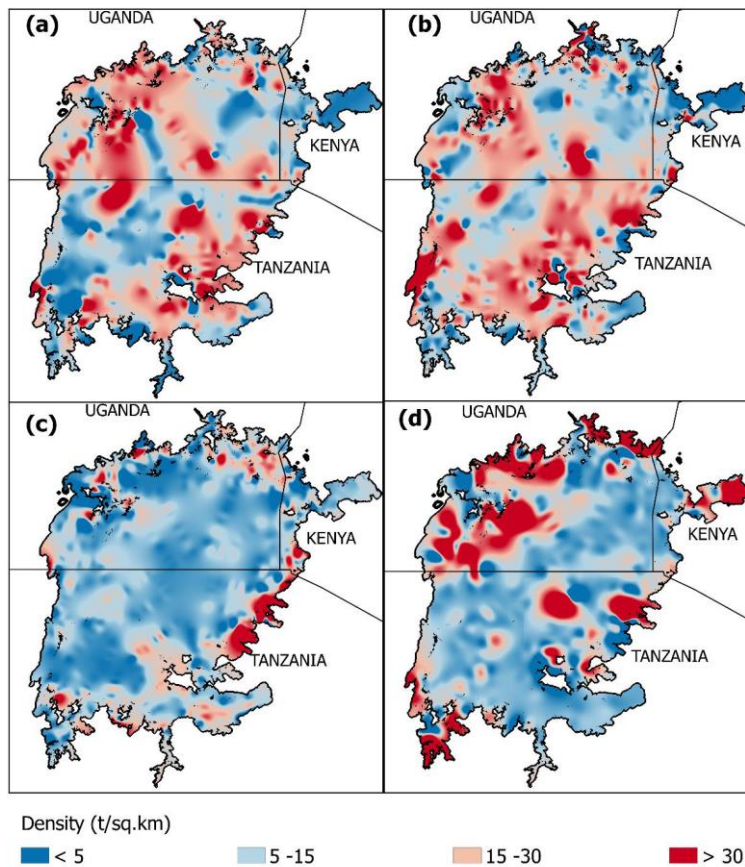


- RFBCP supported the 2018, 2019 Jinja Fish Festival aimed at promoting sustainable fisheries management. The fish festival was organised in partnership with LVFO, DiFR, FFOU, UFPEA, AFALU, KWDT, UFCCA, NaFIRRI, and Makerere University.

### Outcome and impact statements

- Market value for fish maw and other products established for sustainable management of the Nile perch fishery.
- Biomass of fish in Lake Victoria established and improved from 2.21 million tonnes in 2018 to 2.68 million tonnes in 2019 dominated by Dagaa at 35% followed by Nile perch at 31%.
- Annual income levels of female and male fishers working with legally caught increased significantly.

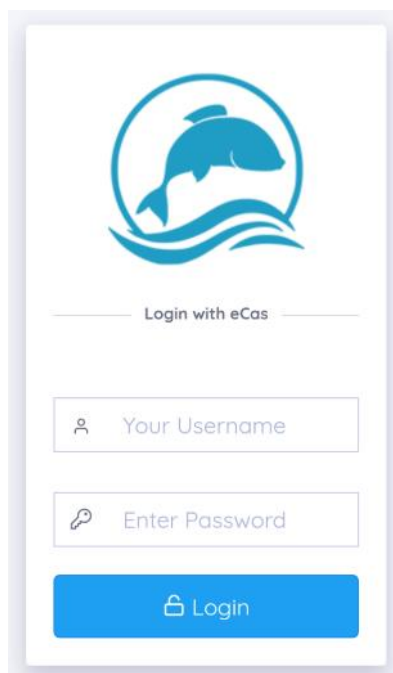
### Fish stocks/biomass



Spatial distribution of a) Nile perch, b) Dagaa, c) Haplochromines and others d) Caridina in Lake Victoria during the 2019 hydroacoustic surveys.



## Electronic Catch Assessment Survey (eCAS).



The electronic Catch Assessment Survey (eCAS) App interface (left) and members of the regional working group

## C. Less fish from IUU

The field of action "Less fish from IUU" (illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing) aims at improving the control and monitoring of Nile fish fishing and legalise previously illegal post-harvest activities.

### Curbing IUU

The challenges of IUU in the fisheries sector are immense and contribute significantly to unreported catches and revenue from the sector.

### Measures against IUU and achievements

Thus, RFBCP planned to:

- i) Strengthen self-monitoring of fish export factories under UFPEA in Uganda,
  - Facilitated the review and updating of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for self-monitoring of the commercial fish processing industry and exporters on fish slot size regulation.
  - From November 2018 to September 2020, RFBCP facilitated 4 UFPEA inspectors to carry out 444 inspections in 11 fish factories based on the revised SOPs on self-monitoring guidelines.
- ii) Support the private sector in expanding the self-monitoring (quality and compliance) towards producers for the local markets.
  - Trained 314 factory staff workers, 437 fish factory suppliers and their purchasers on the reviewed and updated SOPs for self-monitoring of the commercial fish processing industry and exporters.
- iii) Strengthening of the upcoming Ugandan national fisheries task force and promoting dialogue and collaboration with other agencies and actors from the public and private sector.
  - In talks with DiFR to assist in conducting quarterly meetings of a fisheries stakeholder platform.
- iv) Training on regional border controls for improved implementation and compliance with existing Nile perch trade regulations, and
  - Organized two training courses for the fisheries inspectors responsible for border controls and cross border trade in Masaka and Arua.
  - Trained 43 (6 females and 37 males) border inspectors and 59 traders (29 females and 30 males) on the harmonised fisheries and aquaculture Border inspection manual for East Africa, and Harmonised guidelines for traders in Fish, Fishery & Aquaculture products and inputs in the regional and international trade in Masaka and Arua.
  - Printed and handed over a total of 150 copies of the harmonised East African Community Guidelines for Fish, Fisheries and Aquaculture Products in Regional and International Trade and 100 copies of the Harmonised Fisheries and Aquaculture Border Inspection Manual for East Africa to the inspectors and traders.
  - Provided 28 pull-up banners with information to act as a guide for quick clearing at the borders, 28 uniforms for fisheries inspectors and 1 refrigerator 10 and cooler boxes for handing samples at Entebbe international airport.





v) Offer technical advisory support to the responsible fisheries ministries and secretariats on the introduction of boat registration and licensing.

- Procured 23,000 Vessel Identification Plates (VIP) for fishing boats by 2019 and supported registration of 12,889 registered boat owners.
- Supported the registration and licensing of 25,776 crew members to work on the boats.
- RFBCP supported awareness campaigns, on the benefits of registration and licensing and delivery of the Vessel Identification Plates to boat owners.
- Trained 11 District Fisheries Officers and 55 Sub-County Fisheries Officers on e-licensing and registration.
- Procured 106 laptops, 103 printers and 113 generators to support boat registration and licensing in the 21 districts of operations.



H.E. the German Ambassador to Uganda, Albrecht Conze handing over the Fishing Vessel Identification Plates to officials from MAAIF and Local Government in Wakiso district in 2019

## Outcome and impact

- Increased number of self-inspections
- Improved compliance with the slot size regulation.
- Three proposals of self-financing mechanism presented to DIFR.
- Up to 7163 Nile perch boats were registered and licensed on Lake Victoria.
- Increased implementation of lower slot size of Nile perch.
- Legally landed Nile perch from registered and licensed boats has increased from 828,000 kg (basic value) to around 11,766,500 kg.
- The fishing effort on Lake Victoria has been regulated by DiFR.



Fisheries inspector using one of the pull up banners

## RFBCP Covid-19 interventions

During the pandemic, strict measures were introduced but there was lack of safety measures and personal protective equipment (PPEs) for fisheries personnel as essential service providers. Fisheries managers from the 21 districts requested support, thus the RFBCP procured handwashing facilities, soap, masks, fuel and provided radio transmission time to protect stakeholders and partners to slow down the spread of Covid-19 in fishing communities. Specifically;

- i) During the Covid-19 outbreak, RFBCP supported short radio spots (45 seconds) and talk shows (30 minutes).
- ii) RFBCP procured and distributed 4 cartons of soap and hand-washing facilities for each of the 147 fisheries offices in 21 districts around Lake Victoria.
- iii) Procured and distributed over 1000 face masks to partners such as FFOU, UFPEA, DiFR, LVFO and the district fisheries authorities.
- iv) Provided 540 litres of fuel for the districts of Buikwe and Jinja to help fishers, workers and saleswomen comply with the guidelines.



**RFBCP team leader (left) and staff (right) handing over hand washing facilities and in Buikwe and Mukono districts respectively**



# Conclusions and way forward

GIZ - RFBCP, together with its partners, has made a significant contribution to food security (more fish available), income generation, regulated fisheries and good fisheries management. There has been strengthening of Government actors as well as the private sector and civil society organisation for sustainable resource use.

As a way forward, ongoing activities will be supported till they come to a successful conclusion. In addition, more emphasis will be put on support to actors who are involved in co-management activities and management of protected areas. Furthermore, an extension of some activities to Lake Kyoga is planned.



RFBCP Team

