**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**
LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES ORGANIZATION
SECRETARIAT

# REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO REVIEW AND UPDATE THE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING CATCH ASSESSMENT AND FRAME SURVEYS ON LAKE VICTORIA

## Terms of Reference

### 1.    Background for the assignment

The Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (*LVFO*) is the regional intergovernmental organization with a mandate to promote Sustainable Management and Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the East African region for Food Security and Wealth creation. It is comprised of the Republic of Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Uganda, and most recently the Republic of Burundi.

The LVFO, under the Responsible Fisheries Business Chains Project (*RFBC*)  has allocated funds to be used for the acquisition of Consultancy Services to Review and Update the Standard Operating Procedures for Conducting Catch Assessment and Frame Surveys on Lake Victoria.

The Nile perch fishery on Lake Victoria has been identified as a suitable entry point for contribution to the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Special Initiative called One World-No Hunger. Under this programme, the Responsible Fisheries Business Chains (RFBC) project was developed based on the Lake Victoria Nile perch stock. The RFBC project operates within the Rural Development component of the national GIZ country programme for Uganda with extension into Kenya and Tanzania.

The Nile perch fishery was the first for which a new type of species specific management plan was developed in 2009, the Nile Perch Fisheries Management Plan (NPFMP) 2009-2014 that was approved by the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) Council of Ministers (CoM) in November 2009. The latest version of the NPFMP (2015-2019) was developed in March 2015 and approved by the Council of Ministers in January 2016. This plan is more economically focussed than previous versions and is aligned to the EAC Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and the Pan African Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy Framework, 2014. The RFBC project is based on the NPFMP 2015-2019 and the Lake Victoria Fisheries Management Plan III 2016-2020 as guiding frameworks for support.

In 2005, the need to better manage the Nile perch fisheries led to improvements in data collection, analysis and reporting with the development of regionally harmonised Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Catch Assessment Surveys (CAS), Frame Surveys (FS), Hydro-acoustic and Trawl Surveys. The implementation of CAS is under the technical guidance of the LVFO Catch Assessment Regional Working Group (CAS-RWG) and the associated CAS National Working Groups.

Lake Victoria supports multi-species and multi-gear fisheries. This adds to the challenge of estimating total catch and fishing effort for Nile perch. There are several different fisheries that capture Nile perch either by deliberate targeting or as a secondary or incidental catch. There are two main fisheries that supply the Nile perch industrial processing and export industry. These are the gillnet and longline fisheries operated usually from motorised or sailing Sesse pointed or flat boats. These fisheries aim to target fish above 50 cm total length to comply with regulations but often take Nile perch smaller than this in legal gill nets. Then there are illegal gears such as beach/boat seines that target smaller, juvenile Nile perch. There is an inshore gill net fishery that targets tilapia and juvenile Nile perch usually with illegally small-meshed nets. The light fishery also catches very small Nile perch as by-catch especially when fishing illegally within 2 km of the shore.

CAS is designed to gauge exploitation levels and the frame survey provides data on fishing effort. There are time series of data from the two types of surveys from 2005 and 2000 respectively. The data and information requirements to manage the Nile perch fisheries according to the NPFMP are not yet fully provided by the report outputs of the CAS and FS. For example, while data on the Nile perch catch and fishing effort by the different fisheries are collected during surveys, they are not comprehensively analysed and presented in CAS and FS survey reports. In order to ensure that the CAS-SOP is based on best scientific practice, there is need for review and improvement of survey techniques, including data collection, analysis and presentation of results. This positive aim for fisheries management is one that the RFBC project supports in this consultancy by commissioning an expert independent review. To achieve this, a specialist in Catch Assessment and Frame surveys will be commissioned to work closely with the LVFO Catch Assessment and Frame surveys Regional Working Groups. Under the technical guidance of the expert, this consultancy aims to ensure that the CAS and Frame Surveys -SOPs are based on the latest best scientific practice so that the survey methods, analyses and presentation of results deliver accurate and reliable information on the fish stocks in Lake Victoria.


## 2.      Immediate Objective of the assignment

The Consultant will undertake the following tasks:

1. Establish electronic communication with the LVFO Catch Assessment Regional Working Group (CAS-RWG), the Frame Survey Regional Working Group (FS-RWG) and the Stock Assessment Regional Working Group (SA-RWG) and review relevant documentation, with particular attention to the reports of these three RWGs.
2. In consultation with the CAS-RWG and FS-RWG, review catch and fishing effort data available
3. In conjunction with the Stock-assessment RWG, identify data and information gaps that need to be filled by CAS and FS.
4. Participate in the CAS and FS RWG meeting to be held in Mwanza, Tanzania (or an alternative location in Kenya, Tanzania or Uganda, as the need arises).
5. In conjunction with the CAS and FS RWG members, critically review available data & information for catch assessment and Frame surveys, and indicate briefly the strengths and weaknesses in terms of accuracy and reliability and identify points in data collection and analysis that may require priority improvement in analysis.
6. In consultation with CAS-RWG propose a mechanism (sampling procedure, frequency of data collection and reporting) for integrating an e-CAS data collection into the existing system.

7. Technically guide the meeting of the CAS and FS RWG in appropriate approaches for Catch Assessment and Frame surveys including statistical robust stratification based on target species.
8. Recommend the most suitable approach in handling vertical joining of gears, fishing time, gear type and size, bait type, number of fishers per fishing unit and any other parameter which may influence catch estimates
9. In dialogue (electronic and during the meeting) with the CAS-RWG, explore issues within the Nile perch value chain for export markets that might create advantages or disadvantages in undertaking CAS. Particular attention should be paid to the operations of Nile perch transport/collection vessels collecting fish on from different fishers on the lake and delivering fish directly to factories.
10. Undertake hands-on training on the use of recommended method(s) for catch assessment to the CAS and FS RWGs and train members in application of any new or revised methods.
11. Support the CAS and FS RWGs in amending the formats of the regional Catch Assessment Survey report and the biennial Frame Survey report incorporating changes needed to improve the documents to better inform fisheries management.
12. Prepare a final report of the assignment with draft revised CAS and FS SOPs as an annex to the report.
13. Prepare a not more than two page non-technical summary of the report to be used as a briefing paper for the next LVFO Council of Ministers meeting.

The LVFO Secretariat is therefore seeking to recruit a Consultant to review and update Standard Operating Procedures for conducting Catch Assessment and Frame Surveys on Lake Victoria.

## 3. Methodology and Work Plan

i)      The Consultant will be expected to propose a suitable Methodology and Work Plan for executing the task.

ii)     The Methodology and Work Plan will be discussed and agreed between the Consultant and LVFO's counterpart team.

iii)    The Consultant will be expected to provide financial proposal to cover the tasks proposed including his/her travel expenses to the region

## 4. Expected Outputs

The expected outputs of this assignment include:

a) Revised Catch assessment and Frame Surveys SOPs of the Lake Victoria fisheries using best practice and based on best available data and information.
b) Improved CAS & Frame Survey data forms as appendix to the respective SOPs.
c) Training report of LVFO CAS-RWG and FS-RWG members on revised methods
d) An improved structure and content of the LVFO Catch Assessment Survey and Frame Survey reports.

The report outputs include:

a) Two copies of the assignment report, plus an electronic version in MS Word. The report should be clear and concise and not more than 20 pages and all other information should be contained in annexes to the report.
b) A one to two page non-technical summary of the report to be used as a briefing paper for the next LVFO Council of Ministers meeting.

The draft assignment report will be submitted to LVFO and other stakeholder's review and comments at the Training workshop, and based on comments received; the final report will be submitted to LVFO by 30th April 2019.

## 5. Duration and timing of the Assignment

The consultancy duration is up to 35 man days undertaken between March and April 2019 comprising 17 days of desk reviews of document and development of preliminary catch assessment and frame survey options, 6 days in the lake region including 2 days international travel and 10 days for final report production.

## 6. Qualifications & Experience

Qualifications
- Higher degree (MSc/MA) or PhD in fisheries related subjects

Professional experience
- at least 10 years professional experience working with fish catch assessment and frame surveys data
- at least 10 professional assignments (long or short-term) in fisheries management in developing countries
- at least 5 professional assignments (long or short-term) in small-scale fisheries

Other competences
- In-depth understanding of fisheries assessment methods.
- Track record of running training in fisheries assessment using data from both fisheries depended and fisheries independent data.
- Track record of working with local teams for fisheries stock assessments in developing countries.
- Track record of scientific publications.

## 7. Expression of Interest

Interested Consultants may express their Interest for shortlisting by providing relevant information on their academic and professional qualifications, experiences and on other relevant competences in the EOI.

**8.    Evaluation Criteria**

A qualified and experienced consultant will be recruited through a competitive process according to EAC/LVFO Rules and Procedures for procurement of service providers, based on the following criteria:

a) Academic and professional qualifications, and suitability for the task:      40%
b) Experience in the specific assignment described in the Terms of   50% Reference:
c) Experience working in East Africa, particularly in Lake Victoria basin      10%

Interested Consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 09:00hrs – 16:00hrs (East African Time). No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery and late submissions will be rejected.

Expression of interest must be delivered to the address below by **22nd February, 2019** at 1600hrs, labelled "Expression of Interest for the Provision of Consultancy Services to review and update Standard Operating Procedures for conducting Catch Assessment and Frame Surveys on Lake Victoria (LVFO/SRVCS/2018-2019/009).

**Attn: The Executive Secretary**
**Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization,**
**Busoga Square, Plot No. 7B/E, Bell Avenue**
**P. O. Box 1625, Jinja, Uganda**
**Telephone Number: +256 434 125000/2**

For more information or clarification, please contact us on the address above or through e-mail: lvfo-sec@lvfo.org. **Email submissions will be accepted**.