EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES ORGANIZATION
SECRETARIAT

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO
REVIEW THE NILE PERCH STOCK ASSESSMENT METHODS

Terms of Reference

1. Background Information

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 the Nile perch Stock Assessment Methods.

The Nile perch fishery on Lake Victoria has been identified as a suitable entry point for contribution to the BMZ Special Initiative 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 LVFO Council of Ministers (CoM) in November 2009. This plan was developed after a lake wide pre-assessment was undertaken in March 2008 for possible Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification of Nile perch. The pre-assessment identified several obstacles to gaining the eco-label at that time. The structure NPFMP was aligned to the requirements of MSC assessment methodology and later updated in August 2013. The latest version of the NPFMP (2015-2019), was developed in March 2015 and approved by the CoM 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 (FMP-III) 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 (SOP) for hydro-acoustic, catch assessment, trawl and frame surveys. A LVFO Stock Assessment Regional Working Group (SA-RWG) was established to undertake regular fish stock assessments. During the last decade, analyses of data and information on Nile perch fisheries and stock have been undertaken using various biological studies, hydro-acoustic surveys to estimate stock biomass, catch assessment surveys and census (frame) surveys used in the estimation of fishing effort. There are time series of data available for each of these

surveys. Therefore, there is need to review and improve the methods used by the SA-RWG in assessing the state of the Nile perch stock to ensure that best practice is being applied based on available data. In line with the NPFMP 2015-2019, particular attention is needed on approaches that include bio-economic modelling of the stock.

2.   Immediate Objective of the assignment

The Consultant will undertake the following tasks:

1. Prior to travel to the lake region, establish electronic communication with the LVFO Stock Assessment Regional Working Group (SA-RWG) and review relevant documentation, with particular attention to the reports of the LVFO SA-RWG, NPFMP-II and FMP-III.
2. In consultation with the SA-RWG, review data available for use in Nile perch stock assessment prior to travel to the region.
3. In consultation with the SA-RWG and prior to travel to the region, undertake a preliminary appraisal of the modelling approaches available for the Nile perch stock based on available data and information an apply these approaches for presentation to the forthcoming SA-RWG meeting.
4. In consultation with the SA-RWG and prior to travel to the region, inform the SA-RWG, LVFO Director of Resource Monitoring and Research of the need for any specialized computer software or hardware for running models to be presented at a forthcoming SA-RWG meeting.
5. Travel to the Lake Victoria region and participate in the SA-RWG meeting to be held in Mwanza, Tanzania (or an alternative location in Kenya, Tanzania or Uganda, as the need arises).
6. During the SA-RWG meeting, review in more detail with the SA-RWG members, data & information available for Nile perch modelling and stock assessment and evaluate briefly the strengths and weaknesses in terms of accuracy and reliability.
7. Technically guide the meeting of the SA-RWG and apply modelling approaches available for Nile perch stock assessment, including bio-economic models, and undertake appraisals of these approaches with recommendations for the most suitable to be used by the SA-RWG.
8. Demonstrate the detailed appliance of the recommended model(s) for stock assessment to the SA-RWG and train members in application of the model(s).
9. Technically guide the preparation of SA-RWG report and demonstrate where changes need to be made to improve the document for the purpose of guiding fisheries management.
10. Prepare SOPs for Nile Perch stock assessment detailing systematic descriptions of the methods used for stock assessment and modelling in a data-poor fishery.
11. Prepare final report of the assignment.
12. Prepare 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.

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) Stock assessment of the Lake Victoria Nile perch by the LVFO SA-RWG using best practice and based on best available data and information.
b) Training report indicating how many scientists by gender have been trained on new methods.
c) An improved structure and content of the LVFO SA-RWG Technical Report.
d) Stock Assessment SOPs that provided descriptions of the methods used for stock assessment and modelling in a data-poor fishery.

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 30 days undertaken between March and April 2019 comprising 15 days on home-based document review and development of preliminary stock assessment and modelling options, 6 days in the lake region including 3 days' international travel and 6 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 in fish stock assessment
▪   at least 5 professional assignments (long or short-term) in fisheries management in developing countries
▪   at least 1 professional assignment (long or short-term) in small-scale fisheries

Other competences
▪   in-depth understanding of fisheries modelling and simulations.
▪   in-depth understanding of risk-based approaches for modelling and stock assessments.
▪   track record of working with local teams for fisheries assessments in developing countries.

7.   Expression of Interest

Interested Consultants may express their Interest for shortlisting by providing relevant information on their academic and professional qualifications, experience 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 of Nile Perch Stock Assessment Methods (LVFO/SRVCS/2018-2019/008).

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.**