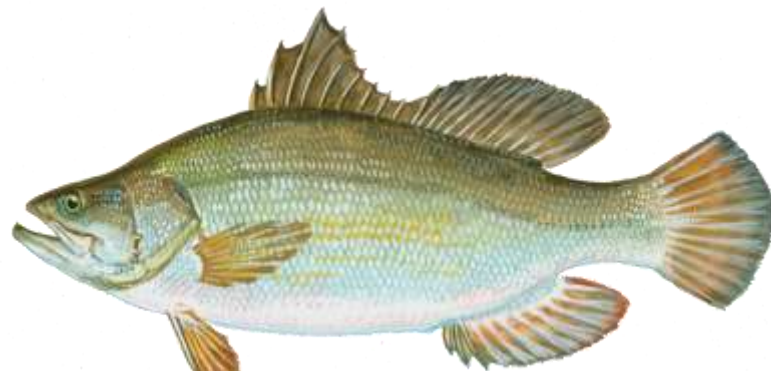




EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES ORGANIZATION
SECRETARIAT



FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE POLICY FOR THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY



JUNE 2018

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge with thanks the Regional Task Force members for their active participation and collaboration in developing the document. Input from fisheries scientists, managers and key fisheries stakeholders in the EAC Partner States during national and regional stakeholder consultations, validation meeting and the work done by the technical team to finalize the document is highly appreciated. We acknowledge with thanks the support of Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project Phase two (LVEMP II), funded by World Bank which provided the funding for the formulation process that culminated in the production of this Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy for the EAC. We also appreciate the support provided by African Union–Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) for funding national consultative workshops to consider the draft policy and regional technical meeting that incorporated comments from national workshops.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AU	African Union
AU-IBAR	African Union Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EAC	East African Community
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
LVFO	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization
LVEMP II	Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project Phase Two
LTA	Lake Tanganyika Authority
MCS	Monitoring Control and Surveillance
OVI	Objectively Verifiable Indicator
PPPs	Private Public Partnerships
PF&RS	Policy Framework and Reform Strategy
REC	Regional Economic Community
SADC	Southern African Development Community
RFMOs	Regional Fisheries Management Organizations
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPS	Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary
SWIOFC	South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission

UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
USD	United States Dollars
WHO	World Health Organization of the United Nations

INTERPRETATION

1. ***Aquaculture:*** The planned and controlled farming of aquatic organisms including fish, molluscs, crustaceans and aquatic plants.
2. ***Community:*** Is a group of people living within a defined geographical area.
3. ***Critical habitats:*** Fish spawning and nursery grounds.
4. ***Ecosystem-based Management to fisheries and aquaculture:*** Is management that takes into account the effects of fisheries and aquaculture activities on the ecosystem and the effects of the ecosystem on the fish stocks both wild and cultured.
5. ***Fisheries:*** Is an activity of catching fish, from one or more stocks of fish that can be treated as a unit for purposes of conservation and management that is identified on the basis of geographic, scientific, technical, recreational, socio or economic characteristics and or method of catch. It refers to activities involved in catching a species of fish or shell fish or a group of species that share the same habitat.
6. ***Partner States:*** Is as used in the Treaty for the establishment of EAC.
7. ***Rights based management:*** A management tool that creates rules which define both the right to use and the allocation of fisheries resources.
8. ***User-pays principle:*** The users of the fish resources and aquaculture should pay for the related fisheries and aquaculture management and development.
9. ***Youth:*** People in the age bracket 18-35 years.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community (EAC) identifies fisheries as one of the areas of cooperation by the EAC Partner States. *Article 114 sub-Article 2(b) (ii) and (iii)* provides for the adoption of common policies and regulations for the conservation, management and development of fisheries resources including establishment of common fisheries management and investment guidelines for inland and marine waters.

The fisheries and aquaculture sector is significant in the contribution to employment creation, food and nutrition security, foreign exchange earnings, income generation and general economic growth and development. The East Africa region is rich in inland and marine water bodies, with high potential of fish production if managed and developed could provide substantial economic and social benefits sustainably. However, fisheries and aquaculture in the EAC region is faced with major challenges and constraints which include but not limited to the following: inadequate quality inputs (seed and feed) for aquaculture development; low uptake of appropriate technologies in fisheries and aquaculture; undervaluation of the sector; lack of understanding and perceived risks; limited capacities to exploit the EEZ; increased IUU fishing; increased fish effort; environmental degradation; piracy; inadequate enforcement of fisheries and aquaculture laws and regulations; inadequate infrastructure for fisheries and aquaculture; inadequate data and information to inform management; inadequate financing; weak institutional setup; limited value addition; and market access.

To address the above challenges and constraints, the Policy provides a framework for Partner States to develop national policies, laws and regulation for the management and development of fisheries and aquaculture. The development of this policy was guided by international, continental and regional protocols, conventions and treaties. The process of this policy was undertaken through a participatory approach involving relevant stakeholders in all the Partner States at all levels.

The specific objectives of the policy are to: increase fish production from capture fisheries and aquaculture to optimal levels and reduce fish post-harvest losses; increase fish per capita consumption in the EAC and increase annual fish exports from capture fisheries and aquaculture; increase public financing and Private Sector investments in the fisheries and aquaculture sector; enhance the capacity of centers of excellence on management, development, research and sharing of fisheries and Aquaculture data and information; increase intra and inter regional trade in fish and fishery products; and strengthen data and information collection and dissemination in fisheries and aquaculture for effective management and development at all levels.

The priority Policy areas are: fisheries Management and Resource Utilization; aquaculture development; fisheries and aquaculture research and resources monitoring; fish value addition, trade and marketing; fisheries enforcement and control of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing; governance, legislation, processes, and institutional frame work; fisheries and aquaculture infrastructure development; capacity building and human resources development; fisheries and aquaculture knowledge management and information sharing; sustainable financing; and cross cutting and emerging issues.

The implementation of the policy will require coordinated effort and close cooperation between Partner States and the EAC institutions. An institutional framework for different stakeholders having different roles and responsibilities has been provided. The performance on the policy implementation and outcomes will be monitored annually both at regional, national and devolved/decentralized level. This will be done through self-scoring of progress made on achieving each Objectively Verifiable Indicator (OVI) as provided in annexes I and II. The Partners States' Technical heads responsible for fisheries and aquaculture shall prepare annual progress reports.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

1.1.1 Scope

The Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy for the East African Community (EAC) is an agreed position by the Partner States of the EAC to guide the management and development of fisheries and aquaculture in the region. The geographic scope of this policy covers the EAC Partner States and focuses on capture and culture fish from both inland and marine waters. The policy addresses the issues of policy coherence and coordination in the management of fisheries and aquaculture in the EAC Partner States to enhance contribution of fish to food and nutritional security, enhancing livelihoods and wealth generation for economic growth and development in EAC. The policy provides guidance for the East Africans to effectively benefit from the various opportunities offered by fisheries and aquaculture. The policy is designed to promote cooperation in fisheries management on trans-boundary waters, ensure traceability of fish and fishery products, improve the quality and safety of traded fish and fishery products, reduce Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing across borders, promote development of responsible aquaculture, enhance coherence in policy implementation with linkage to African Union (AU) Fisheries Policy Framework, ensure accurate and regular update of fisheries data and advocate for improved governance.

1.1.2 The Importance of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the East African Community

The Eastern Africa Region has an abundance of inland water bodies that include: Lake Victoria which is the second largest lake in the world, shared by Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda; Lake Tanganyika the second deepest lake in the world shared by Tanzania, Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi; Lake Turkana shared by Kenya and Ethiopia; Lakes Albert and Edward shared by Uganda and DRC; Lake Kivu shared by Rwanda and DRC; Lakes Rweru and Cyohoha shared by Rwanda and Burundi; and Lake Nyasa shared by Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique. Other major lakes are: Kyoga and George in Uganda; Naivasha in Kenya; Rukwa in Tanzania; Muhazi and Nasho in Rwanda. This is in addition to a number of smaller lakes, man-made dams and rivers. The EAC waters have a variety of fish species offering benefits in the national, regional and international markets.

The EAC as a Regional Economic Community (REC) has also an important share of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Indian Ocean by Kenya and Tanzania. The EEZ offers opportunities for investment in deep sea fishing, processing and infrastructure development along the value chain. Both the inland and marine waters have high potential in terms of fish production and could be managed and developed sustainably to provide substantial economic and social benefits to the development of the Partner States.

The fisheries and aquaculture sector is one of the major sources of animal protein to the 145.5 million people in the EAC (EAC facts and figures Report 2015). The estimated average annual production has been over 1,000,000 Metric tons since 2010. The sector also plays a major role in terms of employment creation, food and nutrition security, foreign exchange earnings and

contributing to economic growth and development of the EAC region. The import trade value in fish and fishery products in the EAC region was estimated to be about USD 245 million in 2014 while the export value is more than USD 991 million.

1.1.3 Policy Development Process

The EAC recognized the importance of having a common policy to guide the management and development of fisheries and aquaculture in the region. The process of development of the policy was provided for in the LVEMP-II project. The process of formulation of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy was initiated in December 2013 by Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) Secretariat whose mandate is to coordinate the management and development of fisheries and aquaculture in the EAC region. This is in-line with EAC treaty *Article 114 sub-Article 2(b) (ii) and (iii)* which call for common policies for the management and development of both inland and marine waters.

The LVFO Secretariat constituted a Regional Task Force to spearhead the policy development process. Members came from institutions responsible for fisheries management, research and aquaculture in the Republic of Burundi, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania and Republic of Uganda.

The process started with regional consultations to agree on a roadmap in December 2013 and this was followed by national consultations to identify the scope of the regional policy in February 2014. Regional meetings were held between July and September 2014 to harmonize and develop the draft policy document. The first draft policy document was presented to fisheries and aquaculture managers from the EAC Partner States in February 2015. Key fisheries and aquaculture stakeholders were consulted in meetings held in December 2015 at national level in the EAC Partner States for input and ownership. The Regional Task Force whose members were nominated from the EAC Partner States reviewed the draft Policy document and incorporated comments from the national consultative meetings between 15th and 18th December 2015. A regional validation workshop was held on 28th June 2016 and was attended by key fisheries and aquaculture stakeholders in the EAC. The validated final draft policy document was presented to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sectoral Council on 2nd March 2018 and was approved.

1.2 RATIONALE AND JUSTIFICATION

Effective development of fisheries and aquaculture in the EAC requires a body to coordinate inland and marine fisheries with formal linkage to other management organizations. Through this body the community will have a common voice regarding planning, implementation, lobbying and promoting production and trade in fish and fishery products. The LVFO is working towards full realization of this role as the lead technical arm of the EAC in matters of fisheries and aquaculture in the region. The LVFO is the technical institution of the EAC mandated to coordinate the management and development of the Fisheries and Aquaculture resources in the Community. Currently, the LVFO, through the amendment of its Convention in January 2016, extended its scope and mandate to cover all water bodies that are essential for fish production. The LVFO will work and collaborate with other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) including, but not limited to, the following: the Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA) for

Lake Tanganyika; the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) for the coastal and Island States in Indian Ocean; and the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) for South West Indian Ocean. Other internationally shared water bodies such as Lakes Albert, Edward, Kivu and Nyasa are in the process of establishing respective management organizations.

The EAC Partner States are endowed with numerous water bodies, suitable species and favorable environment for the development of fisheries and aquaculture. But fish production from both fisheries and aquaculture has remained below the optimum production levels. The key constraints to capture fisheries and aquaculture production include: the prevalence of IUU; increased fishing pressure due to increased population pressure and limited livelihood options; limited investment; under valuation of the fisheries and aquaculture sector; invasive aquatic weeds; inadequate quality fish seeds and feeds for aquaculture; lack of a regional policy and regulatory framework; and limited innovation, technology, value addition, diversification and limited networking of different actors along the value chain.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends per capita fish consumption of 25kg, while in the EAC Partner States, per capita fish consumption is below 10kg due to limited fish supply and cultural influences. The high population growth rate ranging between 2.1% - 3.3% (Human Development Report 2007) whilst posing a fisheries management challenge, also provides a potential increased market and an opportunity for investment in both fisheries and aquaculture in the EAC region.

To address the above constraints, the LVFO Secretariat initiated a process to develop the first Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy for the EAC. The Policy provides a framework for implementation of the Regional Strategy and Implementation Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture (2015-2020) and the Lake Victoria Fisheries Management Plan III (2016-2020). The policy guides the Partner States to align national policies and legal frameworks and strategic reforms in fisheries and aquaculture towards wealth creation and livelihood enhancement and benefit from trade in fish and fishery products while marketing the EAC as a block for investment in fisheries and aquaculture.

1.3 POLICY CONTEXT

1.3.1 Global Perspective

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982 and other international fisheries maritime and biodiversity instruments provide opportunities to Kenya and Tanzania with the declaration of 200 nautical miles EEZs. However, the countries are yet to effectively harness benefits associated with these instruments. The EAC coastline of the Indian Ocean is one of the hotspots for rampant Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing which undermines the sustainability of the fisheries resources and deny the region the revenue, fish trade, employment opportunities as well as food and nutrition security. The EEZ for Kenya and Tanzania is accessed by vessels from the Distant Water Fishing Nations while small scale fishers are concentrated in the near shore waters. The latter are limited by low technology and capacity for deep sea fishing. This results in unsustainable near shore fishing with poor catch and increased poverty. The deeper portion of the continental shelf supports a variety of high value

fish which could be exploited for export and, in the case of the small pelagics, to provide food for the EAC region.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) promotes cooperation regarding trans-boundary fish stocks, straddling fish stocks, highly migratory fish stocks and high seas fish stocks to ensure conservation and management of fish stocks. The CCRF also encourages states to cooperate in fish trade through improving the identification of the origin of fish and fishery products traded. This aids reduction in IUU fishing which is one of the major causes of reduction of fish stocks in the EAC and also ensures traceability, a requirement for fish and fishery products trade. The CCRF emphasizes development of responsible aquaculture in trans-boundary waters. EAC has shared water bodies (Lakes: Victoria, Tanganyika, Kivu) where aquaculture has been initiated and others are likely to follow. This policy provides guidance regarding access to fishing, management and conservation and appropriate mechanisms for co-operation.

1.3.2 Continental Level

The African Union (AU) has developed a Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PF&RS) to facilitate coherent policy development for the sustainable management and development of fisheries and aquaculture in the Member States of AU. It calls for formulation of governance instruments to promote coherence and strengthen the capacity of the sector to unlock the fisheries potential. This policy provides for institutional arrangements to ensure coherence in policy development and implementation by the EAC Partner States with linkage to the AU.

The RECs in Africa have initiated measures to boost intra-regional trade. These include the elimination of tariffs and non-tariff barriers and the implementation of trade facilitation measures such as simplification of customs procedures and, documentation. The tripartite free trade agreement among the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) – Southern African Development Community (SADC) – EAC region, aims at deepening regional and intra-regional integration. However, the regional fish trade remains largely informal with limited statistics resulting in under-estimating its economic, social and nutritional benefits and contribution to livelihoods, food and nutritional security. The fisheries resource base in the lakes, ocean, rivers and dams is not known and not adequately monitored due to limited capacity. There is need for specific policy guidance on intra and inter-regional fish trade and building the capacity for adequate monitoring of what is available for trade to have a better understanding of the contribution of fisheries in the EAC.

1.3.3 Regional Level

The Treaty for the Establishment of EAC identifies fisheries as one of the areas of cooperation by the Partner States. *Article 114 sub-Article 2(b) (ii) and (iii)* provide for the adoption of common policies and regulations for the conservation, management and development of fisheries resources including establishment of common fisheries management and investment guidelines for inland and marine waters.

A number of protocols, policies and strategies have been developed to provide a framework for some interventions and partnerships. These include: the Agriculture and Rural Development Policy for the EAC (2006) which calls for promotion of conservation, sustainable development, management and utilization of fisheries resources for the benefit of communities in the Partner States; the Protocol for Sustainable Development of the Lake Victoria Basin (2003) which provides an enabling environment for regional development including fisheries; the Convention for the Establishment of the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (1994, amended in 2016) that promotes sustainable utilization of the fisheries and aquaculture resources in the EAC water bodies; the EAC Sanitary and Phyto – Sanitary Protocol which seeks to ensure food safety; the EAC Food Security Action Plan (2011-2016) which calls for improved production of fisheries resources; the EAC Regional Strategy and Implementation Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture (2015 – 2020) which provides guidance to aquaculture development in the region; the LVFO Strategic Plan 2016-2020 which calls for competitive and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development in EAC; and the 5th EAC Development Strategy (2016/17 – 2020/21) which provides for accelerating and consolidating sustainable production, productivity, value addition, trade and marketing for fisheries and aquaculture.

1.3.4 National level

At the national level, Partner States have visionary, policies, legal instruments and other strategic documents for the management and development of fisheries and aquaculture.

2 BROAD POLICY DIRECTIONS

2.1 VISION

The vision of the policy is *A Competitive and Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Industry in the East African Community Partner States.*

2.2 MISSION

The mission is *to ensure that fisheries and aquaculture resources in EAC are developed, managed and sustainably utilized for food security, economic growth, wealth creation and improved livelihood.*

2.3 GOAL

The goal of the policy is to promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development in order to contribute to food security, nutrition and wealth creation in the EAC Partner States.

2.4 OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the policy are:

1. To increase fish production from capture fisheries and aquaculture to optimal levels and reduce fish post-harvest losses;
2. To increase fish per capita consumption in the EAC and increase annual fish exports from capture fisheries and aquaculture;
3. To increase public financing and private sector investments in the fisheries and aquaculture sector;
4. To enhance the capacity of centers of excellence on management, development, research and sharing of fisheries and aquaculture data and information;
5. To increase intra and inter regional trade in fish and fishery products; and
6. To strengthen data, information collection and dissemination in fisheries and aquaculture for effective management and development at all levels.

2.5 POLICY GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Policy is guided by the following principles:

2.5.1 Poverty alleviation:

The fisheries and aquaculture sector contributes to poverty alleviation and EAC Partner States prosperity. Clear and measurable mechanisms of poverty alleviation will be incorporated into sector strategic and action plans at all levels.

2.5.2 Gender and equity:

The women, youth and marginalized groups will be actively involved in fisheries and aquaculture management in terms of decision-making and share in both sector responsibilities and benefits. Clear and measurable mechanisms will be incorporated into sector strategic and

action plans at all levels to address inequities experienced by women, youth and the marginalized.

2.5.3 Community participation:

The management and development of fisheries and aquaculture resources will involve a participatory co-management approach based on partnership in decision-making between government, fisheries communities and the private sector.

2.5.4 International Instruments:

The EAC recognizes and confirms its commitments regarding fisheries and aquaculture under international obligations including but not limited to treaties, conventions and development initiatives such as Sustainable Development Goals.

2.5.5 The precautionary approach:

An important element of the FAO CCRF is the precautionary approach that recognizes the scientific uncertainty inherent in capture fisheries management and species introductions. Fisheries and aquaculture management and development measures should be based on the best scientific evidence available. Lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take effective action where there are risks of serious or irreversible harm to fish stocks and/or habitats.

2.5.6 The user-pays principle:

The 'user-pays principle' provides that those who use or benefit from natural resource use should contribute towards the costs of managing and developing those resources.

2.5.7 Public Private Partnership (PPP):

The Partner States will promote PPP in fisheries and aquaculture management and development.

2.5.8 Rights based fisheries management:

The Partner States will explore the possibility of adopting rights-based fisheries management where practicable. When designing resource access, rights-based approaches to the management of small scale fisheries need to take account of their collective nature as well as the social and cultural dimensions of their activities.

2.5.9 Use of Technological advancement and Information Communication Technology (ICT) in fisheries and aquaculture management and development

The Partner States will promote use of technology including ICT in fisheries and aquaculture management and development for efficiency and effectiveness.

2.5.10 Sustainability and Environmental integrity:

Water resources which are the base of fisheries and aquaculture are threatened by degradation of the environment. There is need for better knowledge about possible interactions between fisheries, aquaculture and the environment to minimize the potential for habitat degradation. Programs from different EAC Partner States would be geared towards environmental restoration,

the results of these initiatives are expected to lead to clean environment and thus to increase fish production from both fisheries and commercial aquaculture in the EAC Partner States.

2.5.11 Demand driven and applied research:

Participatory research agenda setting will be encouraged to obtain relevant data and information for decision making processes in the management and development of fisheries and aquaculture within the EAC region.

2.5.12 Ecosystem Based Approach to Fisheries and Aquaculture Management:

Partner States will promote utilization of fisheries and aquaculture resources while taking into account their effects on the ecosystem and the effects of the ecosystem on them.

2.5.13 Subsidiarity:

EAC Partner States will give emphasis on multi-level participation and the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders in the process of integration.

2.5.14 Cooperation

Implementation of the policy will require total collaboration and cooperation by the relevant fisheries and aquaculture stakeholders at the international, continental, regional, national and devolved/decentralized levels.

2.5.15 Transparency and Accountability

The implementation of the policy will require transparency and accountability in every action carried out.

3 POLICY PRIORITY AREAS

3.1 FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCE UTILIZATION

3.1.1 Current Status

The EAC region is endowed with rich marine and inland freshwater resources from both capture fisheries and aquaculture. Currently, the total production is about 1,000,000MT per year with inland water bodies contributing the largest share. The inland fisheries resources are mainly from lakes, rivers, dams, reservoirs and swamps. The inland fishery is artisanal and most of the water bodies are overfished due to inadequate management for bolstering fish stocks.

In marine fisheries, artisanal and semi-industrial fisheries are utilized by the coastal local communities on the shallow part of the continental shelf, while the offshore marine fish resources are exploited by foreign fishing companies. The inshore waters which are fishing grounds for artisanal fishers are over-exploited and degraded due to high demand created by the increasing population pressure and reliance on the fisheries for both food and incomes. The artisanal fishers have limited fishing capacities and cannot access deep waters which require high investment in terms of fishing boats, gears and other inputs.

The key issues confronting capture fisheries that have contributed to declining fish stocks in the EAC region include; excessive fishing effort; use of destructive fishing gears and methods; capture of immature fish; limited management and extension systems; inadequate information for decision making; inadequate enforcement of fisheries laws and regulations; inadequate funding; limited commitment and involvement of stakeholders in management of fisheries resources and protection of critical fish habitats; low investment due to perceive risks and limited recreational and ornamental fishing. The institutional structure and financing systems that can manage and negotiate for concessions that are critical to support the fisheries sector management and development are not streamlined. The private sector which is the driving force for development is disaggregated and therefore very weak to confront the challenges that face the fisheries sector. Further, the legal regime is weak and does not favor facilitation of actions to develop the sector. There is again inadequate regional institutional framework to facilitate management of some shared /trans-boundary water bodies like Lakes Albert, Edward, Kivu, Rweru, Turkana and Nyasa. Besides, the EAC is faced with the challenge of poor saving culture of the fishers which has resulted in a vicious circle of poverty among the fishing communities.

3.1.2 Policy Objective

To reverse the declining fish catches and diversity, aid recovery to optimal production levels, and harness the potential in the EEZ and other underutilized water bodies.

3.1.3 Policy Strategies

To realize the above objective Partner States will:

- i. Establish measures to ensure that fishing efforts and capacities in EAC natural water bodies are maintained at optimum sustainable levels;

- ii. Establish appropriate legal regimes to strengthen institutional and financial structures and linkages to enable clear operations of fisheries activities;
- iii. Implement agreed conservation, management and development measures for management of trans-boundary fisheries within the different Regional Fisheries Management Organizations;
- iv. Put in place mechanisms to ensure that fisheries management measures are guided by the best scientific advice available and follow the ecosystem and precautionary approaches;
- v. Put in place measures to facilitate the utilization of the EEZ and underutilized fisheries;
- vi. Promote recreational and ornamental fishing.

3.2 AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

3.2.1 Current Status

Aquaculture production in the EAC region is still low, with an estimated annual production of about 141,000 Metric tons as of 2016. However the aquaculture presents an opportunity to bridge the gap caused by the decline in capture fisheries. The region is endowed with abundant and suitable fresh, brackish and marine waters and the environmental conditions are favorable for aquaculture development. Aquaculture is practiced in various production systems most of which are at subsistence level. The region is strongly promoting aquaculture as an enterprise and advocating for commercialization including cage and tank culture, mariculture and other intensive recirculation systems. However, inputs are still limited and costly especially the quality feed, seed and brood stock and the marketing channels are not well structured. In addition the financing systems are inadequate and the commercial financial institutions regard aquaculture as a high risk venture hence denying financial support to the sector. The extension systems are not well structured and the service providers do not have adequate capacity.

The legal and institutional arrangements are not adequately structured to address the challenges, and hence leading to inadequate technical advisory capacity as well as inadequate information. There is insufficient commercial aquaculture demonstration and business models as well as inadequate planning for development and expansion of culture-based fisheries and technologies. Moreover, there is inadequate promotion and support by Government to stimulate medium and large-scale commercial investments in aquaculture.

3.2.2 Policy Objective

To promote investment in sustainable commercial aquaculture and effective bio-security measures (control introductions, escapes, hormones and chemicals usage, genetic modification and disease management).

3.2.3 Policy Strategies

To realize the above objective Partner States will:

- i. Align policy, legal and institutional reforms to spur growth in the high potential aquaculture areas and promote delivery of quality extension services;
- ii. Promote sustainable investments in commercial aquaculture infrastructure, to spur growth;

- iii. Promote aquaculture development for food and nutritional security, employment and wealth creation;
- iv. Put in place mechanisms to ensure effective bio-security measures; and
- v. Establish and operationalize a regional coordinated breeding programme for genetic improvement.

3.3 FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE RESOURCE MONITORING AND RESEARCH

3.3.1 Current Status

Fisheries resource monitoring and research is an important component of fisheries and aquaculture management and development in the EAC. The majority of the EAC Partner States have established institutions responsible for fisheries and aquaculture research and resource monitoring.

Data and information collected through resource monitoring programs provide a scientific basis for decision making in fisheries and aquaculture management and development. However, there is limited capacity to conduct regular monitoring and research. At regional level, fisheries resource monitoring is done in a harmonized way in Lake Victoria but not in other trans-boundary waters. At national level, it is irregularly undertaken by each Partner State in water bodies within their area of jurisdiction. This has resulted in inconsistency and uncoordinated resource monitoring surveys, data gaps and inadequate studies, especially on the socio-economic importance of fisheries and aquaculture in the EAC. The above has hindered efforts towards sustainable management and development of fisheries and aquaculture in the region.

Research in fisheries and aquaculture in the EAC Partner does not necessarily address the concerns of the relevant stakeholders in the fisheries and aquaculture value chain. Furthermore, there is weak research-extension-industry linkage which affects dissemination and uptake of research findings by the end-users. Effective research-extension-industry linkages would address socio-cultural factors, costs, accessibility and suitability of new technologies that determine the rate of adoption of research findings. But, this is limited due to inadequacies of human and capital in the research institutions in the respective Partner States. In addition, there is uncoordinated fisheries and aquaculture research by private entities, institutions of higher learning and non-state actors resulting in duplication of efforts and lack of synergies. There is also limited sharing of fisheries and aquaculture research findings by the relevant stakeholders within the EAC Partner States.

3.3.2 Policy objective

To enhance timely collection and sharing of relevant and reliable data and information to inform decision making in the management and development of fisheries and aquaculture in EAC.

3.3.3 Policy Strategies

To realize the above objective Partner States will:

- i. Put in place mechanisms that enable needs based surveys, resource monitoring, relevant studies and research innovations;
- ii. Promote fisheries and aquaculture research through transfer of appropriate technologies;

- iii. Strengthen and build capacities of institutions charged with fisheries and aquaculture monitoring and research;
- iv. Promote development, uptake and patenting of innovative technologies in fisheries and aquaculture;
- v. Put in place mechanisms to ensure regular economic valuation of the sector performance in relation to its contribution to national growth and development; and
- vi. Promote data, information sharing, synergies and coordination of research in fisheries and aquaculture in the entire EAC region.

3.4 FISH VALUE ADDITION, TRADE AND MARKETING

3.4.1 Current Status

Fish is highly traded with more than 37 percent of global production entering international trade by 2012 (FAO, 2014). In the EAC, fish and fishery products are traded within the region and in wider international markets. The EAC developed and adopted the Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) Protocol in 2014 to ensure quality and safety of fish and fishery products. However, the EAC Partner States are at different levels in provision of infrastructure required for ensuring quality and safety of fish and fishery products for domestic, regional and international markets. Inadequate quality assurance infrastructure has hampered utilization and trade in fish and fishery products as these are necessary for product development, value addition and marketing. There is also low fish consumption in the EAC due to cultural beliefs and poor packaging among others and yet fish could contribute significantly in food and nutritional security in the EAC region.

Fish and fishery products trade and marketing at international level are limited for some of the Partner States due to lack of capacity to process and meet the requirements of the international market. Those countries currently accessing the international markets are faced with challenges including: limited capacities in diversification in fish products and markets; inadequate vibrant value chain business entities; unstructured involvement of fisheries stakeholders in the negotiation of bilateral and multilateral trade and agreements; and inadequate fish marketing information. The cross border regional fish trade is mainly informal with a lot of postharvest losses. There are also inadequate systems in place for inspection and data recording at border points leading to limited traceability, quality assurance, and data and information on cross border fish trade.

3.4.2 Policy Objective

To promote value addition, market access and trade of fish and fish products from the EAC region.

3.4.3 Policy Strategies

To realize the above objective Partner States will:

- i. Establish and enhance the capacity of fisheries institutions to comply with official controls required for fish trade;

- ii. Promote Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary measures to ensure quality and safety of fish and fish products to facilitate market access and trade;
- iii. Put in place mechanisms to build private sector capacities in value addition, market diversification and negotiations skills in fish trade;
- iv. Promote the development of the necessary infrastructure required for ensuring quality and safety of fish and fish products;
- v. Promote market information systems to facilitate stakeholders involvement in marketing and trade;
- vi. Promote and support eco-labeling of fish and fish products in EAC;
- vii. Promote the culture of eating fish towards diversification of food and nutrition security in the region;
- viii. Promote value addition, trade and marketing of aquaculture, fish and fish products within the EAC region; and
- ix. Put in place mechanisms to protect local fish and fish products from unfair trade practices.

3.5 FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT AND CONTROL OF ILLEGAL UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING

3.5.1 Current Status

Fisheries law enforcement is an essential component of resource management and conservation. The EAC Partner States have laws and regulations for managing the fisheries resources in their respective water bodies. Considerable efforts have been made by EAC Partner States to curb IUU fishing through national and joint regional patrols in shared water bodies. EAC Partner States also provide trained human resource, finance and material resources necessary for the law enforcement. Law enforcement is conducted by the Competent Authority in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. Co-management structures are in place in most of the EAC Partner states and these include fisher associations, civil societies and non-governmental organizations. However, there is ineffective enforcement of the laws and regulations to curb IUU fishing resulting in continued decline of stocks, catches and revenue. There are also varying levels and frequencies in financing Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) activities among the Partner States.

The EAC Partner States are faced with a number of issues which hamper the sustainable utilization of fisheries resources. These issues include: use of illegal/prohibited fishing gears and methods; capture and trading in immature fish (Nile perch and Tilapia); trans-boundary fish smuggling; low compliance to fisheries laws and regulations; inadequate law enforcement; limited commitment and integrity by some law enforcers in curbing IUU; insufficient funding for MCS activities; lack of/poor working facilities (patrol vehicles and boats); inadequate trained and skilled manpower; and, limited involvement and cooperation from the public in curbing IUU.

3.5.2 Policy Objective

To build adequate capacity for enforcement of laws and regulations in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

3.5.3 Policy Strategies

To realize the above objective Partner States will:

- i. Establish effective mechanisms for fisheries MCS to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures;
- ii. Put in place multi-sectoral mechanisms for coordinated MCS activities;
- iii. Promote co-management structures and collaborative law enforcement;
- iv. Enhance and promote human and equipment capacity building for effective fisheries law enforcement and resource monitoring;
- v. Promote awareness on fisheries laws, regulations and management measures of fishers, fish farmers and stakeholders along the value chains;
- vi. Promote and encourage the private sector to support capacity building and financing MCS activities; and
- vii. Put in place mechanisms to ensure compliance to laws and regulations on aquaculture development.

3.6 GOVERNANCE, LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAME WORK

3.6.1 Current Status

The EAC has LVFO as a technical institution mandated to manage the fisheries resources of the Community. LVFO has established in some of the Partner States national and regional working groups who form technical teams that implement and produce technical reports that inform decision making in matters related to fisheries and aquaculture management and development in the EAC. It has established co-management structures like the Beach Management Units and their networks and industry fish processors associations in some of the Partner States. These structures have complemented the work done by Government officers and enhanced resource ownership.

The EAC Partner States are at different stages of legislative development processes. However, the existing legislation in the EAC Partner States is inadequate in addressing national and regional joint enforcement and trade in trans-boundary water bodies and penalties for fisheries infringements are not prohibitive enough to deter illegalities across the borders.

The institutional arrangement for governance and granting access to fisheries differ in the EAC Partner States. This mandate is either with the central or devolved governments without a framework of linkage and collaborations, resulting in increased fishers licensed to generate revenue without due regard to the sustainability of fisheries. Most of the Partner States have fully fledged directorates responsible for fisheries and aquaculture, policy and legal frameworks, and clear chain of command and reporting protocols from the centre down to grassroots level.

through a co-management approach. However, a few Partner States have no clear independent directorates responsible for fisheries and aquaculture. They also lack specific fisheries and aquaculture policies and laws. But in all the Partner States there is interaction between State and Non State actors in fisheries and aquaculture management and development.

The issues in the region that impact fisheries and aquaculture governance include: unharmonized extension service, fisheries and aquaculture policies, legal and institutional processes, roles and responsibilities of key fisheries institutions, operating procedures in implementation and access to fisheries resources; weak structural linkages between central and local/devolved governments and yet each level has specific roles to play; limited regional coordination of both inland and marine fisheries in the EAC; inadequate logistical support in fisheries institutions which has led to increased fishing pressure and illegalities resulting to decline of Nile perch production and closure or under-utilization of the fish processing facilities in the region. This has further led to loss of employment, livelihoods and decrease in volumes of fish traded.

3.6.2 Policy Objective

To strengthen fisheries and aquaculture governance through cooperation, harmonization and active stakeholder participation among EAC Partner States.

3.6.3 Policy Strategies

To realize the above objective Partner States in collaboration with other stakeholders will:-

- i. Put in place appropriate and effective legal and institutional frameworks for fisheries and aquaculture resources management and development at all levels;
- ii. Put in place effective mechanisms for conflict resolution in fisheries resource use;
- iii. Promote regional coordination of marine and inland fisheries and aquaculture in the EAC region;
- iv. Put in place mechanisms for security and safety at sea and curb IUU fishing activities for both inland and marine fisheries;
- v. Strengthen coordination between national and devolved/decentralized governments in management and development of fisheries and aquaculture
- vi. Promote and support participation of local community and private sector in fisheries co-management
- vii. Put in place institutional setup for the sector that promotes its sustainable co-management and development.

3.7 FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

3.7.1 Current Status

Governments of EAC Partner States have taken a leading role in providing fish handling and cooling infrastructure at fish landing sites, markets and ports. Modern landing sites and markets have been developed on some of the lakes and in marine waters. In the aquaculture sub-sector,

governments have put in place public/promoted hatcheries and feed mills while the private sector has played a key role in provision of infrastructure in the post-harvest sector.

The EAC Partner States still have a number of issues pertaining to fisheries and aquaculture infrastructure development which include: inadequate information on investment areas in the fisheries and aquaculture sector; lack or limited supportive infrastructure to attract private investments; bureaucratic and unfriendly tax regimes; low budget allocation to the fisheries and aquaculture related to low appreciation by policy makers of the sector contribution to national economies of the Partner States and perceive risks of the sector; and piracy in the Indian ocean which deters potential investors. Currently, there is a move towards establishment of regulatory frameworks for Public Private Partnerships to increase investments in fisheries and aquaculture infrastructure.

3.7.2 Policy Objective

To develop and improve fisheries and aquaculture infrastructure facilities along the value chain and provide adequate information to guide investors.

3.7.3 Policy Strategies

To realize the above objective Partner States will:

- i. Put in place legal frameworks for PPP on infrastructure development;
- ii. Promote strategic PPP, and community based investment initiatives for fisheries and aquaculture management and development;
- iii. Promote and support establishment of insurance schemes in fisheries and aquaculture investments;
- iv. Promote the development of key fisheries infrastructure like ports, aquaculture parks, improved landing sites, markets to facilitate investments in fisheries and aquaculture;
- v. Promote capacity building of the primary fishers and aqua producers to invest along the value chain; and
- vi. Develop fisheries and aquaculture investment models.
- vii. Put in place mechanisms to attract investment in fisheries and aquaculture infrastructure

3.8 CAPACITY BUILDING AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

3.8.1 Current Status

Fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the EAC Partner States are supervised by government employees who have undergone general and specialized fisheries and aquaculture training in various recognized local, regional and international institutions. The Ministries responsible for fisheries and aquaculture sector in the Partner States play a key role of providing working facilities and infrastructure for the management and development of the sector. There are also institutions within the Partner States offering fisheries and aquaculture related trainings ranging from universities, polytechnic and vocational training level. But the Partner states are still faced with a number of issues which include: inadequate trained staff, capacities in fisheries and aquaculture training institutions, capacities to address market based reforms and low absorption

of the few developed technologies by the primary producers, unharmonized fisheries and aquaculture standards and curriculum for human resources development in the Partner States; and few specialized training courses to cater for specialized needs.

3.8.2 Policy Objective

To enhance institutional and stakeholders' capacities for the management and development of fisheries and aquaculture in the EAC region.

3.8.3 Policy Strategies

To realize the above objective Partner States will:

- i. Promote capacity building of technical staff and stakeholders along fisheries and aquaculture value chains;
- ii. Support fisheries and aquaculture training institutions for effective training;
- iii. Provide working facilities and equipment to fisheries and aquaculture operators;
- iv. Develop frameworks for harmonized curricula;
- v. Promote awareness creation of stakeholders on relevant fisheries and aquaculture information;
- vi. Promote skills development through business incubation centres;
- vii. Promote capacity building of training institutions to match with the demand of fisheries and aquaculture management and development needs; and
- viii. Promote professionalization of the fisheries and aquaculture sector through a broad range capacity development.

3.9 FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE, KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION SHARING

3.9.1 Current Status

Knowledge management and information sharing impact the way in which fisheries and aquaculture business is conducted, developed and economically valued. Fisheries and aquaculture data and information play the central catalytic role in pushing the industry's development process forward and boosting the efficiency of the increasingly integrated EAC economy and significant socio-economic development. However, there are challenges in knowledge management and information sharing that includes but not limited to: inadequate established common data standards and shared databases; limited storage, packaging and dissemination of fisheries and aquaculture data and information in EAC to attract investment in the sector.

3.9.2 Policy Objective

To establish and maintain up-to-date fisheries and aquaculture data and information systems and ensure effective sharing.

3.9.3 Policy Strategies

To realize the above objective Partner States will:

- i. Establish and maintain information systems necessary for sustainable exploitation, development and management of fisheries and aquaculture resources;
- ii. Promote building capacities to maintain modern data and information systems;
- iii. Promote dissemination of accurate, relevant data and information on fisheries and aquaculture to all stakeholders; and
- iv. Establish and maintain modern fisheries and aquaculture data and information centers.

3.10 SUSTAINABLE FINANCING

3.10.1 Current Status

The fisheries and aquaculture sectors experience low financing from the public institutions which has been partly due to undervaluation of their contribution to the economic growth and development in the EAC region. This is in addition to institutional setup at the national and devolved/decentralized levels of the sector. In some Partner States it is merged with other sectors like livestock and agriculture which are given more prominence. Further, the financial institutions and investors do not understand the sector well and perceive it to be a high risk venture.

3.10.2 Policy Objective

To promote sustainable financing mechanisms for management and development of fisheries and aquaculture.

3.10.3 Policy Strategies

To realize the above objective Partner States, in collaboration with other stakeholders, will:-

- i. Develop measures that will highlight the strategic importance and opportunities in the fisheries and aquaculture so as to attract funding and investment;
- ii. Put in place a mechanisms for the resources users to contribute towards the costs of management and development of fisheries and aquaculture;
- iii. Promote capacity building on resources mobilization for fisheries and aquaculture management and development; and
- iv. Put in place mechanisms to enhance funding levels for the fisheries and aquaculture management and development.

3.11 CROSS CUTTING AND EMERGING ISSUES

3.11.1 Current Status

The cross cutting and emerging issues include:

i. HIV and AIDS

The majority of people engaged in the capture fisheries activities are at risk of acquiring HIV and AIDS due to their life styles. While the EAC Partner State's averages of HIV prevalence stand at 1.3% in Burundi, 6.1% in Kenya, 2.9% in Rwanda, 7.2% in Uganda and 5.1% in Tanzania (EAC Work Place Policy for EAC Organs and Institutions, 2015). The prevalence in the fishing communities is higher than national averages and this greatly affects production and would likely

contribute to its spread if not effectively addressed. Therefore, concerted effort should be put in place by the Partner States to address the issue.

ii. Climate change and environment

Climate change has significant impacts on aquatic ecosystems, as it modifies biological, chemical and physical conditions, which affects the sustainability of human uses of aquatic resources and environment. Therefore, resilience to climate change should be strengthened to ensure food security and livelihoods are guaranteed for the communities whose livelihoods depend on fisheries and aquaculture. Furthermore, environmental pollution as a result of human activities and rapid increase in human population could impair the ability of these aquatic ecosystems to provide sustainable benefits.

iii. Mining, Exploration and Extraction of Oil and Gas

The increasing mining activities, exploration and extraction of oil and gas in marine and freshwater bodies impact negatively the environment, fisheries and aquaculture activities in the region. This has resulted in loss of socio-economic benefits and livelihoods of the dependent communities.

iv. Gender, Youth and Marginalized

Although gender has been high on the development agenda internationally for a long time, many inequalities remain and the role of women in fisheries and aquaculture especially in fish processing is often not documented and hence undervalued. Therefore, there is a need to put in place mechanisms to promote and protect women's rights and the marginalized to participate in all aspects of fisheries and aquaculture value chain. Youth are very often hit by unemployment and limited access to resources and services. Young people represent the future and they need to be fully engaged in fisheries and aquaculture along the value chain.

v. Invasive aquatic weeds

Most of EAC major freshwater bodies are affected by invasive aquatic weed as a result of excessive nutrients input. The most common invasive aquatic weed species include water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) and Giant Sylvania (*Salvinia molesta*) which has become a nuisance and caused a number of problems in fisheries including inaccessibility of landing sites and waterways, covering nursery and breeding areas, reduced light penetration, increased infestation of water borne diseases to fishers among others. This has caused loss of livelihood and increased cost to the fishery dependent communities.

3.11.2 Policy Objective

To strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerabilities of fisheries and aquaculture stakeholders to emerging and cross cutting issues.

3.11.3 Policy Strategies

To realize the above policy objective Partner States will:

- i. Put in place mechanisms that will facilitate fisheries multi-sectoral collaboration at international, regional, national and institutional levels to handle emerging and cross cutting issues in fisheries and aquaculture;
- ii. Promote use of science to inform policy decision making for improved implementation of adaptation and resilience measures on climate change impacts in fisheries and aquaculture;
- iii. Promote and support measures to mitigate impacts of emerging and cross cutting issues on fisheries and aquaculture;
- iv. Promote appropriate measures for the control of invasive aquatic weeds; and
- v. Put in place mechanisms for compensation by investors who cause loss of livelihood for affected communities.

4 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR POLICY IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

4.1 IMPLEMENTATION

The EAC will seek funding for strategic development programs identified in this policy and monitor implementation through its Organs and Institutions. The policy implementation will be monitored at national and regional levels. The roles of the key stakeholders are as follows:

Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization Secretariat

- i. Coordinate the development of regional plans of action for the implementation of this policy and report progress against the implementation log frame;
- ii. Coordinate and deliver programs on region-wide needs of common interests;
- iii. Develop and implement Memoranda of Understanding with other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations in the EAC;
- iv. Promote cooperation and human capacity building in EAC Partner States;
- v. Assist in the development of plans for peer to peer learning where policy makers, private sector and technical experts can visit countries/centers of innovation and success;
- vi. Mobilize resources to support implementation of the policy;
- vii. Develop a communications strategy to keep all national, regional and international partners up-to-date with progress;
- viii. Update the priorities in the implementation log frame periodically to ensure continuing relevance;
- ix. Identify and promote opportunities through which regional organizations and Partner States can exchange their experiences and know-how; and
- x. Facilitate new initiatives to improve understanding of the importance and role of fisheries and aquaculture to Partner States.

Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)

The RFMOs will coordinate fisheries and aquaculture management and development in their areas of jurisdiction and collaborate with other RFMOs within the EAC region.

4.2 EAC PARTNER STATES

The primary responsibility for implementing the policy lies with the Ministry in-charge of the fisheries and aquaculture sector within the Partner States. The ministry will regulate, promote, support, guide, and coordinate the implementation of reforms through broad consultative processes with other stakeholders. At Partner State level, action plans of priority actions to be undertaken will be developed. Other roles and responsibilities include:

- i. Advocating for fisheries and aquaculture development needs to be given prominence in national government development plans and initiatives;
- ii. Creating internal conditions in which the sector is valued, and implementation of the reforms is encouraged and supported at the most senior levels of government;

- iii. Seeking external funds from donors and other development partners to support implementation of the provisions of the policy and effect appropriate reforms;
- iv. Investing in capacity development to the maximum extent possible using internal funds;
- v. Promoting both vertical and horizontal partnerships for implementing reforms;
- vi. Ensuring national priorities are continually reviewed against current and emerging issues and are taken into consideration in applying strategies set out in this policy;
- vii. Reporting national progress on policy strategic actions on the implementation of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy for the EAC ;
- viii. Source resources for creating loan guarantee funds for investments in fisheries and aquaculture; and
- ix. Coordination and collaboration with fisheries and aquaculture stakeholders and related sectors in all matters of conservation, management, development, MCS, compliance and enforcement of laws and regulations among others.

4.2.1 Decentralized/Devolved Governments

- i. Ensure that information on which to base national reforms and development plans is available and communicated to stakeholders at all levels;
- ii. Create awareness among stakeholders on the importance of the reform and development process;
- iii. Develop the capacity to monitor the implementation of the reforms and developments;
- iv. Develop mechanisms to ensure the effective involvement of all key stakeholders in the implementation process;
- v. Promote the fisheries and aquaculture sector at all levels;
- vi. Secure adequate funding for implementation of reforms/development;
- vii. Plan the development of infrastructure facilities for landing sites, distribution and marketing channels;
- viii. Ensure that hygienic conditions and sanitary facilities are maintained at all fish landing sites and fish markets;
- ix. Adopt appropriate practices and ensure fishers, farmers and operators receive the technical guidance and advisory services on better fisheries and aquaculture practices;
- x. Monitor and evaluate activities in fisheries and aquaculture; and
- xi. Adopt and implement invasive weeds management and control strategies.

4.2.2 Development partners

Development Partners have a critical role to play in technical and financial support of fisheries and aquaculture projects and programs. This is in addition to facilitating reforms and in creating the institutional conditions to ensure the benefits of appropriate policies and reforms highlighted in the EAC fisheries policy are sustained.

4.2.3 Civil society

- i. Develop and implement public awareness campaigns and demonstration actions on specific fisheries and aquaculture issues;
- ii. Facilitate multi-stakeholder activities and events such as round table discussions, engaging the public and private sector;

- iii. Organize capacity building activities;
- iv. Demonstrate practical ways of overcoming obstacles and barriers in adopting best practices, test the feasibility and efficiency of innovative technologies and their applications;
- v. Improve and broaden networks and coalitions;
- vi. Co-finance specific activities;
- vii. Contribute to the introduction, pilot use and evaluation of innovative financial instruments;
- viii. Resource mobilization for fisheries and aquaculture management and development;
- ix. Disseminate results through their networks and channels; and
- x. Participate in monitoring and evaluation of fisheries activities.

4.2.4 Institutions of higher learning and research

- i. Build capacity and conduct demand driven research;
- ii. Capacity building of technical staff and other stakeholders in fisheries and aquaculture along the value chain;
- iii. Technology generation and transfer; and
- iv. Participate in policy review and development

4.2.5 Private sector

- i. Investing in fisheries and aquaculture production and along the value chain;
- ii. Promoting value addition and market linkages;
- iii. Advocating for policy reforms; and
- iv. Participate in policy review and development.

4.2.6 Fishers, Fisher Associations, Lake wide management Organizations, fish farmers and artisanal fish processors

- i. Conducting Fish farming, fishing and fish processing in line with approved policies and laws;
- ii. Participate in fisheries co-management;
- iii. Development of by-laws;
- iv. Cultivate saving culture and contribute to fisheries and aquaculture management and development; and
- v. Participate in policy review and development.

4.3 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Effective monitoring and evaluation will depend on coordinated effort and close cooperation between Partner States and the EAC institutions. The performance on the policy implementation and outcomes will be monitored annually both at regional, national and devolved level. This will be done through self-scoring of progress made on achieving each Objectively Verifiable Indicator (OVI).

The Partners States' Technical heads responsible for fisheries and aquaculture shall prepare annual progress reports.

Annexes 1 and 2 provide the implementation matrix and monitoring and evaluation framework respectively.

5 ANNEXES

5.1 ANNEX 1 - IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

Policy area	Policy Objective	Policy Strategies
5.1.1 Fisheries Management and Resource Utilization	To reverse the declining fish catches and diversity to their optimal production levels and harness potential in the EEZ and other underutilized water bodies	Establish measures to ensure that fishing efforts and capacities in EAC natural water bodies are maintained at optimum sustainable levels;
		Establish appropriate legal regimes to strengthen institutional and financial structures and linkages to enable clear operations of fisheries activities;
		Implement agreed conservation, management and development measures for management of trans-boundary fisheries within the different Regional Fisheries Management Organizations;
		Put in place mechanisms to ensure that fisheries management measures are guided by the best scientific advice available and follow the ecosystem and precautionary approaches;
		Put in place measures to facilitate the utilization of the EEZ and underutilized fisheries;
		Promote recreational and ornamental fishing.
5.1.2 Aquaculture Development	To promote investment in sustainable commercial aquaculture and effective bio-security measures (control introductions, escapees, hormones and chemicals use, genetic modification and disease management)	Align policy, legal and institutional reforms to spur growth in the high potential aquaculture areas and promote delivery of quality extension services;
		Promote sustainable investments in commercial aquaculture infrastructure, to spur growth;
		Promote aquaculture development for food and nutritional security, employment and wealth creation;
		Put in place mechanisms to ensure effective bio-security measures; and
		Establish and operationalize a regional coordinated breeding programme for genetic improvement.
5.1.3 Fisheries and	To enhance timely collection of relevant and	Put in place mechanisms that enable needs based surveys, resource monitoring, relevant studies and research innovations;

Policy area	Policy Objective	Policy Strategies
Aquaculture Resource Monitoring and Research	reliable data and information to inform decision making in the management and development of fisheries and aquaculture in EAC.	Promote fisheries and aquaculture research through transfer of appropriate technologies;
		Strengthen and build capacities of institutions charged with fisheries and aquaculture monitoring and research;
		Promote development, uptake and patenting of innovative technologies in fisheries and aquaculture;
		Put in place mechanisms to ensure regular economic valuation of the sector performance in relation to its contribution to national growth and development; and
		Promote data, information sharing, synergies and coordination of research in fisheries and aquaculture in the entire EAC region.
5.1.4 Fish Value Addition, Trade and Marketing	To promote value addition, market access and trade of fish and fishery from the EAC region	Establish and enhance the capacity of fisheries institutions to comply with official controls required for fish trade;
		Promote Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary measures to ensure quality and safety of fish and fish products to facilitate market access and trade;
		Put in place mechanisms to build private sector capacities in value addition, market diversification and negotiations skills in fish trade;
		Promote the development of the necessary infrastructure required for ensuring quality and safety of fish and fish products;
		Promote market information systems to facilitate stakeholders involvement in marketing and trade;
		Promote and support eco-labeling of fish and fish products in EAC;
		Promote the culture of eating fish towards diversification of food and nutrition security in the region;
		Promote value addition, trade and marketing of aquaculture, fish and fish products within the EAC region; and
		Put in place mechanisms to protect local fish and fish products from unfair trade practices.
5.1.5 Fisheries	To build adequate capacity	Establish effective mechanisms for fisheries MCS to ensure compliance with

Policy area	Policy Objective	Policy Strategies
Enforcement and control of IUU fishing	for aquaculture compliance, enforcement of laws and regulations in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.	<p>conservation and management measures;</p> <p>Put in place multi-sectoral mechanisms for coordinated MCS activities;</p> <p>Promote co-management structures and collaborative law enforcement;</p> <p>Enhance and promote human and equipment capacity building for effective fisheries law enforcement and resource monitoring;</p> <p>Promote awareness on fisheries laws, regulations and management measures of fishers, fish farmers and stakeholders along the value chains;</p> <p>Promote and encourage the private sector to support capacity building and financing MCS activities; and</p> <p>Put in place mechanisms to ensure compliance to laws and regulations on aquaculture development.</p>
5.1.6 Governance, Legislation, Processes and Institutional framework	To strengthen fisheries and aquaculture governance through cooperation, harmonization and active stakeholder participation among EAC Partner States	<p>Put in place appropriate and effective legal and institutional frameworks for fisheries and aquaculture resources management and development at all levels;</p> <p>Put in place effective mechanisms for conflict resolution in fisheries resource use;</p> <p>Promote regional coordination of marine and inland fisheries and aquaculture in the EAC region;</p> <p>Put in place mechanisms for security and safety at sea and curb IUU fishing activities for both inland and marine fisheries;</p> <p>Strengthen coordination between national and devolved/decentralized governments in management and development of fisheries and aquaculture</p> <p>Promote and support participation of local community and private sector in fisheries co-management</p> <p>Put in place institutional setup for the sector that promotes its sustainable co-management and development.</p>
5.1.7 Fisheries and Aquaculture	To develop and improve fisheries and aquaculture infrastructure facilities	<p>Put in place legal frameworks for PPP on infrastructure development;</p> <p>Promote strategic PPP, and community based investment initiatives for fisheries and aquaculture management and development;</p>

Policy area	Policy Objective	Policy Strategies
Infrastructure development	along the value chain and provide adequate information to guide investors.	Promote and support establishment of insurance schemes in fisheries and aquaculture investments;
		Promote the development of key fisheries infrastructure like ports, aquaculture parks, improved landing sites, markets to facilitate investments in fisheries and aquaculture;
		Promote capacity building of the primary fishers and aqua producers to invest along the value chain; and
		Develop fisheries and aquaculture investment models.
		Put in place mechanisms to attract investment in fisheries and aquaculture infrastructure
5.1.8 Capacity building and Human Resource Development	To enhance institutional and stakeholders capacities for the management and development of fisheries and aquaculture in the EAC region.	Promote capacity building of technical staff and stakeholders along fisheries and aquaculture value chains;
		Support fisheries and aquaculture training institutions for effective training;
		Provide working facilities and equipment to fisheries and aquaculture operators;
		Develop frameworks for harmonized curricula;
		Promote awareness creation of stakeholders on relevant fisheries and aquaculture information;
		Promote skills development through business incubation centres;
		Promote capacity building of training institutions to match with the demand of fisheries and aquaculture management and development needs; and
		Promote professionalization of the fisheries and aquaculture sector through a broad range capacity development.
5.1.9 Fisheries and Aquaculture Knowledge	To establish and maintain up-to-date fisheries and aquaculture data and information systems and ensure effective sharing.	Establish and maintain information systems necessary for sustainable exploitation, development and management of fisheries and aquaculture resources;
		Promote building capacities to maintain modern data and information systems;
		Promote dissemination of accurate, relevant data and information on fisheries and aquaculture to all stakeholders; and

Policy area	Policy Objective	Policy Strategies
Management and Information Sharing		Establish and maintain modern fisheries and aquaculture data and information centers.
5.1.10 Sustainable Financing	To promote sustainable financing mechanisms for management and development of fisheries and aquaculture.	<p>Develop measures that will highlight the strategic importance and opportunities in the fisheries and aquaculture so as to attract funding and investment;</p> <p>Put in place a mechanisms for the resources users to contribute towards the costs of management and development of fisheries and aquaculture;</p> <p>Promote capacity building on resources mobilization for fisheries and aquaculture management and development; and</p> <p>Put in place mechanisms to enhance funding levels for the fisheries and aquaculture management and development.</p>
5.1.11 Cross cutting and Emerging issues	To strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerabilities of fisheries and aquaculture stakeholders to emerging and cross cutting issues.	<p>Put in place mechanisms that will facilitate fisheries multi-sectoral collaboration at international, regional, national and institutional levels to handle emerging and cross cutting issues in fisheries and aquaculture;</p> <p>Promote use of science to inform policy decision making for improved implementation of adaptation and resilience measures on climate change impacts in fisheries and aquaculture;</p> <p>Promote and support measures to mitigate impacts of emerging and cross cutting issues on fisheries and aquaculture;</p> <p>Promote appropriate measures for the control of invasive aquatic weeds; and</p> <p>Put in place mechanisms for compensation by investors who cause loss of livelihood for affected communities.</p>

5.2 ANNEX 2 - MONITORING AND EVALUATION INFORMATION BASE FOR OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS

Objectively Verifiable Indicator (OVI)	Means of Verification
5.2.0 Purpose of policy : To maximize net benefits in the areas of Food security, Employment, Wealth Creation and Economic Development	
Percentage regional fish production from capture fisheries and aquaculture	Partners States catch assessment reports
Percentage of fish post-harvest losses	Partner States reports
Tonnes of regional annual fish exports	Partner States fish exports earnings reports
Kg. of fish per capita consumption.	Partner States Survey reports
Number of employment in fisheries and aquaculture for youth, women and men	Partner States survey reports
Level institutional financial support to the fisheries sector	Central and Commercial Banks reports
Policy area 5.2.1: Fisheries Management and Resource utilization	
Tonnes of fish produced within five years	Stock assessment and catch assessment survey data
Number of ecosystem approach to fisheries management,-Rights- based management and co-management systems in place	Fisheries management plans
Amount of income (US\$) for fisheries, revenues to local government, exports, contribution to GDP, and level of investments along the value chain	Social economic surveys, -revenue collection data from local governments, data on regional and international export, data from Bureau of Statistics and social economic studies along the value chain
Improved quality of life (-diversified livelihood, increased employment along the value chain)	Social economic studies,-data from local government, trade department, community development department and licensing agencies
Policy area 5.2.2: Aquaculture Development	
Tons harvested from aquaculture.	Reports from aquaculture departments and National fisheries statistical bulletins
Amount of household earnings from fish farming communities	Household survey reports, census reports
Policy area 5.2.3: Fisheries resource monitoring and research	
No. of SOPs for resource monitoring surveys developed and approved	Approved SOPs
Percent compliance to SOPs in resource monitoring surveys and studies by Partner State	Survey reports
Number of regional standard for research institutions developed and approved	Regional standards for research institutions
Level of compliance to the regional standards by Partner States	Peer review reports

Objectively Verifiable Indicator (OVI)	Means of Verification
No of technologies developed and transferred	Technology development and transfer reports
Level of adoption and use of the transferred technologies	Survey reports
Number of regional participative research agenda setting and information sharing protocol developed and approved	Partner States reports
Level of compliance to the research agenda setting agenda and information sharing protocol by the Partner States	Partner States Reports
Policy area 5.2.4: Fish value addition, Trade and Marketing	
Evidence of fish quality products on the market	Market survey reports from the bureaus of standards and fisheries competent authorities, EU inspection reports
Amount of earnings from fish exports	Central Bank reports, Fisheries institutions reports, reports from Bureau of Statistics
Level of fish consumption	Market survey reports
Volume of fish exports	Reports from fisheries institutions, Revenue Authorities, FAO and World Trade Organization reports
Policy area 5.2.5: Monitoring Control and Surveillance	
Level of incidences in illegality	Frame survey data and judicial data, police data, integrated data base, inter-agency inspection and enforcement reports, enforcement reports, reports of coordinated national and regional patrols
Cost of enforcement, level of information sharing and information flow, Number of coordinated or joint enforcements undertaken, synchronized enforcement activities	National MCS reports
Reduction in enforcement expenditure/smaller budgets, reduced number of fishing boats and gears, reduced number of people applying for licenses	Frame surveys, licensing data, BMU records/fishing community records
Policy area 5.2.6: Governance, Legislation, Processes and Institutional framework	
Improved governance structures and constitutions in place with clear mandates,	Regional and national technical and value for money audit reports
Number of harmonized policies, laws and guidelines developed with participation of key stakeholders	Statute Book, approved guidelines, regulations, approved polices
Compliance levels,-operationalized fish fund, increased funding to the fisheries and aquaculture	Appropriation Acts, audited accounts and reports, budget allocation
Policy area 5.2.7: Infrastructure development and private sector investments	
Amount of time taken to access markets	Survey reports
costs of fish transportation	Survey reports

Objectively Verifiable Indicator (OVI)	Means of Verification
No. of PPPs in the sector	Ministry of Finance reports, Government procurement reports
cost of production per kilogram of fish	Survey reports
Policy area 5.2.8: Capacity building and Human resource development	
Level of awareness of the opportunities by the service providers	Survey reports
Number of sector stakeholders with capacity to generate and apply knowledge	Survey reports
Number of appropriate technologies in use	Survey reports
Policy area 5.2.9: Fisheries and Aquaculture Knowledge Management and Information Sharing	
Number of Data Centres established / improved	Data Centre reports
Number of operational database modules	Database reports
Number of documents published / disseminated	Publications reports
Policy area 5.2.10: Sustainable Financing	
Number of developed Regional Fisheries Financing Plan and strategies to secure adequate funding.	LVFO – Secretariat and Partner States reports and records
Accessibility of funds from established funding mechanisms for fisheries and aquaculture research and resource monitoring.	Partner States report
Number of developed programmes for capacity building in resources mobilization	Regional and National Training reports
Policy area 5.2.11: Cross cutting and emerging issues	
Level of the use multi-sectoral approach in handling cross cutting issues affecting fisheries and aquaculture	Survey reports
Level of compliance to regionally agreed affirmative actions	Survey reports
Level of stakeholder preparedness to cope with emerging cross cutting issues	Audit reports

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LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES ORGANIZATION
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LVFO JUNE 2018