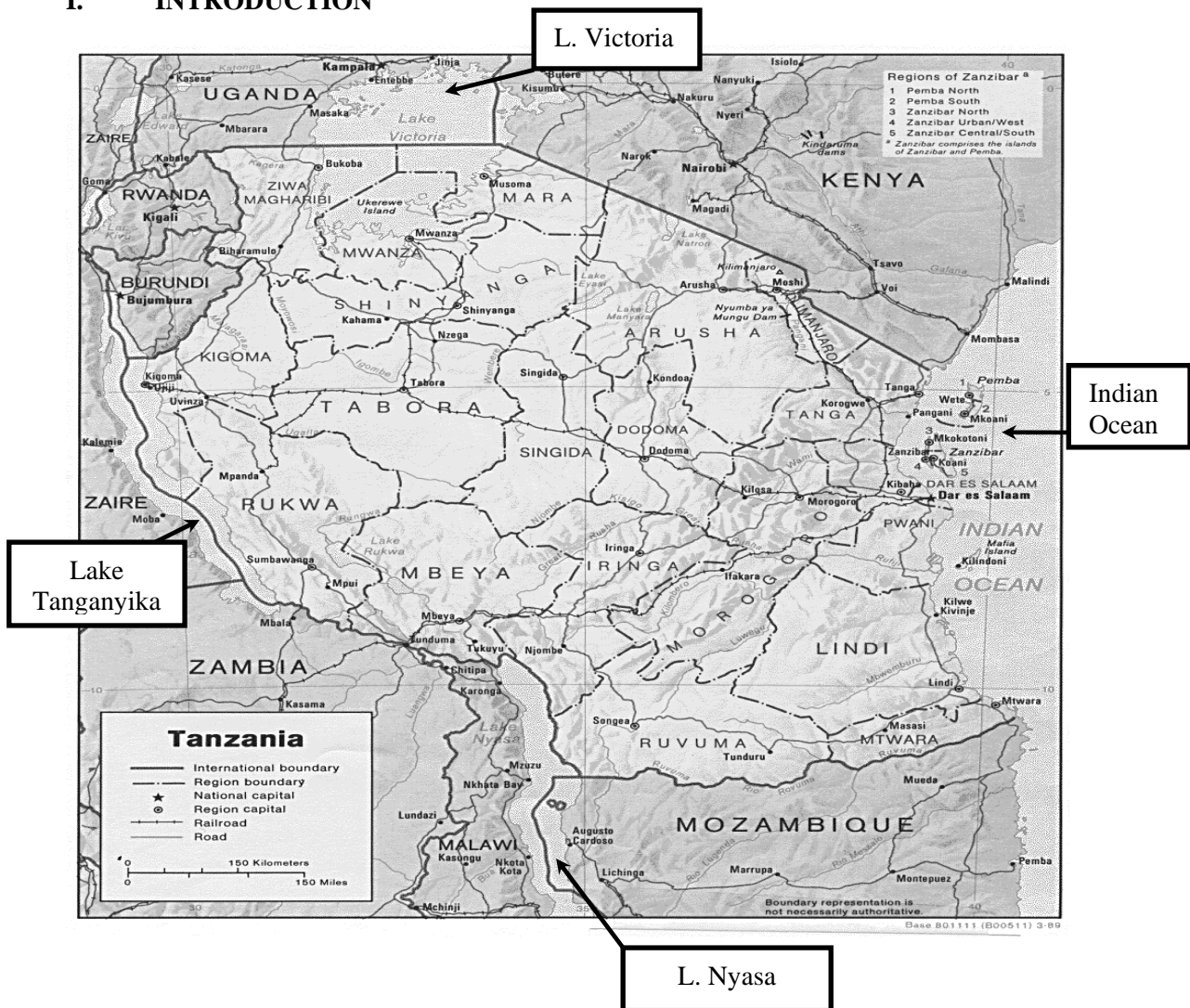


TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RELATED TO FISHERIES SECTOR- EXPERIENCE FROM THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Communication from Tanzania

The following communication, received on 30 March 2006, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Uganda.

I. INTRODUCTION



1. Tanzania lands between 350,000 to 400,000mt of fish per annum and exports about 20% of this quantity. The fisheries sector employs about 2 million people directly and indirectly. Between 1996 and 1999 it suffered three major bans, the worst being in 1999, which lasted 11 months. All the bans were based on the precautionary measure, non had a scientific justification. First case was a cholera scare in Mozambique, the second cholera in East Africa and the third was suspicion of pesticide residues in fishery products in Uganda.

2. The following were the major effects of the bans:

- Loss of foreign exchange earnings (e.g. for the 1999 ban alone about US\$ 90 million was lost);
- Around US\$ 8 million was reinvested by the Government and the industry to address the perceived hygienic non compliances;
- Collapse of ancillary industries such as soft drinks and small scale enterprises associated with the fish trade, i.e. ice production, net mending, fish transportation, food vending etc;
- Collapse of stakeholders' incomes resulting in high incidences of school dropouts, poor health, unemployment;
- Fall in price of fish from US\$ 0.8 of a dollar to US\$0.2;
- High incidences of social vices; and
- Total fishery product exports fell by 40%.

II. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

3. After the bans and much cry, the international community rallied to our rescue at different times since 1998. So far, Tanzania has received technical assistance from the following organisations: UNIDO, World Bank, FAO and the European Communities.

A. UNIDO

4. In 1998, UNIDO ran two training workshops on hygienic production of fish and fishery products. The main beneficiaries were the competent authority, fish processing industry and the supply chain. In total around 400 people were trained in 60 days.

5. Where as the effort by UNIDO to assist was commendable, the training was not successful mainly due to:

- Training needs assessment was not conducted prior to designing the training;
- Lecture materials were not appropriate to the situation at hand/environment;
- Project design was a cut and paste situation; and
- The technical experts came with pre-conceived ideas as to what should be the solution to issues.

6. UNIDO came again after the 1999 ban, providing technical assistance for a quality assurance system for monitoring and evaluating chemical residues in fish as well as the upstream situation.

7. Different from the first project, this one was successful mainly because:

- UNIDO collaborated with the Government and other main stake holders to identify priority areas, project design, implementation and even evaluation;
- The UNIDO approach was to listen to stakeholders' concerns and suggestions. Thereafter a way forward was formulated based on best and appropriate scientific or administrative practices.

- The implementation was by local experts and UNIDO retained only the monitoring and evaluation functions. Such an approach resulted into cost reduction by about 40% and increased coverage by about 50%.
- The recipient owned the project and through active participation capacity for local staff was much enhanced.

8. The resultant effect of UNIDO intervention was market confidence in the Fish Quality Assurance systems in Tanzania and therefore premium prices for products, i.e. Tanzanian products were fetching 15 cents more per kilogramme above their competitors with similar products. At home, livelihoods were re-stabilized and enhanced.

B. THE EC SANITARY PROJECT FOR ACP/OCT COUNTRIES

9. The project was launched before the media in September 2003, with promises to support the artisanal fishers, Competent Authority, private sector and laboratories. To date only terms of reference, work plans and budget have been prepared despite the fact that consultants have been coming and going. Among the problems associated with such delays are:

- Inability to align our resources to address such issues because of the promise, including locking out assistance from other donors;
- Creates Government distrust by the public;
- The long time lapse may result in reduced benefits in terms of increased prices and situation changes; and
- All this has a net effect of underdevelopment rather than the envisaged development.

C. IMPLEMENTATION OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN PROJECT

10. This is an EC-supported project aiming to improve the management of the Lake Victoria fisheries resources.

11. It is a good and quite useful project, however, there are some shortcomings, which include:

- The project design involved the donor and government agencies, excluding other main actors such as the industrialists, fishers, suppliers etc.
- The project became effective in April 2004, but the start up was delayed, because of lack of grass roots involvement right from the start.
- Political considerations take precedence over technical/scientific consideration, e.g. there is an equal allocation of the resources despite major differences in the number of fish landing sites: Kenya (6% - 6 landing sites), Tanzania (51% - 6 landing sites) and Uganda (43% - 6 landing sites).
- Inflexibility: e.g. too big monitoring and surveillance boats were specified during project design. According to the current situation, the boats will be too expensive to run, but the donor is not willing to change to manageable boats.

D. FAO/COMESA/COMMON FUND FOR COMMODITIES PROJECT ON VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS

12. This was a two-year project starting early 2002. It was designed to add value to Nile perch fish and Sardines, the two being most important commercial species in Lake Victoria. The funding agency is the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) and the executing agency is the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA), while the recipient is the East African Community.

The only work done to date was to conduct a study on the stock status of target species and markets for the envisaged value added products.

13. Reasons for non-performance:

- The project design did not allow contact between the donor and the recipients, rather the contact is with the third party (COMESA Headquarters in Lusaka) who do not identify with the project results in any manner; and
- Lack of clauses, to hold parties accountable for mistakes.

E. WORLD BANK/GEF LAKE VICTORIA ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT PROJECT

14. This is a World Bank/GEF funded project and executed by the three East African countries (Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda). Among the components were the development of some landing site facilities and procurement of laboratory equipment. The project output was successful because of the:

- Participatory nature during the design phase leading to ownership; and
- Involvement of local experts during implementation.

F. FAO TRAINING OF TRAINERS COURSE

15. FAO, under the umbrella of COMESA, provided technical assistance on training of trainers on HACCP to local experts in 1999 and January 2000. This has been another successful story because of the involvement of stakeholders from the beginning to end.

III. SUGGESTIONS

16. Whereas we appreciate the spirit demonstrated by the donor community and urge them to continue and where possible increase support to LDCs, consideration is requested in the following areas:

- (1) Most donor assistance is only available after a crisis has already occurred. It can be equated to post mortem tears!
 - (2) Enhanced transparency: e.g. the European Communities may slap you with an unjustified ban where you loose so much money and many lives are affected, and the same European Communities at a later date may give you technical assistance. In essence all could be avoided through discussion leading to understanding the issues;
 - (3) Local experts are deployed in all project as much as practicable;
 - (4) Local stakeholders are fully involved in project design and implementation;
 - (5) More training is offered to LDC countries so that they are fully compliant with SPS Agreement requirements; and
 - (6) Realistic and timely funding and implementation of projects.
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