

Project-specific Standards of Nile Perch Sustainable Capture Fishery at Lake Victoria

Proposal by Standard Round Table to Naturland Standard Committee (selected amendments highlighted in blue) with Naturland Certification Committee comments and replies (>>highlighted in yellow)

Bukoba, March 3^d - 4th 2010; Gräufelfing, November 26th 2010

The frame for the Project-specific standards is given by the Naturland Standards for Sustainable Capture Fishery in Part B. Regulations for Sustainable Capture Fishery. The Project-specific standards describe how ecological sustainability, social sustainability, economic sustainability within the legal framework and management will be realized.

1. Naturland Regulation: Project-specific management conditions and certification procedure

1.1 Besides the general regulations for sustainable fishery listed in Part B, project-specific management conditions are imposed on each fishery project. Taken together with the regulations under B 2–3, these special conditions constitute a catalogue of measures to be adopted in the management plan and quality assurance system of the project.

The conditions are the result of an expert survey of each fishery project to be performed. Naturland decides whether to accept the list of experts proposed either by the fishery project or a third party and can, where justified, reject the list or ask for changes to be made.

The experts on the list should cover the following fields:

- scientific institutions which deal with the respective type of fishery (primarily for current information on the status of the stock and on the aquatic ecosystem)
- fishing authorities (legal requirements, national and international development aims)
- NGOs (social and ecological aspects)
- organisations from the fishing and/or processing industries (technical, social and economic aspects).

Project-specific Standard 1.1:

1. *The lists of experts participating in the Standard Round Table Conferences are available. List of SRT participants should be kept as stable as possible for the follow-up meetings.*
2. **A development trust fund is part of the management plan to support community for social and ecological development.**

>> Naturland welcomes the concept of a development trust fund. In a next SRT, the terms of such a fund might be further specified.

2. Naturland Regulation: Ecology

2.1 The project performs its fishing activities in such a way that integrity of the ecosystem is maintained long-term concerning both, the stocks of the economically relevant species as well as the other components of the ecosystem.

Project-specific Standard 2.1

A thorough monitoring of the catch development shall be performed regarding Nile Perch and the other fish and non fish endangered species.

The monitoring shall consist of:

1. *Reporting total weight of catch per eco-labelling boat and trip of all participating BMU landing sites and fishermen;*
2. *Length frequency measurements of fish landed of all (certified) suppliers at the factory once a month (100 sample size);*
3. *Catch composition and length frequency measurements (data collection according to catch assessment survey from LVFO) of 5 eco-labelled boats per supplier on all participating landing sites carried out once per month.*
4. *Data to be analyzed by Vicfish and results may be made available to other interested institutions on request; Vicfish may request LVFO/TAFIRI to train their staff on data analysis.*
5. *The fisher folk within the project area should be sensitized for not deliberately discarding gear in the lake; they should be encouraged to recycle waste nets into meaningful use e.g. converting into ropes.*
6. *Catch composition monitoring should include the captures of any non fish and endangered species and data on number of gears lost in the lake on six months interval. (LVFO leaflet on endangered species can be used as teaching aid.)*
7. *The fisher folk shall be sensitized on the importance of using non endangered species as bait.*
8. *Unannounced random samples of catch composition and length frequency measurements (done by Vicfish) of 5 eco-labelled fishing boats per participating BMUs on the lake twice a year.*

Results must show that Fishing activities of BMUs involved do not contribute to overfishing:

1. *Nile perch of less than 50 cm in length (lower slot size of Nile perch) shall be minimized in catch, not going into processing or local markets and being dispatched according to regulation.*
2. *Nile perch of more than 85 cm in length shall be minimized in catch.*

3. *Level of undersized fish should be within acceptable size selection of the 6 or more inch net and will be monitored.*

2.5 If no exclusively used geographic area can be attributed to the project, the assessment should not only be based on the fishing practices of the project but also on the total situation of the stocks in question.

Project-specific Standard 2.5

There must not be any indication (by LVFO) that the Nile Perch stock in Lake Victoria is critically overfished (acute danger of not recovering).

Remarks:

- *The overall assessment of the Nile perch stocks in Lake Victoria will be done by the LVFO.*
- *The project should take into consideration (will implement) the recommendations concerning fishing activities given by (LVFO and) competent authorities based on the results of the overall assessment and up-date the Standards/ criteria accordingly.*

The next SRT might further specify nature and content of these recommendations. As long as they have the status of recommendation, the wording should rather be “take into consideration”, not “will implement”, since otherwise each recommendation would become automatically a binding standard.

2.6. Practices which are generally deemed as detrimental or critical from an ecological point of view are prohibited.

Project-specific Standard 2.6

The following gear types and techniques shall not be used by the fishermen participating in the pilot project:

- *monofilament gillnets;*
- *gillnet with a mesh size of less than 6 inches;*
- *drift nets;*
- *beach seines;*
- *trawl nets;*
- *hooks below size no.9 or above size no.11;*
- *weirs;*
- *Explosives and chemicals;*
- *splashing (katuli);*
- *harpooning (spear guns)*

>>In this list there is no longer the issue of size of nets (formerly <26 meshes in depth or multiple mounted nets. To be dealt with at next SRT and/or respective regulation to be provided).

2.7. Project-particular fisheries management targets and measures are specified.

Project-specific Standard 2.7

The project-specific management measures for the pilot project are in particular:

1. To use gillnets with a mesh size of **6 inches** and above;
2. To observe closed seasons and closed areas (sanctuaries gazetted by Dep. Fish. – **>> information regarding the sanctuaries is available**);
3. **Fish below 50 cm going into processing should not exceed 3% in number;**
4. **Fish above 85 cm going into processing should not exceed 5% in number. Effort should be made to minimize this.**

3. Naturland Regulation: Social and economic aspects

3.1. Naturland's Standards governing social responsibility apply.

Remarks: These standards apply for formal employment relationship in the chain, e.g. in the processing company. They are in line with the 1998 ILO declaration core labour standards and include further education:

- *The effective abolition of exploitative child labour*
- *The abolition of forced labour*
- *The freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining*
- *The elimination of discrimination in employment and occupation on the basis of nationality, skin colour, religion, ethnic origin, political beliefs or sex*
- *The right of employees to good health (protection against accidents, protection in handling hazardous substances)*
- *Reasonable working hours*
- **Official national** minimum wages

Naturland Standards A.III 1-6 apply for all participants.

Project-specific standards 3.1:

General monitoring of fisher folk (of participating parties) is established

1. *All suppliers, collectors and boat owners participating in the project shall be known by name, family status (voluntary: number of dependents at landing site/ person to be contacted in case of accident), place of domicile physical address and if possible telephone number.*
2. *Staff working for the suppliers and the collectors shall be registered and follow the working conditions as spelled out in the NL standards (if formally employed).*
3. *Records shall be available concerning the fishing related assets (fishing boats, fishing gears, engines, transport vessels and vehicles) owned by these players.*

4. *All fishermen working for the boat owners shall be registered (name, age, address) and these registers shall be updated at least twice a year.*

3.2 Fishery projects (resp. the processors or exporters of the fishery produce) bears responsibility not only for the fishermen to meet with fair working conditions (ref. A. III), but also for adequate living conditions out of working hours. Depending on socio-economic circumstances, those responsible must introduce the requisite measures in a suitable manner. These include especially:

- adequate board and lodging
- access to banking and insurance services
- health care
- schooling for the children
- transport possibilities

This is especially applicable if the fishermen and –women are not capable of fulfilling these basic needs from the sale of their products. This is the case, for example, when there is a glut or where seasonal yields fluctuate dramatically, and in cases of over-dependence on fishing as the sole source of income.

Project-specific standards 3.2

1. *Each fisher community participating must be able to have access to health services within 60 minutes (240 minutes for islands on good weather conditions) from landing site. Mobile health services are made available at least once a month to the island landing sites.*
2. *Each fisher community participating must have access to HIV/AIDS (including PMTCT)/STD/TB information, education, testing, care and treatment.*
3. *Each child (age 7 - 14) must be able to attend primary education during the complete cycle. In order to attend the school, children may not be exposed to hazardous situations or may not have to put in an effort which is not suitable for a child of that age. In populations larger than 1500 people, a primary school with trained teachers has to be present. Walking distance to the next primary school shall not be more than 5 km.*
4. *Compulsory life jackets must be carried on the boats for all crew members. It is recommended to support fisher community in having access to safety training courses. (100% of life jackets available by the 1st of June 2010.) Check on the quality of the life jackets available.*
5. *It is recommended to support fisher community in having access to alphabetization courses.*
6. *The fisher community shall live in houses that are weather proof and well ventilated. Settlements must allow basic hygiene.*

7. *Gender separated toilets / latrines (as minimum 1 pit per 50 persons) must be in good hygienic condition and affordable for all. Soak pits, septic tanks and an adequate waste disposal system should be installed whenever feasible.*
8. *Population must be sensitized on the issue of drinking water quality; good quality potable water must be available to the fisher community.*

3.3 The marketing of fish encourages stable business relationships distinguished by the mutual sense of responsibility of all the members of the value chain towards each other.

Project-specific Standards 3.3:

1. *Participating fishing communities shall have access to financial services; Participating fishing communities shall be sensitized on the importance of saving money.*
2. *Measures shall be in place to ensure the participating fishing community of correct weighing of fish.*
3. *Fish price developments along the value chain should be transparent. Vicfish shall sensitize suppliers to inform fishermen on cost structure and display contact number to enquire current factory price of the fish.*
4. *Participating BMUs can supply the processor directly.*
5. *Fisher folk should be encouraged to form Fishers Association.*

4. Naturland Regulation: Legal framework and management

4.1 Fishing is performed in compliance with national and international law. The fishery project has to be able to produce the corresponding documents and proof it full and freshly updated.

Project-specific Standards 4.1:

The following documents must be at hand:

- *List of licensed boats, list of gear and list of fishermen on BMU-level;*
- *Landing documents from BMUs (fish movement permits);*
- *BMU registration certificate;*
- *Procurement slips from factory;*
- *Export documents;*

BMUs are viable and operating in compliance with regulations and guidelines.

4.2 The fishery project (or the processor or exporter of the fishing produce) is responsible for its staff and workers being familiar with the contents of these

standards. Appropriate training sessions and material have to be provided to guarantee that the catalogue of measures is complied with.

Project-specific Standard 4.2:

1. **All operators, subcontractors, staff and workers** are familiar with the requirements of certification and trained to act accordingly
 2. The participating fishermen must be – directly or indirectly – linked by contract to Naturland certification.
 3. **For admitting new fishermen, new fishing boats, new collectors, new suppliers and new landing sites into the Eco-labeling project procedures should be followed as per the Naturland guideline and these guidelines should be included in the ICS-Manual.**
- 4.3 The management of the fishery project must be able to prove that the requirements laid down in the standards and the project-specific management conditions are implemented systematically, effectively and promptly at every level. This proof includes:
- consistent records and analysis of the catch data
 - feedback between the current catch data and the fishing practice in place
 - knowledge of current national and international regulations and fulfilment of the duties arising there from
 - establishment of mechanisms guaranteeing regular communication between the project and the fishermen with regard to social matters
 - existence of and compliance with a development plan (e.g. for deficient issues).

Naturland General Regulation: 7. Quality assurance

Production in terms of these standards should guarantee produce of high sensory quality and safety in regard to health. To avoid contamination with prohibited substances or means which might impair their quality, appropriate measures shall be taken. In particular, the fishing operation must show from its procedures that possible environmental pollutants are closely monitored by suitable analytical methods and that prompt and comprehensive measures are taken in cases where limits are exceeded.

Where reasonable suspicion exists that the product quality is substantially impaired, Naturland should be informed. Naturland may require an analysis to be undertaken to detect the level of contamination and contamination sources and give instructions on further steps to be taken. Appropriate action has to be taken on complaints related to the compliance with Naturland certification requirements that are directed to the operation by third parties. Records shall be kept of the complaint and corrective action taken.

The fishery project must manage its operations processes in such a way as to guarantee an uninterrupted cold chain between catch and sale.

Project-specific Standard 7:

The quality of the fish should be checked by the factory lab or an external lab or by the competent authority. The system must be able to trace back contaminated fish.

Moreover, the processor and Naturland together determine:

1. a list of the contaminants and noxious substances (from both anthropogenic and natural sources) that are relevant to the region and the type of production will be submitted by Vicfish to Naturland
2. alert values of max. 50% ~~(90%)~~ of the critical German ~~(EU)~~ legal level, at which Naturland must be notified
 >> Apparently there was some confusion between Project-Specific and the General Standards. This handling of alert levels is a General Naturland Standard (Part A.I.6) and cannot be altered by the SRT. The 50% threshold must remain the same, also reference to German legal level (which, for most substances, will be the same as EU).
3. the frequency of and processes used in the analysis of these pollutants (with reference to the water, sediment and products) will be submitted by Vicfish
- ~~4. Maximum permitted values must be according to the EU legal level and if above Naturland must be notified.~~
 s.a. This monitoring of residues and environmental contaminants is not necessarily a subject to SRT procedures. Nevertheless, it can be discussed at SRT and proposals can be brought forward, as long as these proposals don't lag behind General Naturland Standards.
5. Threshold values leading to the exclusion of the product from marketing.
6. The fish remains of Nile Perch processing (heads and frames) should enter a meaningful and responsible further usage.

Roadmap		
	how	By
3.3. Participating fishing communities shall have access to financial services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization on the importance of saving money • Investigate appropriate system (e.g. Sacco ´s, mobile phone banking) and sensitize to participate. 	Dec 2010 March 2011 Dec 2010 March 2011

<p>4.1 Licensing of fishermen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lobby the government • collect data on compliance with boat crew licensing, • engage government, establish its stand on boat crew licensing 	<p>Continuous effort</p> <p>Dec 2010</p> <p>March 2011</p>
<p>3.2 Fisher folk livelihood additional criteria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of communities in setting up priorities. • Type of Infrastructure should consider culture, environment and must be affordable to users. • Recommend to BMU to set up an operation and maintenance system for their public infrastructures, e.g. retention system of daily collection to be used for running and maintenance of the infrastructure (% deducted from sales of fish) • Support capacity building of BMU committees and potential leadership skills. 	<p>Oct. 2010</p> <p>Continuous effort</p> <p>Dec 2010</p> <p>March 2011</p> <p>Continuous effort</p>