

## Project Specific Standards for Nile Perch Sustainable Capture Fishery at Lake Victoria

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Proposal by Joint\* Standard Round Table held on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at St. Dominic Pastoral Centre, Mwanza to Naturland Standard Committee

\*(SUPREME PERCH, TFP LTD & NPFL, Mwanza)

And additional proposals from the SRT conducted by Supreme Perch Ltd at Bukoba in June 2017.

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. Three projects jointly conducted the SRT with the aim of bringing out one specific standard for the Mwanza and Bukoba region.

It was agreed in this joint SRT that

- The composition of the project's standard Round Table is according to Naturland Wildfish requirements.
- The lists of experts participating in the Standard Round Table Conference should be available for future reference. List of SRT Participants should be kept as stable as possible for the follow up meetings. In future, the list of participants shall be sent to Naturland for prior approval before any SRT
- The Project's Standard Round Table shall meet at least every two years (next in June 2019).
- The proposed management conditions should be approved by Naturland.

The following is the summary of the agreed specific standards

#### **ECOLOGICAL STANDARDS**

**GS 1. The Project performs its fishing activities in such a way that integrity of the ecosystem is maintained long-term both, the stocks of the economically relevant species as well as the other components of the Ecosystem.**

**SS 1.1: A thorough monitoring of the catch development shall be performed regarding Nile Perch and the other fish species. The monitoring shall consist of;**

- **Total Catch:**(1) weight of right size LVP, (2) weight of undersized LVP, (3) Weight of oversized LVP, (4) Weight of other species) in the catch of all registered boats per trip, at all participating BMUs, including identity number of boat and names of crew, are recorded by the Landing Site Monitor
- **Catch Composition and Length Frequency at Fishery Level:** report (1) length of LVP in the catch (i.e. share of different LVP size classes, including undersized and oversized LVP, by size categories) and (2) number (pc) of other species (from five eco-labeled boats per supplier once per month at all landing sites, in all participating BMUs) *are recorded by the Landing Site Monitor (and BMU)*
- **Cases of lost Gear** shall immediately be reported to the Landing Site Monitor. Landing Site Monitor must document number of lost gear and which gear was lost.
- **Length Frequency at Factory Level:** report length of LVP delivered to the factory (from all certified suppliers, once a month, sample size 100 fish) by categorizing them in size classes/ length frequency curve according to ICS.
- **Spot checking (1)** length of LVP in the catch (i.e. share of different LVP size classes, including undersized and oversized LVP, by size categories) and (2) number (pc) of other species (unannounced, from ten eco-labeled boats at all participating BMUs, once a year) are recorded by the Project Coordinator/ Project Manager.
- Catch Data/ Records must be transferred into suitable digital format (e.g. Excel file). Data collection forms/ hard copies shall be stored.
- In addition, basic evaluation of data (s. SS 1.2), in particular **Catch per unit effort (cpue), length class frequencies at fishery and factory level, quantity of other species** is to be calculated by the project coordinators.
- Data and results are to be analyzed by respective project and results may be available to TAFIRI and LVFO.

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### **SS 1.2: Results must show that Fishing activities of BMUs involved do not contribute to overfishing.**

- The catch data evaluation under SS1.1 shall indicate that the sustainability goals are being achieved, particularly with stable/increasing cpue and length class frequencies.
- As a general objective, the capture of Nile perch with a length of less than 50cm (lower slot size) shall be minimized. As a reference point, the share of undersized fish in the landings should not exceed 3% of total catch weight.
- 100% of Nile perch going in to the factory for processing shall be above the slot size limit of 50cm.
- The share of fish above 85cm (upper slot size) going in to the factory for processing shall not exceed 5% in number of pieces.

### **GS 2 If no exclusively used geographical 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.**

### **SS 2 There must not be any indication (by TAFIRI/ LVFO) that the total Nile Perch stock in Lake Victoria is critically overfished (acute danger of not recovering).**

- The overall assessment of the Nile perch stocks in Lake Victoria will be done by the LVFO/ TAFIRI. The latest results of particularly TAFIRI research shall be made available to the project.
- The project should take into consideration (will implement) the recommendations concerning fishing activities given by LVFO/TAFIRI and Competent Authority/Fishery Bodies based on the results of the overall assessment and up-date the Standards/ Criteria accordingly. The project shall collect the updated agenda points from Fishery Bodies in charge.

### **GS 3 Practices which are generally deemed as detrimental or critical from an ecological point of view are prohibited.**

### **SS3: The following gear types and techniques shall not be used by fishermen participating in the pilot project:**

- Monofilament gillnets;
- Gillnet with a mesh size of less than 6 inches; 26 meshes deep only (about 4 meters)
- Mounted nets;
- drift nets;
- beach seines;
- trawl nets;
- hooks below size no.9 or above no.11;
- weirs;
- pesticides/chemicals
- splashing (Katuli);
- harpooning (spear guns)
- Using endangered fish species as bait
- Explosives

### **GS4 Project– Specific fisheries management targets and measures**

### **SS4 The Project-Specific management measures for the project area in particular**

- To observe closed seasons and closed areas. Sanctuaries gazetted by Department of Fisheries. Those must frequently be communicated by the companies to each Landing site. Landing Site Monitor will then inform fishermen via training.
- The fisher folk within the project area should be sensitized for not deliberately discarding gear in the lake.
- The fisher folk should be sensitized by annual recorded and documented training on the importance of not using endangered fish species as bait.

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### SOCIAL ASPECTS

#### GS 5 Naturland Standards for social responsibility apply

**Remarks:** These standards apply for formal employment relationship in the value chain, e.g. in the processing company and formal employees at the landing site.

#### SS 5: These are in line with the 1998 ILO Declaration forced labour standards

- The effective abolition of child labour.
- The freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining
- The elimination of discrimination in employment and occupation based on 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 etc.)
- Reasonable working hours for employees as per their job profile according to government regulations.
- A living wage (salary, bonus, overtime etc.)

#### GS 6: General monitoring of fisher folk (of participating parties) is established and operationalized by the project.

#### SS 6:

- Project to demand, update, and keep the following information regarding the suppliers, collectors, and boat owners: name, family situation, (voluntary: number of dependents at landing site/person to be contacted in the case of accident), home of origin and physical address, fishing gears, boats, engines, houses (if company/agent do provide name of camps).
- Registration of all fishers, using the boats of registered boat owners, to be done and updated every year (including migrant fishers working with suppliers and collectors). Switching between boats is allowed if fishers are registered.
- Migrant fishers to produce an introductory letter from their respective village authorities as a precondition for registration for registration. Landing Site Monitor shall fill special questionnaire to identify their awareness on sustainable fishing). There must be frequent training for the new fishermen.
- To avoid stigma to people living with HIV at all time.

**GS 7: Fishery projects (resp. the processors or exporters of the fishery produce) bears responsibility not only for the fishers 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.**

#### SS 7:

- 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.
- Each fisher community participating must have access to HIV/AIDS (including PMTCT) /STD /TB information, education, testing, care and treatment.
- Each child (age 6– 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 must be present. Walking distance to the next primary school shall not be more than 5 km.
- Compulsory life jackets (minimum 60kg carrying weight) must be carried on the boats for all crew members. It is recommended to support fisher community in having access to safety training courses.
- Fishers shall have the possibility to participate in alphabetization courses.
- An appropriate number of clean, public\* latrines which are gender-separated shall be available at all landing sites. **BMUs have the responsibility of putting in place a system for keeping toilets accessible and clean.** E.g. systems such as charging a reasonable fee (e.g. 200 TZS/per use or per day) for keeping the latrines clean.

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\*"Public" – in this context refers to all the people who are allowed to use the landing site. As per fisheries guidelines for the safety of the fish handled only people dealing in fish are allowed onto the landing site and it is not open to the general public.

Remark: Even though BMUs have been assigned the responsibility for cleanliness and maintenance, the project/company as holder of the Naturland certificate will be held responsible and be sanctioned if duty of BMU is not fulfilled.

- Population shall be sensitized on the issue of drinking water quality
- Good quality potable water must be available to the fisher community (1,5litres/person).
- In addition, "water guard" tablets for treating water or an equivalent water disinfectant shall be made available, free of cost. The landing site monitor shall keep a record of "water guard" tablets. The fisher must be informed about working hours of the landing site monitor as the tablets are stored in the office.

### **ECONOMIC ASPECTS**

**GS 8 The marketing of fish encourages stable business relationships distinguished by the mutual sense of responsibility of all members of the value chain towards each other.**

#### **SS8:**

- Participating fishing communities shall have access to financial services; Participating fishing communities shall be sensitized on the importance of saving money. The project shall invite other trainers to sensitize fisher communities participating in the project concerning the importance of saving money.
- Measures shall be in place to ensure the participating fishing community of correct weighing of fish. Fishers must have access to the weighing procedure. The weighing scales in use shall be calibrated/checked using calibrated weight by BMU. Each BMU to have at least one calibrated weighing scale.
- Fish price developments along the value chain should be transparent. Processors shall sensitize suppliers to inform fishers on cost structure and display contact number to enquire current factory price of the fish in an area where it can be seen by each and every fisher.
- Participating BMUs shall be able to supply fish to the processor directly.
- Fisher folk should be encouraged to form Fishers Association.

### **LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND MANAGEMENT**

**GS.9: Fishing is performed in compliance with national and international laws. The fishery project has to be able to produce the corresponding documents and proof. It should be fully and freshly updated.**

#### **SS 9: The following documents must be at hand:**

- List of licensed boats.
- List of gear, lost gear and list of fishermen on BMU-level;
- Landing documents from BMUs (fish movement permits – in three copies, one to remain with the BMUS, the rest accompanying the lot to the factory);
- BMUs registration certificate,
- Export documents;
- BMUs are viable and operating in compliance with regulations and guidelines.
- Fishermen should be encouraged to keep their own record of daily catch

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**GS 10: 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 must be provided to guarantee that the catalogue of measures is complied with.**

### **SS 10:**

- All participants (landing site monitors, fishers, suppliers, BMU members, workers and factory staff) are familiar with the requirements of the certification and trained at least once per year.
- Training plan and reports (participants, trainers, dates and topics) and materials should be kept and available within the project.
- The participating fishers must be directly or indirectly linked by contract to Naturland certification. The contracts must also specify the benefits rights of the respective fisher. Every fisher needs a copy of the contract including a summary of the Naturland Standards on hand (in Swahili).
- For admitting new fishers, new fishing boats, new collectors, new suppliers and new landing sites in to the Eco-labeling project, procedures should be followed as per the company's ICS-Manual and the respective SRT standards.

**GS 11: 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 entry 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 fulfillment of the duties arising there
- Establishment of mechanisms guaranteeing regular communication between the project and the fishers about social matters.
- Existence of and compliance with a development plan (e.g. for deficient issues)

**GS 12: 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:**

- 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 the processor to Naturland.
- Alert values of max. 50% of the critical German legal level, at which Naturland must be notified.
- The frequency of and processes used in the analysis of these pollutants (with reference to the water, sediment and products) will be submitted by the processor.
- Maximum permitted values must be according to the EU legal level and if above Naturland must be notified.
- Threshold values leading to the exclusion of the product from marketing.