

# THE FISHERIES SECTOR POLICY AND STRATEGIC STATEMENT

## 1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

### Background

Where as fisheries resources have been sensibly managed, developed and utilized by local communities and other users, they have also been altered and destroyed in some cases on the ground that they are indefinitely renewable. It has however been realized that these renewable resources are limited and thus there has been a need to seek ways and means to better conserve , manage and develop them on sustainable basis.

Existing planned national policies for conservation , management and development of natural resources face identical problems. These include conflicting sectoral policies , lack of general appreciation of values of natural resources and therefore their need for conservation and management , as well as lack of central point for coordination of management actions.

Thus the present fisheries policy and strategy statement addresses these problems as well as setting scene for all that national wants for her fisheries resources. The statement focuses on promotion of sustainable exploitation , utilization and marketing of fish resources to provide food, income and foreign exchange earnings and effective protection of the aquatic environment to sustain development efforts are:-

- Improved resource management and control
- Intergration of environment protection and development
- Improved training and education
- Improved knowledge of fisheries resource base
- Efficient resource utilization and marketing
- Applied strategic research
- Aquaculture development
- Community participation
- Fisheries information management
- Gender and development

## 2. AN OVERVIEW OF THE FISHERIES SECTOR

### 2.1 Resource Base

Tanzania is well endowed with water resources. Share three of the largest inland lakes in Africa. A diverse river system, numerous wetland and an ocean coast line. The country is reasonably rich in marine and inland fishery resources and therefore a significant fisheries sector.

The Fisheries sector has a lot of economic and social significance to the country. The sector contributes around 10% of the National GDP. It is the main source of protein to nearly one third of the country's population. It provides a source of employment and livelihood to a substantial number of people. Around 80,000 fishermen are employed full time in the fisheries and a few other millions derive their economic livelihood from the sector in one way or another in fisheries related activities. It is also a source of recreation, tourism and foreign exchange. In terms of animal protein availability, fish contribute about 30% of the total animal protein intake. This is significant as the majority of the consumers are relatively low-income earners who cannot afford other more expensive sources of protein. There is a growing demand for fish created by population growth estimated at 3.5% per annum.

The present potential yield estimates suggest that, about 730,000 metric tons of fish can be harvested from the natural waters as follows:- Lake Victoria, ... 200,000mt Lake Tanganyika, ... 300,000mt Lake Nyasa, ... 100,000mt Other lakes, dams and reservoirs 30,000mt Marine waters (territorial) 100,000mt

ISM u 730,000mt

The present annual fish catch is estimated at 350,000mt. There is therefore room for increased production.

The EEZ has not been exploited significantly, and there is therefore a potential to increase landings of tuna and similar fish species.

Available data shows that certain traditional fisheries are either being fully or near full exploitation, whereas others are being little exploited, but can offer a good potential for increased production. While efforts are being made to develop new fisheries, the currently exploited fisheries need to be managed to sustain production and improve handling and processing to reduce losses in order to meet the needs of the growing population and the future generations and in this way contribute to food security.

### **Aquaculture**

A number of fresh water fish species, brackish water and marine species of fauna and flora are suitably potential for aquaculture. There is a potential for increased fish production through aquaculture to complement the capture fisheries. The development of aquaculture, however, needs to be guided by promoting and incorporating the management principles to ensure aquaculture sustainability.

## 2.2 Constraints and Opportunities in the Fisheries Sector

The sector is faced by many problems. Some of the long-term problems are:

- Insufficient information on the resource base.
- Inadequate infrastructure and inefficient utilisation. -Inadequate capacity to carry out research.
- Poor handling and inadequate processing methods and technologies.
- Under developed recreational/sport fisheries potential.
- Poor transport and distribution network leading to high levels of post-harvest losses.
- Inadequate Fish Inspection and Quality Control mechanisms. -Inadequate national capacity~ and infrastructure in training institutions.
- Invasion of noxious aquatic plants especially the water hyacinth in Lake Victoria.
- Environmental degradation and inability to integrate environmental protection with development. . Insufficient knowledge on the contribution of aquaculture to individual household economies,
- Insufficient empowerment of the local communities.
- Poor interaction between players in community and community related issues and activities.
- Scanty information on the traditional C.1.1 knowledge of the resource.

1-Unfavourable credit conditions leading from financial institutions.

, Beside there are a number of constraints that limit the capacity of the sector to solve the problems and they include the following:

- Lack of recognition of the long-term value and contribution of the fisheries resources to the economy.
- Inadequate financial and technical resources.
- Low level of technology among the artisanal fishing communities. -Inadequate support services including research and extension personnel. -Lack of proper equipment for fishing, handling and transport facilities.
- Lack of appreciation of the gender perspectives in the fisheries activities.
- Donor reliance on funding national projects.
- Inability to exploit the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

, In spite of the above mentioned problems and constraints, there are opportunities in the sector that could be promoted to facilitate increased contribution of the sector to the national economy. These are:

-The resource potential is vast (both capture fishery and aquaculture) to attract investment in the sector.

-There is sufficient human resources.

.,'. :- There is demand for fisheries products from both foreign and domestic markets.

- Fish quality management can be improved to satisfy traditional and new markets.
- Some donors and partners are interested in assisting fisheries development in the country.
- The 200nm EEZ has considerably increased the natural resource base under the national jurisdiction and is yet to be exploited.

### **2.3 Stakeholder Participation (Private Sector, NGOs, etc)**

The private sector, the community, non-governmental organizations and other non-state actors have a very useful role to play in the development, management and sustainable utilization of the fisheries resources. They possess diverse experience, expertise and capacity in various fields relevant to the fisheries sector. Therefore their full potential have to be tapped, enabled and strengthened in support of the efforts to achieve the sector objectives. :

The active involvement of the private sector and NGOs in the fisheries sector would enhance investment; improve business and general management in the fishing industry. revitalize financing, operations and transportation/marketing of the fisheries products.

The possible areas of participation, co-operation and/or technical assistance include:-

.Investment in the fishing industry i.e. in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), territorial waters in joint venture with the local fishing

industry . , .Investment in the production of fisheries inputs, such as boat building, production and importation of fishing gear~, equipment and spares.

Business operations, both local and export of value added fisheries products, Eco-tourism, sport and ornamental fishing, etc. .

.Co-operation in joint research and training so as to improve the efficiency of research findings, capacity building and extension services.

Technical assistance and co-operation in the development of the aquaculture practice.

Development of the fisheries infrastructure. in particular fish handling, processing, distribution and marketing.

Empowerment of communities to participate in the management and conservation of the fisheries environment by ensuring responsible fishing principles by all communities.

## 2.4 Poverty Alleviation

Fisheries significantly contribute to the supply of food that is high quality protein and nutrients employ many people and generate substantial incomes.

Thus development efforts in the fisheries sector have to consider the valid objective to eradicate/alleviate poverty. Given the situation that the majority of the people in Tanzania live in the rural areas and are poor, the role of the government is to assist the local communities to become aware of their own situation and support them to become responsible for their own destiny by making better use

of the fish resources. The following strategies will be undertaken in order to promote fish production and generate income through employment creation as a measure

to alleviate poverty:- .Encourage the allocation and utilisation of fisheries resources in favour of the rural community so that they result to human welfare development. .

.Empowerment of women, regarded as natural resources managers in the society access to resources as a critical factor in the effective eradication of poverty.

.Promotion of private investment in the sector in order to stimulate fish production, processing and marketing and other related social economic activities.

## 2.5 Regional and International Co-operation

The national obligation to manage the fisheries resource extends beyond national waters, as fish does not recognise man made boundaries. In addressing issues that relate to the management, sustainable utilisation and conservation of the aquatic resources and environment we find ourselves drawn into the international arena. f

.Most transnational issues involve shared fish stocks and pollution. Fish stocks as-With pollution recognises no political boundary. This calls for the collective efforts of the riparian states and governments in developing management measures to resolve resource use conflicts, reduce or mitigate negative impact. and to develop common standards and procedures for monitoring. It also calls for concerned nations to recognise the mutual impact of development activities and to implement the relevant International agreements/conventions and codes of conduct for responsible fishing.

Given this situation, the fisheries policy recognises this noble obligation; and in the implementation of the policy strategies; activities will be developed along these lines. The policy strives to foster regional and

.international co-operation for purposes of development, sustainable utilisation and conservation of the fisheries resources and environment for the benefit of mankind.

### **3. THE NATIONAL FISHERIES POLICY AND STRATEGY STATEMENT**

#### **3.1 Goal:**

The overall goal of the National Fisheries Policy is to promote conservation, development and sustainable management of the Fisheries Resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

#### **3.2 Objectives**

The main objectives are:-

- To put into efficient use available resources in order to increase fish production so as to improve fish availability as well as contribute to the growth of the economy.
- To enhance knowledge of the fisheries resource base.
- To establish national strategic research programmes those are responsive to the fisheries sector.
- Improving fisheries products utilization and their marketability.

Develop national training and educational programmes based on assessed needs and the use of national and international training institutions optimized. -

-To encourage and support all initiatives leading to the protection and sustainable use of the fish stock and aquatic resources.

-Protect productivity and biological diversity of coastal and aquatic ecosystems through prevention of habitat destruction, pollution and over exploitation.

-Promote small scale, semi-intensive aquaculture systems with simple technologies and low capital investment.

-Promote sound utilisation of the ecological capacity of water based areas as a means of generating income and diet

-Promote effective farm and fish health management practices favoring hygienic measures and vaccines.

-Improve involvement of the fisher communities in the planning development and management of fishery resources.

-Improve availability, accessibility and exchange of fisheries information.

-Incorporate gender perspective in the development of the Fisheries sector.

-Strengthen collaboration on cross-sectoral issues between the fisheries sector and other sectors:

-Develop and strengthen intersectoral co-operation in general fisheries development to minimise operational conflicts.

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-Pursue a continuing fisheries integrated programme of effective management of coastal zone to meet the ecological and social

.economic needs of the present and future generation.

-To strengthen regional and international collaboration in the sustainable exploitation, management and conservation of resources .in shared water bodies.

-Effective utilisation of the Exclusive Economic Zone promoted and achieved.

### **3.3 Policy and Strategy Statements:**

#### **3.3.2 Improved Knowledge of the Fisheries Resources Base.**

**Policy Statement (2) To enhance knowledge of the fisheries resource base.**

##### **Strategies**

- \* Improve collection and processing of information for fisheries management purposes.
- \* Facilitate availability of research findings on the resource base through publication and/or other measures.
- \* Encourage the assessment of the fisheries resources.
- \* Promote research of underutilised fish stocks for possible exploitation.
- \* Facilitate and promote acquisition and documentation of traditional fisheries knowledge.

#### **3.3.3 Applied/Strategic Research.**

Policy Statement (3) To establish national strategic/applied research programmes that are responsive to the fisheries sector.

##### **Strategies**

- \* Identify priority national needs for research
- \* Strengthen national Fisheries Research Institutions.
- \* Develop short, medium and long-term National research plans. .
- \* Promote national and regional research co-operation.
- \* Develop and maintain database of the national fisheries and related scientists and research findings.

#### **3.3.4 Efficient Resources Utilisation and Marketing**

**Policy Statement (4) To improve Fisheries products utilisation and their marketability.**

##### **Strategies**

- \* Encourage the use of environmentally friendly fishing technologies and gear.

- \* Promote national capacities in co-operation with small-scale industries to produce fisheries "accessories".
- \* Encourage private enterprise development in the fisheries sector by promoting commercial fishing. Priority will be given to nationals especially in the territorial waters.

Establish National quality control standards for fish products.

Promote the use of improved and appropriate technologies in the post harvest handling and processing in order to improve the shelf-life of fish and fish products for local consumption and export. I

.Ensure improved quality of fishery products to meet the requirement of the international markets.

.Facilitate the promotion of fish marketing and distribution in collaboration with the private, industry and trade sectors.

.Promote the availability of fish and fishery products to low income groups.

.Encourage exportation of value added fish and fishery products.

.Regulate importation and exportation of fish and products in order to safeguard the National Food Security.

.Promote Eco-tourism and recreational sport fishing.

.Control of ornamental fish trade.

### **3.3.5: Training and Education.**

***Policy Statement (5) To establish National training and education programmes based on assessed needs and optimise the use of national and international training institutions.***

#### ***Strategies:***

- \* Develop national training programme and implement it based on assessed needs to meet the human resources requirements of the fisheries sector.
- \* Develop curricula in national fisheries training and educational institutions based on assessed fisheries training needs.
- \* Assess regularly the fisheries sector training need; based on specific requirements for human resources with specific reference to fisheries development programmes.
- \* Strengthen the capacity and infrastructure in the national fisheries training and research institutions.
- \* Collaborate with the Human Resources Development sector and other sectors in the development of a sustainable funding mechanism.
- \* Develop relevant vocational training programmes for artisanal fisherfolks.



.In collaboration with other sectors facilitate the development of a viable and sustainable scheme in order to improve access to national training institutions.

### **3.3.6 Fisheries Resources and aquatic environment protection.**

*Policy Statement (6) To integrate conservation and sustainable Utilisation of the fisheries resources into the social economic Programmes of the community.*

*Policy Statement (7) To encourage and support all initiatives leading to the protection and sustainable use of the fish stock and aquatic resources.*

*Policy Statement (8) To protect the productivity and biological diversity of coastal and aquatic ecosystems through prevention of habitat destruction, pollution and over exploitation. .*

*Strategies:*

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  - \* Develop environmental impact assessment .(EIA) guidelines and ensure that EIA is carried out and taken into consideration in all fisheries sector projects.
  - "Promote the development of alternative sources of income generating activities to fisheries.
  - \* Control /ban destructive fishing and processing methods.
  - \* Monitor and review environmental protection measures applied in the fisheries sector.
  - \* Promote protection of the fragile Eco-system, Eco-system processes and conservation of biodiversity programme.
  - \* Protect endangered and threatened aquatic species throughout their life.
  - . \* Protect vulnerable species, habitats and areas of special ecological significance through accordance of special legal status to such areas e.g. marine parks, marine reserves and closed breeding areas.
  - ;
  - ~, Discourage mining of live coral to minimise destruction of coral reef ecosystem in order to protect ,the coastal area environment.
  - \* Collaborate with other relevent sectors to develop water quality monitoring system.
  
  - \* Promote efforts that combat the spread of noxious-water weeds e.g. water hyacinth
  - .Discourage the introduction or translocation of exotic Species between water systems unless sound scientific evidence guarantees safety of genetic integrity of the Eco-systems.

I. .Maintain and update regularly an inventory of all descri'rd fish ~ and other aquatic species.

.Adopt relevant regional and international protocols and treaties for protection and conservation of the fisheries resources and aquatic environment.

\* Promote collaborative management approaches with user communities to areas designated as protected areas such as Marine Parks and Marine Reserves, etc.

### **3.3.7 Aquaculture Development.**

*Policy statement (9) To promote small scale, semi-intensive aquaculture systems with simple technologies and low capital investment.*

*Policy Statement (10) To promote the sound utilization of the ecological capacity of water based areas as a means to promote diversification of income sources and diet.*

*Policy Statement (11) To promote effective farm and fish health management practices favoring hygienic measures and vaccines.*

*Strategies:*

\* Initiate the establishment of code of conduct for aquaculture to provide guideline to address issues such as site selection, construction, suitable species, introduction of exotic species, water abstraction, spread of disease and effluent control.

\* Establish effective procedures specific to aquaculture to under- take appropriate environmental assessment and monitoring with the aim of minimizing adverse ecological changes and related economic and social consequences resulting from water extraction, land use, discharge of effluent, use of drugs and chemicals and other aquaculture activities.

\* Promote research to identify better performing species for aquaculture development.

\* Encourage the use of available own farm resources rather than outside inputs.

\* Promote extension of viable aquaculture technologies appropriate for small scale and/or semi intensive level.

" Produce and regularly update aquaculture development strategies and plans as required to ensure that aquaculture de- velopment is ecologically sustainable and allow rational use of resources shared by aquaculture and other activities.

", Encourage the private sector. non-governmental organisations (e.g. religious institutions. youth groups. etc) to participate in aquaculture development.

. \* Promote the utilisation of small water bodies. dams and reservoirs for aquaculture.

Promote the integration of aquaculture into other farming production systems among the rural communities.

" Promote where appropriate the inclusion of aquaculture in water supply and/or irrigation development programmes.

" Promote and propagate aquaculture in order to increase fish production and provide income.

\* Ensure that the livelihood of local communities and their access to fishing grounds are not affected by aquaculture development.

\* Establish maintain and develop an appropriate legal and administrative framework which facilitates the development of sustainable aquaculture.

“Ensure safe, effective and minimal use of therapeutants hormones and drugs. antibiotic and other disease control chemicals.

\* Ensure the food safety of aquaculture products and promote effort which maintain product quality and improve their value through particular care before and during harvesting, and on site processing and in storage and transport of the product.

### **3.3.8 Community Participation.**

*Policy statement (12) To improve the involvement of the fisher communities in the planning, development and management of fishery resources. .*

Strategies:

\* Encourage formation of fisher associations, co-operative and groups and support their activities.

\* Sensitise decision-makers at all level on the importance of involving fisher communities in the development of the sector activities.

\* Encourage the involvement of the fisher community in policy formulation and implementation through their relevant institutions, i.e. village/councils, associations, etc.

\* Identify issues relevant to community participation in the sector and collaborate with other related sectors to enhance this participation.

\* Encourage formulation of projects which aim at promoting involvement of communities in the management of fisheries resource.

\* Facilitate and promote sharing and exchange of skills and knowledge through extension services.

" Entrust the management responsibilities of landfills or other facilities and utilities to fisher communities.



## Strategies

- \* Collaboration with other sectors in the implementation of Agenda 21 National Programmes and recommendations on the Fisheries Sector.
- \* Conduct joint planning meetings with related sectors of both the Union and Zanzibar Government.
- \* Conduct joint meeting with all sectors related to Natural Resources, tourism and environment in areas of training, information, enforcement, conservation and natural resources management.
- \* Disseminate information on regional and international trade protocols to fisheries stakeholder in collaboration with industry, commerce and trade sector.
- \* Promote fish and fish products marketing and distribution in collaboration with private, industry and trade sector.
- \* In collaboration with water and agricultural sectors, promote where appropriate the inclusion of aquaculture in water supply and/or irrigation development programme.

### **3.3.12 Integration of Fisheries into Coastal Area Management:**

Policy Statement (17) To pursue continuing Fisheries integrated management of effective management of coastal zone to meet the present and future social economic needs of the present and future'