

July 2000



COMMITTEE FOR INLAND FISHERIES OF AFRICA

Eleventh Session

Abuja, Nigeria, 24-27 October 2000

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

1. During the intersessional period, the two subsidiary bodies of CIFA: the Sub-Committee for Lake Tanganyika and the Sub-Committee for the Protection and Development of the Fisheries in the Sahelian Zone, held their eighth and seventh sessions respectively. The reports are presented to this session as documents CIFA/2000/Inf.4 and CIFA/2000/Inf.5 respectively.

2. This document draws the attention of the Committee to the major conclusions and recommendations of these subsidiary bodies and highlights especially those matters which are not discussed under other items of the agenda. The relevant paragraph numbers of the Report of the Eighth Session of "CIFA Lake Tanganyika" and Seventh Session of "CIFA Sahel" are given in brackets.

I. REPORT OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CIFA SUB-COMMITTEE FOR LAKE TANGANYIKA, LUSAKA, ZAMBIA, 18-21 MAY 1999

3. The objectives of the Session were to examine the progress and results of the Lake Tanganyika Fisheries Research Project (LTR) funded by Finland and give guidance on future research activities; elaborate a fisheries management plan for Lake Tanganyika; review the new functions of the Sub-Committee; consider the establishment of an autonomous body (Lake Tanganyika Fisheries Commission or Organization); and encourage regional collaboration between

the four riparian countries (members of the Sub-Committee) and the various ongoing fisheries projects.

4. The Eighth Session was held in conjunction with the Seventh meeting of the Coordination and International Scientific Committees of the Lake Tanganyika Research Project (GCP/RAF/271/FIN).

II. MAJOR CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5. The Sub-Committee:

- agreed to give guidance to the implementation of the Lake Tanganyika Regional Fisheries Research Project (LTR) funded by Finland and AGFUND, and to request for its extension so as to obtain the information needed for the sustainable management and utilization of the fishery resources of the Lake; (para. 11)
- stressed the importance of the LTR Documentation Centre and recommended its strengthening for use by the four riparian member countries; (para. 12)
- adopted the Framework Fisheries Management Plan (FFMP) proposed for the Lake and an outline programme for its implementation. Furthermore, the Sub-Committee encouraged the implementation of the proposals made for legal and institutional framework for the management and development of the fisheries as well as Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) requirements to support the FFMP; (para. 16)
- emphasized that more research was necessary to determine the opportunities for investment in the fisheries of Lake Tanganyika based on available scientific data; (para. 18)
- that (i) priority be given to training at all levels; (para. 19) (ii) the use of local scientists who are the main data collectors; (para. 19) (iii) a detailed feasibility study indicating activities and costs to implement the Fisheries Management Plan Project for Lake Tanganyika; (para. 25) (iv) the development of guidelines for adapting the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries applicable to Lake Tanganyika; (para. 25) and (v) the development of the Implementation Programme for the FFMP; (para. 30)
- noted with appreciation the close collaboration between the LTR project and the GEF programme, involving the direct cooperation of project personnel and the sharing of resources, including costs related to commonly-used project equipment; (para. 32)
- commended the Inter-Agency Agreement between United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and FAO; (para. 32)
- recommended to encourage and strengthen collaboration between the LTR and the following projects:

*the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) / Global environmental Facility (GEF) Project RAF/92//G32 “Pollution Control and other measures to protect Bio-diversity of Lake Tanganyika (LTBP)” ; (para. 31)

*Government of Burundi / African Development Bank Project “Developpement de l’aquaculture et de la pêche artisanale (DAPA) ” ; (para. 31) and

*the USA National Science Foundation supported project “International Decade of the East African Lakes (IDEAL) ” ; (para. 31) and

- considered and adopted new functions to guide its work as listed in document CIFA/2000/Inf.4 (para. 38).

III. REPORT OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CIFA SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE FISHERIES IN THE SAHELIAN ZONE, OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO, 3-6 JULY 2000

6. The objectives of the Session were the following: to discuss opportunities in the Sahelian Zone for Integrated Irrigation/Aquaculture (IIA), to review an IIA proposal (*Integrated Inland Water Resources Management in Drought-prone West African Countries*) that will be implemented in Côte d’Ivoire, Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, to examine major issues of post-harvest practices in the sub-region and to evaluate the future of the Sub-Committee.

7. A seminar on Livelihoods and Fisheries Management in the Sahelian Zone, co-sponsored by FAO Regional Office for Africa and the FAO/DFID Project, (GCP/INT/735/UK) was also held in conjunction with the session.

IV. MAJOR CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Integrated Irrigation/Aquaculture in the Sahelian Zone

8. The Sub-Committee:

- acknowledged that co-management of fisheries resources was essential and, therefore, recommended that countries strengthen their capacities in participatory management and improve their fisheries legal framework and also promote intra-regional exchanges of information and experiences. (para. 18)
- noted that countries should take advantage of un- or under-exploited land and water resources through the development of IIA activities. (para. 23)
- take into consideration the limited successes of past aquaculture development efforts, countries should take into consideration the lessons learned to ensure that previous pitfalls were not once again encountered. (Para. 24)

- agreed that IIA is of great relevance to the Sahel and endorsed the IIA Programme Profile presented for *Integrated Inland Water Resources Management in Drought-prone West African Countries* (para. 25)
- requested the Secretariat to further develop the IIA Programme Profile and submit for consideration by the Committee at its Eleventh Session. (para. 25)

Post-harvest practices in the Sub-Region

9. The Sub-Committee:

- acknowledged that innovative technologies for improved fish preservation exist in member countries, but that these were often unknown in the sub-region, (para. 29)
- recommended that countries should share information and appropriate technologies and should develop a collaborative programme to address post-harvest matters. (para. 30)
- requested governments to pay more attention to quality assurance issues in order to compete with products coming from other parts of the world (para. 30)
- requested Governments to strengthen training and sensitization of fishworkers, establish a framework to enable fair competitiveness of local fishery products as well as access to credit and services involving well-structured groups. (para. 31)
- proposed that international institutions, including FAO, should play a key role in the validation of non-documented, but apparently low-cost technologies for fish preservation and support research on post-harvest losses. (para. 31)

Future of the Sub-Committee

10. The Sub-Committee:

- recommended to its parent body CIFA that it be abolished. (para. 34)
- further recommended that *ad hoc* Working Groups be established which would ensure that themes important to the sub-region were adequately addressed. (para. 34)

V. SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE

11. The Committee is invited to take note of the information provided and to offer advice and guidance for future action.