



Greenfields Nile Perch and Tilapia

*Sustainable fish from lake Kyoga, Kikalagania,
Nakasongola district, Uganda*

January 2004-December 2006

Project End Report Executive Summary

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Executive summary

This was a three-year project to assist Greenfields Uganda Ltd to introduce sustainable fisheries and export of certified sustainable Nile Perch and Tilapia that is commercially viable. The overall objective was to improve the livelihood of the fishing communities.

During the first year, the project shifted from Lake Albert to Lake Kyoga due to increasing insecurity and lack of basic infrastructure. Greenfields identified a site in Kikalagania, Nakasongola district, and constructed a landing site facility in accordance with EU standards. During the first and second project years additional landing sites were identified, the population was sensitized and trained on quality and sustainability issues, and fishermen were registered and contracted. In order to do so, Greenfields employed a Landing Site Manager and EPOPA called upon a Local Expert/Training officer.

EPOPA assisted in the development of UgoCert standards for sustainable fisheries as well as their inspection protocol. The first external inspection took place in October 2005 and a positive certification was received in January 2006. Greenfields was represented both on the BIOFACH and on the international Fish Fair in Brussels to promote and market the sustainable fish.

Regardless of relative success (some fish was exported under Greenfields “Kyoga Wild” label), the supply of certified Nile perch ran into serious problems in the third project year. The first problems occurred in the beginning of 2006 and were caused by a drop in the water level due to the drought in the region. Less water lead to less fish and many of the non-project fishermen used any means to catch any type of fish. Uncontrolled fishing combined with decrease of fish stock left legal fishermen without sufficient catches.

When after the rains the catches improved again, the supply ran into another problem. One supplier had not survived the difficult period leaving the second one with a monopoly. Several meetings were organised in order to try and reorganise the supply chain but when it came to the practical implementation of this, it failed leaving Greenfields without sustainable fish to export.

While there was no fish to export, the project ran out. The project was finished with a publicity campaign on the critical state of the fishery in Lake Kyoga. The exporter since continues to engage with fishery communities in Lake Kyoga but also Victoria to promote more sustainable practices.

EPOPA’s assistance included awareness raising of fishermen and authorities, setting up a field organisation and an Internal Control System, facilitating organic certification, training and extension, marketing support and improving quality. Sustainable fisheries and traceability were new concepts in the region. The effort to create understanding, to change mentality and to get stakeholders to support the initiative took more effort than was thought.

The project budget was underspent by approximately one million SEK. The total expenses were SEK 3,973,741 of which 2,262,662 were consultancy fees while the rest were reimbursable costs. The exporter himself invested SEK 1,042,113 into the project.

As the project did not manage to establish an export of certified sustainable fish, the fishermen obtained no direct financial benefits like a better price. They did receive sets of legal fishing gear. During the project period, sustainable fisheries became an important issue on the international fish market. The project contributed to the change of mentality in the region towards fisheries and the depletion of the stocks. The Greenfields set up became an example and a similar pilot model is currently being used in Bukoba, Tanzania where standards have been developed and sustainable fished Nile perch will be certified soon.