

## **CONCEPT NOTE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE *FISHFORCE* ACADEMY**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

It is estimated that at the global level fish provides one billion poor people with their daily animal protein requirements. Further more than 250 million people depend, directly or indirectly, on fisheries and aquaculture for their livelihood (World Fish, 2019). Likewise, in Kenya, it contributes about 0.5% to the Gross Domestic Product (UNDP, 2018) and provides direct employment to over 500,000 people and indirectly to 2 million people (The State Department of Fisheries and Blue Economy, 2019). Hence, it is clear that the fisheries sector is cable of generating gains for the country including economic benefits through revenue and foreign exchange earnings. Sadly, it is estimated that Kenyan losses from the fisheries sector are approximately Ksh 10 billion annually (Musili, 2018). Moreover, the fisheries sector is crucial in ensuring achievement of the government's Big 4 Agenda. Specifically, the attainment of food and nutrition security for the nation. Therefore, this asset should be protected if these benefits are to be realised.

This can be achieved through effective control and management of those resources. This would require the exploration, exploitation, utilization, management development and conservation of fisheries resources and having research conducted on marine and fresh water fisheries. There is also the need to deal with fisheries crime so as to hold accountable those implicated in the vice. Ultimately, proper implementation of these aspects would create a conducive environment for the sustainable development of the fisheries resources.

To ensure the achievement of these objectives there is a need to have manpower with the requisite skills. An aspect that is currently lacking in our country. In this regard, since signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the University of Nairobi (UoN) and Nelson Mandela University (NMU) in November 2017 (copy attached), the School of Law has covered substantial ground in setting up the Fisheries Crime Law Enforcement Academy (the *FishForce* Academy), as elaborated in part II. The purpose of the *FishForce* Academy is to build capacity by offering short learning programmes to law enforcement officers involved in countering fisheries crime. Hence its main objective will be to spearhead research and studies in the counter measures against fisheries crime. When fully fledged the *FishForce* Academy will be part of the proposed Institute for Blue Economy and Ocean Studies (IBEOS) at the University of Nairobi.

## II. BACKGROUND WORK ON THE *FISHFORCE* ACADEMY

In the first quarter of 2016 Prof. Musili Wambua was appointed a member of the Fisheries Crime Working Group (FCWG) based at the Centre for Law in Action at NMU that developed the initial concept and sourced for a grant from the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Trade Agriculture and Fisheries, the Nordic Council of Ministers and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to set up the Fisheries Crime Law Enforcement Academy (The *FishForce* Academy) based at the NMU. The grant was awarded following a proposal by the FCWG's sub project on Capacity Building and Awareness Raising (FCWG CAP project) which was set up on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2016 following a meeting of FCWG at the Centre for the Law in Action in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

FCWG's objective was to develop strategies of how to address the menace of fisheries crime which had depleted marine resources in the maritime zones of most African coastal states. The *FishForce* Academy was to offer short training programs to law enforcement officers on the investigation of maritime crimes including the collection, preservation and presentation of evidence in court. The pilot project was to be at the NMU with chapters in East Africa and Indonesia. It was agreed at the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2016 that the East African Chapter of the *FishForce* Academy would be set up at the University of Nairobi.

Subsequently (on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016) the FCWG coordinated the State Department for Fisheries and the Blue Economy), the University of Nairobi and the Centre for Law in Action to host a High Level Ministerial Conference on the Establishment of *FishForce* Academy at Serena Hotel, Mombasa. The conference was funded by Norwegian Overseas Development Agency (NORAD), the UON and the State Department for Fisheries and the Blue Economy. The UON chapter of the *FishForce* Academy has since been established following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the UON and the NMU in March 2018.

The first group of UON lecturers; School of Law and School of Biological Sciences (together with officers from the State Department of Fisheries and the Blue Economy, the Kenya Navy, the Kenya Coast Guard Service) underwent training on species identification, statement taking and corruption at the NMU between 24<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Earlier lecturers at the School of Law (Parklands and Mombasa campus) went through a TOT course

at the UON School of Law campus Parklands on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018. The short learning programs are scheduled to be mounted in July 2019.

### **III. PHYSICAL LOCATION AND INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE**

The *FishForce* Academy would be located at the University of Nairobi, School of Law (Parklands Campus).

The *FishForce* Academy will be established by a Steering Committee headed by a Director. The Director will be appointed from the School of Law. The Director will be assisted by an advisory board which will consist of two- four members from the University of Nairobi, School of Law.

4. The steering committee shall have the following powers and functions: -

- To develop the Curriculum for the Short Learning Programs/courses;
- To establish the research agenda for the Academy, and be involved in coordination of curriculum delivery at the Academy;
- To oversee the review of the curriculum from time to time in response to identified needs;
- To coordinate fund raising activities, the processes of awarding scholarships or apportionment of opportunities for exchange programmes for staff and students;
- To advise on the human resource and capacity building needs of the *FishForce* Academy;
- To review research activities and advise on research priorities;
- To consider and make recommendations on any matters relating to the activities of the Academy;
- In addition to what is stated above, perform such other functions necessary for the running of the *FishForce* Academy;

### **IV. OBJECTIVES**

#### **Long Term Objectives of the *FishForce* Academy**

The long term objective of the *FishForce* Academy is to develop a global research Centre for all aspects of fisheries crime. The *FishForce* Academy would be the convergence point for the activities undertaken by universities, research institutes, global and regional regulatory agencies, governmental and inter-governmental agencies and the civil society. This

collaborative approach would assist in developing joint research, training and capacity building programs. It would further lead to the exchange of ideas, identification of relevant problems/challenges facing fisheries, generation of possible solutions to challenges facing the fisheries sector. Hence, the long term objectives of the *FishForce* Academy are:

- Broad based collaborative research on the challenges facing the fisheries sector;
- Technical assistance and capacity building; and
- Develop an internationally-recognised training program on fisheries crime.

#### **Short Term Objectives (1 – 2 years)**

- Offer capacity building courses (Short Learning Programs).
- Joint workshops and seminars.
- Develop exchange programs with Partners.
- Undertake relevant research projects.
- Host guest lecturers or visiting scholars on exchange programs and experts in fisheries.

#### **VI. STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

*FishForce* Academy personnel will consist of a group of experienced senior and junior researchers and interns. It will also invest in capacity-building of its staff to ensure smooth succession management at the Academy.

#### **VII. COLLABORATION**

*FishForce* Academy will seek collaboration with the Nelson Mandela University, *FishForce* Academy and other research institutions and universities.

#### **VIII. SUSTAINABILITY/ FUNDING**

Potential sources of sustainable funding for *FishForce* Academy include developing certificate, diploma, under-graduate and postgraduate degree programs. Fees earned from these courses will meet the cost of running the institute.

Currently, under the proposed curriculum there are a total of 6 (six) short courses/modules that will be offered by the Academy (see attached curriculum). The trainings will be conducted at the School of Law. The number of participants per training session will be 14 to 20 persons. The approximate fees charged per course will be Ksh. -----. This will cover the cost of the course materials, lunch and teas. The duration for each course training session will

be between 5 to 10 days. At the end of each training an examination will be administered to the participants. Upon satisfying the examiners a certificate will be issued.

When undertaking individual research projects, *FishForce* Academy shall develop funding proposals for each project.

The *FishForce* Academy would identify alternative sources of core funding that would sustain it during its early phases. As a start, it should identify anchor projects, based on its approved research agenda that could sustain the Academy. These research projects will also provide an opportunity for the Institute to build its reputation for delivering practical, relevant, and good quality research.

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