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IKI INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE INITIATIVE

Request for quotation

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FISH DRYING FACILITY AND INSTALLATION OF PLASTIC WASTE CONTAINERS AT MUSASA, RUTSIRO DISTRICT

1. Background

The Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate Project, aims to promote sustainable management of lake ecosystems while improving the livelihoods of lake-dependent communities. In Rutsiro and Karongi Districts, fishing is a key economic activity that supports household incomes and food security.

During joint field visits conducted by the project team together with fishermen cooperatives in Rutsiro and Karongi, critical post-harvest challenges were identified through direct consultations and practical observations. Fishermen highlighted that a significant portion of their fish harvest is frequently lost due to the absence of appropriate drying and preservation facilities .

As a coping mechanism, fishermen are often forced to sell freshly caught fish at very low prices simply to avoid total loss of their harvest . These challenges directly undermine income stability, value addition efforts, and the sustainability objectives of the project.

2. Problem Statement

Despite the availability of fish resources in Lake Kivu, fishing communities in Musasa–Rutsiro face persistent post-harvest constraints that limit the economic and social benefits derived from fisheries. Findings from the project field visits with fishermen cooperatives in Rutsiro and Karongi revealed that:

- A substantial share of fish harvest is lost due to lack of proper drying and preservation infrastructure
- Traditional open-air drying exposes fish to rain, dust, pests, and spoilage, particularly during the rainy season
- The absence of drying facilities forces fishermen to sell fish immediately at very low prices, reducing profitability
- Limited value addition results in weak bargaining power and unstable incomes for fishing households

These challenges result in avoidable post-harvest losses, reduced product quality, and economic inefficiencies, contradicting the project's objectives of sustainable livelihoods, climate resilience, and efficient use of natural resources.

3. Rationale for Constructing the Drying Facility

The construction of a standardized fish drying facility (drying shelter) is a strategic intervention designed to address the above challenges and support long-term project outcomes.

a) **Reducing Post-Harvest Losses**
The drying facility provides controlled drying platforms with protective structures that allow small fish to dry efficiently even during rainy periods, significantly reducing spoilage and waste.

b) **Improving Fish Quality and Food Safety**
Use of stainless steel mesh platforms, fenced premises, and hygienic handling spaces minimizes contamination and ensures compliance with basic food safety standards, enabling access to better markets.

c) **Climate Resilience and Adaptation**
With climate change increasing rainfall variability around Lake Kivu, the covered and well-designed drying facility enables continuous processing regardless of weather conditions, supporting adaptive livelihoods.

d) **Value Addition and Income Improvement**
Proper drying enhances shelf life, appearance, and market value of fish products ;fish fingers, leading to increased income for fisher households and cooperatives.

e) **Institutional Strengthening and Management**
The inclusion of an office, storage space, sanitation facilities, fencing, and rainwater harvesting system ,and a water tank allows organized management, record-keeping, training, and compliance with cooperative and regulatory requirements.

4. Alignment with Project Objectives

The drying facility directly contributes to the Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate Project by:

- Promoting sustainable use of aquatic resources
- Supporting green livelihoods and inclusive local economies
- Reducing pressure on lake ecosystems by minimizing losses
- Enhancing community resilience to climate risks
- Strengthening community-based conservation and value chains

5. Scope of the Drying Facility

The proposed facility includes:

- Ten (10) raised fish drying platforms with protective covering
- Office and storage building for management and coordination
- Sanitation facilities (toilets for men and women)
- Secure fencing to ensure hygiene and asset protection
- Rainwater harvesting system to support cleaning and operations

- Installation of plastic waste containers at selected high-traffic locations along Lake Kivu buffer zones
- Targeting areas commonly used by fishermen, youth groups, and the general public
- Community sensitization on proper use of the containers
- Coordination with local stakeholders for monitoring and maintenance
- The containers will be durable and suitable for outdoor conditions to ensure long-term use.

6. Expected Outcomes and Impact

- Reduced plastic waste entering Lake Kivu
- Improved cleanliness of lake buffer zones
- Strengthened youth participation in environmental conservation
- Reduced threats to fish and aquatic ecosystems
- Enhanced community awareness on plastic pollution and responsible waste management
- Contribution to sustainable fisheries and lake-based livelihoods

This integrated infrastructure ensures functionality, sustainability, and compliance with project and donor standards.

Duration : From December 2024 to July 2025

7. Conclusion

The construction of the fish drying facility and Installation of plastic waste containers at Musasa–Rutsiro is not merely a civil works activity but a strategic investment in sustainable livelihoods, food safety, climate resilience, and ecosystem conservation. It will addresses critical post-harvest challenges and enables fishing communities to fully benefit from lake resources while supporting the long-term goals of the Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate Project.

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