Guide for Focus Group Discussions with communities and associations

Objectives:

- Inform the community of the purpose and objectives of the study
- Provide higher level validation of the individual surveys and a context for it
- Make it possible to have discussions in specific groups, i.e., women, youth, crayfish trappers,and fishers (kapenta and net fishers)

Name of the community/association: _____

Location (village/camp, district, GPs): _____

Number of individuals present: _____

Date of discussion: _____

Time of the discussion: Start _____ End _____

I. Explanation

Explain first about the focus and purpose of the study and who is conducting it. Request for approval to ask questions and record answers. Emphasize that this is voluntary and that we do not share names of individuals who have participated in this interview, and that we are just interested in finding out about the crayfish in their community.

II. Dynamics

Can you tell us about crayfish in your communities.

Following questions can be asked as follow-up questions if needed:

- When did you first start seeing it?
- Are you now seeing it more than then?
- Are there times of year when you see it more than other times?
- How big are the crayfish you usually see, and have their sizes increased or decreased?
- Do you see more female or male crayfish, and when do the females have eggs?
- Can you also let us know if there are any animals that are catching and eating or killing the crayfish?

III. Management

Is the crayfish a problem for fishermen in this community and have you learned to manage it?

Follow-up questions, if needed: If yes, can you describe how. Can you also explain how you are managing the problem? Have you tried different ways to manage the problem? Have some of them had good results?

IV. Harvest volumes

How much are you harvesting crayfish?

Follow-up questions, if needed: Are you harvesting much crayfish in the community? How many fishers are harvesting and how much? When did you start harvesting crayfish?

V. Utilization

Are people utilizing crayfish?

- Are they selling it? Who are the buyers?
- Are they eating crayfish? How is crayfish consumed, and by whom?

VI. Perspective on crayfish

Can you tell us what are the biggest problems that you have in terms of fishing as a livelihood in your community?