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The Cape Town Call to Action Sustainable Aquaculture Development on the African Continent - the African Aquaculture Policy Day, World Aquaculture conference, 30 June 2017

The African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), the East African Community Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (EAC-LVFO), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the World Aquaculture Society and WorldFish welcome the outcomes of the African aquaculture policy day held during the World Aquaculture conference, 26–30 June 2017.

We, the participants of the African aquaculture policy day, recall our active commitment to the objective of the development of inclusive and sustainable aquaculture to underpin overarching requirements for human development, food and, importantly, nutrition security—goals of Africa that align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

RECOGNIZING that the first and second Conferences of African Ministers Responsible for Fisheries (CAMFA), held in Banjul, the Gambia, 2010, and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2014, both emphasized the continued social and economic benefits and importance of aquaculture to African Union member states.

WHEREAS African Union member states have recognized that the potential of sustainable aquaculture needs to be fully exploited in line with policies that are coherent with national regional and continental, development priorities.¹

RECOGNIZING that the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture (PFRS) in Africa that was adopted by the Heads of States and Governments in 2014, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, provides a blueprint for fisheries and aquaculture for the continent. The PFRS has jumpstarted market-led sustainable aquaculture through a variety of strategies and, supported appropriate interventionist development approaches with strong strategic and implementation plans.

ACKNOWLEDGING that the African Union urged member states and regional economic communities (RECs) to effectively mainstream fisheries and aquaculture in national agricultural investment plans so as to expedite the sector's growth and contribution to the economic growth of states.

RECOGNIZING that the SADC Secretariat's Regional Strategy for Aquaculture² aims to increase the contribution of aquaculture to local, national and regional economic growth and trade.

RECOGNIZING that EAC has a Regional Strategy and Implementation Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture (2015–2020)³, which aims to increase aquaculture production by

¹ African Union. 2014. [Resolutions of the AU Joint Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Rural Development, Fisheries and Aquaculture](#). 1–2 May 2014, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

² Southern African Development Community. Regional Aquaculture Strategy and Action Plan (2016–2026).

³ East African Community. 2014. Regional Strategy and Implementation Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture 2015–2020. Arusha, Tanzania.



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100 percent, raising it to 60,000–80,000 mt/year, and increase fish feed production by more than 150 percent (with at least three industrial-scale companies in competition within the region, each producing more than 10,000 mt/year).

RECOGNIZING that the AdvanceAfrica aquaculture investment assessment tool⁴ developed by SADC identified key success factors, including the nature of policies and regulations relating to commercial aquaculture development and support of the sector.

RECOGNIZING that significant strides have been taken in sustainable aquaculture development in Africa, especially in countries where market, governance and investment conditions were conducive to economic growth and where governments demonstrated political will to support the development of a sustainable aquaculture sector.⁵

RECOGNIZING that 30 of the 40 countries which have signed their Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Compacts have identified fisheries and aquaculture as one of the key drivers of the 6 percent growth target.⁶

CONSIDERING that the development of sustainable market-led aquaculture at different scales will only happen through research advances across the key domains of fish breeding and genetics, disease detection and control, nutrition and feeds, and enhanced climate resilient and environmentally sustainable production systems that will contribute to gender-inclusive sustainable growth, while ensuring that poor farmers, their families and communities access the nutritional and economic benefits from a sustainably growing aquaculture sector.

RECOGNIZING that addressing the various challenges by scientific and technical cooperation, policy coordination and harmonized regulatory frameworks is critical for the sector to further develop.

THEREFORE, in support of the Conferences of African Ministers Responsible for Fisheries and the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, that further endorsed the outcomes of the Conferences of African Ministers, parties at the Cape Town African policy day support and recommend the following:

1. SADC and EAC to support the establishment of cooperative institutional frameworks for effective governance, the creation of consolidated and coordinated R&D centres of excellence for sustainable aquaculture research and investments in capacity building and educational programs, and the dissemination and adoption of best management practices for profitable, productive, environmentally-sustainable and nutrition-sensitive aquaculture.
2. SADC and EAC, in cooperation with other Regional Economic Communities, the AU (AU-IBAR and NEPAD Agency) and national, regional and international research

⁴ AdvanceAfrica. 2016. Aquaculture Evaluation Tool for the SADC Region. WorldFish and Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries Phakisa Partnership. Lusaka, Zambia.

⁵ WorldFish. 2012. Synthesis of Aquaculture Policy and Development Approaches in Africa. Report prepared for the NEPAD Aquaculture Working Group. NEPAD Fish Node, Lilongwe, Malawi.

⁶ Kaunda E, Chimatiro S, Fotabong E, and Kamanga J. 2014. Sustainable aquaculture development in Africa: A compendium of synthesis of aquaculture development in Africa. NEPAD Aquaculture Working Group, NEPAD Fish Node, Bunda College, Lilongwe, Malawi.



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institutions, and guided by continental governance frameworks and institutions, to provide member states with comprehensive and evidence-based guidance that addresses priorities to deal with emerging advances in aquaculture, including but not limited to:

- a. research to understand and overcome demand and supply challenges;
 - b. fish breeding nucleus and genetics programs to ensure production and effective dissemination at scale of high quality disease-free fish seed;
 - c. establishment of a harmonized regional aquatic animal health strategy to take into account factors such as capacity building, provisions for disease notification and certification;
 - d. establishment of a SADC and EAC fish breeding platform that will be responsible for developing a set of protocols to guide genetic improvement as well as the establishment of a gene bank for African farmed tilapia fish species;
 - e. high-quality technical advice underpinned by evidence-based research and lessons learned to support policy-makers to enable them to effectively undertake requisite policy and governance reforms noting that:
 - I. Policies should be easily applicable and understandable by the target audience of fish farmers and other key stakeholders within the fish agri-food system.
 - II. There is a need to develop dedicated aquaculture policies that are separate but aligned to fisheries and other relevant policy and regulatory frameworks such as the PFRS.
 - III. There is a need for aquaculture development to take into account conservation of aquatic biodiversity.
 - f. research to identify optimal factors of production, including water, stocking materials, feed and managerial skills to stimulate adaptation of sustainable aquaculture businesses that lead to increased farmer incomes, resilience to external shocks, and rural job creation;
 - g. research to better understand how to increase efficiency in value chains that improve market engagement.
3. International research organisations, including WorldFish and the new CGIAR Research Program on Fish Agri-Food Systems (FISH), to continue their active role as research partners in the development of quality science to underpin the sustainable growth of aquaculture in the region.
 4. SADC and EAC to establish a regional coordination mechanism for aquaculture research and development that is aligned with the African Union Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa. This should consider the need to ensure that research outputs from universities and national, regional and international research institutions as well as from development initiatives, are integrated into national aquaculture management and development.
 5. SADC and EAC, through the regional coordination mechanism, to prioritise resource mobilisation to support targeted research for the responsible development of the aquaculture sector in their regions.
 6. That the aforementioned SADC/EAC coordination mechanism is taken into account in the establishment of other regional aquaculture coordination mechanisms to ensure coherence and avoid duplication of effort across the continent.



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The participants