



REPORT OF THE 35TH MEETING OF THE SADC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

**GRAND PALM HOTEL, GABORONE, BOTSWANA
09-10 JUNE 2016**



**AFRICAN UNION
INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**



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I. INTRODUCTION

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Technical Committee on Fisheries (FTC) was established in terms of Article 19 of the SADC Protocol on Fisheries (2001) to oversee the implementation of the Protocol, mainly strategies, plans and programmes developed towards domestication of this Protocol.

The FTC meets annually to direct and review the SADC Programme of Work on Fisheries and Aquaculture. Over and above the FTC is a platform to network and share information and experiences, and has become an important institution to solicit support and propose cooperation with different partners. The meetings of the FTC are thus attended by partners including Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs), and other regional and international development partners, civil society organizations (CSOs), private sector and International Cooperating Partners (ICPs).

The 2016 SADC Technical Committee on Fisheries was organized by the SADC Secretariat in collaboration with the Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and the Worldfish. The aim of the meeting was to clear strategic documents for approval by the SADC Committee of Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources Management to take place later in the year. The meeting was also to review key SADC policy and technical documents, and to share information and decisions from the SADC Committee of Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources Management and the SADC Council of Ministers.

Over and above the meeting provided a platform for popularization of the SADC Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap and the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP) and its draft Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP). Also, updates on continental work towards implementation of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS) were discussed, mainly for the purpose of alignment between continental, regional and national approaches in the management and development of fisheries and aquaculture.

This meeting was also dedicated as a platform to commemorate the four SADC countries, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and South Africa, which have ratified the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PMSA), which entered into force on the 5th of June 2016, after reaching and surpassing the threshold of activation (25 countries).

2. PARTICIPATION

The meeting of the SADC Technical Committee on Fisheries (FTC) was attended by 11 SADC Member States; Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Lesotho, Madagascar, Namibia and United Republic of Tanzania, didn't respond to the invitation to participate at this meeting.

The following development partners were represented: African Development Bank (AfDB), African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA), FAO, Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA), NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC), Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF), WorldFish, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM). Also in attendance were experts and consultants from Botswana, South Africa and Uganda, and officials from the SADC Secretariat.

3. OPENING SESSION

a. **Welcome Remarks by SADC Secretariat**

The delegates were welcomed by Ms. Deborah Kahatano, Senior Programme Officer Natural Resources Management at the SADC Secretariat, who also outlined the objectives of the meeting. She further indicated that the effort by SADC also aimed at aligning its policies and activity to the provision of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy (PFRS) for Fisheries and Aquaculture Africa. Ms. Deborah finished her remarks by thanking all partners' organization for supporting SADC in the quest of achieving the sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture resources in the region and acknowledged the financial support from AU-IBAR, NEPAD, and WorldFish.

b. **Remarks by African Union-Interafrican Bureau of Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)**

The first speaker's remarks were followed by statements of support from the representative of the Director of the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), Mr. Linus Chata who after expressing his appreciation to the SADC for the continuous support provided to the AUC programmes, acknowledged the importance of the partnership between SADC and AU-IBAR that as resulted to AU-IBAR supporting many activities of the SADC. The collaboration is important and made possible because of the coherence between the SADC protocol and AU-IBAR's strategic priority areas. Mr. Chata recalled the collaboration of between the two institutions is vital for sustainable aquaculture development and sound environmental management on which the sustainable commercial aquaculture development depends. There is need for strategic environmental management approaches for aquaculture animal health and the overall environment. Moreover, he noted the importance of fish and fisheries product for food security, employment and economic growth of the SADC people, hence worth the effort made by the AU-IBAR in support of the region. Finally, the representative of AU-IBAR thanks the government of Botswana for hosting and facilitating the organization the meeting.

c. **Remarks by WorldFish**

The representative of the WorldFish, Dr Sloans Chimatiro, and Program Manager Fish Trade thank the SADC for the invitation to participate to the SADC FTC. He indicated that the Fish Trade Project is been implemented in a partnership between AU-IBAR, NPCA and WorldFish. He noted that WorldFish is an international research organization that aims at providing evidence to inform decision making and interventions in order to reduce poverty, food and nutrition security. He indicated that the meeting was an opportunity for the Fish trade project for sharing the preliminary finding of the southern corridor research in supporting the regional collaboration and free movement of goods and services under the framework of the PFRS and the Malabo declaration of reducing stunting by 2025. He urged the SADC's member states to continue with the spirit of collaboration as an example of sustainable management of fisheries resources that other regions could learnt from. Dr. Sloans reaffirmed the commitment of WorldFish to support the SADC to insure fish contribute efficiently and effectively to the development of the region. Then, thank the European Union (EU) for the financial support to the Fish Trade project.

d. **Remarks by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Mr. Aubrey Harris noted that the FAO sub-regional office in Harare put high value in the collaboration with the SADC region and member states of SWIOC requested the secretariat of the commission to actively engage with the SADC in the management of its fisheries resources. Mr. Harris recognized that the SADC technical committee on Fisheries has a very important agenda and have seen the progress being made by the SADC secretariat with all the documents to be examined in the meeting.

e. NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA)

Dr Hamady Diop representing of NPCA thank the SADC secretariat and the government of Botswana for organizing and hosting a very important meeting. He indicated that since the adoption of the Malabo declaration in 2014, the AUC institutions (AU-IBAR and NPCA) have been working closely with the RECs including SADC. He noted that this is an opportunity for the AU MS to align their strategies to the PFRS of the Africa union. Dr. Diop further noted that all stakeholders in the SADC region are waiting for the outcome of the deliberation for the FTC meeting, as a key platform for the promotion of fisheries and aquaculture development in the region in line with the provisions of the Malabo declaration, CAADP and agenda 2063 of the African Union.

f. Official Opening by the Chair of SADC, Government of Botswana

The Representative of the Chair of SADC from the Government of Botswana, Dr Cyril Taolo, Deputy Director in the Department of Wildlife and Parks, of the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism, officially opened the meeting, and noted that the fisheries and aquaculture sector has made significant strides as evidenced by their growing contribution to economies of the SADC region in terms of revenue generation and employment creation. He also noted that it is heartening to learn that the overall fisheries production, underpinned by impressive performance of the aquaculture sub-sector, is growing at 13% per annum, but there was more that remains to be done to boost the productivity and competitiveness of the sector.

He further noted that challenges affecting fisheries sector include illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, fish diseases, and degradation of aquatic environments, capacity constraints and climate change. He however noted that in response to these challenges, the region had developed a number of programmes, strategies and initiatives to facilitate the development of the sector and that several of these are to be considered during the course of the meeting.

In conclusion, the Chair commended the Secretariat for working closely with key partners in the implementation of the SADC Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme, and noted that the agenda for the two days promised to be busy but he was confident that the FTC will apply itself diligently to the task at hand. He welcomed all delegates to Gaborone and wished them productive two days.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The SADC Technical Committee on Fisheries (FTC) considered and adopted the Agenda presented by the Secretariat without amendment.

4. THE MEETING

The meeting was informed by various presentations that aimed at sharing of highlight on SADC policy documents and updates on continental work towards implementation of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS).

4.1. REVIEW OF 2015 RECORD AND MATTERS ARISING

The FTC considered and approved with minor corrections, the Record of the 34th Meeting held on 16-17 April 2015 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Matters arising were satisfactorily addressed by the SADC secretariat, the Members states and development partners.

4.2. STATUS OF THE FISHERIES RESOURCES IN THE SADC REGION BY SADC SECRETARIAT

Dr. Motseki of the SADC Secretariat gave Highlights on the Status of the Fisheries Resources in the SADC Region as below.

Fisheries in the SADC region are one of the trans-boundary natural resources, whose management requires collaboration among Member States. The importance of sustainable management and use of natural resources is enshrined in the SADC Treaty. In line with the Treaty, the SADC Protocol on Fisheries (2001) calls for State Parties to work together in the overall management and development of fisheries resources including in law enforcement, in management of shared resources and in protection of aquatic environments.

The fisheries and aquaculture are of importance to the economies of SADC countries, in terms of income generation and employment. In most of the SADC countries fish is the only affordable source of dietary animal protein and therefore of overwhelming importance for food and nutrition security. It is thus imperative for SADC to support sustainable management of fisheries resources and development of sustainable aquaculture in the region in order to increase the production, productivity and competitiveness of the sector.

The current status show a steady increase in overall fisheries production in the region as a result of increases in aquaculture production in some of the member states. The sub-sector has generated an annual average growth rate of about 13%. Total aquaculture production was about 56 000 metric tonnes with an estimated value of US\$330 million in 2014, up from 33 000 metric tonnes with estimated value of US\$200 million in 2012 (FAO, 2015), while the overall capture fisheries production trends indicate that the region produces only 2.6 million tonnes of the 91.3 million tonnes of global captured fisheries, which had more or less stagnated (FAO, 2015).

The challenges with fish diseases continue to affect the growth of aquaculture in the region. In addition, fish stocks continued to dwindle due to challenges with Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, degradation of aquatic environments, climate change and lack of capacity to effectively manage fish stocks.

However, the region was working on mechanisms to address these challenges through promotion of aquaculture, implementation of the SADC Ministerial Statement of Commitment to combat IUU fishing through the SADC Action Plan to combat IUU fishing, co-management of shared fisheries resources and protection of aquatic environments.

DECISION I

The FTC noted the current status of fisheries resources in the region and urged Member States to continue to domesticate the SADC Protocol on Fisheries in order to enhance the production of fish and address the challenges facing fisheries and aquaculture sector in the region.

4.3. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SADC FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2015-16 AND DISCUSSIONS ON THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2016-2017

This was presented by Dr. Motseki of the SADC Secretariat and updates were given on the following:

Staffing and capacity development: During April 2015, SADC Council approved the secondment of Dr Motseki Hlatshwayo and he officially resumed duties with effect from 01 October 2015. During April 2016, Ms. Deborah Kahatano joined the SADC Secretariat as the new Senior Programme Officer for Natural Resources Management in replacement of Dr. Nyambe Harsen Nyambe who left the employment of SADC Secretariat at the end of May 2015.

Financing of the SADC fisheries and aquaculture programme:

It was noted that resource constraints are one of the major factors that limit the implementation of the SADC Protocol on Fisheries at regional level. The following development partners have supported and continue to support the implementation of the SADC Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme: AU-IBAR, through the EU funded Fisheries Governance Project; the NEPAD planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA); The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) through the Smartfish and SWIOFish I projects; WorldFish through the Fish Trade project and will soon be entering into a formal agreement with SADC Secretariat as a research and technical partner to drive the implementation of the aquaculture strategy; World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) ; The World Bank; The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Regional Office for Southern Africa; The Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research in Southern Africa (CCARDESA). The SADC Secretariat expressed its gratitude to all the development partners for their support in reviving the implementation of the SADC Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme.

The SADC fisheries and aquaculture programme of work: The SADC Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme intends to facilitate implementation of the Protocol on Fisheries which was approved by SADC Heads of State and Government in 2001 and the Statement of Commitment to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing by the SADC Ministers of Marine Fisheries in 2008. The Programme has four pillars which highlight current priorities of the region (a) facilitate the development of sustainable aquaculture in the region, (b) facilitate the development of fish health and biosecurity measures to safeguard sustainable production fish from aquaculture, (c) strengthening the fisheries MCS capacity to combat IUU fishing in the region, and (d) coordinating improved capacity for sustainable fisheries management in the Zambezi River Basin.

Harmonization of fisheries policies in SADC: One key area of collaboration between the AU-IBAR and the SADC is to support policy cohesion with the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS) and the SADC Protocol on Fisheries.

Participation at continental and international fisheries and aquaculture meetings: Since the arrival of the Technical Advisor Fisheries, SADC Secretariat has been present in most meetings at continental and international levels.

Collaboration: SADC has improved collaboration with the AU through AU-IBAR and NPCA. Collaboration has also been strengthened with CCARDESA, FAO, Inter-Governmental Agency for Development (IGAD), IOC, Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA), Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO), Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF), South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC), WFC, World Animal Health Organization (OIE), WWF, and ZAMCOM.

The FTC reviewed progress report presented by the SADC Secretariat and adopted the report, together with the proposed activities planned for 2016-2017. Furthermore the FTC reviewed and adopted the proposed project titled “Strengthening capacity of SADC Secretariat in implementing the SADC Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme under the Technical Cooperation Programme with the FAO.

DECISION 2

The FTC adopted the Progress report for 2015-2016 and Programme of Work for 2016-2017.

4.4 POLICY DOCUMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION BY THE FTC

4.4.1 SADC Policy reforms (Revised RISDP, Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap, SADC Regional Agricultural Policy)- by Mr. Muchero, SADC Secretariat

The presentation gave an overview of the Regional agriculture policies (RAP), Regional Agriculture Investment plan (RAIP) priority programme and the Method of implementation proposed for facilitation fisheries and aquaculture policies. The SADC regional fisheries and aquaculture strategies are anchored to the Malabo declaration, the CCADP and the PFRS in order to advance the sector in the region. The development of SADC agriculture policies took into consideration all the sectors fisheries, crops, wildlife etc.

Priority programmes for the RAIP include (1) Increase agricultural production, productivity and competitiveness, (2) Increase access to market and trade for agricultural products, (3) Increase investment and finance for agriculture, (4) reduce social and economic vulnerability in the region, (5) Improve food and nutrition security in the region with emphases on access to marketing information sharing. The implementation of the RAIP will use an instrument based implementation mechanism that will Stimulate, incentivize, leverage on private sector funding investment for agriculture development in the SADC. In addition, the seven RAIP facilities are (1) Value chain facility, (2) Agriculture investment development facility, (3) Market and trade facility, (4) Environment and natural resource facility, (5) Agriculture information management facility, (6) Disaster preparedness facility, (7) Governance and institutional development facility. Fisheries and aquaculture sector focusing on Value chain, Market and trade, and environment and natural resource facilities; for sustainable development of the sector in the SADC region.

4.4.2 Continental Strategy to Transform Aquaculture in Africa by Dr. Nelly Isyagi, AU-IBAR

The presentation provided general overview of aquaculture as a fast growing sector in the world in comparison to wild catch fisheries. The aquaculture production in Africa is mostly from Egypt and Nigeria, the SADC region contributing a very small proportion. African population is growing at a fast rate and represents more mouth to feed and available market for the fish products; this could only be covered by aquaculture given the decreasing wild catch fisheries. The PFRS implemented under the Fisheries Governance project has seven policy arenas and make provision for sustainable market led aquaculture development as continental guideline for the sector. Issues of sustainable commercial aquaculture development and ecosystem management are therefore critical if the sector is to effectively contribute to food security and economic growth of Africa. Hence, we need coherent and harmonized policy frameworks to insure sustainable management of the sector as aquatic resources do not have cleared and defined boundaries.

AU-IBAR has commissioned consultancy study on fish disease mapping as an initiative to would greatly contribute to planning and investment for fisheries and aquaculture development in the continent.

4.4.3 Draft SADC Regional Aquaculture Strategy and Action Plan by Mr. Asanda Njobeni, DAFF South Africa

Aquaculture continued to be of great socio-economic value and importance in the region but remain largely under-developed. Diminishing supply of fish and fish products from wild capture and global increase in demand for fish and fish products provides an incentive to increase the supply through development and promotion of sustainable aquaculture in the region. During the FTC meeting of 2011 held in Windhoek, Namibia, Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources approved the development of a framework to guide aquaculture development in the SADC region, in line with Article 13 of the SADC Protocol on Fisheries. This was followed by the establishment of the Working Group on Aquaculture. The Working Group already met four times, 2013 in Namibia and Angola, 2015 in South Africa and 2016 in Mozambique. At the 34th FTC meeting held in 2015 in Johannesburg, South Africa it considered the final draft SADC Regional Aquaculture Strategy and Action Plan and highlighted the need to incorporate the role of private sector, costing of the activities of the strategy, clarifying the role of Secretariat in coordinating development of common areas such as research and zoning, and lastly to adequately address issues of fish diseases.

The aim of this strategy is to create a sustainable, competitive and diversified aquaculture sector in the region in order to increase the contribution of aquaculture to local, national and regional economic growth and trade. The strategy had the following specific objectives:

- a. To increase aquaculture production and investment in the production of edible and non-edible products by the commercial and small-holder aquaculture subsectors in the SADC region, while ensuring environmental sustainability.
- b. To transform small holder / community based aquaculture into successful SMMEs in the SADC region.
- c. To promote the responsible, equitable and sustainable development of aquaculture to improve food, income and nutrition security in the SADC region.
- d. To improve market access, supply chains and aquaculture product diversification in the SADC region.
- e. To define the resilience of aquaculture to climate change in the SADC region and develop mitigating measures.
- f. To establish cooperative institutional frameworks for effective governance, to create consolidated R&D centres of excellence for coordinated research and implement best management practices for aquaculture in the SADC region.
- g. To mainstream aquaculture into the economic development agendas of SADC Member States.
- h. To mainstream cross-cutting issues in the aquaculture value chain throughout the SADC region.

The SADC Secretariat convened a meeting of the Aquaculture Working Group to validate the strategy following incorporation of inputs. Comments and inputs were addressed through appointment of a consultant to finalize the strategy, and it was validated at the Consultative Workshop on Aquaculture Environmental Management for Southern Africa and the 4th Meeting of the SADC Working Group on Aquaculture held during February 2016 in Maputo, Mozambique, supported by AU-IBAR.

The draft SADC Regional Aquatic Animal Health and Biosecurity Strategy was already developed in partnership with AU-IBAR, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), WorldFish, World Animal Health Organization (OIE) and the Government of South Africa, and had already been endorsed and recommended for Ministerial approval during the 34th meeting of the FTC that was held on April 2015 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Issues arising from the discussions

- a. The high level indicative budget; is the SADC going to fund the MS to achieve the goals in this framework?
- b. Egypt and Nigeria produce more fish than the whole SADC region. How do you envisage addressing constraints like feed and seed availability in the SADC strategy?
- c. How could the SADC countries develop a cost effective and realistic project; fish feed, quality fish seed, taking into account climate change and related challenges.

The following responses were given in addressing the above issues

- a. The figures in the plan of action will be funded through the SADC secretariat who shall solicit funding support from partners. The figures are indicative and will vary from country to countries, priority areas where there is a greater need will be identified for funding.
- b. The environmental framework for sustainable aquaculture management addresses the issue of feed and seed for aquaculture development.
- c. Suggestion was made that Aquaponics and hydroponic could be looked at and could be very crucially for the region

DECISION 3

The following decisions were taken by the FTC:

- a. Endorsed the final draft SADC Regional Aquaculture Strategy and Action Plan and recommended it for Ministerial approval; and
- b. Commended AU-IBAR for their support towards the hosting of the Consultative Workshop on Aquaculture Environmental Management for Southern Africa and the 4th Meeting of the SADC Working Group on Aquaculture held during February 2016 in Maputo, Mozambique.

4.4.4 Draft SADC Regional Framework on Environmental Management for Sustainable Aquaculture – Mr. Etienne Hinrichsen

Article 13.8 of the SADC Protocol on Fisheries required Member States to establish standard guidelines and regulations for the application of environmental impact assessments for aquaculture. Following validation of the draft SADC Regional Aquaculture Strategy and Action Plan in February 2016 by the SADC Working Group on Aquaculture, it was recommended to develop a support tool that will address environmental management for sustainable aquaculture as one of the strategic objectives contained in the strategy. The SADC Member States at the Working Group on Aquaculture meeting identified elements that should be considered during the development of this support tool. AU-IBAR supported SADC in developing this support tool by commissioning a consultant that developed the “draft SADC Regional Framework on Environmental Management for Sustainable Aquaculture Development”, which was also in line with the SADC Protocol on Environment for Sustainable Development. The objectives of this framework are:

- a. To clearly position sustainable aquaculture as an essential and core human endeavour in the regional landscape.
- b. To provide a better understanding of what defines sustainable aquaculture.
- c. To assist in empowering SADC Member States, aquaculture operators, communities and individuals in applying sustainable aquaculture principles and adopting these into local policy, strategy, law, business and operational models.
- d. To identify and promote awareness of the potential positive and negative impacts associated with aquaculture.
- e. To present an approach to better pursue sustainable aquaculture development goals.
- f. To provide a balanced and encompassing viewpoint to the potential environmental and social impacts of aquaculture and the manner in which these aspects support greater regional aspirations of economic

growth, the alleviate poverty and the enhancement of standards and qualities of lives.

- g. To create a common and mutually supportive approach to sustainable aquaculture in the region.

The presentation by the consultant on the draft framework also highlighted environmental and socio-economic aspects to be considered, management and planning tools as well as implementation consideration including; regional policy foundation, transboundary considerations, regional cooperation, and funding.

Issues arising from the discussions

- a. The framework does not have measures to mitigate negative impacts of aquaculture in the SADC region.
- b. There is need to have a bank or database of expert in aquaculture in the SADC region as a pool of experts who will facilitate sustainable aquaculture development for in SADC countries.
- c. The cost of doing and EIA is very prohibitive. Is there any way that we can reduce this cost so that small fish farmer can also venture in aquaculture?
- d. It will be important considering putting funding for training of expert in environmental monitoring for sustainable aquaculture development.
- e. Users Conflict resolution should be put in context in the framework. Documentation need to be promoted, every study undertaken should be deposited in a repository
- f. Malawi informed the FTC that their aquaculture policy has been approved.

In Response to these issues the following clarification were made

The framework lacks specific mitigation measure in because it is a framework that should guide the development of specific standards of mitigation measures.

SADC should play and active role in creating a bank of expert for aquaculture development in the region.

The operation of the EIA is based on the scale of the aquaculture project. Small scale farmers can be exempted from doing the EIA based on their small foot print. The second way to address this concern is by doing strategic environmental assessment (SEA) this will ensure that all projects are conceptualized within framework that integrates environmental sustainability for aquaculture. Another manner to reduce the cost of EIA is clustering or zoning.

Funding issues for training expert on environmental monitoring of aquaculture venture is the responsibility of the SADC secretariat.

In areas were users' conflict could occur it is important that the resource users themselves be the beneficiaries of the project and fully involved in developing a conflict resolution strategy in their community.

DECISION 4

The FTC:

- a) Adopted the final draft SADC Regional Framework on Environmental Management for Sustainable Aquaculture Development in principle pending incorporation of inputs from Member States and recommended it further for Ministerial approval;
- b) Urged Member States to adhere to the deadline for inputs which is 17 June 2016 and requested the Secretariat to consider creating a SADC Fisheries and Aquaculture Portal to be used as a depository for information; and
- c) Commended AU-IBAR for their support towards the development of the draft framework and encouraged further cooperation between AU-IBAR and SADC Secretariat.

4.4.5 Draft Charter for the establishment of the Regional Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre for Southern Africa

Presented by SADC Secretariat and below are highlight of the presentation.

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing remained one of the greatest threats to the sustainability of fisheries resources and to the livelihoods of fishing communities. Combating IUU fishing cannot be successfully done by one country because it is a global challenge that required global efforts. In 2008, SADC Ministers Responsible for Marine Fisheries signed a “Statement of Commitment to combat IUU fishing” (SOC), and that one of the key interventions identified was the establishment of the Regional Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) Coordination Centre in terms of Article 5 of the SOC. The Ministers established the SADC Task Force on IUU fishing to guide the process of establishing the Centre in Mozambique. The Task Force had already met four times, Mozambique in 2012, Namibia in 2013, South Africa in 2015, and Mozambique in 2016. In their meeting of November 2015, SADC Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources reiterated their support for the establishment of the Regional Fisheries MCS Coordination Centre and that Secretariat should seek SADC Council’s approval for Mozambique to host the Centre and finalize the development of the draft Charter.

The draft Charter for the establishment of the Regional Fisheries MCS Coordination Centre for Southern Africa was validated by the Task Force at its meeting of May 2016 held in Maputo, Mozambique. The 4th meeting of the SADC Task Force on IUU fishing was held back to back with the 1st Consultative Workshop for establishing regional and sub-regional cooperative mechanisms in the East Africa, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean (EA-SA-IO) region, and was supported by AU-IBAR and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The purpose of this Charter was to provide Member States with a framework for the establishment and operationalization of a Sub-regional Organization (SRO) that would coordinate measures relating to fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) in the Southern African region. There is a need to have an agreement between Secretariat and the government of Mozambique for the establishment of the Project Management Unit before the final approval of the Charter.

Issues arising from the discussions

After the presentation was made the FTC was given opportunity to comment and the following issues were raised:

- Mauritius expressed the concern that it will be important to take the new draft back their SADC MS so that they can include in addition comments before the charter is consider to be submitted at the ministerial meeting. The charter is not supposed to be binding;
- SADC member countries waters need to be defined in the draft charter for clarity. Mauritius needs more information on financial implication and confidentiality of information to be shared with the MCS center.
- Swaziland noted that the time defined for a state to give notification of withdrawal (12 months) was too long.
- Mozambique asked how is the FTC going to create a working condition for the interim management of the MCS center and suggested that we have a memorandum of understanding between SADC and Mozambique be considered as annex of the charter.
- The FTC noted comments made by Mauritius and that they will require an additional two weeks to provide inputs on the draft Charter. Member States have until 24 June 2016 to provide further inputs.

DECISION 5

The FTC:

- a. Recommended the draft Charter for the establishment of the Regional Fisheries MCS Coordination Centre for Southern Africa for the Ministerial approval following incorporation of comments and inputs from Member States;
- b. Recommended that an agreement be considered for the establishment of the Project Management Unit that will pilot the establishment of the Centre, between Secretariat and Mozambique government. This should be done before final approval of the Charter.
- c. Encouraged Member States to adhere to the deadline of 24 June 2016 for comments and inputs; and
- d. Commended AU-IBAR, IOC and WWF and the Government of Mozambique for their support towards the hosting of the 1st Consultative Workshop for establishing regional and sub-regional cooperative mechanisms in the EA-SA-IO region and the 4th meeting of the SADC Task Force on IUU fishing held during May 2016 in Maputo, Mozambique.

4.4.6 Proposed Regional Technical Cooperation Programme

Dr Motseki Hlatshwayo recalled FTC that at its 34th meeting in April 2015 in Johannesburg, South Africa, it directed the SADC Secretariat to apply for a regional Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) towards the implementation of the SADC Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme. Thus, the SADC Secretariat approached the FAO Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa (FAO-SFS) in Harare, Zimbabwe and applied for the regional TCP for a project titled “Strengthening capacity of SADC Secretariat in implementing the SADC Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme” outlined in the draft Concept Note presented by the Secretariat. The request was considered by the FAO-SFS and formulation of the project would happen later in June or July 2016. The proposed focal areas included a) facilitating the establishment of the Regional Fisheries MCS Centre, b) facilitating the implementation of the Regional Aquaculture Strategy and Action Plan, c) support efforts by member states towards sustainable fisheries resources management, and d) monitoring the level of domestication of the SADC Protocol on Fisheries, information management and dissemination. He recalled the FTC on the request from the Secretariat for inputs on the draft Concept Document which have to be provided by 17 June 2016.

DECISION 6

The FTC endorsed the Concept Note in principle for the proposed regional Technical Cooperation Programme and encouraged Member States to adhere to the deadline provided of 17 June 2016 for inputs.

4.5 TECHNICAL REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION BY THE FTC

Three technical reports were reviewed and adopted by the FTC.

4.5.1 Report on the Role of Fisheries in Food and Nutrition Security in the SADC Region

Ms Sandy Davies provided the presentation on behalf of Centre for Agricultural Research and Development in Southern Africa (CCARDESA), following consultation with the SADC Secretariat, commissioned a study titled “The role of fisheries in food and nutrition security in the SADC region”. The study profiled the fisheries sector and its contribution to GDP in each SADC Member State, thus providing a very good baseline for the region.

The study emphasised that fisheries and aquaculture were of importance to the economies of SADC countries, in terms of income generation and employment. She noted that in most of the SADC countries fish was the only affordable source of dietary animal protein and therefore of overwhelming importance for food and nutrition security. It was thus imperative for SADC to support sustainable management

of fisheries resources and development of sustainable aquaculture in the region in order to increase the production, productivity and competitiveness of the sector. The report will be launched at the 2nd CCARDESA General Assembly meeting later in the year as an effort to continue raising the profile of fisheries and aquaculture in the region.

DECISION 7

(Report on the Role of Fisheries in Food and Nutrition Security in the SADC Region)

The FTC:

- a. Adopted in principle, the technical report on the “Role of Fisheries in Food and Nutrition Security in the SADC Region” pending incorporation of inputs from Member States;
- b. Encouraged Member States to adhere to the deadline of 17 June 2016 to provide inputs to the consultant through the Secretariat;
- c. Recommended the report following incorporation of inputs to the meeting of the SADC Ministers of Agriculture and Food Security for noting; and
- d. Commended CCARDESA for initiating and supporting this work on behalf of the SADC Secretariat.

4.5.2 Report on the Mapping of Aquatic Animal Diseases in the SADC region

During the last 10 years the region had suffered the incursions of three significant aquatic diseases, the Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (EUS) of cultured and wild freshwater finfish in the Chobe-Zambezi River system; White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV) disease of cultured shrimp in the Mozambique Channel; and Koi Herpes Virus (KHV) disease in South Africa. In response to these challenges, the SADC Member States in collaboration with AU-IBAR, FAO, OIE, NPCA, WFC and the Government of South Africa developed a draft SADC Regional Aquatic Animal Health and Biosecurity Strategy, which was recommended for Ministerial approval in 2015. Article 13 (9) of the SADC Protocol on Fisheries required that SADC Member States should monitor and exchange information on diseases of relevance and importance to cultured aquatic species and their spread. In giving effect to this Article, and also in line with the strategic objectives of the draft SADC Regional Aquatic Animal Health and Biosecurity Strategy, AU-IBAR initiated and supported a study titled “Mapping Aquatic Animal Diseases in Southern Africa” in support of the SADC efforts towards the development of sustainable aquaculture in the region. This study was presented by the consultant Dr. Walakira John.

This study contributes to the enhancement of fisheries resources that will improve food security and economic growth in Southern Africa. Mapping Aquatic diseases in the region will ensure effective implementation of SADC regional Aquatic Biosecurity Strategy.

Hence, a monograph was developed based on:

1. Current status of aquatic animal diseases within countries:

To safeguard the fisheries resources from threats of emerging and existing infectious pathogens it is important to profile health status of aquatic animals for purposes of enforcing sustainable mitigation strategies. Information was generated from secondary data and responses from MS. Details of notifiable diseases and other pathogens (aquatic bacteria and parasites) were presented.

2. Production systems (fisheries and aquaculture):

Understanding the resident aquatic species, production trends and production systems facilitates the implementation of biosecurity measures on national level. Information generated from FAOSTAT (2016) was presented, highlighting volumes of aquatic products (fisheries and aquaculture) from marine and freshwater environments.

3. Disease risks determinants:

Factors associated with the occurrence and spread of aquatic animal diseases in the SADC region is important in developing management tools for aquatic diseases. Highlights of two main risk determinants (environmental and biological) were presented.

4. Geographical areas where aquatic diseases have occurred:

Understanding the spatial distribution of aquatic diseases in SADC region facilitates the formation of guidelines or Laws to control the spread of TAADS within and across MS borders. A map showing the distribution of notifiable diseases (EUS, KHV and WSSV) was described.

Key issues and recommendation:

Dr Nelly Isyagi raised concern about fish disease mapping exercise. She highlighted that what was apparent is that the quality was not good and low responses from member states as such it will be difficult to conduct risk assessment, surveillance, and sanitation measures. The study needs to address disease incidences, socio-economic effects, likelihoods, OIE listed diseases and diseases of economic importance.

Dr Mohamed Seisay emphasized that the Southern region like all the other African has limited capacity on fish disease, surveillance and diagnostic. Thus, AU-IBAR has launched a study on training national veterinary officers on fish diseases for francophone and Anglophone countries. Lack of data in the region has impeded efforts to design sanitary measures/maps for the SADC in implementing the regional or continental biosecurity strategies. ii) AU-IBAR is planning to train relevant stakeholders in fish disease diagnostics.

South Africa urged the MS to make concerted effort to respond timely to this survey and reiterated the importance for MS to provide quality information to surveys in the region. He suggested that tools be developed on how to popularize these mapping instruments for easier implementation and adoption by member states.

Angola suggested adoption of strategies from Latin and Asian countries on controlling WSSV.

Mozambique mentioned on-going efforts to prevent and control WSSV in the country.

Botswana highlighted that EUS outbreaks was not limited to Chobe –Zambezi river system region but also the Okavango delta

DRC mentioned EUS outbreaks occurred in DRC in the country but information is lacking in the report.

DECISION 8

The FTC:

- a. Urged Member States to prioritise responses to the questionnaire circulated to them and that they should provide inputs by 24 June 2016 to the consultant through the Secretariat;
- b. Adopted the technical report on “Mapping of Aquatic Animal Diseases in the SADC region” in principle pending provision of inputs, and urged the Secretariat to work with partners to organize an expert workshop to relook at this report and beef it up; and
- c. Commended AU-IBAR for initiating and supporting this work on behalf of the SADC Secretariat.

4.5.3 *Report of the Fish Trade Program: Corridor Analysis for Southern Africa*

Dr Sloans Chimatiro provided a presentation on a commonly known Fish Trade project titled “Improving Food Security and Reducing Poverty through intra-regional Fish Trade in sub-Saharan Africa”, commonly known as Fish Trade program. The project is funded by European Union (EU) and jointly implemented by WFC, NPCA and AU-IBAR. The overall objective of this program was to improve food and nutritional security and reduce poverty in sub-Saharan Africa by enhancing the capacities of regional and pan-African organizations to support their member states to better integrate intra-regional fish trade into their development and food security policy agendas. The program would deliver specific results as outlined below:

- a. Information on the structure, products and value of intra-regional fish trade in food security in Sub Saharan Africa generated and made available to stakeholders.
- b. A set of recommendations on policies, certification procedures, standards and regulations, well embedded in national and regional fisheries, agricultural, trade and food security policy frameworks in sub-Saharan Africa.
- c. Increased capacities for trade amongst private sector associations, in particular of women fish processors and traders and aquaculture producers, to make better use of expanding trade opportunities through competitive small and medium scale enterprises.
- d. Adoption and implementation of appropriate policies, certification procedures, standards and regulations by key stakeholders participating in intra-regional trade in four selected trade corridors in Sub-Saharan Africa.

One of the key activities under the first result area was Trade Route Analysis which was happening in four corridors, West, Central, East and Southern African. The Southern African corridor, implemented by WFC stretches from Dar es Salaam to Durban, through a number of SADC countries viz. Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana and South Africa. The DRC was included in the Eastern Corridor, although politically it is a member of SADC. SADC Secretariat played a role in this part of the study to ensure that the program builds on the on-going experiences and aligns to the existing SADC fisheries policies and programmes.

DECISION 9

The FTC:

- a. Adopted the progress report on “Fish Trade Program: Corridor Analysis for Southern Africa;
- b. Urged Member States to ensure that they collect more data on small-scale fisheries;
- c. Requested Secretariat and Member States to consider development of standards for low value fish products which are normally consumed in rural and urban areas in the region; and
- d. Commended WFC, AU-IBAR and NPCA for progress achieved so far in implementing the Fish Trade program and encouraged closer cooperation between WFC, AU-IBAR, NPCA and SADC Secretariat.

4.6 INFORMATION SHARING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.6.1 Domestication of the SADC Protocol on Fisheries in the Member States

The 11 SADC Member States presented their progress reports towards the implementation/domestication of the SADC Protocol on Fisheries. Member States also provided highlights on work that is been done in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the respective countries.

Most SADC Member States have done well in ensuring that the Protocol is domesticated. Most countries have demonstrated how most articles of the Protocol are being implemented, and in other countries there have been efforts in ensuring alignment of domestic fisheries policies and legislation with the SADC Protocol on Fisheries. Countries with shared fisheries resources have tried to harmonize their policies.

Most countries participate actively in the international fisheries arrangements like the Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs). Most countries have also ratified and are implementing international instruments, especially those recognised in the Protocol.

There are still challenges as most countries lack capacity and resources to service their respective sectors. Several issues were highlighted, like issues with regard to different countries' approach to fisheries licensing, and also licensing of fishing vessels. There is a need to harmonize this approach.

The other challenge which must be addressed is the ineffective/inactive management structures established in the management of shared fisheries resources in the region. There is a need to take stock on the existing arrangements and evaluate their effectiveness and propose mechanisms for improvement. Issues of management of exotic species that have been introduced in shared water resources, especially those escaping from aquaculture establishments, need to be addressed.

Issues of information and knowledge are common to all Member States and there is a need to address this gap. The Secretariat, working with partners, has been requested to explore establishment of an information portal which can be used as a depository of relevant information that can be used by Member States. In addition, there is a need for a platform or network for sharing of information and experiences of specific issues like MCS, aquaculture and fish diseases.

Key issues and recommendation:

The delegates recommended a need to have platform for sharing experiences among countries.

4.7 UPDATES FROM PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS ON REGIONAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE INTERVENTIONS – PARTNERS

4.7.1 AfDB/SADC cooperation in sustainable fisheries management and aquaculture development

The AfDB representative, Dr. Tounkara, Chief Fisheries Experts gave a presentation on the bank's Ten Year Strategy which has identified five priority areas that are important for advancing Africa's Transformative Agenda.

The five priority areas include the following: Light up and power Africa, Feed Africa, Integrate Africa, Industrialize Africa, and Improve the quality of life for the people of Africa. In recognizing the importance of agriculture to food security, economic growth and thus poverty reduction, the bank is driving the African Agricultural Transformation Agenda whose goals include the following:

- a. Transformation of Africa's rural communities into thriving hubs of food, fibre, and feed production and processing through an increase in agricultural productivity / production and linkage to domestic and foreign markets;
- b. Self-sufficiency of African Nations in food production, and bringing down the prices of food for rural and urban populations via policy reforms that stimulate efficient local production, processing, and marketing, and discourage food importation;
- c. Massive employment of youths and women by the creation of millions of small and medium scale agricultural enterprises;
- d. Poverty eradication and improved livelihoods via increased incomes from agricultural activities; and
- e. Government-enabled strong private sector participation in agricultural transformation.

For fisheries and aquaculture in the region, the AfDB has already been engaging with the Secretariat and there is already one project in the pipeline, which will later in the year undergo appraisal. This project is the establishment of the Regional Fisheries MCS Coordination Centre for Southern Africa.

The bank has also prioritised Blue Economy and is encouraging the region to develop and implement concrete actions aimed at transforming the aquaculture value chain for support by AfDB. The AfDB indicated that it is expecting to receive a request from SADC through the Secretariat for the development of the Blue Economy framework and development of a regional programme for investment and reforms targeting aquaculture value chain initially.

Key issues and recommendations

WWF- Dr Manuel Castano emphasized the difficulty of estimate the costs for the center

Dr Debora Kahatano, SADC Secretariat recommended that SADC region requires larger aquaculture projects with a greater impact.

Malawi suggested that member states could explore mapping aquatic animal diseases within region as the information is scanty and non-existent in other countries.

Mauritius- suggested exploring funding from AfDB to fund regional agricultural policy and SADC aquaculture environment strategy

DECISION 10

The FTC:

- a. Welcomed the available funding from the AfDB and directed the Secretariat to fast track the process of approval of the Charter in order to ensure that the project on the establishment of the Regional Fisheries MCS Coordination Centre for Southern Africa;
- b. Directed Mozambique and Secretariat to work on the costing of the centre, and should also get in touch with the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) who made an offer to support work towards the establishment of the Centre;
- c. Directed the Secretariat to make a request for support from AfDB on the development of the Blue Economy strategy/framework and an aquaculture programme under this initiative. Aquaculture programme to be guided by draft SADC Regional Aquaculture Strategy and Action Plan; and
- d. The Secretariat and the SADC Working Group on Aquaculture should finalise proposal for an aquaculture programme that would be submitted to the AfDB for consideration.

The AfDB presentation was followed by presentations/ updates from other partners. The LTA also gave a presentation on the work they are currently doing towards sustainable fisheries management and aquaculture development on the lake.

Ms Zukiswa Nkhereanye, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (South Africa) provided a presentation on behalf of the World Aquaculture Society (WAS) Interim Secretariat for the African Chapter, which is based in South Africa. The presentation advised the meeting about the World Aquaculture Conference which will be held in South Africa in 2017 and encouraged SADC Member States to participate at this conference, which is the first to be held on the African continent. It also outlined the intentions of WAS to establish an African Chapter and encouraged delegates to consider joining the Chapter as it offers a lot of benefits, which will in the long run benefit the growth of aquaculture on the continent.

The AU-IBAR, which indicated that at the 32nd Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries to be held in Rome, Italy from 11-15 July 2016, they will in collaboration with NPCA, organize side events which will focus on the Malabo Declaration, and also help AU Member States to build coherent positions that will allow Africa to speak with one voice during the Session.

The FAO acknowledged the gesture by AU-IBAR and NPCA and indicated that this has helped the process of decision making at COFI advocating for the issues of Africa and other developing countries.

Lastly WWF indicated that they have undergone institutional review and the new coordinator will be employed soon.

4.7.2 Participation at the SADC Technical Committee Meetings

There is still a concern with regard to participation of some Member States in the SADC fisheries and aquaculture meetings. In the past, funding was a challenge since most Member States didn't have adequate fisheries resources for this. But there have recently been some level of support for the participation of Member States from partner organizations like AU-IBAR, FAO, NEPAD, WFC, and WWF. The FTC encouraged SADC Member States to participate at SADC meetings as this was part of implementing the SADC Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme.

4.7.3 Introduction of the SADC fisheries publication

The FTC noted and considered the initiative by the SADC Secretariat to publish the "SADC Fisheries Fact Sheet" aimed at profiling key fisheries activities in Member States with the objective of raising the profile of fisheries and aquaculture in the region. The 2nd publication is expected from Zambia.

DECISION II

(Introduction of the SADC Fisheries Publication)

The FTC adopted the proposed publication and supported its production, and encouraged Member States to provide information for the publication on time.

5. ADOPTION OF THE RECORD AND COMMUNIQUE OF THE 35TH MEETING OF THE SADC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

The FTC adopted the record and the communique of the meeting as true reflections of the deliberations and decisions of the Committee.

6. DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

The FTC noted that as per SADC Executive decision, all SADC Technical Committee meetings are to take place in the country of the current Chair of SADC at that specific time period. The FTC proposed that the next meeting should take place during April/May 2017 in Manzini, Swaziland, and be organized in partnership with the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland and partner organizations be invited to support the meeting.

7. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

The representative of the Chair, Dr Cyril Taolo, provided closing remarks by thanking everyone for their positive participation and contributions to the meeting. He also thanked the SADC Secretariat for organizing the meeting in Botswana and thanked partner organizations, AU-IBAR, NPCA and WFC for supporting participation of Member States.

8. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

35TH MEETING OF THE SADC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES 09-10 JUNE 2016, GABORONE, BOTSWANA

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