



The process and format of the conference

Introductory remarks, opening statements and keynote address will be followed by presentations on the four sub-themes (report on 5 years after Abuja Fish For All Summit; the wealth generation opportunities of African fisheries; options and context for fisheries policy and governance reforms in African fisheries and the role of fisheries and

aquaculture in CAADP). These presentations will be followed by plenary discussions. Later, a set of presentations will be made as a matter of information, on the various regional programmes, including Large Marine Ecosystems, and others specifically linked to the national and regional CAADP process. Lastly, the various Policy Working Groups from the Partnership for African Fisheries will present status reports; these include Fisheries Governance, Fisheries Trade and Market Access, Stop Illegal Fishing, Think Tank and Aquaculture. On the last day, the Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture will be given the opportunity to provide their comments to the technical report and agree on key policy and governance pathways which will be considered in their respective countries. Additionally, CAMFA will consider the establishment of the African Union's Specialised Technical Committee on Fisheries; the Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries & Aquaculture (CAMFA).

Acknowledgement

CAMFA is being conducted by the African Union with the support from the African Regional Department (ARD) of the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID). The support is channelled through the Partnership for African Fisheries (PAF). The partnership supports African fisheries policy reform process to ensure that the process is based on sound and well thought-through advice that will lead to meaningful actions and positive changes. PAF is a NEPAD Agency programme. Strong technical and financial support has also been provided to the CAMFA process by the Government of the Republic of the Gambia, FAO, non-governmental organisations and the private sector.

By attending the conference you will be contributing substantially.

What are the conference details

Date: 20th to 23rd September 2010
Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Banjul, Gambia
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Be sure to confirm your attendance today.



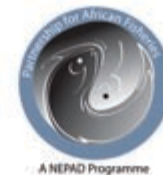
African Fisheries and Aquaculture: contributing towards agricultural development and economic growth

Conference for African Ministers, Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA)

20th to 23rd September 2010
Banjul, Gambia



Our fish, our wealth, our future



Why should you be at the first-ever African fisheries conference in Gambia?



Background

Fisheries resources currently provide significant benefits to Africa, including livelihoods to about 10 million people, nutrition and food security for over 30% of the population, and \$4.3b per year of revenues from international trade. **These benefits are now severely threatened by ineffective fisheries governance**, resulting in fisheries being over-exploited economically and often well beyond biologically sustainable limits. Global mismanagement, illegal fishing and ill-used subsidies amount to \$100 billion every year in the fishing industry – and Africa contributes to this loss.

In addition, aquaculture production has not made much progress resulting in Africa being the only region in the world with the lowest level of productivity.

Yet, Africa could gain substantially by improving fishery regulations, which will enhance the inherent wealth of this valuable and renewable natural asset.

Change is required. Change will ensure that we continue to benefit from our fishery resources and will lead to significantly greater returns – returns

that will stimulate economic growth and provide pathways out of poverty across the continent.

To discuss this essential change, the African Union will be hosting its first-ever conference of Ministers of fisheries and aquaculture in the Gambia from 20th to 23rd September 2010. This conference comes five years after the August 2005 Abuja Fish For All African Heads of States and Government Summit

Declaration, that promoted a positive and pragmatic approach to developing the fishery sector. This approach involves public, private and NGO sector interests, with good resource management and sound investment.

Purpose

In support of the African Union's comprehensive Africa agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the conference will –

- set priority actions to scale up best practices in fisheries and aquaculture development in Africa
- determine priorities to support the governance of fisheries
- set policies to improve sustainable fisheries in contributing to Africa's economy and welfare
- establish and validate fisheries management, based on rational economic principles

What will the conference discuss?

"Fisheries are vital for many Africans who daily catch, process, transport and sell fish – producing large volumes of food. This food is consumed locally, traded across the continent and exported globally to generate around \$5 billion in foreign currency for African economies each year. A wide range of benefits will flow from Africa's fisheries to enhance the contribution which they already make to national economies, regions and communities."

Dr Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Agency.

Threats to the industry include -

- overfishing
- covert activities of illegal vessels
- illicit trading practices
- poor fish farming production

Therefore -

- good governance is critical
- policy, law and institutional frameworks must be designed and implemented.

Benchmarking -

- Worldwide experiences, supported by some African countries such as Namibia and Mauritania, indicate that the policy and institutional framework within which fishery operations takes place is crucial to realise the full benefits from the sector.
- Likewise, recent progress achieved in fish farming by Egypt, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia is clear testimony of the role of high quality policy interventions, where governments focus their attention on critical priorities which are consolidated into National Aquaculture Strategic Plans

This is what the conference will discuss - you should participate

The conference discussions will cover three broad themes as follows:

(i) Five years after 2005 Abuja Fish For All Summit

A report on the progress achieved and challenges experienced will focus on the following key outcomes:

- Reflections on the progress and challenges of delivery on the August 2005 Abuja Fish For All Summit decisions;
- Support for strategic partnerships at country, regional and continental levels to move forward and capitalize on the recent gains.

(ii) Options and context for fisheries policy and governance reform in Africa

Under this sub-theme CAMFA will achieve the following outcomes:

- Identify pragmatic approach to fisheries governance and management, including proposals for a combination of higher level policy interventions and lower level fisheries management initiatives
- Policy pathways necessary for effective worth generation in African fisheries developed, including political economy pathways

(iii) The role of African fisheries and aquaculture in the CAADP

As session on the role of fish as a key component of CAADP will help draw lessons on:

- Recommendations on strategies to strengthen the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to country CAADP and the overall 6% annual agricultural growth;
- Recommendations on practical mechanisms for integrating fisheries and aquaculture in CAADP Roundtables and Compact, and
- Recommendations to further strengthen the coordination of Africa's fisheries and aquaculture research capacity in support of the CAADP Pillar IV (Agricultural Research, Technology)

