

SADC Symposium on Fish Supply and Demand



Mangochi, Malawi
17 November 2004

Mangochi Statement on SADC Fish Supply and Demand

Representatives of the SADC Member States, SADC Secretariat, NEPAD, WorldFish Center and FAO met on 16 – 17 November 2004 in Mangochi, Malawi to review the current status of fish supply and demand in the SADC countries and to develop a joint Action Plan in support of the SADC Protocol on Fisheries. In this regard, the Symposium recognized the disparity between current production and the potential of aquaculture and inland fisheries to contribute to food security and economic development.

RECOGNISING the objectives of SADC as stated in Article 5 of the Treaty and Article 21 of the Treaty, enjoining member countries to co-operate;

EMPHASISING the important role of fisheries in the social and economic well-being and livelihood of the people in the SADC region, notably in ensuring food security and the alleviation of poverty;

BEING AWARE that intra-regional trade, investments and commercial development are essential to economic development of the region;

RECOGNISING the unique trans-boundary character of the aquatic resources and ecosystems and, therefore, the need to co-operate in the management and development of fisheries and aquaculture;

COMMITTED to capacity building at national and regional levels for sustainable development;

CONSCIOUS of the fact that the fisheries sector has important linkages to other SADC sectors and Protocols;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the provisions of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other relevant agreements on fisheries;

APPRECIATING past efforts of nationals and institutions of each of the member countries in partnership with international organizations in fostering a better understanding of capture fisheries and aquaculture systems



The Mangochi SADC Symposium identified the following issues:

1. Fish supply and demand data have not been systematically collected, and are therefore not reflected in the SADC food balance sheet. However, fish is an important component of food security in the SADC region, providing vital proteins and other nutrients.
2. Fish is not adequately captured in statistics on intra-regional and export trade. However, it is among the most important trade commodities both within the SADC region and outside.
3. Contributions of fish towards GDP are not adequately accounted for despite being an important source of income and livelihoods in the SADC region.
4. Several countries are lacking legislative and policy frameworks for inland fisheries and aquaculture development.
5. All countries have strong needs to develop their human and technical capacity for fisheries management and aquaculture development.
6. The majority of fish production, processing and trade is carried out by small-scale operators. There is a need to develop effective strategies for supporting these stakeholders in improving their performance and benefits.
7. There is currently a very low level of commercial investment in aquaculture and some inland fisheries in the region. The SADC countries recognize a strong need for promoting responsible commercial enterprises in inland fisheries and aquaculture which take into account environmental safeguards and economic sustainability.

And in response to these issues, the Symposium made the following recommendations:

1. To develop and implement a SADC Plan for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Development based on the Draft Action Plan developed during this Symposium¹.
2. To integrate this Plan into the NEPAD Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) and mainstream it into the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP).
3. To strengthen the capacity of the SADC Secretariat to coordinate fisheries and aquaculture development in the Member States and monitor the implementation of the Protocol on Fisheries.

¹ Attached as (Annex 1) to the Mangochi Statement.

