

# ANAF: the beginnings of an aquaculture network for Africa

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The 2005 *Fish for All Summit* identified the need to “establish a regional network of aquaculture policy practitioners, supported by other leading government planning sectors, to accelerate the development of aquaculture strategies and their integration into wider economic strategies at national level”. The following year, the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa (CIFA) recognized that an African aquaculture network should be able to provide the needed skills, technology and information for future development of aquaculture in the African region. The Committee further emphasized that the resources for such a network must come from Member Countries themselves. However, to facilitate the process, CIFA endorsed the establishment of an *ad hoc* Working Group to assist in setting-up the network. This group was comprised of members from Cameroon, Ghana, Mali, Uganda and Zambia.

The *ad hoc* Working Group met in Kribi, Cameroon on 28 and 29 June 2007. The group examined aquaculture networking from various aspects and reviewed various options for the network’s institutional arrangements

and requirements for individual Member Country membership. The Working Group named the network as ANAF which stands for *Aquaculture Network for Africa*. ANAF is to be formally established in March 2008 during the final Working Group meeting and presented during the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of CIFA.

## Objectives and Responsibilities

The ANAF will be responsible for coordinating and facilitating the following: (i) scientific and technical information exchange in aquaculture, (ii) regional and subregional collaborative aquaculture research, (iii) training of fish farmers and extension workers and (iv) technology transfer between countries. The main objectives are to maximize and optimize utilization of the scarce resources for aquaculture development in Africa and to foster sustainable aquaculture development in the region as a means to fight poverty, ensure food security, provide employment and ensure rural development.

The expected activities of the network include the following:

### 1. Regional Aquaculture Research and Development

- a. Coordinate scientific and technical exchange and collaborative research between participating agencies and resource persons that will address some of the identified impediments to aquaculture development in the region
- b. Provide consultancy services using identified and participating agencies and persons to address aquaculture issues in the region

### 1. Capacity Building, Education and Training

- a. Build capacity of national aquaculture institutes through networking
- b. Coordinate farmer and extension workers exchange visits in the region, including attachment programmes at the participating lead agencies

### 2. Information Exchange

- a. Assess the information and training needs for aquaculture development in the member countries, and devise means of addressing such needs
- b. Facilitate aquaculture information and technology exchange in Africa region

### 3. Technical Assistance

- a. Facilitate and coordinate technology transfer in the region
  - b. Coordinate and where possible facilitate the management of farmed fish health at regional and subregional levels
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4. Network coordination and management
    - a. Prepare annual workplans and budgets for the aquaculture network for approval by the management technical committee
    - b. Review and assess the identified Lead agencies and other existing resources at the regional, subregional, and national levels so as to document the available competencies and resources in the region available for aquaculture network activities
    - c. Collaborate with regional aquaculture non government organizations such as producer associations, service providers, funding agencies, farmed fish marketing cooperatives and trade groups
    - d. Develop strategies and longterm plans for the aquaculture network
    - e. Explore and develop linkages to existing international, regional, and subregional agencies
    - f. Organize and facilitate meetings of the network management and advisory committees
    - g. Mobilize and source for funding to facilitate the agreed to network activities and workplans
    - h. Prepare reports for consideration at the CIFA sessions

**TCP/RAF/3111: (E). Emergency Assistance to Combat Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome in the Chobe-Zambezi River system.** The present TCP project envisages providing technical assistance to seven countries (i.e. Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe) through: (i) training of key staff of the competent authorities of the seven participating countries on basic diagnosis of EUS including collection of field samples for laboratory analysis and implementation of a surveillance and monitoring program for EUS thus enhance diagnostic and surveillance capacities to reduce the impacts of the disease; (ii) increasing their ability to educate and raise awareness of communities of both affected and unaffected locations/zones of risk factors and promoting responsible trading of live aquatics and (iii) facilitating the formulation of a regional emergency response strategy. The activities of the project include: regional training/workshops and national level capacity building; expert technical advice; national policy and institutional capacity assessments; national surveillance and epidemiological surveys; development of extension and education material and national capacity building; and preparation of a regional strategy. Project will be implemented from October 2007 until September 2008, the first regional workshop is scheduled in November 2007. [Responsible Officers: MB Reantaso and R Subasinghe (FIMA)].

### **TCP/CMR/3103 (D) : Mise en place d'un plan de développement durable de l'aquaculture.**

Commenced in October 2007 and will be completed in May 2009. The general objective of the project is to promote sustainable aquaculture production and to assist MINEPIA elaborate a plan for the development of aquaculture with practical examples of profitable aquaculture to ensure that the strategy can be adapted and applied. The relevant ministry for project execution is the Ministère de l'élevage, des pêches et des industries animales of the Republic of Cameroon. [Responsible Officer : N Hishamunda (FIEP)].

### **TCP/MAU/3103(D):Formulation d'un cadre stratégique et réglementaire et d'un plan de développement durable de la pêche et de l'aquaculture continentales.**

Commenced in September 2007 and will be completed in November 2008. The project aims to support the formulation of a strategic framework and a plan for sustainable development of fisheries and inland aquaculture. The assistance also aims to elaborate a framework document that would adapt the different elements that are needed to help achieve a sustainable development program for inland aquaculture. The project will demonstrate the applicability of the frameworks and development plans produced. The relevant ministry responsible for project execution is the Ministère des pêches et de l'économie maritime of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. [Responsible Officers: N Hishamunda (FIEP) and J Moehl (RAF)].