



# NEPAD REGIONAL FISH NODE NEWSLETTER

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### Editorial:

Welcome to the second issue of Re-  
gional Fish Node Newsletter. This is a  
quarterly newsletter containing news  
items on the Fish Node.

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## THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR MALAWI NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (NCST) ACCOMPANIES SANBio STAFF TO THE FIELD

*By Priscilla Longwe & Lisungu Banda, Fish Node Staff*

In dramatic turn of events, the Direc-  
tor General of Malawi National Com-  
mission for Science and Technology  
(NCST) Dr H. Chimoyo and the Head  
of Planning, Mr A. Manda accompa-  
nied the SANBio Network Programs  
Manager, Dr. T. Mangwende and V.  
Bikie (SANBio Financial Administrator)  
to the On-farm Fish Project site in  
Dowa during the later visit to Malawi  
between 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

During the field visit, Dr Chimoyo and  
the SANBio representatives were im-  
pressed with the simplistic approach  
to science and technology which is  
designed to make a difference to  
small scale fish farmers. Impressed  
with the progress of the SANBio ac-  
tivities and the Dowa project in par-  
ticular, the Dr. Chimoyo promised  
further funding from NCST to the  
Dowa fish project. "You can be as-  
sured of further support from NCST",  
said the Director General of NCST.

Earlier, staff from NCST (Mr Kampira  
and Mr Chimbalanga) also visited the  
fish farmers at the project site on  
15<sup>th</sup> of April 2010 as part of their pe-  
riodic check up on progress of its sup-  
ported research projects.

The project is implementing its sec-  
ond experimental phase with some  
improvements such as the dome  
shaped pond covering and use of du-  
rable 200 micron plastic sheeting.



*The RFN Technical coordinator (far left) with NCST officials, SANBio representatives and fish farmers during a visit in May 2010, Dowa*



*Participants of the NCST Monitoring and Evaluation visit at the Dowa Fish Project site, April 2010.*



*Plastic covered and open fish ponds in Dowa*

AUGUST, 2010

## RUFORUM COMMUNITY ACTION RESEARCH PROGRAMME (CARP) TO BOOST MALAWI'S FISH PRODUCTION

*By Ms Priscilla Longwe*

Bunda College (NEPAD Regional Fish Node (RFN)) in partnership with IDEAA, WorldFish Center, National Aquaculture Center (NAC), KAWJO Foundation, TAPP and Research Into Use (RIU) have been granted a research funding worth US\$ 292, 550 after a competitive process.

The National Forum Coordinator (Prof. James Banda); RFN Technical Coordinator (Professor E.K.W. Kaunda), RFN Programme Assistant (Priscilla M. Longwe) and other partners from NAC (Brino Chirwa), KAWJO Foundation (Telita Chisulo) and Coordinator for Outreach Project (Prof Kanyama-Phiri) attended the RUFORUM CARP proposal finalisation workshop from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June 2010 in Entebbe, Uganda. The workshop had participants from three countries; Uganda, Kenya and Malawi.

The Malawi team worked on a proposal entitled 'Enhancing Fish Production and Marketing for Food Security and Rural Incomes of Small-scale Producers in Malawi' which is expected to be implemented in the next three years.

The goal of the project is to increase fish production for food security and increasing rural income in South-



*Participants of the RUFORUM CARP proposal Finalization workshop in Uganda (Entebe), 15-17 June 2010*

ern Africa through dissemination of improved Tilapia strains among small and medium scale aquaculture producers and by the application of "best practice" aquaculture techniques developed throughout the fish farming value chain.

The project is to be implemented in Dowa and Mchinji Districts, which will scale up activities of the Regional Fish Node. The project will enhance human capacity through support of 1 PhD student in Agriculture and Resource Economics, 1 MSc student in Agricultural Economics and 1 MSc student in Aquaculture and Fisheries Science.

## SANBio Node Coordinators, Principal Investigators and Researchers Trained in Intellectual Property Management and Commercialization

*By Ms Lisungu Banda*

The SANBio Secretariat, in collaboration with the International Technical Expert from Finland, organized a tailor made course on Intellectual Property Management and Commercialization (IPMC) for Node Coordinators, Principal Investigators and researchers.

The five day training workshop which was held from 19-23 April 2010 at Meikles Hotel in Harare, Zimbabwe was officially opened by the Zimbabwean Hon. Minister of Science and technology Development, Prof. Heneri Dzinotyiweyi as a welcoming move by the Zimbabwe government.

The overarching objective of this training

was to provide a uniform level of understanding and awareness of IPMC among Node Coordinators, Principal Investigators and researchers on the SANBio platform.

The Intellectual Property Management (IPM) concept, represents policies and procedures aiming at a fair balance between ownership (the inventor) and public interest it raises funds for innovative work and helps in managing innovations that lead to affordable and acceptable products and services that



*Participants of the IPM & C workshop in Harare Zimbabwe, 19-23 April 2010*

are beneficial to the whole society.

IPM is an essential tool in smoothening collaborations at any level including public research institutions and provides best practices in fair distribution of innovation benefits among various key players.

A total of 25 participants from the SANBio Network attended the workshop. Professor Kaunda and Ms Lisungu Banda represented the Fish Node and made presentations on its progress.

## SANBio Goes ICT

By Ms Lisungu Banda



Participants of the ICT and Database Management in Windhoek, Namibia Workshop 23-27th May 2010

The SANBio Secretariat under the BioFISA programme, in collaboration with a Local Technical Expert from Insite-South Africa, organized a Basic Information Communication and Technology Skills (ICT) and Database Management Course for Researchers in the Network.

The course took place in Namibia at the Heja Lodge in Windhoek from the 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> of May 2010. The 4-day course was facilitated by a trainer Mr Karl von Buddenbrock from South Africa who covered various topics including Introductory-Data Repository Techniques and Skills, How to work with Tables-the essentials for gathering Data Relationships between tables

This SANBio initiative was meant to equip researchers with essential data manipulation skills that will enhance operating different Nodes in the Network. As one of the working structures of the Regional Fish Node in Malawi is to create and manage data on biological and ecological information on the biodiversity of Fish in the rivers of Malawi, it was expected that the skills learnt from this course would start up the process of collating and compiling information for the database.

A total of 27 participants from SANBio Network region attended the workshop. Ms Lisungu Banda and Ms Priscilla Longwe were the representatives of the Regional Fish Node.

### REGIONAL FISH NODE-BUNDA COLLEGE TO HOST THE 2ND SANBio PROJECT CYCLE MANAGEMENT TRAINING AND 7TH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Regional Fish Node-Bunda College will host the 7th SANBio Steering Committee (SC) which will be held back-to-back with the 3rd BioFISA Steering Committee in Lilongwe from 23rd to 28th August, 2010. During these meetings, Principal investigators will present reports on the progress and current status of the various projects in the SANBio and BioFISA Programs.

The SC Meetings will followed by the 2nd SAN-

Bio Project Cycle Management (PCM) where the SANBio and BioFISA Principal Investigators will be trained in the principles and tools of Project cycle management.

There will be approximately forty participants from several African countries such as Namibia, South Africa, Botswana, Mauritius, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Angola, Lesotho, Swaziland, Malawi, Seychelles and Finland.



African Union



NEPAD Planning and  
Coordinating Agency (NPCA)



## The NEPAD Regional Fish Node brings in Veteran Researcher on Fish Biodiversity Studies

By Ms Msekiwa Matsimbe

A veteran South African researcher, Dennis Tweddle accompanied by a well known fisheries researcher Dr Olaf Weyl, returned for fish biodiversity studies of Malawi Rivers. Tweddle worked as fisheries scientists with the Malawi Fisheries Department for over two decades. Dennis Tweddle is the only known scientist who has vast knowledge on Malawi river fishes and has developed a key to identify the species which is expected to be published soon.

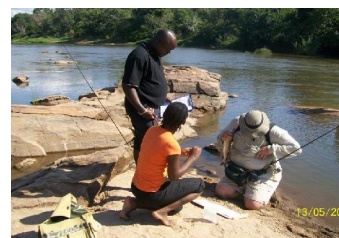
This trip to Malawi forms part of the implementation of the Study on fish biodiversity of inland rivers under the BIOFISA. These researchers in collaboration with Malawi Partners went for a river fish survey of Bua, Linthipe and other lake Malawi affluent rivers in May 2010. The Malawi team consisted of the Coordinator of the fish Node, Prof Emmanuel Kaunda, Bunda college Staff, Mr A.V Msukwa and Mr F. Maguza-Tembo plus one masters student in fish biodiversity study Ms. Msekiwa Matsimbe.

During the survey the veteran researcher Tweddle introduced and demonstrated use of the fish identification key to the Malawi team. This key will enhance fisheries research in terms of identification of fish present in Malawi rivers. Hence his participation in the program is critical to the success of the program.

During this fisheries survey the team had a chance of sharing fisheries techniques such as the use of the hook and line (angling) and electrofishing as fish sampling methods. As part of the trip, Dennis trained staff from the Aquaculture and Fisheries Science Department on collection and preservation of fish samples as reference material.



*Dennis Tweddle demonstrating on the use of an electrofisher*



*Dr Olaf Weyl demonstrating collection of fish DNA samples*



*Msukwa posing with a Mpasa he successfully caught using the angling sampling method*



*Maguza-Tembo celebrates as he draws his catch out of the Bua River. Tour Guide joins in with a handnet*

## MEET THE FISH NODE SECRETARIAT!!



*Prof. Emmanuel Kaunda  
Coordinator*



*Ms Msekiwa Matsimbe  
Senior Program Assistant  
(Fish Biodiversity)*



*Ms Priscilla Longwe  
Program Assistant (Aquaculture)*



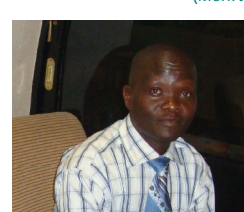
*Ms Lisungu Banda  
Program Assistant  
(Monitoring and Evaluation)*



*Mr Kissa Karambo  
Accounts Assistant*



*Ms Mercy Kavalo  
Administrative Assistant/Secretary*



*Mr Moses Kulinga  
Office Assistant/Driver*