



NEPAD REGIONAL FISH NODE NEWSLETTER

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Editorial:

Welcome to the first issue (Vol 3) of Regional Fish Node Newsletter. This is a quarterly newsletter containing news items on the Fish Node.

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BUNDA COLLEGE, FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AND GREEN BELT INITIATIVE CO-HOST THE NEPAD-PAF STUDY TOUR

To further enhance Aquaculture and Fisheries Development in Africa, NEPAD-PAF (Partnership for African Fisheries) hosted the Africa study tour for the Africa-Britain-China (ABC) Trilateral relationship delegates between 17th and 24th January 2011. The delegation also included members of the World Bank's PROFISH Division from Washington and DFID, UK.

The objective of the tour was to offer the Chinese counterparts a good understanding of the NEPAD Agency's visions and goals in the fisheries sector and how fisheries contributes to the overall Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Plan (CAADP) agenda. The tour forms part of the series of awareness visits in which NEPAD Agency and the Ministry of Agriculture of China had agreed during the ABC Trilateral Conference on Agriculture which was held between 12th and 15th January 2010 in Beijing.

In Malawi, the delegates were co-hosted by the University of Malawi (Bunda College), Green Belt Initiative and the Malawi Government Fisheries Department.

After a courtesy call at the Ministry of Planning and Development Corporation, the mission visited a number of fisheries and fish farming establishments (e.g. MALDECO, Monkey Bay Fisheries) and thereafter held roundtable discussions with the National Fisheries Stakeholder Consultative group and the Aquaculture Platform at Domasi (Zomba) on potential areas which need support. Other centres which the mission visited include, The Republic of South Africa (RSA) and Ghana.



ABC Delegates Visit Fish Farming enterprises, MALDECO Cage Aquaculture (Mangochi)



ABC Delegates Viewing Aquaculture Facilities at Domasi Aquaculture Centre, Zomba



ABC Delegates participating in a round Table Discussion with National Fisheries Stakeholders, Domasi (Zomba)

FEBRUARY, 2011

BIOFISA PROJECT: FINNISH TELEMETRY EXPERT VISIT MALAWI FOR THE MPASA MIGRATION RESEARCH

The Finnish Telemetry expert, Petri Karppinen of the Fish and Water Research Ltd visited Malawi between 3rd-10th December 2010 to assess feasibility of tracking Mpasa (*Opsaridium microlepis*), which is one of the endangered fish species in Malawi. Results of the study are expected to provide detailed information on biology and migratory behavior of Mpasa for its conservation strategies.

The preliminary assessment included a visit to major inlet rivers of Lake Malawi (Bua and Linthipe) and the available research equipment such as the motor engine boats of the Fisheries Department office in Senga-bay and fish tracking equipment (radio tags and receivers) which are available at the fish node.

It is expected that the study will form part of the possible Phase 2 of the BioFISA program. BioFISA is a program co-funded by the South African and Finnish Governments through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).



Petri and Titus Phiri (Fisheries staff) viewing the Chambo Boat, Sengabay



Site Viewing of the Linthipe River by Petri and Emmanuel Kaunda (Fish Node Coordinator)

RUFORUM FISH COMMUNITY ACTION RESEARCH PROGRAM (CARP) KICKS OFF

After the release of the first tranche of funds by RUFORUM in January 2011, CARP partners met on 4th February at Bunda College to deliberate implementation of the project. Partners agreed to have exploratory/reconnaissance survey which will be conducted later this month. An inception meeting with strategic stakeholders has been scheduled for 10-11 March, 2011

CARP is coordinated by NEPAD Regional Fish Node and has the following partners: Bunda College, National Aquaculture Centre, World Fish Centre, Farmers Union of Malawi, TAPP, Green Belt Initiative, IDEAA, DFIDS Research Into Use, Commission of Science and Technology and KAWDJO Foundation

TASKFORCE TO REVIEW THE Afri-FISHNET BUSINESS PLAN (2011-2015)

A Task Force which was set up during the launch of the Afri-FISHNET in February 2010 in Malawi will meet at SunBird Livingstonia Beach Hotel (Malawi) between 20-23rd February 2011 to review the Afri-FISHNET Business plan (2011-2015).

According to the Business plan, the vision of Afri-FISHNET is that 'across the continent, African researchers and educators share and work with community, business and policy partners to unlock the

wealth from the African waters and safeguard it for future generations'. The meeting is expected to agree on action to be taken to ensure that Afri-FISHNET is fully operational.

Members of the Task Force were drawn from various African and international regions represented by Mozambique, Cameroon, Nigeria, Egypt, Uganda, Malawi, NEPAD Agency and United Kingdom.

PARTNERS NEWS: Promotions At The Aquaculture and Fisheries Science Department



AQFSD Staff, Jeremiah Kang'ombe

Members of the Aquaculture and Fisheries Science Department (AQFSD), Dr Jeremiah Bush Kang'ombe and Mr Amulike Victor Msukwa have been recognized and promoted following their significant contribution to the academic world through teaching, research and publications.

Jeremiah Kang'ombe has been promoted from Senior Lecturer to Associated Professor whilst Amulike Msukwa was promoted from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer, effective July 2010.

Congrats!!!



AQFSD Staff, Amulike Msukwa

University of Malawi (Bunda College)-NEPAD Regional Fish Node and Fisheries Department Collaboratively Host AASA.

The shores of Lake Malawi will this year be warmed by continental and international faces when the University of Malawi (Bunda College) in collaboration with NEPAD Regional Fish Node and Fisheries Department of Malawi Government will host the 10th bi-annual Aquaculture Conference of the Aquaculture Association of Southern Africa (AASA). The conference will be held at Sun n' Sand Holiday Resort from the 12-16th September 2011 in Malawi.

The expected conference participants include aquaculturist, government institutions, industry, and any other interested parties



under the 2011 theme entitled "Aqua Africa 2011: Aquaculture for a Growing Continent".

AASA is therefore pleased to announce the 2011 call for papers for oral presentation and/or poster presentation. This is a great networking and publicity opportunity to exhibitors who will be given an opportunity to showcase their services and goods to the wider aquaculture community.

Registration is currently underway from the month of February, 2011. For registration/inquiries/comments contact AASA at info@aasa-aqua.co.za or +27 (0) 12 807 6720.

BioFISA PROJECT COLLABORATOR BENEFITS FROM THE BIOINFORMATICS COURSE

Dr Daudi Kassam, one of the collaborators of the BioFISA Fish Project attended a bioinformatics workshop organized by The University of Mauritius which houses the Bioinformatics node. The workshop was hosted by the University of Pretoria, South Africa between 15th and 17th November 2010. Professor Oleg Reva of the University of Pretoria was the main instructor.

Participants of the workshop were trained in many bioinformatics techniques including sequence generation and quality control, sequence file formats, selection of genes for phylogenetic studies, sequence alignment, types of phylogenetic trees, evaluation of phylogenetic trees, populational phylogenetics using bacteria sequences. Participants used a variety of software such as BioEdit, Mega 5, Phylip and GBlocks and the Treeview software which enhances visualization of trees generated.

The workshop had a total of 16 participants

from several African Countries including Mauritius, Malawi, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Namibia and Mozambique.

Dr Kassam will apply state of art in bioinformatics for research and teaching students at various levels.



Dr Daudi Kassam, BioFISA Collaborator; Head of Aquaculture and Fisheries Science Department

FISH NODE STAFF NEWS

EXCELLENCE AT THE FISH NODE

The Fish Node celebrated on one of its core values which is excellence as its staff members, Ms Mercy Kavalo and Ms Msekiwa Matsimbe excelled in their different professional circles.

Ms Mercy Kavalo, the Administrative Assistant passed her ABE Business Management Diploma of June 2010. Ms Kavalo has already moved forward by registering for the Advanced Diploma in Business Management Course for June 2011 examinations.

On the other hand, Ms Msekiwa Matsimbe a Program Assistant was on 27th October 2010 got the “*Best Poster Presentation Award*” among the young scientists group at the 22nd CODATA Conference on Scientific Data and Sustainable Development. The title of the presentation was ‘*Fish Diversity of the Bua and Linthipe Rivers in Relation to Land Cover Change*’.

The conference was held at Spier Hotel in Cape Town (RSA) and was co-hosted by the CODATA and National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa from 24th-27th October 2010.

Ms Matsimbe attended the conference through the nomination by the Malawi Government National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST), courtesy of Mr Alick K. Manda of NSCT.

The Node had a tea party in November 2010 to celebrate the success of the staff members who were awarded special gifts for their success.



Fish Node Administrative Assistant, Mercy Kavalo



Fish Node Program Assistant, Msekiwa Matsimbe

FISH NODE STAFF ENROLL FOR A MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAM



Ms Priscilla Longwe

As part of capacity building, two Programm Assistants; Ms Priscilla Longwe and Ms Lisungu Banda in August, 2010 were offered MSc degree scholarships to be pursued at Bunda College. The scholarships were provided under the Community Action Research Program (CARP) titled ‘Enhancing Fish Production and Marketing for Food Security and Rural Income of Small-Scale Producers in Malawi’ which is funded By Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building (RUFORUM)

Priscilla and Lisungu have been enrolled for MSc degrees in Aquaculture and Fisheries and Agricultural and Applied Economics at Bunda College respectively.



Ms Lisungu Banda

THE FISH NODE HOSTS AN INTERN AND VOLUNTEER

The Fish Node secretariat is pleased to host an Intern and Volunteer, Ms Chimwemwe Salima and Mr Benjamin Kondowe, respectively.

Ms Chimwemwe Salima is pursuing an MSc in Research Methods from the Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology (Kenya) and will be with the Node for a period of 8-10 months. With her skills in research methods, Chimwemwe will evaluate the Dowa Fish Farming Project and re-run the experiment in its third phase. In addition, she will assist in other node activities so that she is also honed in her working skills and etiquette.

The Node is also hosting a volunteer, Mr Benjamin Kondowe who is fresh BSc graduate in Aquatic and Fisheries Science from the University of Namibia. Benjamin will be working closely with the AquaGold Fish Farm.

Welcome to The Fish Node!!



Intern, Ms Chimwemwe Salima



Volunteer, Mr. Benjamin Kondowe