



NEPAD SANBIO FISH NODE NEWSLETTER



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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first issue of NEPAD SANBio Fish Node Newsletter. This is a monthly newsletter containing news items on the Fish Node.

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Bunda College Houses NEPAD SANBio Fish Node

Bunda College was in June 2006 designated as a node for SANBio on fisheries and aquatic sciences related research and development activities within the region. This was after the steering committee of the Southern African Network for Biosciences (SANBio) approved the nomination from the Government of Malawi, through the National Focal Point (National Research Council of Malawi - NRCM). The node with an acronym of SANBio-Fish, is housed in the Aquaculture and Fisheries Science Department. Dr. Emmanuel Kaunda was nominated to coordinate and initiate nodal activities. Dr. Kaunda had earlier participated in the preparation of SANBio Business Plan and the Fish Biodiversity component of the collaboration programme of the South African National Department of Science and Technology, NEPAD and Government of Finland (BIOFISA).



Participants at the official launch of SANBio Fish Node

The Chief Scientific Officer at the National Research Council of Malawi, Focal point for NEPAD Science and Technology in Malawi, Mr. Alick Manda, at the launch of SANBio Fish Node at Bunda, To the right is the Principal of Bunda College, Professor G.Y. Kanyama-Phiri, the immediate left is the Dean Faculty of Environmental Science Professor M.B. Kwapata and Dr. O.A. Maluwa Deputy Director of Science and Technology at the far left.

What is SANBio?

Southern Africa Network for Biosciences (SANBio) is one of the four regional networks. It has been established with the regional hub being hosted by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in the Republic of South Africa. The network covers 12 countries in the sub-region which includes: Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland, Seychelles, Republic of South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Vision of SANBio

SANBio's vision is to utilize biosciences for social economic development, particularly contributing to improved health, food security and sustainable livelihoods of the people of Southern Africa.

Mission statement of SANBio

To build and strengthen capacity in biosciences through networking, promotion of scientific excellence and harnessing of the indigenous knowledge for sustainable utilization of natural resources and wealth generation of the people of Southern African.

Goals of SANBio

- Enable Southern Africa to harness and apply science, technology and related innovations to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development.
- To build capacity in the region to ensure that Southern Africa contributes to the global pool of scientific knowledge and technological innovations.
- Bring new innovative bioscience related products in the market by capitalizing on the expertise in the region.

Objectives of SANBio

The strategic objectives of SANBio are to:

- Address Southern African problems in agriculture, health, and environment through the application of bioscience technologies.
- See new developments in biosciences to protect the environment and conserve biodiversity in Southern Africa.
- Build and strengthen human capacity in biosciences in Southern Africa.
- Promote access to affordable, worldclass research facilities within Southern Africa.

Malawi to benefit from SANBio Fish Node

SANBio-Fish Node a consortium of Malawian Institutions

For Malawi to benefit and participate in the initiative the SANBio-Fish Node will be a Consortium of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences institutions with membership from the Department of Science and Technology, National Research Council of Malawi, Malawi Fisheries Department - Fisheries Research Unit, Malawi College of Fisheries and National Aquaculture Centre; Chancellor College, World Fish Center, Mzuzu University, and Bunda College.

A Steering Committee has been formed to follow up activities of the Node. As NRCM sits on Steering Committee of the SANBio it is the obvious Chair for the Steering Committee while Bunda

College is the Secretariat:

The Terms of Reference for the local SANBio-Fish Node as a consortium are as follows:

- Keep members informed of the developments in Fisheries and Aquatics sciences within SANBio and the Region
- Mobilize resources for Malawi's research and development in Aquaculture and Fisheries
- Support activities of the SANBio node for the benefit of Malawi and the region.
- Foster Malawi's agenda within SANBio and NEPAD Action Plan for the Development of African Fisheries and Aquaculture.

SANBio-Fish Node for the Region

The Regional SANBIO on fisheries and aquatic sciences related research and development activities network will be championed by Malawi, South Africa, Namibia, Zambia and Mozambique represented by the following institutions; Bunda College and Chancellor College of the University of Malawi, Fisheries Research Unit of Malawi Fisheries Department in Malawi; South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB), Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science (DIFS) of Rhodes University, University of Fort Hare in South Africa, Natural Sciences at the University of Zambia in Zambia and University of Namibia in Namibia. The World Fish Centre, IUCN-ROSA and the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research are some of the collaborating regional, international and developed country partners. The various institutions have varying levels of facilities and human capacity.

Events and Activities at the Fish Node

JUNE 2006

- Bunda College designated as a Fish Node.

OCTOBER 2006

- Scoping Workshop For Integration of Bioinformatics into SANBio R and D Programmes - Pretoria, South Africa
The workshop was aimed at finding ways of how bioinformatics could be integrated into biosciences.

NOVEMBER 2006

- Regional Consultation on Fisheries Programme for Africa - Accra, Ghana (6 November, 2007)
The meeting was aimed at strengthening the capacity of FARA/AUEPAD/WorldFish in responding to the AU NEPAD/WorldFish programme on Fisheries
- Sensitization of Malawi Stakeholders and visit by SANBio Director, Prof. Luke Mumba (25-28 November, 2007).
This was the first national meeting to sensitize national stakeholders on the project i.e. SANBio.

DECEMBER 2006

- Briefing the Pro vice Chancellor of University of Malawi, Professor L.A. Kamwanja by NEPAD Science and Technology Secretariat on SANBio fish node activities, in Pretoria, South Africa.

AUGUST 2007

- NEPAD Mission on Science, Technology and Innovation in Fisheries and Aquaculture in Mozambique. Mozambique (27-28 August, 2007)

The purpose of the meeting was to improve awareness and understanding by NEPAD of opportunities and constraints in collaborating with the government of Mozambique in the context of NEPAD FISH, SANBio and National policy implementation and agree on areas of collaboration.

OCTOBER 2007

- Hiring of Programme Assistant (1st October 2007)
Mr. Moses Limuwa a formerly MSc. Student in the Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries Science was recruited as programme assistant of the Fish Node

NOVEMBER 2007

- Presentation of SANBio Fish Biodiversity project at University of Namibia (28th October to 1st November, 2007)

ARTICLES TO BE FEATURED IN THE NEXT ISSUE TO INCLUDE:

- **Message from the Technical coordinator.**
- **Role of the Focal Point to the Node.**
- **Annual reports from the region**
- **Regional PhD. in Aquaculture and Fisheries Science at Bunda College.**
- **Research reports from partners including:**
 - World Fish Center**
 - South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB).**
 - IUCNROSA**



Dr. E. Kaunda,
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SANBio Fish Node

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