



World Organisation
for Animal Health



Launch of the Regional Aquatic Animal Health Network for Southern Africa (RAAHN-SA)

25 – 27 July 2023 Lusaka, Zambia



Zambia Country Profile

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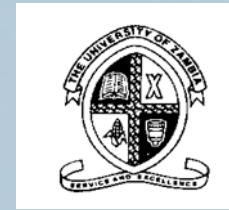
DVS-Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
Presented at the launch of the RAAHN-SA

Taj Pamodzi Hotel, Lusaka

25th July, 2023

Support

- Government of Republic of Zambia
- Zambia Aquaculture Enterprise Development Project (ZAEDP)
- FAO
- WorldFish
- Zambia Aquaculture Project (ZAP)
- The University of Zambia



Introduction



- Zambia has reported a rapid growth of the aquaculture industry, supported by increased investment in the sector, which has allowed farmers to adopt improved aquaculture practices
- Loss due to disease outbreaks is one of the limiting factors for economic development of many aquaculture enterprises in many countries of the world (Stentiford et al., 2012; Tavares-Dias & Martins, 2017)

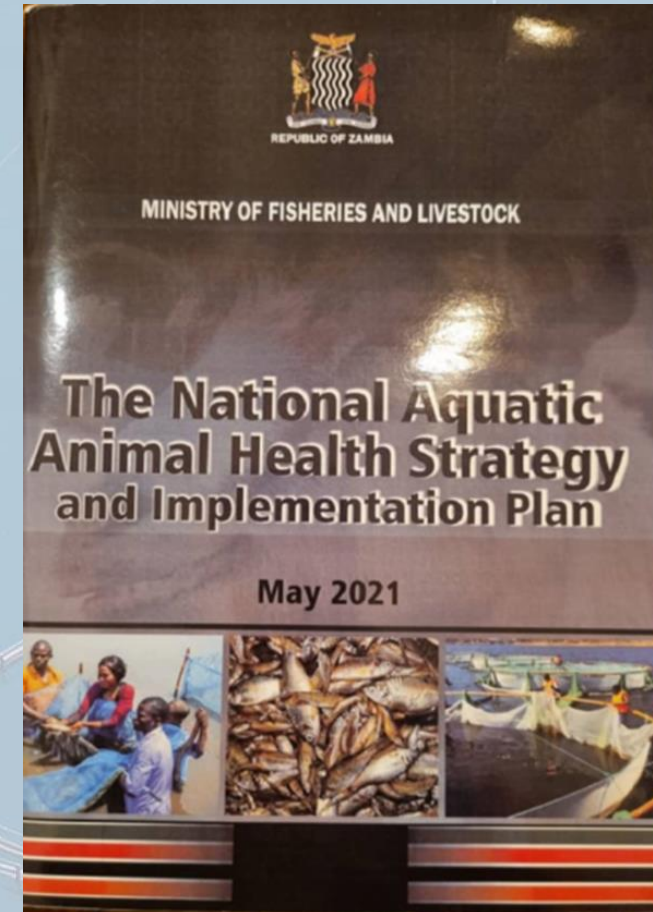


- The outbreak of EUS in 2007 on the Zambezi river basin affected various susceptible fish species and decimated fish populations especially in the Western Province
- FAO formed a task force to investigate EUS, many meetings held in Malawi, Zambia on a regional project that triggered awareness, informal networking and capacity building
- Wake-up call to the fact that **'fish do get sick'**
- Recognized the urgent need for a robust aquatic animal health (AAH) and disease management system

- Aquatic Animal Health
 - recognized as “Prevention of fish Diseases” in the Second National Agricultural Policy and 7th National Development Plan
- This limited contextualization of AAH in most policy documents led to the marginalization of this discipline at the expense of other important aspects of AAH
- Budgetary allocation to AAH was nearly non-existent
- Promotion of AAH was dependent on support from cooperating Partners
 - WorldFish (pockets of surveillance particularly for EUS and TiLV)
- The above-mentioned challenges, coupled with the lack of an established functional unit for AAH in the Ministry, made implementation and coordination of AAH ineffective
- AfDB-funded Zambia Aquaculture Enterprise Development Project (ZAEDP) came into fruition
 - Support to aquaculture

ZAEDP Component 4: Aquatic animal health management improved-Technical Support from FAO

- Development of the first ever aquatic animal health strategy for Zambia (May 2021)
 - Developing and implementing surveillance plans on important diseases such as EUS and TiLV
- Formation of the National Committee on AAH Management
 - committee appointed by PS of MFL to effectively implement the execution and coordination of AAH activities
- Formulation of AAH unit in DVS



Implementation of Strategy Elements: Surveillance



Assessment of laboratory capacity and performance on Aquatic Animal Health (AAH)

- Infrastructure and
- Human resource



Construction of Aquaculture Research Institute in Kafue



Outside view of the Institute



Inside view



Concrete ponds at the institute

Training of Field and Lab Staff

- On laboratory and field diagnosis of fish diseases
 - Department of Fisheries
 - Department of Veterinary services
- Development of training module on fish disease diagnosis, with support from FAO



Other outcomes

- Development of a General Fish Disease Surveillance Plan 2023
- DoF, DVS have a good working relationship
- Stronger collaboration with academia, research institutions and the private sector





- Climate Change: the country has been experiencing climate induced hazards which include erratic rains, dry spells and droughts, seasonal and flash floods, and extreme temperatures
 - Affects time of year of occurrence of disease
- With the increase in fish disease occurrence, farmers' likelihood of indiscriminate use of antimicrobials for both prophylaxis and/or therapeutic purposes will increase, raising the possibility Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)
- Principle legislature - Animal Health Act No. 27 of 2010 and Fisheries Act No. 22 of 2011. In both Acts, AAH is recognized as "Prevention and Control of fish diseases" with several aspects of AAH missing. The two Acts are also in conflict as they mandate the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Veterinary Services to "Prevent and Control fish diseases"

Amend Fisheries Act No. 22 of 2011 and main-stream AAH in Animal Health Act No. 27 of 2010 to harmonize the two pieces of legislation

Develop AAH regulations

Work in Progress

- Implementing Progressive Management Pathway of Aquaculture Biosecurity PMP/AB. We will be drawing on experiences from countries where FAO gave guidance in the operationalization of the PMP/AB
- Vaccine research
 - Bacterial pathogens
- AMR and AMU research
- Improving capacity on risk assessment of importation of exotic aquatic pathogens



Thank you for your attention

