



 World Organisation  
for Animal Health



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

25 – 27 July 2023 Lusaka, Zambia



# Workshop Report

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

World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)

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## Contributions and Acknowledgment

This report was compiled by Dr Mohamed M. Sirdar, Sub-Regional Programme Officer, WOAHA Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa, with inputs and contribution from Dr Moetapele Letshwenyo, WOAHA Sub-Regional Representative for Southern Africa and Dr Patrick Bastiaensen, Sub-Regional Programme Officer, WOAHA Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa.

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- Dr Motseki Hlatshwayo, Fisheries Technical Advisor, SADC Secretariat
- Dr Alexander Shula Kefi, Project Coordinator for the PROFISHBLUE Project, SADC Secretariat

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- The Government of the Republic of Zambia for hosting the launch workshop and in particular we appreciate the efforts made by the office of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, WOAHA Delegate of Zambia Dr Geoffrey Muuka and his team Dr Fusya Goma (Deputy Director and Director of Laboratories) and Dr Mwansa Songe (Zambia National Focal Point for Aquaculture).
- The European Union for funding the project.
- AU-IBAR and FishGov II Project.



## Executive Summary

The launch of the Regional Aquatic Animal Health Network for Southern Africa (RAAHN-SA) was organised by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa (SRR-SA) in collaboration with the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) from 25-27 July 2023 in Lusaka, Zambia.

The three-day face-to-face workshop was attended by 58 participants including public and private sector representatives of 14 Member Countries within the SADC region, i.e. Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, eSwatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Participants' also included aquatic animal health experts, WOAH staff, AU-IBAR staff and technical observers, i.e. the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Sub-regional Office for Southern Africa (FAO-SFS), the Secretariat of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the World Veterinary Education in Production Animal Health (WVEPAH), Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), World Aquaculture Society, Africa Chapter (WAS), World Fish, and academic institutions represented by University of Botswana, University of Pretoria, and Sokoine University of Agriculture.

The general objective of the workshop was to assist SADC Member countries in identifying options for establishing and operationalising the RAAHN-SA as a strategy for strengthening the implementation of aquatic sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures for biosecurity control, improved market access and safe intra-regional fish trade. Through the launch of the RAAHN-SA, WOAH aims -amongst others- to create a platform where the public sectors and private stakeholders can share information and network to collectively develop, implement and monitor aquatic animal health strategies coherently.

The agenda was structured in 4 sessions, each one focused on a specific objective:

- Performing a Situation Analysis
- Development of RAAHN-SA Terms of Reference (ToR)
- Development of RAAHN-SA Institutional Framework
- Development of RAAHN-SA Action Plan

The diversity of the interventions enriched the meeting and allowed for a stimulating and fruitful exchange of ideas that led, in conclusion, to the drafting of all the relevant documents, nomination of an interim Steering Committee to establish and operationalise the RAAHN-SA that is integrated within the Fisheries structures of SADC.

## Workshop Official Launch

The official opening remarks were delivered by:

- WOAH Sub-Regional Representative for Southern Africa, Dr Moetapele Letshwenyo,
- Representative of the Director of AU-IBAR, Dr Hiver Boussini,
- Representative of COMESA, Dr Yoseph Mamo,
- Representative of SADC Secretariat, Dr Motseki Hlatshwayo.

The workshop was officially opened by the Minister of Fisheries and Livestock of Zambia, Hon. Makozo Chikote (MP). In his remarks, the Minister mentioned that *“aquatic animal diseases are becoming more relevant in most African countries including Zambia. This is attributed to the intensification efforts being made in the production of fish. Therefore, there is a need for countries to put in more resources aimed at enhancing surveillance programmes to prevent and control the introduction, occurrence, spread of emerging and re-emerging aquatic animal disease and related threats.”* He further emphasized *“I call upon all stakeholders involved in the fisheries-aquaculture value chain to play a role in the control of aquatic animal diseases. In addition, collaboration and networking among the sector’s stakeholders for data collection, reporting, information sharing and coordination for the implementation of disease control strategies remain crucial for the sustainability and growth of Africa fisheries-aquaculture sector.”*



*Official opening: L-R; COMESA, SADC, WOAH, Minister of Fisheries and Livestock (MFL), Former Permanent Secretary (MFL), AU-IBAR @ WOAH 2023*

The first day of the workshop included several presentations on WOAH Aquatic Animal Health Strategy, WOAH Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission and PVS for Aquatic Animals, in addition to fisheries-aquaculture industry status and opportunities for stakeholder participation in implementation of aquatic SPS measures to safeguard the sector and facilitate access to markets and trade in the region (Annex 1).



*Workshop Group Photo @ WOAHA 2023*

## Background Sessions

The workshop commenced with a situational analysis session highlighting awareness of existing networks, review/update of existing aquatic animal disease control strategies and aquatic animal disease situation in the region. Additional presentations focused on sharing existing experiences and showing benefits from the establishment of aquatic animal health (AAH) zoo-sanitary plans. Selected member countries, through their WOAHA National Focal Points for Aquatic Animals, presented their national country profiles on surveillance, monitoring and reporting, opportunities, needs and challenges. The private sector had their input by delivering two presentations on their views of aquatic animal health practitioners and farmers in Zambia. The subsequent sessions of the workshop were dedicated to discussing the proposed institutional framework and terms of reference for the newly established Network. Participants engaged further in developing a short-term plan of action with identified activities for implementation.

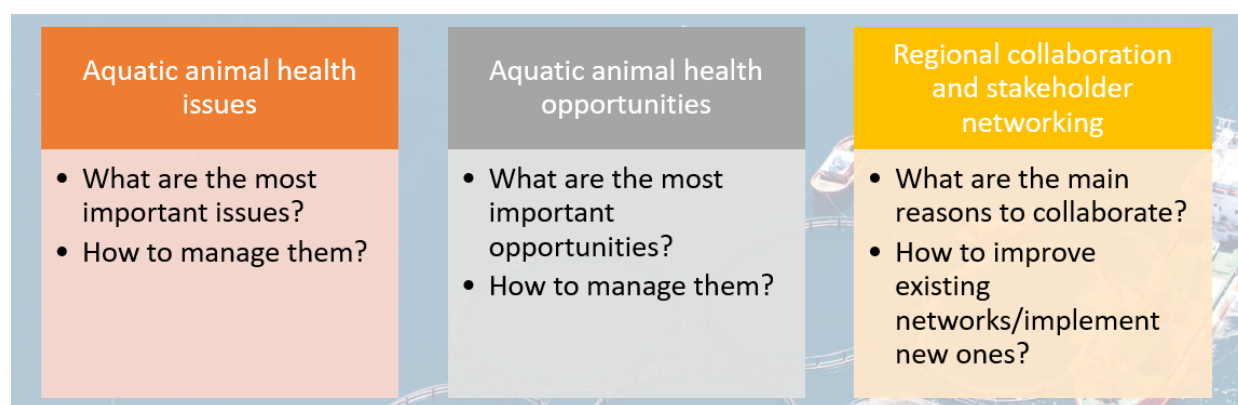
An interim steering committee was elected to finalise the launch of the network, assist with documentation and integration of the Network within SADC structures. The detailed agenda can be accessed in Annex (1) and [here](#).

## Group Discussions

The first Group Discussion was focused on reviewing of the status of aquaculture, aquatic animal health issues and opportunities for regional collaboration and stakeholder networking to improve implementation of aquatic SPS measures within the region. Groups were assigned to work on aquatic animal health issues, aquatic animal health opportunities and regional collaboration as illustrated below.

Further group analysis tackled the status quo in the regions i.e what has been done well? and where do they see gaps?

The final group session focused on surveillance for emerging diseases; preparedness and response for emerging diseases, biosecurity; Public-private partnerships and information sharing and networking.



## Outcomes of Group Discussions

*SWOT Analysis surveillance of emerging diseases, preparedness and response for emerging disease*

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
Capacities built in emerging diseases: region trained for surveillance	Lack of prioritized pathogen list
Existence of diagnostic labs	Poor biosecurity, porous borders, poor environmental. management
Capacitated focal points	Veterinary Acts are biased towards terrestrial animals
Development Regional aquatic animal Health strategy	Limited awareness of aquatic animal diseases



OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
New standards: Aquatic Animal Health Code/ Manual	Emerging diseases especially viral diseases
Regional strategy (SADC) developed	Shared water bodies, illegal movement of live aquatic animals
RAAHN-SA	Climate change
Regional centres of excellence	

### *Aquatic Animal Health (AAH) Issues*

- Emerging diseases eg TiLV,
- Lack of capacity
- Strengthening coordination between fishers and veterinarians
- Poor biosecurity
- Lack of diagnostic coordination
- Lack of legislation and institutional policy frameworks,
- One health and AMR
- Control of fish diseases
- Transboundary management plans
- Laboratories – Networking and knowledge sharing
- (Expertise in the regions) Veterinary schools & educational institutions – Information sharing, co-training, research

### *Recommendations on Managing (AAH) issues*

- Contingency planning,
- ID experts to train farmers, mentorships, trainings at extension level & para-vets, training of trainers,
- Housing experts in the same department,
- embrace one health approach in aquatic animal health,
- Development of regional, national and on farm biosecurity,
- Development of fish health units,
- Identification specialized regional labs,
- Develop, revise improve depending on the country,
- Active participation in food safety, AMR,
- Create and control treatment guidelines,
- Foster collaboration and networking,
  - Knowledge sharing
  - Sharing human/technical/ resources
- Strengthen capacity and accessibility to diagnostic services,
- Promote AAH and biosecurity in a One Health context,
- Promote effective communication & public awareness on AAH issues,
- Mobilise resources for:
  - Disease surveillance
  - Training
  - Extension services and materials that are harmonised.
  - Research

- Harmonisation of legislation and implementation of AAH standards,
- Include AAH outcomes in operations (Surveillance, biosecurity and reporting),
- Inter-lab PT programmes, resource sharing, Stock take of labs in the region,
- Develop database, sharing training programs to promote sustainability of programmes, sharing of training program, collaboration development,
- Sector development plans to include all stakeholders in the value chain,
- Transboundary management plans, laboratories, Networking and knowledge sharing, (Expertise in the regions) Veterinary schools & educational institutions – Information sharing, co-training, research,
- Existing networks (WOAH focal points),
- Political support,
- Growing industry, sustaining critical mass for support services increasing investment,
- SADC regional Biosecurity strategy,
- Engagement and positive attitude of Organised / commercial aquaculture sectors in the regions.

## Development of RAAHN-SA Terms of Reference

This session was dedicated to interactive activities in which participants, exchanged ideas and worked together to draft the Terms of Reference of the RAAHN-SA, starting from a provided template. All groups were asked to focus on the following suggested topics:

- Objectives
- Membership and Governance
- Communication (both internal and external)
- Resource mobilisation

WOAH collected all the discussion points and drafted the TOR of the RAAHN-SA, which was circulated among all workshop participants for their inputs and then amalgamated into one document (below). The draft ToR will be submitted to the interim Steering Committee (at its first meeting) for finalisation and official validation.

The comprehensive draft TOR of the RAAHN-SA that incorporated all inputs by workshop participants is provided in Annex (2).

## Development of RAAHN-SA Institutional Framework

### Institutional Framework

Although a session was dedicated for interactive discussions between participants to draft the statute and institutional framework of the RAAHN-SA, SADC FTC confirmed their willingness to integrate the Network within SADC FTC structures. SADC's position and proposal were delivered through a presentation on the framework that is summarised below:

#### *SADC Institutional Framework as outlined in the Treaty (1992, as amended, 2011)*

- SADC Parliamentary Forum,
- Committee of Ambassadors & High Commissioners,
- SADC National Committees,
- SADC Secretariat,
- Standing Committee of Senior Officials,
- Sectoral & Cluster Ministerial Committees,
- SADC Council of Ministers,
- SADC Administrative Tribunal (SADCAT),
- Summit Troika of the Organ,
- Summit of Heads of State & Government.
- Troika: Current, Chair, Incoming Chair & Outgoing Chair,
- Service Centres (various sectors, MoUs).

#### *Stakeholders in the SADC Region*

The SADC Institutional Framework recognizes existence of multiple stakeholders (private sector, academia, civil society, non-governmental organisations workers employers' organisations

- Article 23 of the Treaty:
  1. In pursuance of the objectives of the Treaty, SADC shall seek to involve fully, the people of the Region key stakeholders in the process of regional integration.
  2. SADC shall cooperate with, support the initiatives of the peoples of the Region key stakeholders, contributing to the objectives of the Treaty in the areas of cooperation to foster closer relations among communities, associations people of the Region.
- Various modalities for this kind of cooperation have been explored in the various sectors of the Region.
- Establishing regional Networks or Communities of Practice has taken centre stage in promoting inclusivity in the regional interventions, improving levels of dialogue amongst all citizens of the region in their various formations,
- Introduction of a Pilot phase of the SADC Dialogue Facility (SDF) (funded by EU in 2021)
- **RAAHN – SA provides aquaculture/aquatic organisms sector with an opportunity to contribute to the regional integration agenda as outlined in Article 23 of the Treaty**

#### *Addressing potential mandate of RAAHN-SA in line with Article 13*

- Increase fish production in the region.
- Safeguard sustainable fish production from aquaculture.

- Facilitate development of national strategies aligned with regional strategies (RASAP & AAH).
- Facilitate implementation of strategies (RASAP & AAH).
- Facilitate implementation of Regional Framework on Environmental Management for Sustainable Aquaculture, including Best Management Practices & Harmonized Regional Standards.
- Coordinate capacity building & mentorship.
- Develop & implement regional aquaculture value chains priority action plans.
- Promote responsible genetic improvement & sustainable biodiversity management in aquaculture.

#### *Addressing potential mandate of RAAHN SA*

- Article 19: State Parties shall establish a Committee to oversee the implementation of this Protocol (SADC Technical Committee on Fisheries)
- SADC Aquaculture Working Group (AWG)
- WOAHA Aquatic Animal Health Focal Points (AAH FPs)
- ANAF -SADC region members
- RAAHN – SA provides a platform to bring AWG, AAH FPs & other stakeholders (Art. 23, Treaty) together.
- RAAHN SA provides the support for implementing:
  - SADC Regional Aquaculture Strategy and Action Plan (2016-2026)
  - SADC Aquatic Animals Health Strategy (2016-2026)
  - Aquaculture Value Chain in the SADC Region: Profile, Prospects and Roadmap for Development.

#### Options for establishment of RAAHN-SA

1. Independent Organisation (registration, statutes etc.)
  - Private Company,
  - NPO,
  - NGO,
  - Think Tank Group, etc.
2. Subsidiarity Organisation (legal framework agreed to by 2/3 of Member States)
3. Anchored under WOAHA Sub Regional Representation for Southern Africa (not practical & feasible/not within WOAHA mandate)
4. Anchored under AU-IBAR (statutes, geographical mismatch etc.)
5. **Member State structure anchored under SADC Secretariat (most desirable)**

#### Guiding Principles

In order to effectively perform its functions & fulfil its purpose, RAAHN-SA members should be guided by the following principles:

- The network is only one tool being used to achieve a broader goal as stated in SADC instruments,
- Active engagement, consistency & commitment to RAAHN-SA (including using own resources for activities),
- Respect for the sovereignty, structures & systems of the SADC Member States,
- Respect for the systems & procedures within SADC,
- Advocacy for peace, security & regional integration through development of sustainable aquatic food systems,

- Always putting SADC citizens at the centre of development, specifically women, youth & vulnerable groups,
- Development of aquaculture & AAH sector as a multi-sectoral, participatory process and safeguarding the environment including aquatic biodiversity,
- Engagement of relevant stakeholder groups without bias & prejudice,
- Deliberation & implementation with a spirit of equality, equity, collaboration, cooperation, mutual respect, accountability & transparency,
- Commitment to implementation of mutually agreed work plans & activities,
- Ensuring that ownership of the RAAHN-SA remains with & is led at all times by the Member States,
- Amicable resolution of disputes & disagreements,
- Maintenance of a culture of giving & receiving.

### Organisational Structure

1. A Steering Committee: shall be responsible for providing overall leadership to the RAAHN-SA & shall act on decisions emanating from the Network's membership. It shall also be responsible for:
  - Setting priorities & determining the strategic direction for RAAHN-SA,
  - Prioritising linkages to other stakeholder groups,
  - Leading by example in their active engagement with RAAHN-SA,
  - Attending periodic face-to-face/virtual meetings of RAAHN-SA (once a year, preferably consecutively to RAAHN-SA meetings),
  - Encourage effective use of ICT tools to enhance the work of SC, RAAHN-SA & broader networking operations,
  - Considering requests for membership,
  - Facilitating the resolution of any disputes amongst members of RAAHN-SA,
  - Consideration of calls for revocation of membership based on sound reasoning,
  - Reporting to & advising the SADC Technical Committee on Fisheries on key recommendation & activities of RAAHN-SA.
2. Each SADC MS shall nominate one official/individual to the SC,
3. SADC Secretariat will play the role of Secretariat of the RAAHN-SA,
4. SC shall be led by a Chair & 2 Deputies as per SADC Troika, with Chairmanship changing annually,
5. SC has a prerogative to constitute other structures e.g. peer groups, communities of practice, or project task groups as required, whose functions & composition shall be guided by the RAAHN-SA activity plan & specified in TORs.

### Role of SADC Secretariat

Since the RAAHN SA will be under the auspices of SADC, in line with regional aquaculture aquatic animal health instruments to support sustainable development of aquatic food systems in the Region, the SADC Secretariat as the custodian of the various protocols, strategies programmes to which the Member States prescribe, shall continue to play a crucial role in RAAH SA including:

- Providing regional policy guidance by ensuring that the activities of RAAHN SA are aligned to SADC instruments,
- Providing secretariat, facilitation moderation services as required by RAAHN SA by being part of the Steering Committee,
- Promoting awareness about RAAHN SA,

- Facilitating technical financial assistance to support the activities of RAAHN SA,
- Seeking synergies with other complementary programmes introduced in the region by other organisations international cooperating partners (ICPs)
- Conducting quality assurance of activities, services products of RAAHN SA
- Establishing applying rules of ownership copyright of information knowledge products of the RAAHN SA

## Renewal of Membership

### 1. *Steering Committee*

- SADC Member States shall, every two years, communicate any change to their nomination to the Steering Committee of RAAHN.
- Any individual, who no longer forms part of the formally nominated contingent by Member States to the Steering Committee, may still form part of the membership of RAAHN SA if he/she requests such request is approved by the Steering Committee

### 2. *Other Members:*

Network members shall be required to renew their membership every two years failing which, their subscription to RAAHN SA shall lapse automatically. However, some consideration without compromising compliance will be sought for core Members.

### 3. *Termination of Membership*

Membership of any member shall terminate upon his/her resignation submitted to the Steering Committee or when membership is not renewed at the end of two years, it shall automatically lapse. Additionally, membership of RAAHN SA shall be terminated in the event of a member failing to observe the principles of RAAHN SA or conducting themselves in a manner unbecoming of RAAHN SA Such action may be brought to the attention of the Steering Committee by any member of RAAHN SA shall then be considered for termination.

## Activities and Tools

1. The activities of the RAAHN SA shall be periodically determined through a participatory process of deliberation with members agreeing by consensus on priority focus areas These activities shall be stated in an annual work plan a report prepared disseminated yearly on activities achievements challenges of the Network its associated structures.
2. Activities may include, but are not limited to the following:
  - Face to face & online meetings,
  - Online discussions,
  - Sharing resources & information,
  - Field visits,
  - Exchange visits,
  - Write workshops (proposals, joined publications),
  - Twinning (institutions/laboratories),
  - Joint research projects,
  - Think Tanks, workshops, trainings, conferences,
  - Policy dialogues,
  - Linking new entrants, fish farmers, professionals (women, youth) to opportunities (jobs, investments, enterprise development etc.),
  - Specific projects (e.g. PROFISHBLUE project, SNRL).

3. RAAHN SA may use a range of tools to implement agreed activities achieve stated objectives: One key tool shall be the development of a Member Database, accessible to its entire membership. The internet offers a prime facility for efficient effective communication and information sharing.
4. RAAHN SA shall have as its anchor a portal which shall be used as an interactive intranet to enable RAAHN SA members to share information, experiences, knowledge serve as their primary communication platform. The portal shall have distinct access levels for its range of functionalities including discussion forums for the Steering Committee the broader membership.
5. Volunteers drawn from within the membership shall serve as portal administrators' online facilitators.
6. Other tools that may be utilised by the Network include newsletters social media, publications, etc.
7. All activities, products services developed through RAAHN SA will be reported through SADC policy structures for approval, endorsement adoption.

### Other issues for consideration

1. *Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)*: RAAHN SA should recognise the importance of periodically measuring & assessing the value of the cooperation & whether it is delivering on its stated purpose & for this reason shall develop & apply a monitoring & evaluation framework (MEF).
2. *Amendments of the structure*: RAAHN SA should acknowledge that as an instrument for achieving the broader vision & mission of the Regional Priorities (development of sustainable regional aquatic food systems), its priorities, activity profile, form & composition may change & evolve over time, in response to changing needs. Such changes shall be discussed & agreed upon by consensus by members.
3. *Funding*: RAAHN SA shall actively explore sources of financial support for its activities based on agreed priorities & work plans, including Member State contributions, non-governmental organisations, international organisations & international cooperating partners. Financial support shall particularly be sought for the organisation, implementation, & attendance of face-to-face meetings of the Network & its Steering Committee.
4. *Synergies*: RAAHN – SA shall also explore possible linkages to other networks to avoid duplication & ensure complementary approaches to addressing similar issues.

**The outcome of this workshop & subsequent engagements/meetings will be reported at TCF in March 2024 & Ministers meeting in May 2024**



## Election of Interim Steering Committee

The meeting elected an interim steering committee with a specific role to finalise the ToRs, Institutional Framework and work closely with SADC Secretariate (FTC) on the integration of the network into the SADC structures. The committee consists of 5 Member countries:

- eSwatini
- Madagascar
- Mozambique
- South Africa
- Zambia

And 3 stakeholders:

- AW-FISHNET – SADC region
- WorldFish
- University representative (selected between University of Botswana, University of Pretoria and University of Zimbabwe).
- Private practitioner
- Aquaculture producers

## Development of RAAHN-SA Action Plan

A session was dedicated for developing a short- and medium-term action plan. Each group was assigned two/three of the seven priority topics identified during the Situation Analysis session:

WOAH collected all the discussion points and drafted the Action Plan of the RAAHN-SA, which will be first circulated among all workshop participants for approval and then submitted to the interim Steering Committee for official validation.

For further details and information on the outcomes of this group discussion, please refer to the Draft Action Plan of the RAAHN-SA stipulated in the tables below.

### Promote Biosecurity in a One Health Context

TOPICS				
Implement biosecurity measures at national level	Implement regional biosecurity	AMU&AMR and veterinary therapeutics	Communicate and advocate on aquatic animal health issues	Training and capacity building
PROPOSED ACTIVITIES				
ID border control agents, develop risk analysis team and train them.	Develop regional standards and implementation of guidelines. Implement biosecurity I context of Progressive management Pathway of Aquatic biosecurity (PMP-AB)	Data collection of all the AMU activities in the region	Develop communication channels within the region	Conduct training needs assessment throughout the region via surveys
implement importation Protocols at the border.	Establish regional monitoring team	Harmonizing the regional AMU guidelines	Facilitate communication channels for disease occurrence	Develop training programs for all stakeholders: Vets, farmers, para-vets, fisheries personnel
implement public awareness at national level	integrated into existing water management authorities to mainstream AAH with their terms of reference	Domesticate treatment guidelines	Develop information and dissemination materials.	Integration of Aquatic animal health in existing animal health curriculum (from short courses to degrees)

Extension trainings and materials		Integrate AMR in existing AMR frameworks and implementation.	Develop regional reporting system for aquatic animals	Continuous Veterinary Education (CPDs) for vet staff
Surveillance Developing tools for passive surveillance			Training of media personnel	Engage national vet associations and national statutory boards
			Develop regional data portal where all aquatic animal health issues will be deposited	Certification of aquatic animal health practitioners (accreditation) for non-vets

## Emergency Preparedness and Response

TOPICS				
Improve the preparedness and response capacity and capability to respond to aquatic animal disease emergencies in the region	Alignment and engagement with existing standards and activities	Develop a regional information sharing mechanism for emerging aquatic animal diseases	Conduct risk mapping assessments for diseases	Identify financial, human, and material resources for emergency response activities
PROPOSED ACTIVITIES				
Develop a response plan (strategy) for each country, shared waterbodies.	Contribute to / provide comments on the 2 new chapters being drafted for the aquatic code.	Platform for sharing information in the region	Training for aquatic animal health services in conducting risk assessments	Stakeholder mapping exercise and identify funding partners
Simulation exercises to test response plans at country and network level.	Contribute regional knowledge to the development of activities 3.2 & 3.3 of the WOAHA AH strategy			
Effective communication with the public during an outbreak				

## Strengthen Laboratory Capacity and Accessibility to Diagnostic Services

TOPICS				
Identification of laboratories for aquatic animal diseases and evaluation of diagnostic capacity for the priority diseases in the region	Support and promote standardisation of methods to diagnose and confirm pathogenic agents.	Facilitate collaboration between FAO, WHO and WOAHA Reference Centres and national and regional aquatic animal disease laboratories to facilitate capacity building and exchange of expertise.	Capacity building for laboratory and field staff	Development of WOAHA Regional reference and collaborating centres via the WOAHA twinning programme to support development of aquatic animal health management
PROPOSED ACTIVITIES				
Inventory of existing laboratories and diagnostic capacity (survey). Identify laboratories with the potential to become reference labs for the region	Regional proficiency testing program	Collaboration between RAAHN-SA and the proposed laboratory network	Targeted training	Assessment of existing reference labs and compatibility with labs in the region
Development of a database	Developing and/or sharing SOPs		Identify resources to enhance laboratory infrastructure and technology	
Assist laboratories to achieve accreditation			Survey to identify strengths and gaps	

## Research and Development

TOPICS				
Promote and communicate research on aquatic animal diseases, epidemiology and pathology of importance to the region.	Identify priority areas for the region, including disease prioritisation.	Identify emerging and re-emerging diseases with the potential to impact species in the region	Identify financial resources to carry out foundational research (scholarships etc.)	Promoting collaboration between research institutions
PROPOSED ACTIVITIES				
Promote research in aquatic wild populations.	Attendance at conferences, scientific visits and presenting work.	Targeted research projects	Promote PPPs in research	
Publish research.	Assess research needs against the list of priority diseases for the region (when one is developed)			
Promote multi-national research to define disease and free zones (zoning/compartmentalisation)				

## Harmonisation of Legislations and Standards

TOPICS					
Identify existing legislation and standards relevant to AAH in the region	Harmonised basic biosecurity conditions (as defined in the WOAHA code or regionally agreed)	Support members to develop national AAH strategies	Enhance compliance with WTO SPS measures and trading partner requirements		
PROPOSED ACTIVITIES					
Identify legislation/guidelines/biosecurity management plans relevant to shared water bodies and transboundary movement	Agreement on basic biosecurity conditions and timeframes that they need to be in place, at the regional level particularly for shared water bodies	Training and implementation of the PVS tool at the regional level	Promote bilateral cooperation with neighboring countries on import and export of aquatic animals and their products		
			Agree on AAH mechanisms for cross border instruments and harmonise respective practices with neighboring countries		

## Promote Enhanced Surveillance (Passive and Active)

TOPICS				
Harmonisation of surveillance and control strategies	Training and awareness raising for farmers	Système de recueil, de traitement d'information pour arriver jusqu'au Point Focal		
PROPOSED ACTIVITIES				
Inventory of each country's strategies/ regulations	Identify resource people in each country; Establish a list of resource people/trainers in each sector of activity (database)	Case definition at national/regional level considering diseases that hinder production		
Comparison of procedures – identify differences similarities as well as best practice.	Raise awareness among stakeholders about disease surveillance: knowledge of aquatic animal health problems; Popularization of surveillance: training in Education Communication and Information			
Identify and define sources of information (farmers, fishermen, veterinary practitioners. Leverage WOAH disease surveillance guidelines	Prioritization of diseases that will be subject to surveillance: notifiable disease, production disease			



## Foster Collaboration and Networking

TOPICS					
Commit to sharing disease information within the region.	Facilitate coordination with other relevant networks and share experiences and expertise.	Technology transfer			
PROPOSED ACTIVITIES					
Create organizational structures in this sense at the national and regional level (collaboration framework)					
Lead the network: the facilitator will mobilize stakeholders, ask for reports, follow up					

## Recommendations/Next steps

- WOAH, in collaboration with AU-IBAR and SADC Secretariat, will draft the proceedings (Meeting Report, Draft Terms of Reference, Draft Action Plan) of the workshop and will circulate them for approval.
- Member countries will have 3 weeks to review/approve the proceedings.
- After the approval, the first meeting of the Interim Steering Committee will be convened, depending on the availability of members. The SADC Secretariat (FTC) will be in charge of coordinating the meetings and the agenda shall include the following talking points:
  - Official approval of the Draft Terms of Reference of the RAAHN-SA;
  - Completion and official approval of the Draft Action Plan of the RAAHN-SA;
  - Approval of the Institutional Framework of the RAAHN-SA.
  - Formation of the Steering Committee
- AU-IBAR to explore the possibility of availing a budget to convene the first meeting of the interim Steering Committee estimated at 15 000 USD for a 2-day face-to face meeting.

## Closing Session

In conclusion, Dr Fusya Goma, the Deputy Director of Veterinary Services and Laboratories delivered the closing remarks on behalf of WOAHA Delegate of Zambia. She highlighted the key role that the RAAHN-SA might play for the fishery-aquaculture sector of Southern Africa and advocating for the commitment of Member countries to actively involve both public and private stakeholders, with the aim of ensuring the sustainability and usefulness of the network. Dr Goma mentioned *“In this era of globalization, it is imperative that we work together as SADC member states to strengthen the implementation of aquatic Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures. This will enhance our biosecurity control, foster improved market access, and promote safe intra-regional fish trade. We need to constantly remember, and indeed remind ourselves that disease knows no borders; disease anywhere in the SADC region is potentially disease everywhere.”* She further emphasised *“As we move forward, I urge SADC member states to adequately implement the RAAHN-SA plan to achieve the goals as a network to ensure the health and well-being of our aquatic resources, drive economic growth, and bolster food security across our region.”*



Dr Fusya Goma delivering closing remarks @ WOAHA 2023

## Field Trip

At the end of the workshop, the host country (Zambia) organised a field visit to mixed aquaculture and crocodile farm in the outskirts of Lusaka.



## Annexes

Annex 1: Agenda

Annex 2: Draft Terms of Reference for the Regional Aquatic Animal Health Network for Southern Africa

Annex 3: List of participants

All presentations of the workshop are available at the following links:

EN: <https://rr-africa.woah.org/en/news/launch-of-the-regional-aquatic-animal-health-network-southern-africa/>

FR: <https://rr-africa.woah.org/fr/news/launch-of-the-regional-aquatic-animal-health-network-southern-africa/>

## Annex (1): AGENDA

### DAY 1 - Tuesday 25 July 2023

<b>08:00-09:00</b>	Registration of participants		
<b>OFFICIAL OPENING</b> <b>Day (1) Facilitation Patrick Bastiaensen</b>			
<b>9:00-9:30</b>	Opening remarks	Moetapele Letshwenyo Nelly Isyagi Motseki Hlatshwayo Hon. Makozi Chikote	WOAH SRR-SA AU-IBAR SADC Minister of Fisheries and Livestock
<b>9:30-9:40</b>	Background and objectives of the workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do we want to achieve?</li> <li>• What do we need to do to get there?</li> </ul>	Mohamed Sirdar	WOAH SRR-SA
<b>9:40-10:00</b>	Icebreaker: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-introduction</li> <li>• What are your expectations of the workshop?</li> </ul>	<i>all participants</i>	
<b>10:00-11:20</b>	<p><u>Keynote Presentations:</u></p> <p>Fisheries-Aquaculture industry status and opportunities for stakeholder participation in implementation of aquatic SPS measures to safeguard the sector and facilitate access to markets and trade in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ WOAHA Aquatic Animal Health Strategy and Observatory (20 min)</li> <li>➤ WOAHA Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission &amp; PVS for Aquatic Animals (15 min)</li> <li>➤ “Strengthening the Capacity for Aquatic Animal Health and Biosecurity Control in Africa” (15 min)</li> <li>➤ Overview of the SADC-Aquaculture Framework and establishing the Fisheries Monitoring Control and</li> </ul>	Melanie Allan Kevin Christison Nelly Isyagi  Motseki Hlatshwayo/ Alexander Kefi	WOAH HQ AAHSC AU-IBAR SADC

	Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC) (15 min) Question time (15 min)		
<b>11:20-11:50</b>	<i>Coffee Break and Group Photo</i>		
<b>SESSION 1: Situation Analysis</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness of existing networks</li> <li>• Review/update existing AA disease control strategies</li> <li>• Aquatic animal disease situation in the region</li> </ul>			
<b>11:50-12:45</b>	<u>Case Studies:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ NACA experience (15 min)</li> <li>➤ WOH Asia and the Pacific Tokyo experience (10 min)</li> <li>➤ World Veterinary Education in Production Animal Health with emphasis on aquaculture (15 min)</li> <li>➤ WorldFish Zambia support to Southern Africa (15 min)</li> </ul>	Eduardo Leano Thitiwan Patanasatienkul Pierre Cadot Rose Komugisha Basiita	NACA WOH Asia and the Pacific WVEPAH World Fish
<b>12:45-13:00</b>	Main outputs from the World Aquaculture Society (WAS) African Chapter and its partners in Southern Africa.	John Walakira	WAS African Chapter
<b>13:00-14:00</b>	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
<b>14:00-15:15</b>	<u>Member states contributions:</u> The National Focal Point of Aquaculture of selected countries presents their “country profile” (success stories and challenges): surveillance, monitoring and reporting, opportunities, needs and challenges (15 min each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Zambia</li> <li>➤ South Africa</li> <li>➤ Mozambique</li> </ul>	Songe Mwansa Kevin Christison Lucia Santos Hita Andriamboavonjy Gilson Njunga	WOAH National FP for Aquatic Animals Zambia WOAH National FP for Aquatic Animals South Africa WOAH National FP for Aquatic Animals Mozambique

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Madagascar</li> <li>➤ Malawi</li> </ul>		WOA National FP for Aquatic Animals Madagascar  WOA National FP for Aquatic Animals Malawi
<b>15:15-16:00</b>	<p><u>Group discussion 1:</u></p> <p>Review of the status of aquaculture, aquatic animal health issues and opportunities for regional collaboration and stakeholder networking to improve implementation of aquatic SPS measures within the region (Reference to shared background documents)</p> <p>3 groups – rotation of facilitators between three topics (15 min each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aquatic animal health issues</li> <li>• Aquatic animal health opportunities</li> <li>• Regional collaboration and stakeholder networking</li> </ul>		WOA, AU-IBAR, NACA, SADC facilitators
<b>16:00-16:30</b>	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
<b>16:30-17:15</b>	Sharing of existing experience and show benefits from establishment of AAH zoo sanitary plans. (15 min each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ “Aquatic Veterinary Workforce: Needs for Southern Africa”</li> <li>➤ “Role of Research Institutes in Mapping Knowledge on Fish Diseases in Southern Africa Aquaculture”</li> <li>➤ “Women in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Southern Africa: AWFISHNET network and the contribution in improving sanitary aspects in the sector”</li> </ul>	David Scarfe  Maxwell Barson  Batuke Walusiku Mwewa	University of Pretoria  University of Botswana  AWFISHNET
<b>17:15-17:45</b>	<p><u>Sharing experiences:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ UNEP support to the aquaculture sector in Africa</li> <li>➤ FAO Support to the Aquaculture Sector in Southern Africa</li> </ul>	Levis Kavagi Berhanu Bedane	UNEP Africa FAO-Southern Africa
<b>17:45-18:30</b>	<p><u>Group discussion 2:</u></p> <p>GAP and SWOT analysis of the status quo in the regions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What has been done well</li> </ul>		WOA, AU-IBAR, NACA, SADC facilitators



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where do they see gaps</li> </ul> <p>3 groups - no rotation, 2 topics per group (30min) + Report back (15 min)</p> <p>Suggested topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public-private partnerships</li> <li>Surveillance for emerging diseases; Preparedness and response for emerging diseases</li> <li>Information sharing and networking</li> <li>Biosecurity</li> </ol>	
<b>After 19:30</b>	<i>Welcome dinner</i>	

**DAY 2 - Wednesday 26 July 2023**  
**Facilitator: Moetapele Letshwenyo**

<b>9:00-9:45</b>	<p>Summary and commentary of the first day's group discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group discussion 1 (20-25 min)</li> <li>Group discussion 2 (20-25 min)</li> </ul>	<i>all participants</i> WOAH, AU-IBAR, NACA, SADC facilitators	
<b>9:45-10:00</b>	<p><u>Member states contributions:</u></p> <p>Members of the private sector present their field of activity (success stories and challenges): current situation, opportunities, needs and challenges.</p> <p>➤ Zambia</p>	<p>Kunda Ndashe</p> <p>Royd Mukonda</p>	<p>Crocodile Producers Consortium</p> <p>Agro-solutions and Fish Farm Ltd</p>
<b>SESSION 2: Development of RAAHN Terms Of Reference</b>			
<b>10:00-10:30</b>	Plenary presentation of the draft Terms of Reference for the RAAHN	WOAH/AU-IBAR	
<b>10:30-11:00</b>	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
<b>11:00-12:00</b>	<p><u>Group discussion 3:</u></p> <p>Development of RAAHN Terms of Reference</p> <p>3-4 groups - no rotation, each group will focus on one section of the Draft Terms Of Reference (40/45 min) + report back (15/20 min)</p> <p>Suggested topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PPPs</li> <li>Emergency preparedness and response (including lab capacity and diagnostics)</li> </ol>	WOAH, AU-IBAR, NACA, SADC facilitators	

	<p>3. Research, development and knowledge sharing 4. Biosecurity</p> <p>[Both background documents and a template will be provided]</p>	
12:00-13:00	<p><u>Plenary discussion:</u> Validation/approval of all the points of the Terms Of Reference</p>	<p><i>all participants</i> WOAH, AU-IBAR, NACA, SADC facilitators</p>
13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
<p><b>SESSION 3: Development of RAAHN Institutional Framework</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft a statute within existing regional institutional framework with reference to SADC Strategy, Framework and Guidelines</li> </ul>		
14:00-14:30	Plenary presentation of the draft Institutional Framework for the RAAHN	SADC /AU-IBAR
14:30-15:30	<p><u>Group discussion 4:</u> Review and drafting/recommending up-dates of existing institutional RAAHN frameworks, adapting the Asia experience to the Southern African context. 3 groups - no rotation, each group will focus on one section of the Draft Institutional Framework (30 min) + report back (30 min) [Both background documents and a template will be provided]</p>	WOAH, AU-IBAR, NACA, SADC facilitators
15:30-16:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
16:00-17:00	<p><u>Plenary discussion:</u> Validation/approval of all the points of the Institutional Framework</p>	<p><i>all participants</i> WOAH, AU-IBAR, NACA, SADC facilitators</p>
17:00-17:30	Closing remarks of the second day	WOAH, AU-IBAR

**DAY 3 - Thursday 27 July2023**

**Facilitator: Mohamed Sirdar**

<p><b>SESSION 4: Development of RAAHN Inaugural Action Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify priority tasks to facilitate RAAHN operationalization</li> </ul>		
9:00-9:30	Plenary presentation of the draft Action Plan for the RAAHN How to generate a roadmap	WOAH, AU-IBAR
9:30-11:00	<p><u>Group Discussion 5:</u> Prioritizing actions with indicative timelines and resource requirements to facilitate the institutionalization and</p>	WOAH, AU-IBAR, NACA, SADC facilitators

	<p>operationalization of RAAHN into the REC and animal health (SPS) infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Near future (12 months) priorities</li> <li>• Long term (3 years) priorities</li> </ul> <p>3 groups - no rotation, each group will focus on one section of the Draft Action Plan (1 h) + report back (30 min)</p> <p>Suggested topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identification of laboratories for aquatic animal diseases in member countries.</li> <li>2. Potential laboratory twinning projects</li> <li>3. Assess available guidelines for biosecurity and biosafety, identify gaps and areas for improvement.</li> <li>4. Sharing information on the occurrence of WOAH listed diseases, other pathogens of regional significance and emerging diseases in the Region.</li> <li>5. Promoting research on aquatic animal diseases, epidemiology, pathology and one health in aquaculture</li> </ol>	
<b>11:00-11:30</b>	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
<b>11:30-12:30</b>	<p><u>Plenary discussion:</u></p> <p>Validation/approval of all the points of the Regional Action Plan</p>	<p><i>all participants</i></p> <p>WOAH, AU-IBAR, NACA, SADC facilitators</p>
<b>OFFICIAL CLOSURE</b>		
<b>12:30-13:00</b>	<p>List of recommendations – bullet points</p> <p>Closing remarks</p>	<p><i>all participants</i></p> <p><i>WOAH Delegate</i></p> <p><i>Director of Veterinary Services Dr Geoffrey Muuka</i></p>
<b>13:00-14:00</b>	<i>Lunch break</i>	
<b>FIELD TRIP</b>		
<b>14:00-17:00</b>	Visit of a Zambia Fish farm:	Host country

## Annex (2): Terms of Reference for the Regional Aquatic Animal Health Network for Southern Africa

### Definitions and Glossary

AAH	Aquatic Animal Health
Aquaculture	The controlled cultivation ("farming") of aquatic organisms such as fish, crustaceans, mollusks, algae and other organisms of value such as aquatic plants (e.g. lotus). Aquaculture involves cultivating freshwater, brackish water and saltwater populations under controlled or semi-natural conditions, and can be contrasted with commercial fishing, which is the harvesting of wild fish
AU-IBAR	African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FTC	SADC Fisheries Technical Committee
LTC	SADC Livestock Technical Committee
RAAHN SA	Regional Aquatic Animal Health Network for Southern Africa
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SC	Steering Committee
WOAH	World Organization for Animal Health

### Overview

Effective collaboration on aquatic organism health and welfare is essential for the sustainability of aquaculture and capture fisheries. Strengthening and harmonizing national and regional policies, legislation, regulatory frameworks and monitoring regimes is a priority given the transboundary nature of Africa's aquatic resources.

All stakeholders across the fish value chain have a role to play in the in the good management practices and control of aquatic organism and aquatic plant diseases. However, reports from regional aquatic organism disease mapping studies indicate that there are limited functional systems linking and coordinating fish value chain actors at a regional level in Southern Africa.

The proposed Regional Aquatic Organism Health Network for Southern Africa (RAAHN-SA) will mainly focus on building a framework of actors with the aim of mitigating the threats to aquatic organism production arising from aquatic organism diseases, improving the health and welfare standards of aquatic animals and aquatic plants and collaborating on aquatic organism health for the SADC region.

**The establishment of this network takes into consideration the:**

- importance of aquatic organism production in strengthening food security and safety in Southern Africa,
- increasing demand for quality aquatic organisms and their products,
- inter-connectedness and transboundary nature of aquatic ecosystems and landscapes need for a unified approach in aquatic health to reduce trade barriers among Member countries and other trading blocks,
- increased risks of spreading diseases due to international and national trade in aquatic organisms and aquatic organism products,
- need to improve the knowledge and diagnostic capacities within the region to better prevent, investigate and control aquatic organism diseases,
- need to improve production practices and systems to reduce the risks for disease occurrence and spread,
- need to manage risks on related indigenous species caused by translocation of live fish,
- need for better training of veterinarians' para-veterinarians and aquatic organism health professionals to better support the aquaculture industry,
- need to improve knowledge about best practices related to humane treatment, handling, transport, husbandry conditions, disease prevention measures, veterinary care, and overall quality of life for captive or farmed aquatic animals,
- implications for environmental and public health bearing in mind One Health plus climate change

**It is anticipated that the implementation of this network will result in:**

- improved management of aquatic organism health and welfare in the region,
- improved technical and skilled capacity for aquatic organism health in the region including upskilling and upgrading of laboratory capacities among Member countries,
- promotion and adoption of best-practices in the aquaculture and fisheries production,
- Increased support to aquaculture producers and fishers to enable adoption of best practices for AAH and aquatic ecosystem health, ensuring programmes are tailored towards ensuring small-scale players are part of the process,
- establishment of regional standards, protocols and guidelines as well as mobilization of resources for implementation,
- a greater understanding of the application of standards required to reach and maintain a health and welfare status that is compatible with inter-regional and international trade standards in aquatic organisms and their products,
- improved collaboration and sharing of information amongst the members and improved coordination of regional related activities.
- closer working relationships with sector reference institutions notably SADC, AU-IBAR, WOA, FAO, COMESA and other partners,
- harmonized regional and national aquatic organism disease control policies, strategies and plans,
- strengthened regional biodiversity,
- improved aquaculture and fisheries productivity, global competitiveness, and economic strength.

*Objectives*

The main objective of the RAAHN-SA is to promote productive and sustainable aquatic organism production while ensuring optimal welfare conditions throughout the aquaculture/fisheries sector by

sharing knowledge on aquatic organism disease prevention, early detection and control, diagnostics, surveillance, and related aspects.

**The network will undertake specific activities which aim to:**

- Regularly assess national and regional strengths and gaps in aquatic health management, consolidate a regional foundation and set specific targets to grow and complement the network and improve regional competitiveness and productivity,
- Set and align regional aquatic animal health standards,
- improve the prevention, early detection, and control of aquatic organism diseases in the region to secure sustainable growth in aquatic organism production and improved regional resilience,
- ensure that disease management, surveillance and control strategies within designated regions are applied in a harmonised, coordinated and sustainable manner in line with regional and international standards,
- address prudent use of antimicrobials as well as monitoring and surveillance of antimicrobial resistance in aquaculture,
- promote research on aquatic organism diseases, epidemiology and pathobiology,
- improve the preparedness and immediate response capacity and capability to aquatic organism disease emergencies in the region,
- Strengthen and build aquatic veterinary and para-veterinary capacity, and standards,
- Strengthen and build aquatic diagnostic and veterinary public health laboratory capacity,
- facilitate collaboration between WOA Reference Centres, AU-IBAR, national and regional aquatic organism disease laboratories and academic institutions to facilitate capacity building and exchange of expertise and dissemination of knowledge,
- support and promote standardization of methods to diagnose and confirm pathogenic agents,
- Identify diseases of regional priority & establish and share national pathogen lists,
- Improve the capacity of member of fisheries competent authorities in both livestock and fisheries departments to handle organism health issues,
- Promote research on topics such as stress reduction techniques, pain assessment methods, disease prevention strategies, improving captive environments, enrichment measures, and overall improvement in management practices that enhance the lives of captive or farmed aquatic animals,
- Facilitate and promote public and farmer awareness on aquatic animal diseases and biosecurity,
- Promote public private partnership collaboration to facilitate objectives,
- Promote and strengthen regional One Health,
- Promote improved aquatic animal welfare practices (One Welfare),
- Serve as a regional aquatic health advisory group and reference center for information and liaise/collaborate with other regional and continental Networks,
- Improve regional aquatic animal disease reporting,
- Take stock of aquatic resources and aquatic ecosystems,
- Provide oversight function/ guidance in the development, utilization and exploitation of transboundary aquatic resources,
- Raise awareness on aquatic health within and among Member countries,
- Investment in bio-security infrastructure,
- Restore aquatic ecosystem health and biodiversity,
- Curb unregulated trade, introduction and/ or movement of aquatic organisms,

- Protect the ecological integrity of sensitive landscapes including marine protected areas, gazette fish breeding grounds, etc.,

### *Membership and Governance*

1. The RAAHN-SA will be governed under the SADC Fisheries Technical Committee (FTC), in collaboration with the Livestock Technical Committee (LTC) on health issues. WOAHA, AU-IBAR and FAO serve as technical advisors in the RAAHN structures.
2. The RAAHN-SA includes the following countries comprised by WOAHA Aquatic Animal Health Focal Points and Fisheries Officers nominated by respective Member countries. The membership also includes other partners and organizations:
  - Angola
  - Botswana
  - Comoros
  - Democratic Republic of Congo
  - eSwatini
  - Lesotho
  - Madagascar
  - Malawi
  - Mauritius
  - Mozambique
  - Namibia
  - Seychelles
  - South Africa
  - Tanzania
  - Zambia
  - Zimbabwe
  - SADC Secretariat
  - WOAHA Reference Centres
  - AU-IBAR
  - FAO
  - WorldFish
  - Public and private universities, research institutions, private companies that focus on aquatic organism health, aquatic ecosystem health and have objectives aligned with those of the network.
  - Representatives from farmers' associations.
3. Fisheries and aquaculture & AAH programmes are initiatives driven by the governments of the SADC Member States. Similarly, the RAAHN SA shall be steered by the Member States.
4. In addition to the agencies responsible for the development of aquatic food systems in each country, there is a diverse range of stakeholder groups which contribute to & benefit from the development of sustainable aquatic food systems, such as:
5. Civil society (especially community-based organisations & non-governmental organisations
6. private sector,

7. International Cooperating Partners (ICPs), & other government agencies who may be represented in the membership of RAAHN SA.
8. Any individual organisation or institution with an expressed interest or demonstrable experience in aquaculture/aquatic animal health, biosecurity, environmental management and ecosystem health development may (i) request or (ii) be recommended by an existing member of the Network to join RAAHN SA. Such requests & recommendations shall be forwarded to the Steering Committee for approval, based on which correspondence shall be issued to the said individual, organisation or institution, confirming their membership to RAAHN SA.
9. All members have equal rights and commitments, however only Member Countries have voting rights.
10. Members will support the Steering Committee in planning and participation in relevant activities and fulfilling their roles and responsibilities in the Network.
11. Members share and disseminate relevant information with relevant stakeholders as deemed fit.
12. A Network member shall be entitled to:
  - Access information shared on the open access levels of RAAHN SA Portal,
  - Attend RAAHN SA meetings,
  - Share aquaculture/AAH BS related information on the portal with RAAHN SA members,
  - Participate in open discussions on the RAAHN SA portal,
  - Recommend new members to RAAHN SA,
  - Negotiated rates for participation in conferences/training workshops/courses, solicited scholarships/fellowships,
  - Annual awards/rewards across value chain players for outstanding/meritorious contribution to the region,
  - Call for the revocation of membership based on sound reasoning.
  - It should be noted that the SADC Member States, through the Steering Committee, ultimately reserve the right of membership to RAAHN SA.

#### *Steering Committee*

The activities of the network will be coordinated by a Steering Committee (SC) that constitute both member states and stakeholders nominated and elected by Members. The structure, functions and membership of the Steering Committee will follow the guidelines and policies of the SADC FTC in line with the statutes as enshrined at SADC.

An interim Steering Committee will be nominated and elected during the launch workshop to facilitate completing the establishment of the RAAHN-SA and integrating RAAHN-SA within SADC structures.

The SC will meet at least once a year. Additional meetings can be organised if required or following specific requests of Members. The main role of the SC is to:

- set the strategic direction of the RAAHN-SA,
- Assist Member countries with the establishment of National networks by prescribing structure and related logistics,
- select the members of ad hoc technical working groups that may be formed to deliver specific activities,
- revise and approve the short-term and long-term action plans,
- provide advice or direct input on budget and mobilization of financial resources to support the activities of the network,
- engage with other regional and continental networks for aquatic organism health and welfare to



- exchange experiences and explore synergies,
- ensure inter-regional coordination taking into consideration shared waterbodies,
- Mobilise resources for the functioning of the network,
- share and disseminate relevant information with other parties,

#### *Financial Support and Budget*

The SC of the RAAHN-SA develops its annual budget for submission to SADC FTC for approval and resource mobilisation with partners i.e AU-IBAR, FAO, WOAHA etc.

RAAHN— SA shall actively explore sources of in kind and financial support for its activities based on agreed priorities & work plans, including Member State contributions, non-governmental organisations, international organisations & international cooperating partners and the private sector. Financial support shall particularly be sought for the organisation, implementation, & attendance of face-to-face meetings of the Network & its Steering Committee.

Annex (3): List of participants of the Launch of the Regional Aquatic Animal Health Network for Southern Africa (RAAHN-SA)

No	COUNTRY	NAME	SURNAME	Affiliation /Role
1	Botswana	Maxwell	Barson	University of Botswana
2	Botswana	Bernard	Mbeha	Focal Point
3	Botswana	Montshwari	Molefe	Focal Point
4	Botswana	Motseki	Hlatshwayo	SADC Secretariat
5	Botswana	Alexander Shula	Kefi	SADC Secretariat
6	Botswana	Letshwenyo	Moetapele	WOAH, SRR SA
7	Botswana	Sirdar	Mohamed	WOAH, SRR SA
8	Botswana	Thekiso	Nomsa	WOAH, SRR SA
9	Comoros	Abou Ousseni	Mohamed	Focal Point
10	DRC	Jean Dihonga	Tshomba	Focal Point
11	DRC	Roger Mponda	Madiamba	Focal Point
12	Eswatini	Cecelia Zandile	Mlangeni	Focal Point
13	Eswatini	Boy Ronald Mabhojane	Mavuso	Focal Point
14	France	Melanie	Allan	WOAH, HQs
15	Kenya	Patrick	Bastiaensen	WOAH SRR EA
16	Kenya	Ajangale Nelly	Isyagi	AU-IBAR
17	Kenya	Hiver	Boussini	AU-IBAR
18	Lesotho	Palesa Caroline	Mphaka	Focal Point
19	Lesotho	Mankeane	Mofoti	Focal Point
20	Luxemburg	Pierre	Cadot	WVEPAH
21	Madagascar	Pierre Michel	Ralaivelo	Focal Point
22	Malawi	Gilson	Njunga	Focal Point

23	Mozambique	Lucia Berta Sumbana	Santos	Focal Point
24	Mozambique	Saquibibi Valgy	Ibraimo	Focal Point
25	Namibia	Heidi	Skrypzeck	Focal Point
26	Seychelles	Gelaze Jimmy	Melanie	WOAH Delegate
27	Seychelles	Rosabelle	Gendron	Focal Point
28	South Africa	Kevin William	Christison	WOAH AAH Commission, Focal Point
29	South Africa	Beleman	Semoli	Chief Director Fisheries
30	South Africa	Tlou Simon	Phukubye	Focal Point
31	South Africa	Gillian	Taylor	University of Pretoria
32	South Africa	Azwifaneli Rejoice	Muavhi	USDA
33	Tanzania	Hamisi Lussian	Nikuli	Focal Point
34	Tanzania	Latifa Daudi	Mreta	Sokoine University of Agriculture
35	Thailand	Eduardo	Leano	NACA, Expert
36	Uganda	John Kiremerwa	Walakira	World Aquaculture Society (WAS), Africa Chapter
37	Zambia	Mwansa	Songe	Focal Point
38	Zambia	Geoffrey	Muuka	WOAH Delegate
39	Zambia	Kunda	Ndashe	Crocodile Producers Consortium
40	Zambia	Evans	Mutanuka	DVS
41	Zambia	Loziwe	Njobvu-Chilufya	Zambia Aquaculture Project
42	Zambia	Chanda	Chitala	DVS
43	Zambia	Masuzyo	Nyirenda	DVS
44	Zambia	Blessing	Mapfumo	WAS
45	Zambia	Cyprian	Katongo	University of Zambia
46	Zambia	Tom	Malambo	DVS
47	Zambia	Yoseph	Mamo	COMESA

48	Zambia	Batuke	Walusiku-Mwewa	AW-Fishnet Zambia Chapter
49	Zambia	Jacqueline	Nkausu	DVS
50	Zambia	Vivian	Phiri	DVS
51	Zambia	Royd	Mukonda	Agrosolutions and Fish Farm Ltd
52	Zambia	Bernard	Mudenda	University of Zambia
53	Zambia	Walusiku	Mwewa	DVS
54	Zambia	Malili	Nakanyika	Zambia Aquaculture Development Project
55	Zambia	Rose Komugisha	Basiita	World Fish
56	Zimbabwe	Sitokozile	Sibanda	Focal Point
57	Zimbabwe	Milton	Makumbe	Focal Point
58	Zimbabwe	Berhanu	Bedane	FAO