

Concept Note

World Bank Special Day

Enhancing Aquaculture Potential in Africa: Insights, Innovations, and Investment through the AqualInvest Platform

Event Type: Full-Day Special Session (as part of the conference official program)

Organized by: The World Bank and partners

Occasion: World Aquaculture Society (WAS) Conference – Africa Region

Location and date: Entebbe (Uganda), June 25, 2025

1. Objective

To showcase the World Bank's comprehensive portfolio of aquaculture activities, with a special focus on the AqualInvest Platform, highlighting lessons, tools, and partnerships that support sustainable, inclusive, and investment-ready aquaculture across Africa.

2. Scope

This special day will present:

- Innovative tools, services and frameworks developed by the AqualInvest Platform and related activities
- Regional and global partnerships, including South-South cooperation
- Key focus areas such as aquafeeds, Artemia, seaweed, gender, and climate resilience
- Country-based technical assistance programs
- Application to geospatial tools to strategic planning and investment promotion in aquaculture
- Sector diagnostics and value chain analyses

3. Expected Outcomes

By the end of the event, participants will:

- Understand the strategic priorities and investments the World Bank is supporting across the African aquaculture landscape.
- Gain insights into technical tools and analytics developed under the AqualInvest Platform and related activities.
- Identify opportunities for regional collaboration, co-financing, and knowledge sharing.
- Learn from country case studies and explore emerging themes such as circular aquaculture, climate-smart aquafeeds, and nature-based solutions.
- Engage with Bank staff and technical experts to discuss future partnerships and scaling opportunities.

4. Target Participants

- Government representatives (ministries of fisheries, aquaculture, environment, finance)
- World Bank project teams and task team leaders (TTLs)
- Researchers, technical specialists, and implementing agencies
- Donor institutions and development partners
- Private sector investors and agribusiness developers
- NGOs and civil society organizations
- Youth and women's groups active in aquaculture

5. Description and Format

The **World Bank Special Day** will be structured into:

- High-level opening remarks
- Thematic sessions focused on core AqualInvest work areas
- Interactive panel discussions
- Regional case studies and technical deep dives
- Networking breaks to facilitate stakeholder exchange

Sessions will feature a mix of **World Bank specialists**, **regional counterparts**, **development partners**, and **private sector voices**, allowing for dialogue across sectors and geographies.

6. Agenda

| Time | Session |
|---------------|---|
| 08:45 – 08:50 | Opening Remarks – Dr Harrison Charo-Karisa (WB Representative) |
| 08:50 – 09:00 | Opening Remarks – Dr Ivan Abaho (NARO Aquaculture Director) |
| 09:00 – 09:40 | Session 1: Brief Overview of the World Bank's Aquaculture Portfolio <u>Launching of the WBG Global Aquaculture Report</u> Dr Harrison Charo-Karisa (WB representative), WWF representative and Moore Foundation representative. |
| 09:40 – 10:00 | Session 2: World Bank Tools for Aquaculture Investment Showcasing WBG actions under the AqualInvest Platform: Global Aquabusiness Investment Guide, Aquaculture Digital Roadmap and IFC investment activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Global Aquabusiness Investment Guide: Thomas Hetch (Advance Africa).- Aquaculture Digital Roadmap: Michael Philipps (Futurefish).- IFC aquaculture activities: Anita Louise (IFC representative).- TTL-Advisory Board on Aquaculture: Rahat Jabeen (TTL-ABA Representative) |
| 10:00 – 10:20 | Q&A Session |

| Time | Session |
|---------------|---|
| 10:20 – 11:00 | Coffee Break and Networking |
| 11:00 – 12:10 | Session 3: World Bank Country Spotlights Various Case studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leveraging technology to foster aquaculture expansion: Alexandra Pounds (Longline Environment) • ‘Regenerative Aquaculture: the environmental and economic benefits of nature-positive aquaculture’ and ‘Enhancing aquaculture sustainability with innovations in ecofriendly aquafeeds’’: Jonathan McKay (TNC) |
| 12:10 – 12:40 | Q&A Session |
| 12:40 – 14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 – 14:45 | Session 4: Emerging Themes in Aquaculture - WBG contribution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New and Emerging seaweed applications: Ruth Garcia Gomez (WB representative). • Integrated and Restorative Aquaculture: Bernadette Fregene (WFC Nigeria) • Artemia Value Chains: Patrick Sorgeloos (Gent University and Futurefish) • Spatial Planning in Inland Aquaculture: Martin Mwale (Zambia Government) |
| 14:45 – 15:40 | Q&A Session |
| 15:40 – 16:00 | Coffee Break |
| 16:00 – 16:45 | Session 5: Expert Panel on Regional Cooperation and South-South Learning Knowledge exchanges, technical training, and partnership opportunities Experts from WAS-Africa (Blessing Mapfumo), AUDA-NEPAD (Bernice McLean), Salin Krishna (AIT), and NACA (Eduardo Leao). |
| 16:45 – 17:30 | Q&A Session |
| 17:30 – 17:40 | Closing remarks (WBG representative) |