World Aquaculture Tanzania 2026 Conference (WA26T)
(inc. Aquaculture Africa 2026, Tanzania (AFRAQ2026)

CONFERENCE NAME	**World Aquaculture Tanzania incl. Aquaculture Africa 2026,** *"5th Annual International Conference and Exposition of World Aquaculture Society and African Chapter of the World Aquaculture Society"*
VENUE	Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
DATES	**December 1-4, 2026**
ORGANISERS	World Aquaculture Society (WAS)
HOST STATE PARTY	Government of the Republic of Tanzania (Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries – MLF)
CONFERENCE THEME	*"Aquaculture Driving Blue Transformation"*
CONFERENCE WEBSITE	https://was.org/meeting/code/AFRAQ26

The World Aquaculture Society (WAS) and its partners are organising the World Aquaculture Tanzania 2026 (WA26T), one of the leading global events for the aquaculture industry. The event will take place in Dar es Salaam, TANZANIA, from December 1-4, 2026, at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) - a world class conference and exhibition facility in Tanzania. Since 2022, the WAS has successfully hosted the Annual Aquaculture Africa Conferences (AFRAQs) in Egypt (2022), Zambia (2023), Tunisia (2024) and recently Aquaculture Safari Uganda (2025). See Uganda highlights video here.

World Aquaculture Conferences typically attract a diverse group of participants from nearly 100 countries - ranging from aquaculture professionals, producers, researchers, policymakers, industry representatives, development partners, students and various other stakeholders. **Nearly 2000 participants are expected at WA26T.**

The event will feature prominent plenary speakers, cutting-edge research presentations, an exhibition showcasing innovations in the aquaculture sector and much more. Attendees will have the opportunity to network, share knowledge, and collaborate on addressing key challenges and opportunities facing both African landscape and the global aquaculture industry. As Tanzania is amongst the top aquaculture producing countries in Africa, WA26T will offer a unique opportunity for the country to engage with a diverse audience and share experiences, advancements and innovations in the sector.

CONFERENCE VENUE

The Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) is one of the largest Convention Centres in Tanzania. This state-of-the-art convention centre lies in the heart of Dar es Salaam's CBD and can accommodate over 1000 delegates. It is surrounded by a wide range of budget and luxury hotels and a number of traditional and international restaurants offering rich diversity of local, African and international cuisine. JNICC has of recent become a global destination of choice for hosting many global professional conferences and tradeshows. More information about JNICC here.

CONFERENCE ORGANISERS

WA26T Tanzania's **Steering Committee (SC)** has been established to provide to provide strategic direction, guidance, and oversight for the conference, in alignment with WAS's conferencing guidelines. The Committee comprises of representatives from WAS, Ministry of Livestock and

Fisheries (MLF, Tanzania) and Zanzibar, SADC and African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), Universities (both local and international) and Industry association bodies. The National Organizing Committee (NOC) has also been established for coordinating all organizational, protocol, security and other logistical preparations for the event. NOC is spearheaded by the MLF. See section below for full list of members of the SC.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

The WA26T Conference will take place over three days and is composed of an Opening Ceremony, Plenary Sessions, Technical/Scientific Parallel Sessions, Student Sessions, Training Workshops, an Exhibition, various Side Events and Meetings. This year's theme is *"Aquaculture Driving Blue Transformation."* The program will address important aquaculture topics, highlighting the latest research and developments in Africa and globally. The parallel sessions will feature both oral and poster presentations in English, French, and Portuguese. The Conference Brochure includes a range of session topics that covers all aspects of aquaculture including *African Aquaculture Country Profiles, Aquaculture Investment/Financing in Blue economy, Aquaculture Governance, Species, Production Systems/Processes, Aquatic Animal Health, Aquafeeds, Markets and Trade, Socioeconomics and many other cross-cutting themes*. The complete list of session topics can be found in the Conference brochure. Aquaculture professionals are encouraged to submit abstracts for presentations. A detailed **Program Grid/Schedule** is currently being developed and will be published two weeks before the event.

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

WA26T encourages the submission of high quality oral and poster presentations. English is strongly encouraged, but French and Portuguese are also accepted. PowerPoint Presentations/Slides are strongly encouraged in English for everyone to follow through. In the main scientific/technical session, each oral presenter shall be entitled to no more than 15 minutes for a presentation. Authors of studies involving proprietary products or formulations should present this information in workshops or the trade show. For more information and to submit an abstract: click here.

CONFERENCE OPENING CEREMONY

The Conference's Opening Ceremony is scheduled for **Wednesday 2 December 2026**. Distinguished high-level dignitaries from various African governments are expected to attend. High-level representatives from WAS, along with partner organizations such as the African Union, East African Community, EU, FAO, World Bank and other development partners will also be present. A high-ranking government official from the host country, Tanzania will be invited to officiate the Opening Ceremony and procced to open the Exhibition Hall (ribbon-cutting). Additional highlights of the Opening Ceremony will include a Welcome Address, high-level speeches from representatives of WAS, AU, MLF and others. A short Honors and Awards Ceremony and a Student Spotlight Competition will follow. The detailed programme for the Opening Ceremony will soon be available on **WA26T's Programme Tab**.

KEYNOTE SPEECH

WA26T's keynote speech will strive to unify the audience and highlight the central message or theme of the event *"Aquaculture Driving Blue Transformation"*. WA26T has announced the renowned aquaculture expert in Africa, Professor Peter Britz (from South Africa) as its keynote speaker for 2026. His keynote address will focus on *"Why African Aquaculture Development*

Needs to Shift from a Technology Transfer Focus to a Value Chain Development Approach". To learn more about the keynote speaker click here.

CONFERENCE SPECIAL SESSIONS AND SIDE EVENTS

Aquaculture Africa Conferences (AFRAQs) have become strategic meeting hubs for developmental agencies, NGOs and institutions in Africa – where they can hold plenary talks, special meetings, seminars, strategic forums and satellite workshops of African and global aquaculture projects and activities. Some workshops and seminars are lined up by some of the Conference's key sponsors and partners such as, historically; African Union, World Bank, EU, GIZ, FAO, World Initiative in Soy in Human Health (WISSH), Aquaculture Network on Africa (ANAF) and some Universities. Private sector entities such as Aller Aqua, African Aquaculture Business Leaders Network (AABLN) and others often host farmer engagement sessions. Other planed special sessions include by C-Weed Mwani (Tanzania Seaweed Hub), Blue Economy Summit, Aquatic Animal Health, Women/Youth Mentor-Mentee Platform in Aquaculture. The WAS and its partners will also be celebrating the *UN International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026*, with special emphasis on women aquaculture farmers. Refer to the **Program Book**

MEETING HUB FOR INDUSTRY PLAYERS

WA26T Tanzania will feature meeting points for industry associations, industry panels, B2B meetings, farmers forums etc. Most of these will take place around the trade show/exhibition. Aquaculture Associations, Aquafeeds companies, Suppliers, Service providers, Developmental agencies etc will have the opportunity to engage with farmers through dedicated farmers sessions.

STUDENT PROGRAMME AND NETWORKING HUB FOR STUDENTS

A special programme dedicated for students has been organised at WA26T to enhance student participation and networking amongst students. This is composed of student presentations (poster/oral), student contests/awards, career mentorship sessions and networking opportunities. All students will benefit from a discounted student registration rate, applicable upon submission of a copy of your Student I.D. A few Tanzanian students will be appointed to play a direct role in the conference organisation, as student helpers or ushers. To learn more on WAS Conference Student Programmes and opportunities, visit www.wasstudents.org.

FARMERS DAY

WA26T Tanzania will offer special platforms targeting aquaculture producers/farmers especially micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The sessions will focus on strategic linkages with policy makers, developmental agencies, aquafeeds manufacturers/distributors and technology suppliers. Through case studies and panel discussions the sessions provide an opportunity for farmers to network, exchange ideas, and learn about new technologies and practices – and to recommend aquaculture policy directions. Visit the Conference program tab to learn more about the **Farmers Day and Associated Sessions**.

AQUACULTURE TOURS

Post event aquaculture tours can be organised to some of the aquaculture facilities in Tanzania. These include aquafeeds facilities, R&D Centres and some fish farms near the conference venue. Special guided tours may also be arranged directly with the aquaculture companies and universities or state-based projects in and around the country. On 5 December, WA26T has organised excursionery tours to Bagamoyo (about 60km from Dar es Salaam) - where a large scale

TANLAPIA Farm, Seaweed processors and sea cucumber farming facilities. See brochure for more information.

EXHIBITION

WA26T will feature an exhibition with leading companies and organisations showcasing the latest products, technologies, and services in the aquaculture industry. About 70 booths slots are available. This includes the Tanzanian Pavillion showcasing the country's aquaculture opportunities, projects and expositions. Booth assignments will be made on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested exhibitors may contact TRADE SHOW MANAGER: mario@marevent.com to reserve a booth and to receive an Exhibitor Manual with all Exhibit details. One can Register to Exhibit on link here: Exhibitors are encouraged to **reserve their booths early to secure the best spot!.**

SPONSORS AND SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

WA26T, Tanzania offers sponsorship deals ranging from Gold, Silver and Session Sponsors. Each sponsorship category comes with exhibition booth (s). Such sponsorships have provided mutual benefits for both WAS and the Sponsor, enabling WAS to organise a high-quality conference that will ensure increased brand visibility of the Sponsor, access to a targeted audience, and the opportunity to engage with potential customers. For more information on Sponsorship Options contact: WA26T CONFERENCE MANAGER: - mario@marevent.com or worldaqua@was.org. All WA26T sponsors are listed on WA26T promotional materials (flyers, brochures, website etc). **See flyer at Annex for a list of preliminary sponsors.**

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Attendees will be responsible for their own travel arrangements and expenses. Participants requiring visas must contact their nearest Tanzanian Embassy or Consulate. Most visa applications must be submitted online via the official Tanzania E-Visa website: https://visa.immigration.go.tz/. Yellow fever vaccination certificate is required for those from yellow-fever endemic countries. Official invitation letters (if needed) can be arranged with the Secretariat. Contact africanchapter@was.org. WA26T is arranging a selection of convenient hotels offering special rates for conference participants. Information on accommodation, travel options, and transportation details is available on the Trave Tab. To learn more about Tanzania, its entry requirements and other travel tips, visit: https://www.tanzaniatourism.go.tz/ or contact your travel agent. Foreign visitors entering mainland Tanzania through Dar es Salaam must hold a valid mandatory inbound travel insurance policy from the National Insurance Corporation (NIC), which took effect on October 1, 2026. Travellers without a valid policy (unless exempt) risk being denied entry. The listed price is USD44.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Early Bird Registration Reminder - Early Bird discount registration including the special discounts for participant from African countries and students will close on **October 30th, 2026.** However, late registrations and on-site registrations will still be accepted, but NOT eligible for the discounted price rate. Register early and save money!

Submission of Abstracts Reminder - Researchers, academics, and professionals are invited to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations at WA26T. The abstract submission deadline

is **November 10th, 2026.** Don't miss this great opportunity to share cutting-edge research and innovations with a global audience! To submit your abstract, click here

ABOUT WORLD AQUACULTURE TANZANIA 2026

World Aquaculture Tanzania (WA26T) is the premier international event for the global aquaculture community. With a focus on advancing sustainable practices, technology, and research in aquaculture, the event brings together African and global industry professionals, researchers, and innovators to celebrate the sector, share knowledge and collaborate on the future of the industry. WA26T is being held in conjunction with **Aquaculture Africa 2026 (AFRAQ26),** an event that is held annually at an identified country in Africa. See WA26T Promo video here.

LINKS TO REFERENCE MATERIAL (INCLUDING PAST CONFERENCES)

- ➔ World Aquaculture Safari Uganda 2025 Video [click here]
- ➔ Aquaculture Africa 2024 Tunisia Conference Video [click here]
- ➔ Aquaculture Africa 2023 Zambia Conference Video [click here]
- ➔ WA26T Conference Venue Information [click here]
- ➔ About WAS [click here]

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (SC)

Name	Designation / Organisation	COUNTRY
Prof. Mohamed Sheikh	Deputy Permanent Secretary (MFL) – Conference Chair	TANZANIA
Prof. Julius Manyala	Conference Co-Chair - WAS	KENYA
Dr Nazael Madalla	Conference Coordinator	TANZANIA
Dr Victoria Tarus	Director WAS Eastern Africa	KENYA
Dr Bernice Mclean	AUDA-NEPAD Representative	SOUTH AFRICA
Prof. Daniel Adjei-Boateng	Programme Support	GHANA
Mr Geoffrey Rucho	Aquaculture Association of Tanzania	TANZANIA
Dr Alexander Kefi	SADC Representative	BOTSWANA
Dr Samweli Limbu	Steering Committee Member	TANZANIA
Prof. Sebastian Chenyambuga	Steering Committee Member	TANZANIA
Dr. Amelia S. Buriyo	Steering Committee Member	TANZANIA
Prof. Peter Britz	Program Manager	SOUTH AFRICA
Dr Simon Rukera-Tabaro	Programme Support (French)	RWANDA
Dr John Mapunda	Programme Support	TANZANIA
ORGANISERS		
Mr Mario Stael	WAS - Ex Officio. Conference Organiser	BELGIUM
Mr John Cooksey	WAS - Ex Officio. Conference Director	USA
Mr Noah Cooksey	WAS - Ex Officio	USA
Mr Blessing Mapfumo	WAS - Ex Officio (Secretariat)	SOUTH AFRICA

IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS

For further details on registration, exhibition, abstract submission, special sessions, travel and other information, please visit the official WA26T website

- ⇒ For Conference Management Inquiries, contact Mr. John Cooksey at worldaqua@was.org or Mr. Mario Stael on mario@marevent.com
- ⇒ For Programme Sessions and Side Events, contact Prof. Peter Britz at p.britz@ru.ac.za
- ⇒ For Exhibitions, reach out to Mr. Mario Stael at mario@marevent.com
- ⇒ For All General Inquiries, contact WAS-AC Secretariat at africanchapter@was.org


WORLD AQUACULTURE 2026
Tanzania - with AFRAQ26
Dar es Salaam, December 1 - 4, 2026
www.was.org
5th Annual International Conference & Exposition
of the African Chapter of the World Aquaculture Society
"Aquaculture Driving Blue Transformation"
Organized By
WORLD AQUACULTURE Society
Hosted By
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Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar
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