Native Species Aquaculture in Africa:
From Biodiversity Stewardship to Commercial Scale

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Aquaculture in Africa has largely been built around non-native species, which have driven production but also present ecological, genetic and biosecurity risks. Native species aquaculture offers an opportunity to support food security, biodiversity conservation and resilient aquatic food systems. However, promising initiatives remain fragmented, with limited sharing of technical, commercial, and policy lessons.

The Native Species Aquaculture Alliance (NSAA) was established to accelerate the adoption of native species aquaculture by building a pipeline of scientifically grounded, commercially viable and investable models. Through collaboration between commercial producers, researchers, conservation organisations, investors and policymakers, the Alliance aims to generate and share the evidence needed to scale successful approaches.

The NSAA already works with commercial native species producers on Lake Tanganyika in Tanzania and Burundi. These partnerships serve as initial case studies for documenting technical, environmental and commercial lessons that can inform future native species initiatives.

Session Objectives & Intended Outcomes

This session invites organisations and individuals working with native species aquaculture in Africa to this session to identify common opportunities and accelerate learning across the sector. It will:

- Showcase native species aquaculture projects from across Africa that are part of the NSAA portfolio
- Identify the technical,commercial and policy barriers to scaling native species aquaculture and discuss practical solutions.
- Connect and align practitioners interested in contributing to a shared evidence base for native species aquaculture.
- Grow the NSAA as a collaborative platform for developing validated, investable native species aquaculture models that can accelerate responsible growth across the continent

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