



**FAO Workshop on Development of an Aquatic Biosecurity Framework  
for Southern Africa (Lilongwe Workshop)  
Sunbird Hotel, Lilongwe, Malawi, 22-24 April 2008**

**Recommendations and Follow-up Activities**

*In order to improve aquatic biosecurity in Southern Africa, the participants (see Annex 1) of the FAO Workshop on Development of an Aquatic Biosecurity Framework for Southern Africa recommended and/or requested that:*

1. Countries in the region should work closely in collaboration with FAO and OIE to collectively address matters pertaining to aquatic animal health and biosecurity.
2. FAO correspond to governments (Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe) participating in the FAO/TCP/RAF/3111 *Emergency Assistance to Combat Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome in the Chobe-Zambesi River System* to highlight the importance of establishing formal focal points on aquatic biosecurity (akin to those established under an OIE initiative) and to request for nominations. It was suggested that workshop attendees be strongly considered as the FAO focal point for aquatic biosecurity. The Terms of Reference (which will include responsibilities as well as capacity building needs) of the Focal Points for Aquatic Biosecurity will be developed.
3. FAO develop a follow-up regional project aimed at building capacity on aquatic biosecurity in Southern Africa which may include amongst others evaluating the legal framework for aquatic biosecurity and its linkage to biodiversity, production and trade). Several countries expressed their intention to write a letter of support/request to FAO for a regional project addressing both legal and capacity building issues.
4. Zambia through the University of Zambia's School of Veterinary Medicine (under the leadership of Dr Hang'ombe Bernard Mudenda), as potential regional diagnostic centre and Uganda as a regional coordination centre.
5. FAO develop a Southern Africa regional model on import risk analysis for the introductions and transfers of live aquatic animals.
6. A ministerial level meeting for Southern African countries should be held to discuss aquatic animal biosecurity needs.

7. A dedicated website on aquatic biosecurity and a regional aquatic biosecurity information network be developed and established to serve as a forum on aquatic biosecurity issues in the region; and appointed Mr. Wilson Waiswa Mwanja of Uganda to coordinate the establishment of an email group for networking on aquatic biosecurity issues as a first action.
8. A joint FAO/OIE statement should be prepared as an outcome of the workshop.

*The following follow-up activities are being initiated/completed.*

- The Aquatic Biosecurity Framework for Southern Africa containing the broad development needs and recommendations for projects and activities with associated timelines aimed at enhancing southern African region's (as well as capacity of individual participating countries) capacity to effectively manage aquatic biosecurity risks and the Lilongwe Workshop Report are being finalized.
- Correspondence concerning establishing a communication platform on aquatic biosecurity among fisheries and focal points (FAO and OIE) in southern Africa had been initiated. The representative from Uganda volunteered to take a lead on this.
- At the recommendation of the Lilongwe Regional Workshop, a number of FAO recommended focal points participated in the OIE seminar on "OIE international standards, a lever for growth in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Southern Africa" organized by the OIE Sub-Regional Representative, held in Maputo, Mozambique from June 10-12, 2008.
- Discussions are ongoing to include the Southern Africa Aquatic Biosecurity Framework in the broad FAO programme on SPADA (Special Programme for Aquaculture Development in Africa) and the aquatic biosecurity workshop participants to be included in the newly established Aquaculture Network for Africa (ANAF).
- Discussions are ongoing with country representatives in connection with development of a regional Technical Cooperation Programme on aquatic biosecurity.

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