



## **MAIN THEME FOR THE 4<sup>th</sup>FAR4ViBE CONFERENCE:**

**Fisheries and Aquaculture Research, Innovation, and management in a changing climate and landscape**

24 – 28 August 2026, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

## **CONFERENCE CONCEPT NOTE**

Aquatic systems that comprise streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans form a vital life sustaining environments that provide essential goods and services, support biodiversity, regulate climate, livelihoods, food security and national economies. These systems are the lifeline of many coastal and riparian communities and a multitude more living in the hinterlands. These systems form significant portions of the economies of many countries globally. The high-level panel for a sustainable ocean economy estimates that the ocean alone has contribute about 3 trillion dollars in goods and services annually, and its asset value at about 24 trillion US dollars<sup>1</sup>.

While African lakes constitute 27 percent of surface freshwater in the world, Lake Tanganyika alone contributes about 17% of the total global surface freshwater. The water resources of all the great lakes of Africa are immense; thus, it is sensible to understand what happens in them, their fisheries, biodiversity and invest in their conservation and sustainable management. The blue resources, freshwater and marine, contribute to ensuring food and nutritional security for over 200 million people in Africa<sup>2</sup> and generate income for many more. Tanzania alone commands about 32 percent of her landmass as blue resources, while the fisheries sector employs over 6 million people and provides about 30% of animal protein. However, the sector is faced with many challenges that require immediate attention and solutions, where research and innovations are required. This is true both at national, regional and global scales and, as such, collective efforts are required to find solutions to the challenges.

The Fisheries and Aquaculture Research for a Vibrant Blue Economy (FAR4ViBE) conferences are designed to collate research and development, technologies and innovations to benefit policy and contribute to a vibrant blue economic development in the Tanzania, and the African Great Lakes (AGL) and the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) regions. This is done among other things by presenting and disseminating research results generated by our own researchers and in collaboration with the global scientific community. The FAR4ViBE Conferences are poised to contribute to achieving national (e.g. Tanzania Development Vision (TDV 2025) and the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://oceanpanel.org/the-agenda/ocean-wealth/>

<sup>2</sup> Muringai et al. (2022) Unlocking the Potential of Fish to Improve Food and Nutrition Security in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Sustainability*. 2022; 14(1):318. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su14010318>



TDV2050); regional (EAC Agenda 2050); continental (AU Agenda 2063); and global (Agenda 2030) development visions and agenda, particularly the various SDGs that are linked to SDG 14—life below water, which is a cornerstone of the sustainable goals; and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Frameworks. The conference series will expound and interrogate how best to integrate research and innovation into policy, both from a basic and applied research point of views.

## **Thematic Overview**

The 4<sup>th</sup> FAR4ViBE Conference, which will take place during August 24-28, 2026, aim to promote evidence based aquatic resources production and management and blue economy development that is informed by relevant scientific data and innovations in the changing global climate. The conference will explore new emerging innovative technologies in digital data science and biotechnology as solutions to sound management of capture fisheries and aquaculture while maximizing the potentials for an inclusive blue economy. It will shed light on the challenges facing the fisheries sector, foster discussions and collaborations, and collate the best practices and recommendations to be presented to policymakers for their streamlining into aquatic resources management.

This year's conference is driven by prevailing conditions of changing global climate and the need to achieve sustainable development through innovative ways and creating resilience in aquatic food systems. It aims to unite scientists, policymakers and communities to address pressing challenges and shape the future of aquatic resources with the main focus on sustainable and inclusive blue growth by promoting responsible fisheries and smart aquaculture production. The conference will link scientific innovations and technology, food security and community livelihoods, mitigating climate change and promoting Policy and good governance by bridging science-policy gaps as pillars for successful utilization and management of aquatic resources. It will also illuminate biodiversity conservation issues and value addition technologies for upscaling to wider communities. It is anticipated that the conference will host about four hundred participants who will gather to share experience, exchange knowledge and innovations, foster collaboration and networking, explore new opportunities and bridge research gaps to sustainable aquatic resources management.

### **The conference sub-themes include:**

1. Blue Economy and Ocean Governance
2. Aquatic Ecosystems and Ecology
3. Digital Oceans and Lakes
4. Biotechnology and Fish Breeding



5. Sustainable Fisheries and Biodiversity conservation
6. Climate change and sustainable financing.
7. Socio-economics and fish value chains

## Conference Structure

The conference will last for three full days and will include events such as:

- Keynote speeches and Plenary sessions
- Interactive parallel sessions to encourage participation
- Poster presentations
- Exhibition of technologies and innovations from organizers and sponsors
- Fisheries and Aquaculture outstanding researchers' awards
- Best junior scientists oral and poster presentation awards
- Networking opportunities
- Excursion to the nearby Marine protected areas/ or the RUMAKI Man Biosphere Reserve at Rufiji Delta.
- FAR Marathon

## Key audiences

High-level dignitaries will include the **Minister for Livestock and Fisheries** who is expected to be the guest of honor during the opening ceremony, Representatives of development partners, Universities, regional and international partner research institutions, conservation organizations, and national, regional and international non-governmental organizations.

A live stream of the events will be available through a YouTube channel accessible to all through a link that will be shared widely.

In additions, to policymakers and scientific community, resource managers at various levels, university students and school children will be among the expected attendees since we intend to pass on the baton to the next generation of fisheries and aquaculture scientists and researchers. Furthermore, there will be fishers, fish processors, traders, and aquaculture enthusiasts in attendance.

## Organizing and Scientific Committee

The organizing and scientific committees include delegates and experts from research institutions (TAFIRI and ZAFIRI), Universities and NEMC, DSFA, TAFICO and regional and international research institutions. They will review and validate the main conference theme and sub-themes, keynote speakers, and will be involved in the evaluation of the oral and poster presentations. Furthermore, the Organizing committee has selected TwigaConnect to provide the event management services and social media engagement.



## Conference Sponsorship