



FAR4VIBE

FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE RESEARCH FOR A VIBRANT BLUE ECONOMY

**THE 4TH FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE RESEARCH FOR
A VIBRANT BLUE ECONOMY (FAR4VIBE) 2026 CONFERENCE**



1. Conference Overview and Logistics

The 4th FAR4ViBE Conference serves as a high-level strategic platform for aligning scientific innovation with the management of aquatic resources. The event is designed to strengthen sustainable blue growth across the African Great Lakes (AGL) and the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) regions.

Event Detail	Information
Title	The 4th Fisheries and Aquaculture Research for a Vibrant Blue Economy (FAR4ViBE) Conference
Venue	JNCC Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Dates	24 - 28 August 2026
Theme	Fisheries and Aquaculture Research, Innovation, and management for a sustainable blue economy
Host	Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI)

2. The Critical Importance of Aquatic Resources

Global and Continental Context

Aquatic systems—comprising streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans—are the primary lifelines for food security, global climate regulation and economic stability. The High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy estimates that the ocean contributes about \$3 trillion in goods and services annually, while its total asset value is a staggering \$24 trillion. The African lakes hold 27% of the world's surface freshwater, with Lake Tanganyika alone representing 17%. Understanding these vast resources is important for the regional leadership of the African Great Lakes (AGL) and the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) countries.

The Tanzanian Perspective

Tanzania is a primary custodian of these resources, with blue environments (territorial waters and internal waters—lakes/rivers) constituting approximately 32% of its total area. These resources provide the bedrock for national food security, supplying 30% of all animal protein consumed in the country and supporting the livelihoods of over 6 million people employed within the fisheries value chain.

The Call for Action

Despite their immense economic and ecological value, aquatic resources face systemic threats from climate change and over-exploitation. There is an urgent need to create resilience in aquatic food systems through research-driven innovations. Collective efforts are required to secure the nutritional and financial futures of the 200 million people across Africa who rely on these fragile ecosystems.

3. Strategic Objectives and Policy Alignment

The FAR4ViBE conference series is specifically designed to bridge the "science-policy gap." Rather than merely sharing data, the event aims to integrate and interrogate research results to ensure they are streamlined into governance and management practices.

The primary objectives include:

1. Collating Global Research:

Gathering world-class technologies and innovations to inform and benefit national and regional blue economy policies and strategies.

2. Disseminating Results:

Showcasing research generated by local and international scientific communities to ensure transparent and effective knowledge exchange.

3. Integrating Policy:

Interrogating both basic and applied research to identify best practices for vibrant, sustainable and inclusive blue economic development.

Policy Alignment Checklist:

The conference is strategically mapped to facilitate the realization of the following national, regional, and international frameworks:

- i) Tanzania Development Vision (TDV) 2025 and 2050
- ii) Tanzania Fisheries Sector Masterplan (2021/2022–2036/2037)
- iii) East African Community (EAC) Agenda 2050
- iv) African Union (AU) Agenda 2063
- v) United Nations Agenda 2030 (SDG 14: Life Below Water and related goals)
- vi) Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

4. Thematic Pillars and Sub-Themes

To guide the identification and recording of current challenges and future opportunities, the conference is structured around seven sub-themes:

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

Thematic Overview:

This conference promotes evidence-based management within the context of a rapidly changing global climate. By leveraging emerging innovations in digital data science and biotechnology, the event focuses on modernizing capture fisheries and scaling "smart" aquaculture production. The goal is to maximize the potential for inclusive blue growth, linking technological advancement directly to community livelihoods and climate mitigation.

5. Conference Structure and Program Highlights

The three-day program provides a multi-faceted approach to knowledge transfer, combining high-level scientific sessions with practical skill-building workshops and community engagement.

I. Scientific Sessions

- a. Keynote speeches and plenary sessions led by global thought leaders.
- b. Interactive parallel sessions and side events to facilitate focused topical debates and discussions.
- c. Poster presentations showcasing the latest research findings.

II. Awards & Recognition

- a. Fisheries and Aquaculture outstanding researcher awards.
- b. Best junior scientist awards for exceptional oral and poster presentations.

III. Practical Engagement

- a. Training Workshops: Dedicated sessions on Research and proposal writing, Lake ecology and paleolimnology, Introduction to research methods, and Data analysis.
- b. Exhibitions: Showcasing sustainable technologies and innovations from organizers and sponsors.
- c. Excursions: Field visits to Marine Protected Areas or the RUMAKI Man and Biosphere Reserve (Rufiji Delta).
- d. FAR Marathon: A community-led athletic event to raise awareness for blue resources.

7. Governance, Partnership, and Sponsorship

The governance of the conference reflects a deep commitment to institutional collaboration, overseen by a scientific committee of leading experts.

Organizing committee:

The organizing and scientific committees include experts from:

- Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI)
- Zanzibar Fisheries and Marine Resources Research Institute (ZAFIRI)
- University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM)
- Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA)
- Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST)
- National Environment Management Council (NEMC)
- Deep Sea Fishing Authority (DSFA)
- Tanzania Fisheries Corporation (TAFICO)
- Marine Parks and Reserves Unit (MPRU)
- Fisheries Education and Training Agency (FETA)
- Regional and international research institutions

Note: TwigaConnect is the designated event manager for logistics and social media engagement.



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Sponsors and Partners:

The following organizations and institutions have indicated commitment

- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
- Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (NIGLAS)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) through the FISH4ACP project
- Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST)
- Geita Gold Mining (GGM)

