

**The enormous potential for aquaculture in Africa will be featured in a special event at FAO Conference Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> of July.**

The launch of the Blue Transformation programme of FAO last year highlighted the growth potential of sustainable aquaculture. With the imminent agreement on Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture the global community now has a roadmap for **all actors striving to secure sustainable medium and small-scale aquaculture, not the least where the need is most acute in the least developed countries**. The African continent has the fastest growing population of all the World's continents. This carries with it many opportunities and challenges including, amongst others, an adequate growth in the production of nutritious foods with low environmental impact, like aquaculture. In a workshop in January 2023 organized by the World Bank, Stanford University and the Aquatic Blue Food Coalition, with participation from GEF, FAO and a great number of leading stakeholders an initiative was launched to address this issue in a pragmatic way.

This initiative will now be showcased at FAO Conference to the global audience attending the important event entitled "*The enormous potential for aquaculture in Africa*". This will take place on Monday, 3 July 2023, from 12.30 and 14.00 hours in the Sheikh Zayed Centre.

The joint proposed side event is based on a proposal from the Government of Iceland, Government of Madagascar, the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), the Aquatic Blue Food Coalition of the UN FSS and the Global Action Network for Sustainable Food from the Oceans and Inland Waters for Food Security and Nutrition in Norway.

List of speakers will be announced soon.