

Global Programme “Sustainable Aquatic Food” in Zambia (SAF Zambia)

Small-scale producers of sustainable aquatic food have successfully contributed to the transformation of food systems in Zambia

The challenge

Hunger and malnutrition are two of the greatest global challenges. In Zambia the majority of the rural population depends on subsistence agriculture, mostly engaging in the production of staple starch crops. The resulting low food diversity produced by farmers leads to an insufficient micronutrient intake for much of the population.

According to the 2023 FAO report on the state of food security and nutrition in the world, Zambia ranks among the worst affected countries regarding malnutrition and hunger with a prevalence of undernourishment in the total population of 29.8% a prevalence of severe food insecurity of 31.2% and a stunting rate of 35% (ZDH 2018).

As a popular and affordable food in Zambia, fish can help combat undernourishment and malnutrition as it is an excellent source of important nutrients.

In recent years, aquaculture has been on the rise and small-scale aquaculture is increasingly being integrated into the food-production systems of farmers in Luapula Province. The rapid increase in the number of aquaculture ponds means there are many relatively new entrants into the sector. However, it is affected by various issues such as the lack of quality fingerlings, high prices for fish feed, lack of access to finances, scanty knowledge in fish feed formulation among research officers, extension officers and farmers, and effects of climate change. To enhance aquaculture efficiency and overall production requires addressing these issues.

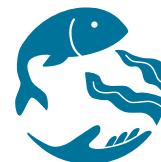
Project name	Global Programme “Sustainable Aquatic Food” in Zambia (SAF Zambia)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Luapula Province: Kawambwa, Mansa, Mwense, Samfya, Chembe, Chipili Districts
Government partners	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MFL), Department of Fisheries (DoF)
Target population	Food-insecure households, artisanal aquaculture farmers and value chain actors
Duration	01/2025 – 12/2028
Budget	EUR 1,200,000

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The programme contributes to achieving these sustainable development goals:



The **Global Programme Sustainable Aquatic Food** contributes to a positive change in aquatic food systems, while conserving marine ecosystems. Respecting planetary boundaries leads to sustainable production. Building technical and economic capacities, strengthening small-scale producers and fisheries organisations, and the support of equitable policies are core targets.



By improving the access of aquaculture farmers to knowledge, markets, high-quality inputs, and financial services will support the establishment of better management practices. Supporting authorities improves development of cooperatives and inclusive regulations of the fisheries sector and brings together best-practice from across the country.



Photo left: Fish farmer couple catching.

Photo center: Fish pond in Luapula Province.

Photo right: Family having lunch with fish in Lukwesa.

Our approach

The project supports aquaculture farmers to operate sustainably and efficiently. We aim to expand job opportunities in the sector, increase production and contribute to an improved nutrition status of the population.

Women are an integral part of the fish trade in Zambia. The project is paying attention to women's needs and has the objective of securing recognition of their role along the value chain.

- **Gender-sensitive aquaculture training** to increase production of sustainable aquatic food. Small-scale fish farmers in the Luapula Province receive training in pond aquaculture.
- **Policy dialogue** is supported to strengthen criteria for sustainable net cage aquaculture in Zambia.
- **Knowledge transfer via digital platforms** to promote sharing of knowledge, innovations and different approaches.

The benefits

Trainings in sustainable aquaculture empowers small-scale producers, improves their technical and financial capacity, and increases their production of sustainable aquatic food. Gender-sensitive aquaculture trainings and climate smart aquaculture practices increase resilience and help small scale producers adapting to climate shocks. This contributes to the sustainable transformation of food systems with income opportunities as well as an improved nutrition security for the population of Zambia.

Success factors

Zambia has policy frameworks providing direction and creating a suitable environment for aquaculture development. There is a strong political will of the government to increase fish production. SAF Zambia is in line with the National Fisheries and Aquaculture policy, the Comprehensive Agricultural Transformation Support Program (CATSP), aligned to the Eighth National Development Plan (8NDP) prioritizing food security, economic transformation and the creation of jobs

Outputs in Zambia



1,000 agricultural enterprises, 30 % of which are managed by women, have increased their production by an average of **30 %**.



1 digital platform has made solutions for the promotion of sustainable aquaculture widely available.



In line with regional aquaculture strategies and action plans, nationally recognized **criteria for sustainable net cage aquaculture** are integrated in Zambia's national management instrument.

Where we work



This geographical map is for informational purposes only and does not constitute recognition of international boundaries or regions; GIZ makes no claims concerning the validity, accuracy or completeness of the maps nor assumes any liability resulting from the use of the information therein.

as key intervention areas / objectives. In addition, SAF Zambia contributes to the implementation of the National Blue Economy Strategy and Action Plan (2024 – 2034) of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MFL).

Furthermore, SAF Zambia builds on the experiences, lessons learnt and networks of the ongoing Fish for Food security project in Zambia (F4F) generating synergies for implementation.

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