WAS SPECIAL FRENCH SESSION

Theme: *Unlocking Sustainable Growth: Achievements, Challenges, and Cross-Border Opportunities in Aquaculture Across Central Africa and Francophone Countries*

Background and objectives

Aquaculture is recognized globally as the fastest-growing food production sector and a vital pillar for food security, nutrition, rural employment, and the blue economy. Across Central Africa dominated by French speaking countries and broader Francophone regions, natural fish stocks face increasing pressure from overexploitation and climate variability. Despite abundant freshwater and marine resources, the sector particularly in Central Africa, remains largely artisanal or semi-intensive, constrained by high feed costs, limited access to quality fingerlings, gaps in technical training and fragile value chains. However, local innovators, researchers, and small-to-medium enterprises are developing homegrown solutions such as using local agricultural by-products for feed, low-cost recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS), and digital market linkages. In addition, technical frameworks shared via platforms like the World Aquaculture Society and FAO Blue Transformation demonstrate a rising momentum. During WA25, Central Africa members build a strong connection. WA26T is then an opportunity to strengthen that network through a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform for assessing progress, sharing best practices, and defining a collaborative roadmap to scale sustainable aquaculture across Central Africa and Francophone partner nations.

Date: Friday 4th December 2026

Time: 10:50-12:30 noon

Location: **KATAVI ROOM**

Attendees: All Central African or representatives, all francophone, WAS-AC President, WAS strategic partners: AUDA-NEPAD, Aller Aqua

Tentative Agenda

- Introductory remarks by the Chair (3mm)
- Welcome address by WAS-AC President (5 mn)
- Objectives of the round table and introduction of panelists by the chair (10mn)
- Core Discussion (1H)
- Interactive questions and answers (all) (30 mn)
- Any Other Business (all) (5mn)
- Summary of key takeaways (5mn)
- Group photo (2mn)