





MALABO  
MONTPELLIER  
FORUM

# 15<sup>TH</sup> MALABO MONTPELLIER FORUM

*FISH-FRIENDLY: Policy Innovations for  
Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa*



 **January 30, 2025**  
**9:00 – 12:30 (GMT)**  
 **Online**



is jointly facilitated by



**zef**  
Center for  
Development Research  
University of Bonn



# CONCEPT NOTE

The [Malabo Montpellier Forum](#) provides a platform to facilitate dialogue and exchange among high-level decision-makers on African agriculture, nutrition, and food security and to promote policy innovation. The Forum Co-Chairs are [H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn Boshe](#), Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia, and [H.E. Dr. Assia Bensalah Alaoui](#), Ambassador at Large to His Majesty King Mohamed VI of Morocco. The Forum meets twice a year, and every meeting is guided by a technical report prepared by members of the Malabo Montpellier Panel. The Forum attracts high-level decision-makers.

The theme of the Panel's forthcoming report, which will be launched at the virtual meeting of the Malabo Montpellier Forum on January 30, 2025, is ***FISH-FRIENDLY: Policy Innovations for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa***. The report focuses on successful approaches, that is, institutional, policy, and technical innovations and programmatic interventions among African countries to enhance the role of aquatic foods in the transformation of food systems.

Africa has made notable progress in expanding its fisheries and aquaculture sector. However, it faces significant challenges from climate change, including rising sea temperatures, drought, and altered rainfall patterns that impact fish habitats. Additionally, pollution and the use of harmful chemicals degrade freshwater and marine ecosystems, while overfishing and Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing deplete fish stocks. Adopting sustainable fishing and aquaculture practices presents an opportunity for African countries to improve market access, with increasing global demand for sustainably sourced seafood – creating more jobs along the fish value chain. To realize these opportunities, stronger governance frameworks, enhanced transboundary cooperation, effective fisheries management, and investments in monitoring, control, surveillance personnel, and technologies are needed. Building capacity in fishing communities

through targeted training programs will help promote sustainable practices. At the same time, protecting livelihoods and supporting small-scale processors with technical training and access to advanced equipment and improved infrastructure will reduce postharvest losses – a major issue in the value chain.

To support governments' efforts with evidence-based and practical recommendations, the Malabo Montpellier Panel prepared a report on successful and effective approaches to enhance the sustainability of Africa's fisheries and aquaculture.

**The report reviews the current state of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Africa, the sector's continental and global policy frameworks, and its policy and strategy priorities in Africa. The report includes four country case studies on Ghana, Malawi, Morocco, and Mozambique – countries that have shown success and progress in growing their fisheries and aquaculture sector. The report highlights areas of progress and presents opportunities for replication and scaling up successful interventions for transforming aquatic food systems.**

The Malabo Montpellier Forum will take place directly after COP29 and coincides with the Post-Malabo CAADP Strategy and Action Plan: 2026-2035, thereby providing an opportune moment to draw a roadmap of action on strengthening the role of fisheries and aquaculture in building resilient food systems in close alignment with the Africa Blue Economy Strategy.

The meeting of the Forum will be held in three parts: a technical part drawing on the findings and recommendations from the Panel's report, reflections on the outcomes and lessons from the report, and a high-level policy roundtable composed of senior representatives from African governments, academia, development partners, civil society, and the private sector.

## About the Malabo Montpellier Panel

The Malabo Montpellier Panel convenes 17 leading experts in agriculture, engineering, ecology, nutrition, and food security. It aims to facilitate policy choices by African governments to accelerate progress toward food security and improved nutrition. The Panel identifies areas of progress and positive change across the continent and assesses what successful African countries have done differently. It identifies the institutional and policy innovations and program interventions that other countries can best replicate and scale. The related Malabo Montpellier Forum provides a platform to promote policy innovation; it uses the evidence produced by the Panel to facilitate dialogue among high-level decision-makers on African agriculture, nutrition, and food security. For more information, please visit [www.mamopanel.org](http://www.mamopanel.org).

### Forum and Panel Inquiries

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