



FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE

Strengthening Africa's Blue Bioeconomy
18th GFFA: Water. Harvests. Our Future.

Expert Panel 6 Concept Note

 **January 16, 2026**  **9:30 – 11:00 AM CEST**

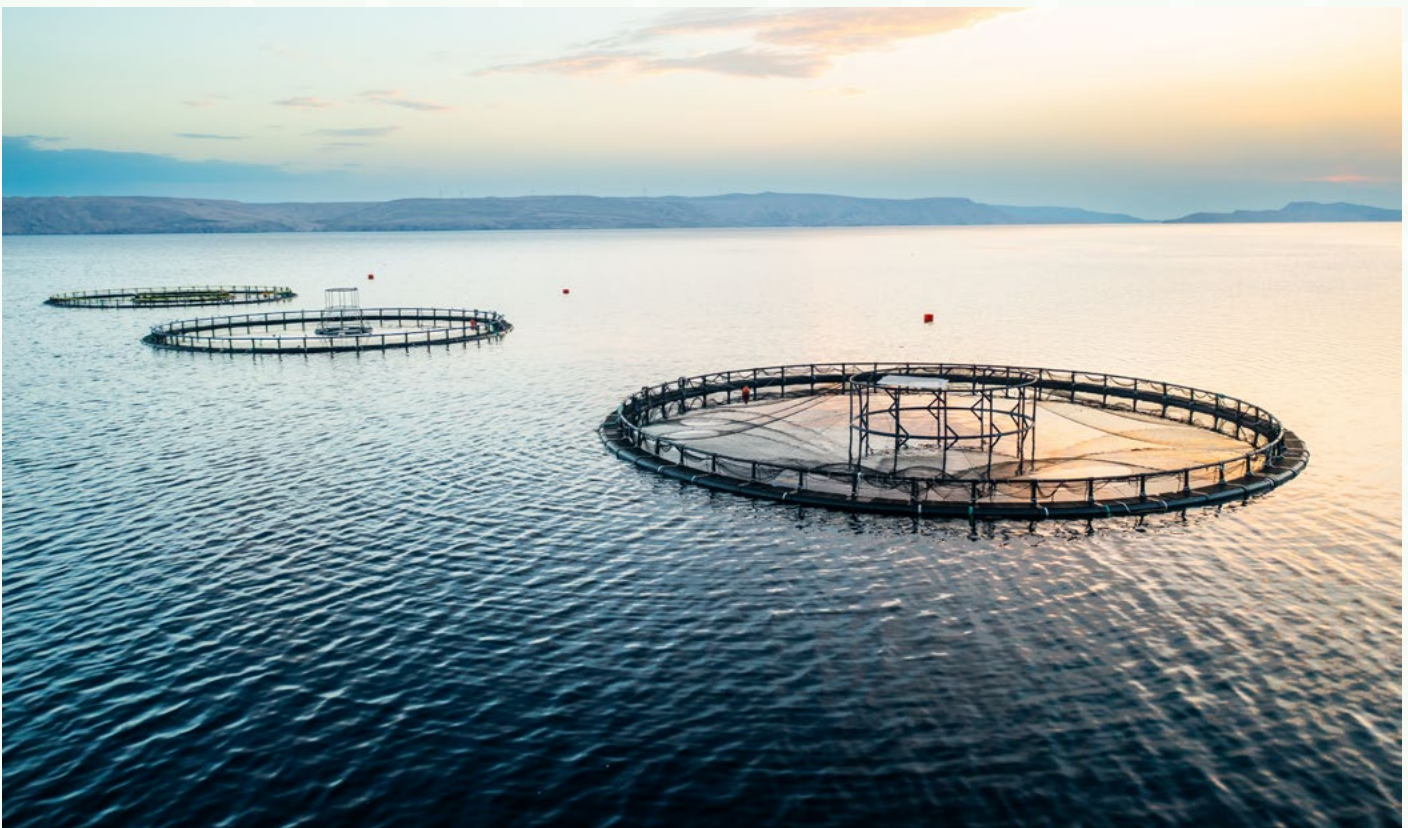
 **CityCube Berlin, Level 3**

Background

Africa's extensive coastlines, rivers, and freshwater lakes provide a strong foundation for the blue bioeconomy. Capture fisheries and aquaculture have expanded, with Africa now leading global aquaculture growth. The sector supplies 18 percent of Africa's animal protein, employs over 6 million people, and generated USD 8.5 billion in exports in 2022. Rising populations, urbanization, and incomes are driving increased fish demand, presenting opportunities for value addition, contributing to sustainable growth and development.

However, challenges such as overfishing, limited infrastructure, pollution, climate change, and resource depletion constrain development. The Malabo Montpellier Panel's [Fish-Friendly](#) report highlights how African governments are addressing these issues through innovative policies, institutional reforms, and programmatic interventions that boost sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. The evidence-based interventions in the report illustrate how integrated governance, investment, and innovation can drive inclusive growth, strengthen resilience, and deliver environmental benefits. These align with regional frameworks, such as the African Union's 10-year CAADP strategy (Kampala Declaration), and global commitments, including the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, offering lessons for sustainable aquatic resource management.

The Expert Panel/side event at GFFA 2026 will build on these insights by providing a platform for key stakeholders to exchange knowledge and explore how strengthening the blue bioeconomy can sustainably enhance food security, livelihoods, and aquatic ecosystems. Discussions will further showcase innovations in policy and research, as well as strategies to address challenges, such as investment gaps.



Agenda (90 minutes)

Agenda Item	Speaker	Duration
Opening remarks	Dr. Katrin Glatzel – MC Director for Global Strategy and Programs, AKADEMIYA2063	5 min
Keynote presentation	<p><i>Context of Africa's blue bioeconomy & Lessons from the MaMo Panel's "Fish-Friendly report."</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Aisha Musaazi S. Nakitto Head of Policy Innovation Unit, AKADEMIYA2063 	10 min
Moderated Panel discussion	<p>Moderator: Dr. Hans-Joerg Lutzeyer, Active Senior, EU-African Union Food Systems R&I, European Commission</p> <p><i>Innovative pathways for a blue and circular bioeconomy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof. Dr. Raimund Bleischwitz Scientific Director & Professor for Global Sustainable Resources Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research, University of Bremen <p><i>Effective Policies and Investment Strategies in the Blue Bioeconomy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Akim Mohamed Daouda Founder and CEO, Mwaana Inc. Former CEO of FGIS, the Gabonese Strategic Investment Fund <p><i>Algae Innovations in Food, Farming & the Bioeconomy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Julia Lange Coordinator; Bioökonomie auf Marinen Standorten (Bioeconomy at Marine Sites) <p><i>Proven interventions for Sustainability and Climate Resilience in Blue Bioeconomy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Zewdu Abro Adoption and Impact Assessment Economist International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe) 	40 min
Question & Answer	Audience and Panelists	30 min
Closing Remarks	Dr. Debisi Araba Managing Director, AKADEMIYA2063	5 min

Session Inquiries

Dr. Aisha Musaazi Sebunya Nakitto
Head of Policy Innovation Unit, AKADEMIYA2063

✉ amnakitto@akademiya2063.org