



Government of Malawi

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Department of Fisheries

NATIONAL FISHERIES AND
AQUACULTURE POLICY

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1.0 Preamble

- 1.1 Malawi's development policy expresses the need for reduction of poverty, ignorance and disease by the achievement of rapid and sustained economic growth, an improvement in income distribution and a reduction in the instability of welfare for both the individual and the nation. The policy recognises that if the welfare of Malawi is to be further increased economic growth will have to exceed population growth. The performance of agriculture will be critical, and other natural resources, where viable, need to be exploited.
- 1.2 The fisheries sector has a key role to play in poverty reduction through the provision of rural employment and, more importantly, through its contribution to household food security. Twenty percent of Malawi's area is covered by water with Lake Malawi being the largest and most significant water body in terms of fish production. The others (Lake Chilwa, Lake Malombe, Lake Chiuta and the Lower Shire Valley) contribute varying amounts to the total production but are all of high local importance. Per capita consumption of fish is however, declining as the human population in Malawi grows at a rate of 2.0% per annum and the potential for increased fish production from the natural waters of Malawi is limited.
- 1.3 Fish provides a major source of protein supply, estimated at approximately 70% of animal protein and 40% of the total protein intake for the majority of the rural poor. Fish also provides essential minerals and vitamins, is available throughout the year, is accessible to the vast majority of the people, is available in times of drought and remains largely within the purchasing power of the majority of the population. Fish guarantees a nutritionally balanced diet to a population suffering from high levels of malnutrition.
- 1.4 The fisheries sector provides employment opportunities to over 200,000 people and supports about 14% of Malawi population which resides along the lakeshores of Lake Malawi through fishing, processing, marketing, fishing gear construction, boat building and other ancillary activities.
- 1.5 While the potential importance of fisheries resources in meeting food security and nutritional needs is apparent, so are the inevitable pressures that will be exerted on these resources as Malawi's human population increases. There is trade-off between long-term sustainable resource use and short-term consumption of stocks and depletion of natural capital.
- 1.6 The fisheries policy therefore, aims at maximizing the sustainable yield from the national waters of Lakes Malawi, Malombe, Chilwa, Chiuta, from the Shire River, from other smaller river systems and from small natural and man-made water bodies. Secondary objectives are to improve the efficiency of exploitation, processing and marketing, promote investment in the fishing

industry, rural fish farming units and exploit all opportunities to expand existing and develop new aquatic resources.

1.7 This policy represents an integrated policy framework for fisheries and aquaculture in Malawi. The objectives and strategies were reached through an exhaustive consultative process that took into account the needs of all stakeholders in the industry and on community participation in the management of fish resources.

2.0 Fisheries Policy and Guiding Principles

2.1 Mission Statement of the Department

The Department of Fisheries in Malawi provides optimal framework conditions and excellent services to enable national fisheries industry to satisfy local demand for fish and increases incomes of people dependent on fish. The Department is the leader in collaborative management and sustainable use of aquatic resources in Southern Africa.

2.2 Policy Goal

The fisheries sectoral policy therefore, aims at maximizing the sustainable yield from the national waters of Malawi and man-made water bodies. Secondary objectives are to improve the efficiency of exploitation, processing and marketing of quality fish products, promote investment in the fishing industry, rural fish farming units and exploit all opportunities to expand existing and develop new aquatic resources. Particular care will be taken to protect endemic fish fauna, not only because these are scientific and educational assets, but also because they represent a major economic resource.

2.2.1 The paramount responsibility of the Department of Fisheries remains the protection of the existing fish resources by means of appropriate research, the collection and analysis of the relevant data and the application of appropriate control mechanisms.

2.3 General Objectives

2.3.1 To monitor and, where appropriate, control the exploitation of fish, directing and regulating production within sustainable limits for each fishery, and using the law to safeguard the resources from any other threat.

2.3.2 To undertake a programme of research in order to identify and quantify under-utilised fish resources, particularly those in the offshore waters of Lake Malawi

2.3.3 To disseminate to those concerned, the results of research and development to improve fisheries management, fishing, fish handling and processing techniques;

2.3.4 To foster greater community involvement in resource management to improve the effectiveness and appropriateness of management initiatives;

2.3.5 To develop the institutional capacity of the Fisheries sector;

- 2.3.6 To promote fish production from smallholder and large fish farming operations;
- 2.3.7 To prohibit the introduction of live exotic fish species unless and until scientific evidence justifies otherwise.

3.0 Specific Fisheries Objectives, Guiding Principles and Strategies

3.1 Fisheries Extension

3.1.1 Guiding Principle

The strategies available to the Department of Fisheries in protecting or managing the fisheries resources include those of extension, research and enforcement of fisheries regulations. While in the past major emphasis was placed on the use of enforcement to police fisheries regulation, the low effectiveness and high cost of this strategy in fisheries management has created the need for an extension approach which fosters greater community participation in fisheries management. The need to strengthen the extension service in order to implement an effective participatory management of the fisheries has been recognised.

In Malawi, artisanal or small-scale fishing is one of a more diverse food production and income generating activities. Fisheries and aquaculture are supported more often in the framework of integrated rural development. The importance of the role of women in fisheries development would be translated into women's practical involvement in fish production, conservation, processing and marketing.

3.1.2 Extension Goal

To support local communities and the private sector in the development of capture fisheries and aquaculture.

Objective 1.1 To mobilise communities to participate and play an active role in fisheries management and fish farming (aquaculture).

Strategies: 1.1.1 Facilitate formation of fisheries management institutions e.g. Beach Village Committees (BVCs).

- 1.1.2. Train community groups (e.g. BVCs) to conduct formalised meetings (agenda, procedure, and record keeping for the User Group Committee as well as for the Department of Fisheries) on all aspects of fisheries management.
- 1.1.3. Promote and facilitate the introduction of fish farming in rural communities.

Objective 1.2: To improve effectiveness and efficiency of the extension service.

- Strategies:
- 1.2.1 Elaborate and implement annual workplans.
 - 1.2.2 Design, test and introduce a monitoring and evaluation system for extension service.
 - 1.2.3 Set clear rules and guidelines for the use of equipment (transport, etc.) to improve co-ordination between different sections of the department.
 - 1.2.4 Identify areas of co-operation with other extension services and co-ordinate activities if and when feasible.

Objective 1.3 To distribute extension messages on fisheries and on environmental issues to sensitise the fishing communities.

- Strategies:
- 1.3.1 Produce extension messages based on needs assessment meetings and information collected in fishing communities.
 - 1.3.2 Form an Extension Content Committee responsible for the production and publication of extension messages.
 - 1.3.3 Test different methodologies for the transfer of extension messages.
 - 1.3.4 Identify and address relevant environmental issues.
 - 1.3.5 Conduct regular field trips to support capacity building in fishing communities.

1.3.6 Promote and support private investment in fish farming and capture fisheries.

Objective 1.4 To motivate extension personnel to improve effectiveness by establishing functional personnel development plans.

Strategies: 1.4.1 Formulate clear job descriptions for all personnel of the extension service.

1.4.2 Institute an effective regular in-service programme based on assessed needs.

1.4.3 Conduct general refresher courses for extension personnel.

1.4.4 Organise up-grading courses for extension staff.

1.4.4 Improve district and inter-departmental co-ordination and co-operation.

1.4.5 Conduct regular monitoring meetings at all departmental levels (National, Regional, District) to improve flow of information and supervision.

Objective 1.5 To review research priorities to address actual fishing community needs/problems and to make use of indigenous fisheries knowledge.

Strategies: 1.5.1 Organise special village meetings with research and extension personnel to identify areas of research required by communities to support participatory fisheries management or fish farming.

1.5.2 Conduct biannual review meetings with research and extension personnel at regional level to improve information and co-operation.

1.5.3 Conduct annual meetings for research and extension to exchange information and to develop joint work programmes based on actual needs.

- 1.5.4 Invite representatives of community management institutions to participate in annual meetings for research and extension to exchange information and also develop joint work programmes based on actual needs.

3.2 Fisheries Research

3.2.1 Guiding Principle

The role and function of the research unit of the Department of Fisheries is to undertake relevant and problem-solving management oriented research programmes. Whenever necessary, the unit shall in collaboration with local or external organisations generate usable information and technologies required for the management, conservation and sustainable utilisation of fisheries resources in the various water bodies of Malawi.

3.2.2 Fisheries Research Goal

To provide the information necessary for sustainable exploitation, management, conservation of biodiversity and investment in the fisheries sector through appropriate biological, technological, sociological and environmental research programmes.

Objective 2.1 To promote the implementation of demand-driven, service oriented research focusing on problems identified with the stakeholders in the fishing industry.

- Strategies
- 2.1.1 Identify research programmes for the fishing sector with the stakeholders (local fishing communities).
 - 2.1.2 Review research activities regularly in collaboration with other section of the Department of Fisheries and other stakeholders.
 - 2.1.3 Participate in joint meetings with extension officers and representatives of the fishing industry as outlined under objective 1.5.
 - 2.1.4 Develop a mechanism that allows external peer reviews of research programmes and projects.

2.1.5 Publish research results timely and regularly.

Objective 2.2 To provide reliable information on the status of exploited fish stocks, economic and environmental parameters including noxious aquatic weeds in all water bodies.

- Strategies:
- 2.2.1 Conduct monitoring programmes for the various important fisheries in both deep and shallow waters.
 - 2.2.2 Distribute quantitative information on the status of the fisheries resources to local communities and other stakeholders.
 - 2.2.3 Recognise multi-species and multi-user interactions in the formulation of management advice.
 - 2.2.4 Prepare and update annually the Management Plan for all fisheries in Malawi.
 - 2.2.5 Encourage cross-sectoral initiatives and determine areas of conflict between sectors (e.g. tourism and fisheries) in developing the fisheries management systems.
 - 2.2.6 Carry out investigations aimed at establishing and updating appropriate management systems and techniques that can be used as a basis for sustainable utilisation of shallow and deep-water fish resources.
 - 2.2.7 Involve fishing communities in data collection and research programmes relevant to fisheries management (fishery and environmental monitoring).
 - 2.2.8 Prepare and regularly update management plans for all economically important fish resources.
 - 2.2.9 Review quality of national fisheries statistical data collecting systems and improve if necessary.
 - 2.2.10 Publish annual fisheries statistics timely.
 - 2.2.11 Elaborate a policy paper for the Mbuna fish stocks (management, conservation and utilisation).

- 2.2.12 Establish and maintain together with extension a register of fishers to enable controlled entry into the fisheries.
- 2.2.13 Monitor the extent to which aquatic weeds have spread, especially water hyacinth, in the aquatic environment of Malawi and introduce biological and other control measures.
- 2.2.14 Initiate multi-sectoral approach on control measures of water hyacinth.
- 2.2.15 Initiate community participation in the control of water hyacinth in close co-operation with extension services active in the affected areas.

Objective 2.3 To provide information about under-exploited resources to the fishing sector.

- Strategies:
- 2.3.1 Co-ordinate and conduct research activities aiming at identifying and reassessing under-utilised resources.
 - 2.3.2 Co-ordinate and conduct exploratory surveys on unexploited fish stocks in all waters of Malawi.
 - 2.3.3 Co-ordinate and conduct research and experimental development (R&D) studies for the development of appropriate technology for fishing methods and fish processing and marketing.
 - 2.3.4 Co-ordinate and conduct research in taxonomy and ecology to identify fisheries management related problems early.
 - 2.3.5 Co-ordinate and conduct collaborative research in areas of outstanding scientific interest.
 - 2.3.6 Ensure timely dissemination of research and survey results of and to all parties interested.

Objective 2.4 To establish an information system to quantify impact of pollution etc. on the fisheries resources.

- Strategies:
- 2.4.1 Conduct aquatic ecology studies on all vulnerable aquatic habitats for management information.
 - 2.4.2 Study impact of soil erosion (siltation) on aquatic habitat.
 - 2.4.3 Initiate national actions for implementation according to international conventions in Malawi.

Objective 2.5 To provide socio-economic information about fishing communities.

- Strategies:
- 2.5.1 Conduct baseline, household, marketing and fishing gear inventory surveys to broaden knowledge about fishing communities and the small scale fishing sector.
 - 2.5.2 Analyse marketing and input supplies data regularly to identify problem areas and market potentials for fish products.
 - 2.5.3 Identify potential for additional income generation (products and services) for the fishing sector.
 - 2.5.4 Co-operate with NGOs and other institutions involved in socio-economic research.

3.3 Participatory Fisheries Management

3.3.1 Guiding Principle

Participatory fisheries management has proved to be the most appropriate method to manage the fish resources in the lakes of Malawi. Participatory fisheries management is legislated by the new Fisheries Conservation and Management Act. Participatory fisheries management is based on establishing effective local fishing community institutions that will work jointly with Government in fish resource management. This arrangement is intended to share rationally the responsibility and authority in managing the fish resources. This sharing of responsibility cuts across the entire community and will include the full participation of men and women with their capabilities as dictated by the local fisheries by-laws.

3.3.2 Participatory Fisheries Management Goal

To establish and sustain the co-management of fisheries resources between the Department of Fisheries and key stakeholders (e.g. fishing communities, traditional leaders) in order to achieve sustainable exploitation of aquatic resources management for the artisanal fisheries.

Objective 3.1 To achieve the active participation of local fishing communities in the management of the fish resources.

- Strategies:
- 3.1.1 Identify key stakeholders in the small scale-fishing sub-sector.
 - 3.1.2 Promote the formation of local fisheries management authorities (e.g. BVCs) and higher level entities.
 - 3.1.3 Strengthen the capacity of local fisheries management authorities to enable them to participate effectively in fish resource management.
 - 3.1.4 Harmonise strategy with other community committees (forest, agriculture, water, etc.) and co-ordinate activities with other extension services.
 - 3.1.5 Establish and uphold distinct boundaries for fishing areas for local fisheries management authorities.
 - 3.1.6 Elaborate together with local fisheries management authorities appropriate fisheries management plans (objectives, measures and regulations in line with the Fisheries Act).

Objective 3.2 To provide legal instruments and procedures for the participation of local fisheries management authorities in the management of the fish resources.

- Strategies:
- 3.2.1 Conclude agreements for fisheries management plans between the Department of Fisheries and local fisheries management authorities.

- 3.2.2 Support local fisheries management authorities to participate in enforcement, research and monitoring activities.
- 3.2.3 Review fisheries subsidiary legislation in consultation with other relevant organisations.

Objective 3.3 To develop and maintain the capacity to monitor, support and conduct research on participatory fisheries management within the Department of Fisheries.

- Strategies:
- 3.3.1 Monitor enforcement activities of Government and local fisheries management authorities.
 - 3.3.2 Report cases of corruption and make recommendations.
 - 3.3.3 Investigate the effects of by-laws.
 - 3.3.4 Describe conflict areas between all stakeholders and elaborate recommendations (sharing or exclusion).

3.4 Fish Farming

3.3.2 Guiding Principle

Malawi started developing fish farming in the early forties and since then there has been a continuous commitment to aquaculture development. Experimental aquaculture is carried out at fish farm stations in Domasi in Zomba district, Mzuzu in Mzimba district and Kasinthula in Chikwawa district.

3.4.2 Fish Farming Goal

To increase and sustain fish production from smallholder and large fish farming operations in order to improve fish supply in Malawi.

Objective 4.1 To solve problems related to fish farming and the management of small water bodies through bio-technical research.

- Strategies:
- 4.1.1 recommend suitable management strategies for achieving optimum fish growth and fish production at different production intensities.
 - 4.1.2 Recommend broodstock and hatchery management strategies.
 - 4.1.3 Develop protocols for the management and conservation of the genetic diversity of farmed fish (significance of endangered endemic species).
 - 4.1.4 Improve existing species through genetic selection, inbreeding and crossbreeding.
 - 4.1.5 Establish collaboration between aquaculture and capture fisheries extension and research to exchange information and experiences.
 - 4.1.6 Develop protocols to integrate fish farming into agriculture.

Objective 4.2 To develop adaptive/appropriate recommendations for fish farming

- Strategies:
- 4.2.1 Identify indigenous species for different climatic as well as agro-ecological zones for different scale of operations through on-farm research.
 - 4.2.2 Prepare economic analysis for different scales of fish farming enterprises (small to large fish farms) and advise farmers accordingly.
 - 4.2.3 Assess productivity of reservoirs and small water bodies and test stock enhancement, management and utilisation.
 - 4.2.4 Investigate socio-economic feasibility of the management of reservoirs and small water bodies.

Objective 4.3 To encourage farmers to adopt fish farming as source of subsistence and income.

- Strategies:
- 4.3.1 Create awareness about potential of and encourage fish farming.
 - 4.3.2 Establish demonstration farms for integrated fish farming.
 - 4.3.3 Co-operate with agriculture extension officers to broaden knowledge about target group behaviour.
 - 4.3.4 Introduce and support participatory extension.
 - 4.3.5 Monitor and evaluate fish farming extension regularly to analyse limitations and constraints in fish farming practice.
 - 4.3.6 Co-operate closely and regularly with research projects and programmes on fish farming and exchange findings.

3.5 Fisheries Training

3.5.1 Guiding Principle

The Fisheries College of Mpwepe stresses the importance of training as a method to develop and maintain skills in the public and private sectors of the fishing industry.

3.5.2 Fisheries Training Goal

To develop capacity, knowledge and skills by providing appropriate training programmes for the Department of Fisheries and user communities in Malawi and in the SADC region.

Objective 5.1 To develop and provide a broad range of demand-driven courses for fisheries, co-management and aquaculture to support user communities.

- Strategies:
- 5.1.1 Identify training needs for user communities based on built-in procedures with extension services, fishing communities, fishing industry and the Malawi Government.
 - 5.1.2 Conduct tailor-made training courses for personnel and user communities.

Objective 5.2 To encourage collaboration at national, regional and international levels in areas of training, research and consultancies for the fishing sector.

- Strategies:
- 5.2.1 Promote staff and student exchange visits and attachments.
 - 5.2.1 Encourage information exchange at all levels.
 - 5.2.2 Establish and promote linkages with other training, extension and research institutions at national, regional and international level.
 - 5.2.3 Participate actively in national, regional and international level meetings, seminars and workshops.
 - 5.2.4 Ensure the assignment of counterparts for training to TA staff.

Objective 5.3 To ensure appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes for fisheries personnel.

- Strategies:
- 5.3.1 Conduct pre-service courses.
 - 5.3.2 Conduct in-service courses.
 - 5.3.3 Evaluate and review training programme regularly.
 - 5.3.4 Implement courses on actual issues in fisheries, aquaculture and environment to develop and strengthen capacity in development and management.

Objective 5.4 To develop and maintain high quality training standards.

- Strategies:
- 5.4.1 Recruit suitable and qualified staff to become trainers.
 - 5.4.2 Provide appropriate training for faculty personnel.

- 5.4.3 Provide incentives for trainers in line with government regulations.
- 5.4.4 Improve access and use of up-date information and knowledge on new technologies and practices.
- 5.4.5 Develop a strategy for peer review and accreditation.

3.6 Fisheries Enforcement

3.6.1 Guiding Principle

Monitoring and controlling of fishing activities by government is needed to ensure that fishing laws and regulations are complied with. The Fisheries Enforcement Unit is sometimes assisted by Navy and Police during coastal patrols to carry out this task.

3.6.2 Fisheries Enforcement Goal

To maintain effective fisheries inspections in areas not under participatory fisheries management and also to support local fisheries management authorities in the enforcement of fisheries management measures in order to control the exploitation and to ensure sustainable utilisation of fish resources.

Objective 6.1 To maintain an effective fisheries inspectorate in order to support local communities in the formulation and enforcement of fisheries regulations and by-laws.

- Strategies:
- 6.1.1 Hold regular meetings with local fisheries management authorities.
 - 6.1.2 Encourage the participation of local fisheries management authorities in patrols.
 - 6.1.3 Encourage local fisheries management authorities to issue fishing licenses.

- 6.1.4 Establish a mechanism to monitor compliance with fisheries regulations and guidelines.

3.7 Riverine and Floodplain Fisheries Policy

3.7.1 Guiding Principle

To complement fish production from Malawi's lakes, there is a need to assess the sustainable and appropriate utilisation of rivers, adjacent wetlands and floodplains. It must be recognised that these areas are the driving forces for production through direct organic and inorganic inputs into aquatic ecosystems and facilitation of migration and spawning in fish and other aquatic vertebrates and the provision of nursery areas. Although local communities exploit the fish resources, no research has deliberately focused on these water bodies. This has led to lack of management information for these resources, which may lead to either over exploitation or under utilisation.

3.7.2 Fisheries Riverine and Floodplain Goal

To promote sustainable utilisation of fish resources in the riverine and adjacent floodplains and wetlands in recognition of the commitment of Malawi to maintain biodiversity and the need for co-operation and co-ordination with other institutions.

Objective 7.1 To manage the fisheries in the riverine and adjacent floodplains and wetlands based on sound understanding and knowledge of the biology of target species and the impact of harvesting to the eco-systems.

- Strategies:
- 7.1.1 Undertake research to understand the eco-systems in the riverine and adjacent floodplain and wetland habitats.
 - 7.1.2 Perform stock assessment for fish species important for human consumption in the ecosystems.
 - 7.1.3 Undertake research to understand breeding ecology of fish species in the ecosystems.
 - 7.1.4 Assess productivity levels in the ecosystems under various conditions.

7.1.5 Recommend management procedures for these ecosystems, while taking into account multi-species and multi user interactions.

Objective 7.2 To involve riparian communities in the sustainable management of the riverine environment and adjacent floodplains and wetlands.

Strategies: 7.2.1 Evaluate suitable measures to involve riparian communities in the sustainable exploitation of the ecosystems.

7.2.2 Record the catch and effort of full and part time fishermen in the riverine and adjacent floodplains and wetlands.

7.2.3 Apply the co-management approach practised in the lakes of Malawi to the riparian communities

3.8.1 Fish Marketing Goal

To promote production, processing, distribution and marketing of Good quality and safe fish and fish products of Malawi for local and export markets.

Objective 8.1 To promote post-harvest technologies that ensure improved fish products.

Strategy: 8.1.1 Develop effective and low cost fish processing methods.

8.1.2 Introduce improved fish processing and packaging techniques to fish processors.

8.1.3 Promote use of improved fish processing techniques.

Objective 8.2 To promote quality control standards for fish and fish products.

Strategy 8.2.1 Disseminate market information on fish and fish products.

8.2.2 Develop quality standards that ensure safe products and comply with the Malawi Bureau of Standards and standards set for the European Union and the United States of America.

8.2.3 Disseminate information on fish quality standards and promote quality control measures and ensure that fish and fish products comply with regulations.

3.9 Private Sector Investment

3.9.1 Private Sector Investment Goal

To provide guidelines and an enabling environment for private sector participation in the development of the fishing industry.

Objective 9.1 To promote investment in the fisheries and fish farming industry in order to improve regular supply of fish.

Strategies: 9.1.1 Facilitate access to relevant information on investment by potential investors.

9.1.2 Facilitate access to investment capital by potential investors.

9.1.3 Promote growth of the local fisheries industry by encouraging joint ventures with foreign companies.

9.1.4 Provide incentives for private investment in the fishing industry.

Objective 9.2 To improve the marketing system for fish and fish products

9.2.1 Collect and disseminate market information on fish and fish products.

9.2.2 Facilitate the involvement of the private sector in the marketing of fish and fish products.

9.2.3 Encourage the development of fish marketing infrastructure.

4.0 Management and Implementation

4.1 Institutional Framework

The institutional framework structure for the fisheries policy comprises the main cabinet at the top whose role is to approve, pass policies and acts and give direction on fisheries policy and programmes. Below is the cabinet committee on agriculture and natural resources whose main role is to examine and review policies, issues and legislation before they are presented to cabinet and parliament. At a lower level the Fisheries advisory board provides advice on the development, administration, conservation and management of the fisheries. The national fisheries machinery, which is the Department of Fisheries, shall work in close collaboration with the other stakeholders in conserving and managing fisheries resources. Where necessary, the Department may enter into agreement with other public organisations, communities, the private sector, and NGOs on specific conservation and management issues. The policy also promotes co-ordination and collaboration with other sectors in dealing with multi-sectoral issues, which have an impact on the environment. This will ensure that efforts to resolve interrelated, causative issues involved in the multiple uses of aquatic and water resources and in the management of fish resources are not fragmented, overlapping and ineffective.

4.2 Legal Framework

For implementation of this policy, there shall be an Act of Parliament on Conservation and Management of fish resources, which shall be reviewed from time to time. This review shall take into consideration other legal instruments, particularly those having an impact on fisheries and aquaculture in order to ensure that they are harmonised.

4.3 Funding

Government acknowledges the fact that appropriate conservation and management of fisheries resources requires adequate funding. Consequently it commits itself to provide adequate funds to the sector. To supplement funds provided by the Central Government, there shall be established a Fisheries Fund by the Act of Parliament for the conservation and management of the fisheries resources.

5.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

The implementation of National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy requires an effective monitoring and evaluation system with appropriate and efficient feedback mechanism. This requires carrying out monitoring and evaluation functions at all levels and will entail gathering information at national, sectoral and local levels. To establish internal self-monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, an institutionalised approach should be developed and adopted at all stages of planning and programming. The institutionalised framework will require developing appropriate monitoring and evaluation instruments such as performance indicators.