



Transforming the Aquaculture Sector in Malawi: Key Lessons from SADC and Other African Countries

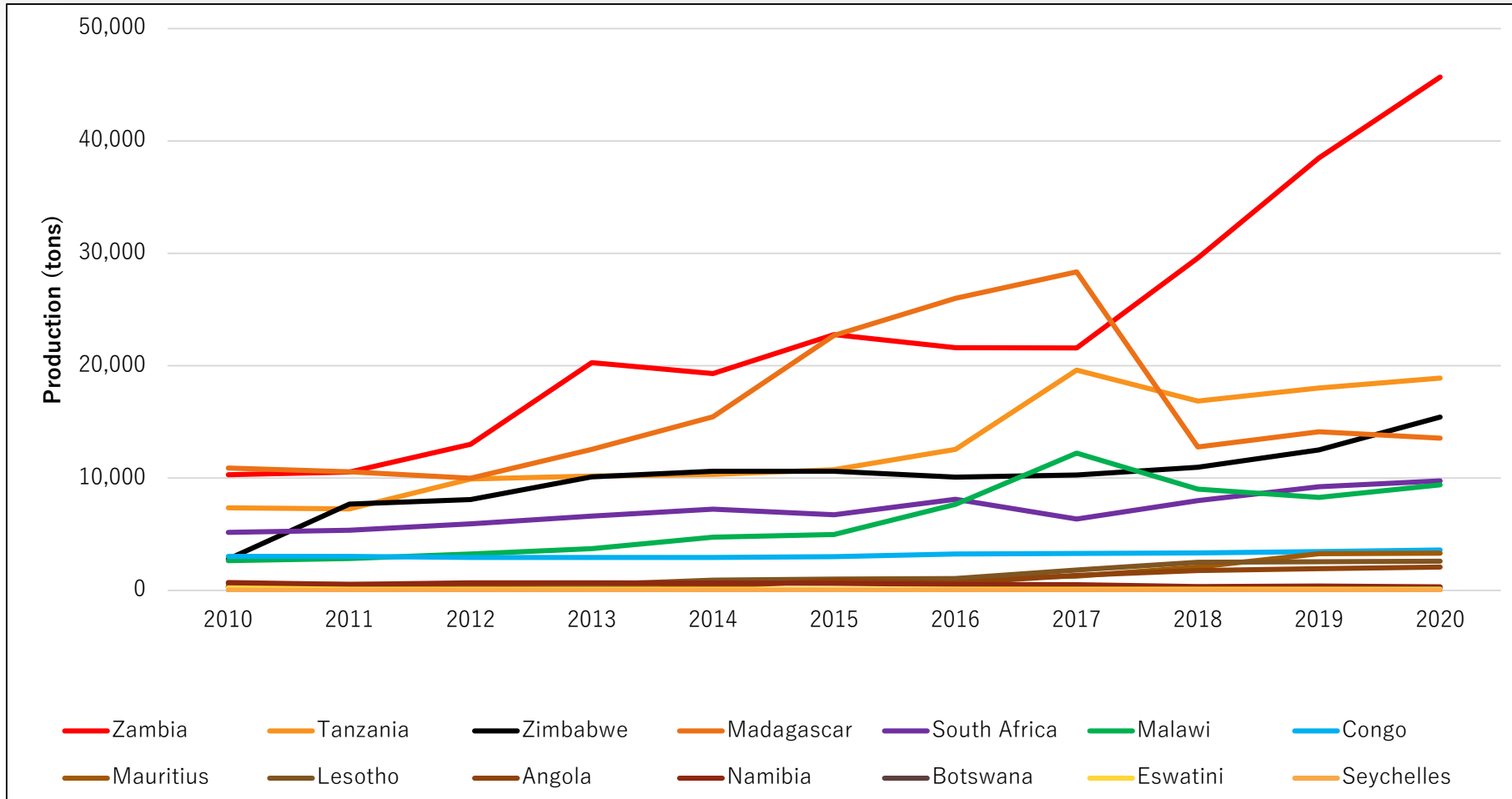
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Aquaculture Production in the SADC Region



- Production increased from 44,183 tons in 2010 to 124,793 tons in 2020.
- This growth was heterogeneous, with some countries showing **limited growth** and others showing **substantial growth** (e.g., Madagascar, Tanzania, and Zambia).

Source: FAOSTAT

Overview of the Aquaculture Sector in Malawi

- The fish supply in Malawi is generally from **capture fisheries** and **imports**.
- **Aquaculture** accounts for around 5% of the total annual fish production.
- There is high **potential for growth** of the aquaculture sector in Malawi.
 - 10–20% of Malawi's land area (1.1m ha) is suitable for fish culture.
 - Malawi also has 35,000 ha of underutilized wetlands that can be used for aquaculture.



Overview of the Aquaculture Sector in Malawi

- Aquaculture is dichotomous: **commercial** and **small-scale**.
- The sector is dominated by **small-scale** aquaculture.
 - Characterized by:
 - ✓ Use of earthen ponds
 - ✓ Limited usage of high-quality inputs, such as commercial feed (floating feed)
 - ✓ Marginal profits (Farm average: Mk25,500, equivalent to US\$25)



Challenges to Aquaculture Development in Malawi

- Aquaculture in Malawi remains a **subsistence** activity, and farmed fish production is still low.
- Lack of access to high-quality fish feed
- Lack of **quality fingerlings** and **genetic diversity**
 - Slow-growing indigenous fish species
- Inadequate **capital** to invest in large-scale/commercial aquaculture
- Unregulated/uncontrolled **fish imports**
- Fish diseases (e.g., Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome)



What have other countries done to transform their aquaculture sectors?

- Policy shift towards **commercial aquaculture**
- Private sector investment
- Transformation of small-scale/community-based fish farms into **productive MSMEs**
- Use of **new** and **intensive** production systems
- Investment in **research** and **development**
- Provision of **soft credit** to small-scale and commercial farmers



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