



SADC

TODAY

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Year 2003 in southern Africa: a retrospective reflection

by Munetsi Madakufamba

The year 2003, which started on a gloomy note with fears of starvation in parts of the region and tremors of US/British military might pounding Iraq, has ended on a much more promising note, especially with weather experts predicting a better agricultural season for southern Africa.

Combined food relief efforts by SADC member states and support from the international community, which began in 2002, averted starvation in six countries – Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe – affected by food shortages since last year. The number in need of food aid dropped from nearly 15 million at the beginning of the year to the current estimate of 6.5 million.

Rainfall forecasts for the coming season say a generally better rainfall is expected, although pockets of the region will continue to suffer from insufficient or patchy rainfall that may cause food insecurity.

On the political scene, the US-led war on Iraq, which began on 20 March 2003, dominated the news for much of the first half of the year. Although the war did not directly involve any southern African countries, its impact reached far and wide, both politically and economically.

The associated massive military expenditures by the world's superpowers, and the subsequent billions of dollars now needed to reconstruct the Arab country have undoubtedly deprived the world's poor of essential aid. This will be in addition to inevitable higher oil prices.

At the regional level, developments in Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have ushered in a new era of unprecedented socio-political stability in southern Africa.

Angolans have not looked back since the 4 April 2002 peace pact signed between government and the former

rebel group, National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita). The government has continued its reconstruction programme, reintegrating former Unita forces into the army and society, opening up the economy for private sector investment, and an estimated 130,000 refugees have voluntarily made an emotional return home.

More recently, a UNICEF supported multimillion-dollar programme to train 29,000 new teachers has extended Angola's peace dividend to the education sector, adversely affected by the 27 years of war. The US\$40 million programme is expected to bring almost one million children back into school.

Education is very important in Angola, not only insofar as it helps the

country to attain higher literacy levels which are desirable for reconstruction in key sectors of industry and commerce, but also for sustaining the democratisation process. About two-thirds of Angola's population is below 24 years of age.

If the peace process in DRC was fragile last year, developments in 2003 have pointed to greater determination towards national unity. An all-parties peace accord was signed on 2 April, paving the way for a transitional government that is expected to work towards general elections in two years time. The transitional government is headed by President Joseph Kabila,

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Multilateral trade: After Cancun focus shifts to Cotonou

by Percy F. Makombe

The fifth World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial meeting held in September in Cancun, Mexico, did not reach an agreement after developing countries rejected a draft text which they felt ignored their views. The draft text was described by non-governmental organisations as "outrageous and offensive".

The Cancun revised text released at the end of the meeting sidelined the interests of African countries, among other developing nations. It called for the opening up of negotiations on transparency in government procurement and trade facilitation, directly, and investment and competition policy, indirectly. This was in contradiction to what had been agreed in Doha, Qatar, that negotiations would not

begin unless there was explicit consensus.

It was apparent that the developed world, particularly the European Union (EU) and the US, while pushing for their own agenda of WTO expansion, had ignored development related issues including special and differential treatment (recognition and acceptance that developing countries need a separate set of rules from developed nations because of structural differences).

On agriculture, the text still allowed developed countries to maintain their protectionism – dumping their subsidized produce on African economies while demanding that developing countries bring down their tariffs.

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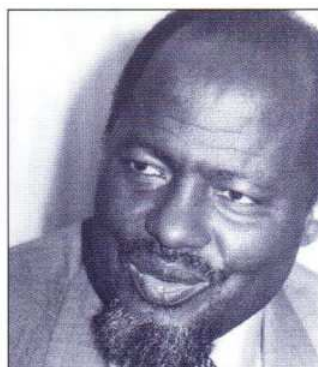
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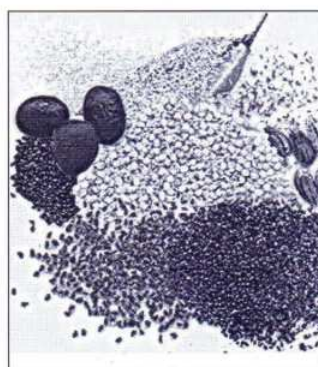
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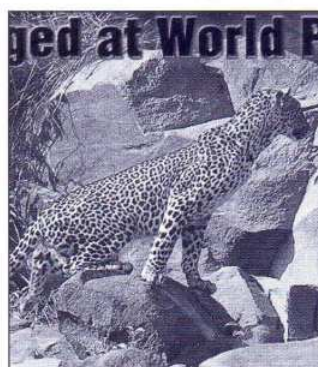
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SADC aligns water protocol with international law

by Clever Mafuta

A recent workshop to review the SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems demonstrated progress made by the region in aligning its regional policies with international law.

The Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems was signed in 1995 as part of efforts to implement the SADC Treaty. The 1995 protocol came into force in 1998 following its ratification by the required two-thirds majority. Following various developments and considerations, the protocol was revised and signed by SADC leaders on 7 August 2000.

The 1995 protocol was based on the Helsinki Rules which tilt heavily towards the principle of territorial sovereignty of a water course state. According to these rules, an upstream state has the right to use water resources within its territory with no regard to any effects that may have on the downstream state.

Subsequent to the signing of the 1995 protocol, two major developments took place. First, in order to facilitate the implementation of the protocol, as well as to have focused and coordinated management of regional water resources, a distinct Water Sector was established by SADC in August 1996.

In pursuit of its mandate, the Water Sector published its major programme for transboundary water resources management, namely, the SADC Regional Strategic Action Plan on Integrated Water Resources Development and Management (RSAP) for the period 1999–2004. Implementation of the water protocol was captured in the RSAP as a key project.

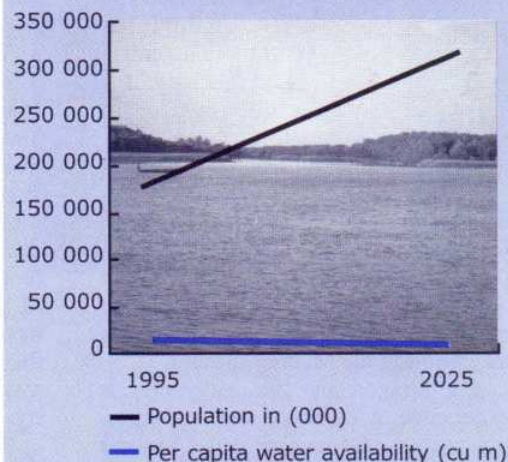
The second development that influenced the further development of the protocol was the adoption, in April

1997, of the UN Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses. Consequently, the SADC Water Sector revised the 1995 version of the protocol to incorporate the provisions of the UN Convention Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses.

According to the Botswana-based SADC Water Division, successor to the Water Sector previously coordinated by Lesotho, the main differences between the old and revised protocols include the following:

- the 1995 protocol recognises the Helsinki Rules while the revised protocol takes into account the provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Water Courses;
- the 1995 protocol does not expressly set out its objective while the revised protocol states its overall objective as being to foster closer cooperation for judicious, sustainable and coordinated management, protection and utilization of shared water courses and to advance the SADC agenda of regional integration and poverty alleviation;
- both protocols contain articles dealing with general principles. As evidenced by paragraph 1 of article 2, the 1995 protocol lays much weight on the principle of territorial sovereignty of a watercourse state. In contrast, the revised Protocol lays emphasis on the unity and coherence of each shared watercourse;
- articles 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the 1995 protocol make provisions for establishment, objectives, functions, financial and regulatory framework of River Basin Management Institutions. The approach by the revised protocol is different. Article 6 gives watercourse states the liberty to enter into agreements with respect to an entire shared watercourse or any part thereof or a particular project, programme or use; and

Population Growth and Water Availability in the SADC region



Source: Defining and Mainstreaming Environmental Sustainability in Water Resources Management in Southern Africa, 2002.

- unlike the 1995 protocol, the revised protocol has an article which sets out specific provisions on such issues as planned measures, environmental protection and preservation, management of shared watercourses, prevention and mitigation of harmful conditions and emergency situations.

Due to climatic and hydrological extremes, the need to share water resources is apparent. As a result there are a number of very large dams in the region, all of which have inter-state implications. For example, the Kariba Dam straddles the international boundary and generates power for both Zambia and Zimbabwe, while the Cahora Bassa Dam in Mozambique generates electricity that is sold into the Southern Africa Power Pool. The Gariiep Dam modifies the flow regime along the downstream South Africa-Namibia border.

A number of states are involved in water transfers. Namibia receives water from the Cunene River in Angola. South Africa receives water from the Lesotho Highlands, while at the same time delivering water to Gaborone in Botswana. Studies are being made into transferring water from the upper reaches of the Congo River to the more arid southern states □

Water protocol comes into force

The Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses came into force late October following ratification by the requisite two-thirds majority.

AU chairperson on campaign to end Africa's conflicts

by Bonifacio Antonio

The Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano, who took over as chairperson of the African Union (AU) at the last AU summit held in Maputo in July, has embarked on a drive to consolidate peace, stability and democracy, the main challenges for development on the African continent.

Since his appointment, Chissano has been engaged in a number of diplomatic missions, aimed at resolving conflicts in different African countries as well as promoting the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). These missions are in line with the decisions taken during the Maputo summit.

Encouraged by the Mozambican experience of tolerance and reconciliation, after a 16-year civil war, Chissano has used the first months of his AU leadership to visit Congo Brazzaville, the Democratic Republic of Congo, São Tomé e Príncipe, Burundi, Libya, and Liberia. He discussed with local leaders ways to bring peace to parts of the continent that are still affected by armed conflicts or political instability.

In Liberia, Chissano witnessed the power handover by the then president, Charles Taylor, to the then vice-president, Moses Blah.

As part of efforts to put an end to the conflict in Burundi, one of the longest in Africa, Mozambique sent a 228-strong contingent from the

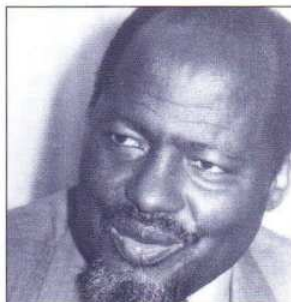
Mozambican Defence Force (FADM) in September to augment the peacekeeping force in that country.

The AU chairperson told journalists in Maputo that the presence of the Mozambican Defence Force in Burundi was motivated by genuine interest in contributing to the re-establishment of peace in that country, which will have a significant impact on reducing the scale of political and military instability in the central African country.

The African peacekeeping force to Burundi also includes troops from South Africa and Ethiopia.

In September, Chissano attended the Fifty-Eighth Session of the UN General Assembly as "a messenger" of the peoples of Mozambique and Africa as a whole. "I have come to this session as a messenger of peoples that are engaged in consolidating political, economic and social reforms," said Chissano when he addressed the assembly.

Chissano told the assembly that African people believe in learning from past experiences, good or bad, to restore peace and stability and gener-



AU Chairperson, Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano

ate wealth and prosperity throughout the continent. "The peoples of Africa emulate experiences of countries like my own, Mozambique, where after years of armed conflict, a new era of peace and gradual but steady development is taking place," he said.

"Step by step, with the continued support of the international community, Africa is steadily discharging its responsibilities for the maintenance of peace and stability in the continent," he added.

On the troubled Great Lakes region, Chissano hailed the formation of a transitional government and related positive political developments in the Democratic Republic of Congo. "We must not allow this process to derail. All of us, including neighbouring countries, have an obligation to support the Congolese people and the government in their long struggle for peace and stability," he said.

On other conflicts on the continent, the Mozambican president told the assembly that, "The stabilisation of the situation in Angola, Comoros and Sierra Leone are clear signs that Africa, despite the difficulties before it, is making strides towards the attainment of lasting peace, stability and socio-economic development".

At the general assembly, the AU chairperson rallied support for NEPAD. "NEPAD should be the framework within which the international community, including the United Nations system, should concentrate its efforts for Africa's development.

In this regard, Africa's development partners are urged to continue to assist with a view to translating pledges of support for NEPAD into reality."

At the Japan-Africa summit in Tokyo in September, Chissano reiterated the need for continued international support for NEPAD. He stressed that NEPAD can only succeed with support from all, including governments and civil society. □

Countries urged to ratify African Union peace and security protocol

African countries are being encouraged to ratify the African Union (AU) Protocol on Peace and Security, one of the most important legal instruments necessary for making the new body more effective in dealing with conflicts on the continent.

Once ratified by the required simple majority of 27 countries, the protocol will provide for the creation of the Peace and Security Council of the AU.

Keli Walubita, AU special envoy to southern Africa, was recently on a

visit to the region, encouraging member countries to ratify the protocol.

Among the countries visited were Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe, which expressed their willingness to ratify the protocol. At least 17 African countries have so far ratified the protocol.

It is hoped that the remaining countries will have signed the protocol before a special summit of the AU scheduled for February 2004 in Libya. □

Sustainable peace and security imminent in the region

by Amos Chanda

The SADC region has moved towards overall political stability following positive peace efforts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the definitive end of war in Angola.

Civil strife in these two neighbours -- geographically strategic for SADC -- have for long been an axis of regional instability that has threatened peace and security in the entire 14-member regional group.

The end of war in Angola and the steady moves toward stability in the DRC, is a major boost for the desired collective peace and security that SADC needs to push forward economic cooperation and integration.

SADC chairperson Benjamin Mkapa told a Heads of State and Governments Summit in Dar es Salaam in August this year that the regional body is determined to rise to the challenges facing the region and would work hard to ensure there is lasting peace in Angola and the DRC.

He said SADC has remained the most important regional front in finding answers to fundamental questions of economic development, peace and security in the region.

In Angola, the revival of the peace process on 4 April 2002, following the death of veteran rebel leader Jonas Savimbi, on 22 February 2002, has heralded a new era for the country and region.

In just a year since the end of war, Angola tops the entire SADC in economic growth rate, posting a favourable 13.8 percent growth in 2002, ahead of Mozambique, which has maintained the highest growth rate of 8 - 11 percent in recent years.

In the DRC, the successful formation of a broad-based government of national unity has significantly reduced hostilities and given the international community an opportunity to deploy an international peacekeeping force in a country that has known little peace since independence from Belgium in 1960.

The United Nations (UN) peacekeeping forces, now numbering 10,800 have taken up positions to try to reduce conflict in the DRC.

Head of the United Nations Mission in Congo (MUNOC), former US ambassador William Swing, reported that the DRC was showing signs of a steady return to peace and security.

An agreement to end hostilities between forces of David Padri Bulenda's Mayi-Mayi militia and the RCD-Goma former rebel group -- both parties are represented in the power-sharing government -- was recently signed under the mediation of the MUNOC.

In Angola, the sustainable peace of the past year has given rise to a large-scale repatriation of refugees from Zambia, DRC and Namibia.

At least 5,000 ex-rebel fighters have been integrated into the regular Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) under the on-going reconciliation and reconstruction of a country damaged by 27 years of civil war.

From Zambia, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has so far repatriated 16,827 refugees under the voluntary repatriation programme launched in July 2003. The UN refugee agency is sending at least 1,000 refugees back home from Zambia every week.

"The exercise has been smooth. Landmines in the route we are using have been cleared. This exercise, which is part of the consolidated regional programme involving Zambia, Namibia and the DRC, gives hope that there is progress in entrenching peace and security in the region," said Kelvin Shimo, UNHCR Zambia public information assistant.

An estimated 130,000 Angolan refugees have spontaneously returned home from different parts of the region in the past year.

Angolan diplomats in Lusaka say the peace process in their country is irreversible and that it is an important landmark for peace and stability in the entire SADC region.

Even opposition groups note that the peace process in Angola has taken a new dimension, which should not be frustrated. In a telephone interview from Luanda, the new president of the opposition National Union for the



Several organisations provided humanitarian assistance to refugees during the war

Total Independence of Angola (Unita), Isaias Samakuva said the Angolan peace process is in "top gear" and that Unita is determined to keep its commitment to peace and national unity.

"Peace in Angola means a lot for regional security and stability and the new Unita is on the move to add to the creation of a new era of democracy and freedom for all Angolans," said Samakuva, who was elected as party president in June this year.

The 4 April 2002 Memorandum of Understanding between the MPLA government and Unita was essentially the resuscitation of the landmark November 1994 Lusaka Peace Protocol signed by President José Eduardo Dos Santos and the late opposition leader Savimbi.

Zambian diplomats see the twin peace developments in Angola and the DRC as a huge triumph for the SADC region in its efforts to entrench collective peace and security in the region.

"The last two years have been momentous for SADC which sees regional integration and cooperation to be highly dependent on peace and security in the region," said Zambian Foreign Minister, Kalombo Mwansa.

"SADC is founded on the values of peace and security and economic development. Peace in our (Zambia's) neighbours assures us hope that we are going to have a more secure region and that is good for regional economic integration and cooperation," he said. □

Amos Chanda is a Zambian journalist based in Lusaka.

Political will, leadership critical in combating HIV and AIDS

Dynamic legislation needed to support health and development

by Chengetai C Madziwa

The question of health and development has become more complex in southern Africa with the HIV and AIDS pandemic worsening. As a result, greater political will is being urged, and parliamentarians, like other key stakeholders, are increasingly called upon to multiply their efforts and face the problem head on.

SADC is spearheading a multi-sectoral approach to HIV and AIDS. Parliamentarians and other political leaders play an important overarching and far reaching role insofar as they formulate policies and legislation related to the pandemic. For instance, new laws and policies are now emerging relating to issues such as disclosure at work, when seeking treatment or medical aid, and so on.

In July, SADC leaders showed their deepening commitment towards deal-

ing with the epidemic when they signed the Maseru Declaration on HIV and AIDS. The effectiveness of such commitments cannot be fully realized unless they are translated into implementable national policies and legislation.

Recognising HIV and AIDS as the greatest challenge in health and development in member states, President Festus Mogae of Botswana underscored the need for increased political will in dealing with the epidemic when he opened a recent conference in Gaborone.

"HIV and AIDS is as much a health issue as it is a development issue. It cuts across everything that we do in the field of socio-economic development," said President Mogae at the conference that was attended by parliamentarians from the region and from Europe.

The Botswana leader said parliamentarians are well positioned to provide the information, education and communication needed to deal with the pandemic in their constituencies. As the repositories of the will of the people, legislators have the duty and responsibility to protect people's human rights as they relate to HIV and AIDS which pose a threat to the basic right to life.

The conference urged legislators to play an active role in the fight against stigmatization and discrimination of those living with the disease. An international commitment to fight this social exclusion was made last year when "Stigma and Discrimination" was chosen as the theme for the 2002 World AIDS Day

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After Cancun focus shifts to Cotonou

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After failing to secure an agreement at Cancun, the EU and the US have shifted their attention to bilateral and regional trade agreements. The US has already announced that it will not wait for "won't do countries" but will instead continue with "can do countries".

In Africa, the US is promoting the African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA). The EU, on the other hand, is advancing its interests through the Cotonou Agreement.

The African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) – EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement was signed in Cotonou, Benin, in June 2002. It succeeded the Lome Convention. It aims at establishing free trade areas based on reciprocity.

Beginning in September 2002, countries involved are supposed to have started negotiating a new set of trade arrangements compatible with WTO standards. The new set of trade

arrangements are expected to come into force on 1 January 2008.

The main idea behind the Cotonou negotiations is the opening up of markets. Article 36 of the agreement states that: "the parties agree to conclude new WTO-compatible trading arrangements" which will progressively remove "barriers to trade".

Under Cotonou, trade in agriculture remains a major concern for developing countries. Prof. Yash Tandon, the director of the Southern and Eastern African Trade Information Negotiations Institute (SEATIN), says "For Africa, agriculture is more than access to EU markets. Agriculture is the mainstay of the livelihood of the bulk of Africa's population."

Regional agreements have attracted criticism as they are seen as being divisive. Vijay Makhan, the outgoing African Union Commissioner for

Trade, Industry and Economic Affairs, who led the AU mission to the Cancun talks says: "The emphasis on EPAs ... possible future ACP-EU trade regime constitutes a serious threat to Africa's strategy for regional integration and development."

According to Makhan, the problem with this option is that it fragments and weakens the bargaining power of African countries in future trade relations with the EU.

"While the EU will operate as a united solid group, no similar role is envisaged for the AU or the African Economic Community as Africa's continental economic organisation. Rather, individual African countries and regional economic communities are expected to negotiate with the EU, independent of each other," says Makhan.

Percy Makombe is an assistant editor at SEATIN. □

Expected rainfall offers recovery from 2002 drought

Access to seeds at the core of food security recovery process

Weather scientists have forecast good rainfall and a positive climate generally in southern Africa this season, a development that has boosted the region's chances to recover from the devastating drought that left a trail of hunger in six SADC states.

The predictions offer a great sigh of relief to the SADC region where drought suffered last season caused severe food deficits in Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

SADC governments are trying to take full advantage of this positive forecast by working out seed and other inputs programmes ahead of the rainy season. Quality seed distribution is one area where SADC agro experts have laid down a plan to reap maximum benefits from the anticipated good rainfall.

At a meeting of SADC seed experts held in Lusaka, Zambia in September, poor seed was identified as one major problem contributing to falling crop yields in the region. Experts were challenged to strive to ensure they help in finding solutions to decreased food production in the SADC region.

Zambian Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Mundia Sikatana told delegates to a two-week SADC Seed Technology Course that securing good seed in advance would be critical in the food security recovery process.

"In view of the importance of agriculture, it is clear that seed experts in the SADC region have a critical role to play in their agricultural development. We can never have agricultural production without seed," Sikatana said.

Experts resolved that SADC will exchange knowledge and share new skills in seed management and supply systems because the weather in the region was almost uniform, according to recent forecasts.

Participants also agreed to make good use of the value of data provided by the SADC Seed Security Network. "I hope that through courses like this one and further interaction by course participants, seed legislation will be harmonized in the long run," said Sikatana.

Harmonisation of legislation on seed in the various SADC states was one of the key preparatory resolutions that was reached at the meeting.

"SADC member states realise the critical role seed legislation plays in our concerted efforts to respond to the new opportunity of recovery presented by this year's good rain forecast," experts said in a common position paper issued at the end of the meeting.

Course director, Wilfred Silwimba said the seed industry is key to agricul-



Quality seed and effective distribution is fundamental to the food security recovery process.

tural development in the SADC region and experts have accordingly responded by placing the issue at the centre of the recovery efforts this farming season.

The World Food Programme (WFP) also places the seed factor at the centre of its recovery support programmes in the region.

WFP deputy executive director, Sheila Sisulu who was in Lusaka on a drought recovery assessment mission said that the UN food aid agency was upbeat about the good rainfall forecast in the SADC region and would support the input distribution efforts, especially seed.

Sisulu said the WFP has introduced a programme called "Seed Pack" along with technical support for small-scale farmers in the SADC region. "We want to add to national governments' preparations for this farming season which looks promising because of the good rains expected," she said.

The Seed Pack programme, she explained is a "fast track" relief programme that combines food aid with seed. "There has to be a recovery this year, or at least partially. The expected good rains offer a great opportunity for regional governments and for our relief operations," she said.

Weather scientists from SADC and international organisations who met for the Seventh Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) in Lusaka in September, said the region will not suffer extreme climate conditions this season, a situation that boosts chances of a quick recovery from drought. □

Communicating the Environment Programme

SADC and its partners in Communicating the Environment Programme (CEP) have agreed to produce the next regional State of Environment report for southern Africa in 2004. The partners who met recently in Gaborone are SARDC's Musokotwane Environment Resource Centre for Southern Africa (IMERCSA), IUCN-The World Conservation Union Regional Office for Southern Africa, and the Zambezi River Authority.

They were hosted by the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) directorate, and the meeting was attended by the Supervisor as well as the Senior Environment and Land Management Expert. The meeting discussed the development and impact of the CEP partnership from the first State of Environment report in 1994 to the present Africa Environment Information Network (AEIN), supported by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). The AEIN seeks to build national capacities for State of Environment (SOE) reporting, as well as provide inputs for the Africa Environment Outlook, a continental SOE reporting process, and the Global Environment Outlook.

This partnership, which includes the SADC water division, has developed a number of other books and materials including the SOE Zambezi Basin 2000 books in English and Portuguese, the first time an assessment of a single ecosystem has been undertaken and reported upon in southern Africa.

Durban Accord and Action Plan

The accord urges commitment to:

- the irreplaceable role of protected areas in the implementation of the Millennium Development Declarations, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (from the World Summit), the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification, the Ramsar Convention, the World Heritage Convention and other global agreements;
- ensure that globalization and trade agreements do not hinder the capacity of protected areas to achieve their core aims;
- establish and strengthen policy, legal and institutional frameworks for protected area systems that are accountable and transparent;
- expand and strengthen worldwide systems of protected areas, prioritized on the basis of imminent threat to biodiversity, natural and cultural heritage;
- safeguard representative ecosystems, habitats and species, so filling gaps in conserving irreplaceable building blocks of earth's natural order;
- build resilience into the selection, design and a management of protected area networks, so insuring their survival in the face of human-induced climate change;
- mainstream protected areas within overall development agendas, engaging support from broad cross-sections of government communities and the private sector;
- the mobilization of financial and technical resources to implement the African Protected Areas Initiative and the African Protected Areas Trust Fund;
- (by extractive industries) fulfill their responsibilities to the careful stewardship of protected areas;
- the integral relationship of people within protected areas, fully incorporating the rights, interests and aspirations of both women and men;
- involve local communities, indigenous and mobile people in the creation, proclamation and management of protected areas;
- engage and enlist younger generations in the stewardship of protected areas, recognizing that they have legitimate stakes in the future of those areas;
- ensuring that people who benefit from or are impacted by protected areas have the opportunity to participate in relevant decision-making on a fair and equitable basis in full respect of their human and social rights;
- protected area management that strives to reduce, and in no way exacerbates, poverty;
- protected area management that shares benefits with indigenous people and local communities;
- innovation in protected area management including adaptive, collaborative and co-management strategies;
- recognize, strengthen, protect and support community conservation areas;
- provision of substantial additional financial, infrastructural and material resources for maintaining and enhancing protected area systems;
- economic valuation of protected areas in recognition of their significance to local, national and global economies so as to motivate increasing investment and funding;
- innovative and diversified income generation strategies, thereby securing predictable financial returns for payment to the stewards of ecosystem goods and services;
- redirect perverse subsidies toward support mechanisms for protected areas;
- build the capacity of protected area managers, including through cutting-edge information services and technology transfer;
- value and use all knowledge systems on protected areas, both scientific and traditionally based; and
- communications and education to improve and broaden support for protected areas.

Community participation

by Leonissah Munjoma

Community participation in the management of natural resources across the world is a call that has been made over and over. In some cases, words have been matched with action, while in other cases action has fallen short of promises made.

The Fifth World Parks Congress held recently in Durban, South Africa is yet another of the fora where the call for community participation in the management of protected areas was made and commitments pledged.

The Congress, a joint event organised by IUCN-The World Conservation Union, its World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and the South African government, had as its theme "benefits beyond boundaries". This theme stirred much interest from communities that live near the large parks and conservancies in southern Africa.

To live up to its expectations, a number of community representatives addressed the congress and gave testimony on how they were benefiting from the protected areas situated within their territories. Southern Africa, through the regional body, SADC, is one of the pioneers of community participation and a number of initiatives were showcased at the congress.

Achim Steiner, director-general of IUCN, impressed with the outcome of the congress remarked that the forum "marked a growing maturity in our understanding of the values and benefits of protected areas to broader society."

Chief Emeka Anyaoku and Claude Martin, chairperson and chief executive respectively of the World Wildlife Fund, said in an article in *Our Planet*

Participation urged at World Parks Congress



David Martin

magazine that the growth of the world's area under protection and the increasing designation of World Heritage sites has been most important and continues to be so. However, the increased understanding of the relationship of protected areas to human society, particularly to local communities, has been equally vital.

"We have come to realise that the long-term viability of protected areas cannot be assured without the serious involvement of local people, whether they live inside or adjacent to them. Experience with participatory models has grown further and substantially since the last World Parks Congress in Caracas in 1993," they say in an article entitled "Parks and Participation".

In the same issue, Yolanda Kakabadze, IUCN President, in an

article "Beauty or Beast?" published in *Our Planet*, drew parallels between trade and the environment. She reminded how in southern Africa, biodiversity and protected-area-based enterprises are creating sustainable sources of income for their communities. This is particularly so in areas where local people have become true partners and beneficiaries of protected areas and not where they are seen as victims.

The World Parks Congress is held every 10 years and provides a major global forum for setting the agenda for protected areas. Previous congresses have had a tremendous impact in assisting national governments to create new protected areas, and direct more resources towards biodiversity conservation.

Apart from celebrating protected areas, the congress looked at important issues such as the role of protected areas in alleviating poverty; how protected areas adapt and anticipate global change biophysically, economically, and socially; the place of protected areas as part of a sustainable future; and the contribution of protected areas to security.

An action plan from the congress calls for greater participation from local communities in making decisions about parks management and the benefits that are derived from such parks.

The congress adopted and ratified the Durban Accord and Action Plan that spells out how governments and international institutions will be expected to treat parks development and management. The accord is a call for commitment and action. □

Regional communication & information project launched

The long-awaited SADC Information 21 Project was finally launched on 13 November 2003 at the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana, at a ceremony attended by senior representatives of SADC, the Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC), who co-fund the project, and the three implementing partners.

The three-year project is co-funded by BTC to the tune of 2.5 million euros plus smaller contributions from SADC and the implementing partners. The main objective of the project is to promote greater awareness and participation of the people of the southern African region and their institutions in the process of regional integration.

Approved by the SADC Council of Ministers in August 1995, the project became a reality when the BTC, in line with its policy of strengthening institutional and human capacity, decided to support the SADC regional cooperation and integration policy through information and communications.

Simultaneously launched in member states by SADC Media Coordinators, the initiative is a direct response to the SADC Declaration on the Role of Information and Communication in Community Building. The declaration recognizes the need for SADC citizens to have access to reliable and relevant information on a regular basis.

Aimed at empowering the people of the SADC region through information and knowledge sharing, the project is addressing the direct need for creating greater awareness to enable popular participation in the community's initiatives. This is seen as a requisite for bringing about sustainable peace and economic development through regional integration.

The activities for the project range from:

- strengthening and building information capacity of SADC institutions at the national and regional levels;
- ensuring a regular flow of relevant information through these structures to other stakeholders;

- specific publications and programmes for print and broadcast;
- development of a regional awareness-building strategy; and
- strengthening liaison and access for regional media to networking of relevant professional organisations and institutions.

The implementing partners bring together a rich combination of expertise and acknowledged accomplishments in various fields of information and communication in the region. This groundbreaking cooperation between non-governmental and private sector stakeholders on one hand and SADC information organs on the other is viewed as the most credible vehicle for spreading information about the Community.

The Information 21 Project is multi-faceted, enabling it to reach, not only high-level leadership groups and individuals in government, the private sector, civil society or the international community, but also addresses professional groups and associations, as well as individuals from different walks of life. □

SADC participates in Chinese tours

Two staff members of the SADC Secretariat recently participated in two study tours of China, sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peoples' Republic of China.

Senior Economist, Willem Goeiemann participated in the programme for senior African diplomats from 6 to 21 September 2003 which took them to Beijing, Shanghai and Shening. Esther Kanaimba, SADC Public Relations Officer participated in the 8th Understanding Modern China Workshop for African Diplomats hosted by China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU) in Beijing from 15 September to 3 October 2003.

The workshop was also attended by 18 other diplomats from Botswana, Egypt, Eritrea, Ghana, Lesotho, Libya, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda,

Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

The workshop included lectures on China's history, culture, economy, foreign policy, security and the Taiwan Issue, as well as study tours to China's historical sites such as the Forbidden City, Summer Palace, the Great Wall and the Ming Tombs. The African diplomats were also treated to excellent cultural shows such as opera and acrobatics.

The participants to the workshop also visited the Special Economic Zones cities of Xiamen (Fujian Province), Nanchang (Jiangxi Province) and Guiyang (Guizhou Province). The participants toured hi-

tech enterprises, which produce switching gears, high quality electronic products, light automobiles and trucks, and pharmaceuticals based on traditional Chinese medicine.

The group also visited Biadan village, approximately 140 kilometres from Guiyang city, one of the poverty-stricken rural areas in China. The Chinese government has embarked on an 8-year programme to alleviate the plight of approximately 70 million Chinese people living in abject poverty out of a total population of 1.3 billion.

The participants described the workshop as an eye opener as it afforded them an opportunity to see the technological achievements and developmental challenges and realities of modern China. □

How democratic is the media?

Gender study exposes huge discrepancies

Recent revelations that the southern African media hardly considers gender equality newsworthy raise serious concerns about the media's claims to principles of democracy, good governance and human rights.

Gender is a common thread that runs through every issue, whether one is addressing poverty reduction, HIV and AIDS, health, education, human rights, democracy and elections, good governance, or development.

Thus, revelations that gender specific news accounted for a meagre two percent of the 25,000 news items monitored in southern Africa as part of the Gender and Media Baseline Study (GMBS) must be a matter of concern for everyone who cares about democracy, human rights and governance in this region. In contrast, according to the study carried out by the Media Institute for Southern Africa (MISA) and Gender Links, economic news constituted one quarter and sports news 20 percent of coverage.

Despite the fact that women constitute more than half (52 percent) of the population in the southern African region, their views and voices in the media account for only 17 percent of the total according to the study, carried out in twelve countries (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

The under-representation of women's voices and views in the media flies in the face of the many commitments to wipe out gender inequality like those contained in the 1997 SADC Declaration on Gender and Development.

In addition, all the countries in southern Africa endorsed the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which commits them to promote a bal-

anced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media.

The GMBS report shows that women featured in the media are more likely to be identified as a wife, daughter or mother, than a man is to be identified as a husband, son or father.

Is the media fraternity prepared to respond to the new challenges in this millennium? Are the media and journal-



Barbara Lopi

View on Media and Gender

ism curricula adequate to prepare media practitioners to deal with the increasing challenges of democratic governance that most governments and citizens in this region subscribe to? If not what does that mean for all our efforts to develop good governance practices?

Democratic governance demands the promotion of human rights, gender equality, equity and justice as well as according freedom of expression to all -- women inclusive.

Like one politician, the minister responsible for gender affairs in Kenya, once said: "We

should not hesitate to discard traditions that hinder development and the empowerment of women." As a journalist I am saying: "as media practitioners we should not be ashamed to move away from practices that hinder our meaningful contribution to the new challenges in our society".

If the media in this region is to play a meaningful role as the "fourth estate", the curriculum offered in mass communication and journalism training institutions in the region must be

revisited. Gender sensitive reporting must be incorporated in the curriculum as a matter of urgency.

I am aware that more and more journalists in the region are beginning to consider gender as a newsworthy editorial content following the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. But there still exists a considerable degree of lack of informed analysis on media reports focusing on gender issues in the region.

My experience working with journalists in the region is that those who have undergone gender sensitisation training are more likely to write about gender issues and to give a voice to the marginalized.

I have no doubt that it is these who contribute to the two percent of gender specific news and the 17 percent of women's views and voices in the media. Now, just imagine how that would improve if all journalists incorporated gender into their reporting, be it on politics, economics, sports and court reporting. That would automatically lead to a higher percentage of women's views and voices being heard.

For this to happen, all concerned, with democratic governance -- governments, the donor community, NGOs, civil society and the private sector should back the recommendations made in the GMBS. This is the challenge. □

The author is a Zambian journalist who is Project Manager/Editor with Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness (WIDSAA), the gender programme of SADC that works with SADC in monitoring progress toward gender targets in the region. The GMBS report can be obtained from genderlinks.org.za and misa.org.za

The African Centre for Gender and Development of the UN Economic Commission for Africa recently announced in Addis Ababa that SADC WIDSAA has been selected as a member of the Committee on Women and Development representing southern Africa for the period 2003-04.

Year 2003 in southern Africa

continued from page 1

assisted by vice-presidents from the major rebel groups, all of whom have accepted and taken up their posts.

With these developments, the region hopes that guns have finally fallen into a permanent silence. This would put the SADC region on a stronger footing to contribute positively to the African Union (AU) and its economic framework, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad).

Peace on the continent was the vision at the second AU ordinary session hosted by Mozambique from 4-12 July 2003, when President Joaquim Chissano took over the chair from President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa. The AU is championing collective action in dealing with Africa's conflicts, seen as the worst enemy to the continent's economic aspirations as presented in Nepad.

A highlight of the Maputo summit was the appointment of a 10-member commission, the engine of the AU, with two of its five female commissioners coming from southern Africa. They are Rosebud Kurwijila from the United Republic of Tanzania for the portfolio of Rural Economy and Agriculture, and Bience Gawanas from Namibia for Social Affairs. A third commissioner from southern Africa is to be appointed early next year, for Economic Affairs. The commission is headed by former Malian president, Alpha Konare.

Through its peace and security protocol, the AU is working on establishing, among other things, a rapid response military force. This move is supported by developments in SADC, especially the mutual defence pact signed by SADC leaders at their annual summit in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, in August.

SADC chairperson, President Benjamin Mkapa, who took over the rotating chair from Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos, called for a new SADC committed to results. He challenged SADC to effectively use its recently approved Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan -- a 15-year blueprint -- to implement time-bound, prioritised regional projects.

The RISDP spells out priority intervention areas and targets for southern Africa for the short, medium and long term.

SADC leaders also presented a united front in support of Zimbabwe, "re-affirming the indivisibility of SADC and solidarity with Zimbabwe", and urging the Commonwealth, the EU and the US to lift sanctions and engage in a constructive dialogue.

The SADC chairperson called on friends and partners to understand that "our multi-faceted attachment to land is deep, solemn and unwavering... and work to help our farmers improve production. This is the real challenge that begs urgent attention."

SADC has over the years played an increasing role in giving policy direction to member states, through protocols and other forms of agreements. It therefore comes as no surprise that performance by its member states, economically, politically or otherwise, reflects on the regional organization.

And cognizant of this, southern African countries have developed a culture of collective approaches to challenges facing the region, including the complex and cross-border problem of HIV and AIDS.

At a special summit in Lesotho in July, SADC leaders adopted the Maseru Declaration on the Fight Against HIV and AIDS in the SADC region. The leaders also approved a fund for implementing a five-year plan of action, the SADC HIV and AIDS Strategic Framework and Programme of Action 2003-2007.

Although experts say the full impact of HIV and AIDS will only be fully felt in the next 10-15 years, the short term impact is clearly one of the factors contributing to sluggish economic growth in the region. Coupled with the drought of 2002/2003, the pandemic is set to weigh heavily on SADC GDP growth, estimated at 3.2 percent in 2002.

However, the peace dividend and the forecast good rainy season are expected to compensate for the negative impact of the pandemic, presenting yet another year full of opportunities. □

Dynamic legislation needed to support health and development

continued from page 6

on 1 December. The same theme has been picked to commemorate the 2003 World AIDS Day.

Gender inequality is another human rights and legislative issue that parliamentarians need to deal with, especially insofar as it contributes towards the spread of HIV and AIDS.

As noted by Lazarus Dokora, a Zimbabwean legislator who was speaking at a separate occasion, there is need for promotion of gender equality and the development of progressive legislation on sexual offences that include marital rape.

"There is also need for the ratification and domestication of international and regional human rights instruments on gender," Dokora said.

The challenges posed by HIV and AIDS are also intertwined with the rights of people to fully participate in the governance of their countries, as noted by the Gaborone conference.

For instance, a number of countries in the region will be holding elections over the next couple of years. Due to HIV and AIDS, hundreds of registered voters may be unable to participate in the voting process either because they

are too sick, are taking care of a sick member of the family, or in the worst case, are deceased.

"It is abundantly clear, therefore, that the epidemic can and does have a direct impact on the democratic process and the institutions of governance," said President Mogae.

Southern Africa has the highest number of cases of HIV and AIDS in the world. Forty percent of all reported HIV and AIDS cases are in southern Africa, yet the region only makes up one percent of the world population. □

2004 secondary schools essay competition launched

SADC has launched the 2004 secondary schools essay competition. Sponsored by the SADC Secretariat, the competition has drawn tremendous interest from secondary school pupils in the region.

The topic of the 2004 competition is: "Water is important for economic and social development as well as peace and prosperity. What do you think SADC should do to promote the effective utilization of water resources in the region?"

Students are expected to bring out the importance of water as an instru-

ment of economic development, peace and prosperity in the SADC region. The SADC Water Resources Technical Committee (WRTC) will oversee the marking of the regional competition.

The competition is run in two stages, beginning with the national finals from which the top three pupils will qualify for the regional competition. At the national level first, second and third prizes of US\$300, US\$200 and US\$100 respectively, will be awarded to the top three students.

The winning essays from the national competitions must be submit-

ted to the SADC Secretariat by 31 May 2004.

The top three from the regional competition will receive prizes of US\$1000, US\$750 and US\$500 respectively. Winners of the regional competition will receive their prizes at the opening ceremony of the next SADC summit scheduled for August 2004 in Mauritius.

The competition offers an opportunity for young people in the region to participate in issues that are pertinent to the process of regional integration. □

Culture and sport roundup

Angolan culture and arts award

Angolan artists have been presented with National Awards of Culture and Arts for their contribution in various arts disciplines in the country. Prizes were awarded in the fields of literature, plastic art, theatre, film, research, and human and social sciences. The Angolan ministry of culture launched the National Award of Culture and Arts in 2002, to stimulate artistic creation in the country.

Tanzania hosts cultural and eco-tourism symposium

The United Republic of Tanzania is to host the Africa Travel Association's Cultural and Ecotourism International Symposium in early December, in

Zanzibar. The symposium is expected to attract participants from various cultural disciplines as well as from the travel industry, with an agenda to promote initiatives towards developing responsible and sustainable tourism in Africa. Many of Zanzibar's leading music and cultural groups are expected to perform.

South Africa to host cultural event

South Africa has won the right to stage the 2007 Junior Delphics, an international cultural event that will see some 5,000 artists and cultural representatives take part. The event will showcase all genres and disciplines of art and culture for 10 days during August 2007 with more than 25,000 visitors expected.

All Africa Games

The 8th All Africa Games were held in Abuja, Nigeria in October. These games recorded the highest ever participation by African countries since the games began. Fifty-three countries, including all SADC member states, participated in 22 sporting disciplines in which more than 6,000 athletes competed. The top three performing countries were Nigeria, Egypt and South Africa.

COSAFA cup 2003

Zimbabwe won the Confederation of Southern African Football Associations (COSAFA) Castle Cup soccer final in October against Malawi. The tournament is played every year involving nearly all SADC countries. □



Mozambique: Arrangements for municipal elections

The Mozambique's National Elections Commission (CNE) is making final arrangements for the second municipal elections to be held on 19 November in 33 municipalities.

The CNE drew lots in mid-October, in the premises of the country's lottery company, for the positions candidates will occupy on the ballot papers for the municipal elections. The result is that, on all ballot papers, for both mayors and municipal assemblies, the ruling Frelimo Party will be at the top, and the main opposition force, the Renamo-Electoral Union opposition coalition will be in second position. Candidates from minor parties and

from independent groups of citizens will occupy positions three and downwards.

Frelimo and Renamo are the only parties fielding candidates in all 33 municipalities. IPADE (Institute for Peace and Democracy), the NGO set up by Raul Domingos, the former head of the Renamo parliamentary group, who was expelled from Renamo in 2000, is fielding mayoral candidates in five municipalities, and slates for the municipal assemblies in two. Best known of these is the IPADE candidate for mayor of Maputo, jurist Carlos Jeque, who stood as an independent in the presidential election of 1994.

The municipality with the largest number of candidates is Maputo. Clear favourite to become the next mayor is the Frelimo candidate Eneas Comiche, who is currently a senior Frelimo parliamentarian, and a member of the board of the country's largest bank, BIM. □

Zambia inflation target

The Zambian government is targeting to bring down inflation to 6.5 percent in 2005 under the Medium Term Expenditure Framework to run from 2004 to 2006. The proposals are contained in the "Green Paper" signed by acting Secretary to the Treasury Situmbeko Musokotwane.

He says government has targeted to reduce fiscal deficit to 1.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) by the year 2006 while gross international reserves are targeted at three months of import cover. (*The Times of Zambia*) □

Tanzania plans agro research fund

Agricultural research in the United Republic of Tanzania will soon get a boost following a recent proposal to establish the Tanzania Agricultural Research Endowment Fund (TAGREF) to provide funds for research as well as grants to rural producers. The provisional capital budget for TAGREF has been estimated at US\$25 million.

The fund proposal was prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and has now been integrated in the Medium Term Plan under the country's Agricultural Support Programme.

The co-coordinator of the donor-supported Tanzania Agricultural Research Project, Ludovick Kinabo, has said the proposed fund would contribute to the United Republic of Tanzania's poverty reduction strategy by enabling rural producers to directly benefit from assistance and interventions provided by researchers and extension workers. (*The East African*) □

Mauritius expects five percent growth

The Mauritius Central Statistics Office (CSO) has estimated that the economic growth of the country for 2003 will reach 4.8 percent.

The CSO said its estimation was based on information available on the key sectors of the economy such as sugar, textile and tourism.

Exports in textiles are likely to record a growth rate of three percent mainly due to the support of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

With regards to the tourism industry, the CSO estimated that the number of tourists visiting the island this year would reach 700,000. (*Mauritius News*) □

Swaziland parliamentary poll

Swaziland elected its members of parliament on 18 October in a peaceful election that for the first time saw five women joining the national assembly. No women were in the last parliament elected in 1998.

The legislators were elected to represent a total of 55 constituencies. Before the new parliament opens in February 2004, King Mswati III will appoint 10 additional members of parliament including two women. □

AIDS drug deal

Some SADC countries will benefit from access to AIDS drugs at a reduced price following a deal brokered by former US President Bill Clinton with drug companies in India and South Africa.

After working with advisors from the William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation, three Indian and one South African generic drug companies agreed to provide certain treatments at less than a third of the cost of patented versions.

Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania together with nine Caribbean countries will receive the low cost medication. These countries are already preparing detailed plans for introducing the drugs in their countries with assistance from the foundation. □

Handbooks for exporters, essays on AIDS, mechanisms for poverty reduction

Commonwealth technical publications are little publicized in southern Africa

The Commonwealth secretariat publishes a wide range of useful but little-known books and reports, from guidelines for exporters, to essays on AIDS, practical mechanisms for poverty reduction and how to use museums to popularise science and technology. The following is a selection of just a few of the many publications.

Guidelines for Exporters of Fruit and Vegetables to the European Markets. This is a full colour guide with produce photographs ranging from asparagus to mangoes, melons and pawpaw. The product studies give easy access to information on supply and demand, seasonality, market preferences, handling and grading, packaging, potential and prospects. There are significant annexes on practical issues, barriers to trade, pesticides legislation, environmental and phytosanitary regulations, and addresses of seed suppliers, import and distribution companies, trade associations, tradefairs, and other organizations, plus a bibliography. Websites include www.freshinfo.org; www.fruitnet.com and www.freshinfo.com

Guidelines for Exporters of Cut Flowers to the European Markets is a similar handbook on horticultural products. With full colour photos of alstroemeria and carnations to roses and zantedeschia, the product studies give a pocket guide to storage, packaging, harvesting, grading and bunching as well as marketing. The main suppliers of roses to the European market listed are Kenya, Ecuador, Zimbabwe, Israel, Colombia and Zambia, while suppliers of tropical exotics including protea, are listed as South Africa, Zimbabwe, Israel, New Zealand and Australia. Annexes cover practical issues, barriers to trade, and addresses, including extensive contacts for plant and seed suppliers, wholesale markets and flower auctions, import and distribution companies, and other organizations. Websites include www.pathfastpublishing.com and www.cbi.nl

These well-presented handbooks, prepared by the Special Advisory Services division under the direction of Andrew Ngone, are little publicized or distributed in southern Africa.

The Global Health Challenge: Essays on AIDS is published as means of sharing lessons and experiences from around the Commonwealth, while encouraging a positive outlook and hope for the future. It covers prevention and care, social sectors, regional impacts and responses, health manifestations, and the impact of HIV and AIDS on education, and on social and economic development. A topical essay on the latter, and responses, is by Professor Alan Whiteside of the University of

Natal, Durban, the leading regional voice on this subject, and recognized internationally. He notes that while Commonwealth countries make up 29.5 percent of the world's population, they account for 42.3 percent of cases of tuberculosis and 60.5 percent of HIV cases, with the pandemic centred on eastern and southern Africa. He concludes that the impact of HIV and AIDS is complex and long-term, and that the links between poverty and health are increasingly recognized and understood. whitesid@shep.und.ac.za

Coping with HIV/AIDS in Education: Case Studies of Kenya and Tanzania by Dr M Juma. This book deals with the impact of HIV and AIDS on education, and coping strategies, sharing experiences from Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania. The author, a Kenyan professor, notes that, although the pandemic is centred on eastern and southern Africa, no part of the world is untouched. He looks at the impact on teachers, pupils including orphans, the education system itself and support systems. Other title in this series of Commonwealth case studies in education include *The African Virtual University – The Case of Kenyatta University*.

Some other Commonwealth titles are: *Using Museums to Popularise Science and Technology*; *Information Sharing Between and Within Governments*; and *Electronic Governance and Electronic Democracy: Living and working in the wired world*, by Professor Thomas B. Riley, edited by Rogers W'O Okot-Uma.

Practical Mechanisms for Poverty Reduction, that old study prepared for the Commonwealth secretariat by Joseph Mullen and David Hulme in mid-1996, and perhaps forgotten, is still valid reading for those who can find it. In a compact 30 pages, it shares experiences and basic mechanisms for poverty reduction, including safety nets, technology transfer, environmental conservation, land reform and financial services; and stresses the importance of disseminating information on successful examples of poverty reduction worldwide so that lessons may be shared and adapted locally.

Publications can be ordered from the Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HX, but prices are substantial in some cases, so unless concessional rates are offered, many will be out of range and therefore not accessible in most Commonwealth member states, which number 19 countries in Africa including most of SADC. www.thecommonwealth.org □

Recent publications and acquisitions

Commonwealth Businesswomen: Trade matters, best practices & success stories 2002.

Commonwealth Secretariat

Email: r.jones-parry@commonwealth.int

Website: www.thecommonwealth.org

Gender and Media Baseline Study: Southern African regional overview

Gender Links

Email: research@genderlinks.org.za

Website: www.genderlinks.org.za

Picture Our Lives: Gender and images in southern Africa: A manual for trainers, 2003

Gender Links

Email: info@genderlinks.org.za

Conservancies as Complementary Land Reform Models in Southern Africa: Insights from case studies on Zimbabwe and Namibia 2003

ZERO Regional Environment Organisation

Email: info@zero.org.zw

Website: www.zero.org.zw

Wetland Development and Management in SADC Countries 2002

FAO Sub-Regional Office for East and Southern Africa

Website: www.fao.org

Gender and HIV and AIDS in Africa 2003

Association of African Women Research and Development

Email: aaword@sentoo.sn

Website: www.afard.org

SADC diary

2003		Event	Venue
November	4-5	SADC Regional Seminar on Chemical Monitoring Systems	South Africa
	4-6	SADC Technical Workshop on Seed Certification	Mozambique
	5	From Policy to Implementation: Assessing NEPAD's Path and Progress Conference	South Africa
	8	SADC Malaria Day	Member States
	12-13	SADC Information 21 Project Steering Committee Meeting	Botswana
	12-14	SADC Bankers Training and Development Forum Steering Committee meeting	Mozambique
	18-20	SADC 10th Drug Control Committee Meeting	Tanzania
	24-25	SADC Currency Conference	Botswana
	27-28	SADC Regional Consultation on GMOs	South Africa
	29 Nov - 10 Dec	32nd FAO Conference	Italy
December	1-5	Regional Drug Law Enforcement Training Course for Police, Customs and Immigration Personnel	Zimbabwe
	1-7	Commonwealth Peoples Forum (CPF)	Nigeria
	3-5	SADC Technical Workshop on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Issues in Seed Trade	South Africa
	5-8	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting	Nigeria
	10-12	World Summit on Information Society (WSIS)	Switzerland
January 2004	20-22	SADC Technical Meeting on Maximum Residue Limits	Namibia

Currency checklist

Country	Currency	(US\$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 lwei)	78.50
Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	4.65
DRC	Congo Franc	550.00
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	6.95
Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	106.60
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	28.80
Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	22,900.00
Namibia	Dollar (100 cents)	6.98
Seychelles	Rupee (100 cents)	5.18
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	6.96
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	6.98
Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	1,042.00
Zambia	Kwacha (100 ngwee)	4,750.00
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 cents)	824.00

Source: Standard Chartered Bank Zimbabwe, 23 October 2003

Public Holidays in SADC for the period December 2003 – February 2004

8 December	Immaculate Conception	Seychelles
9 December	Republic Day	Tanzania
10 December	Human Rights Day	Namibia
16 December	Day of Reconciliation	South Africa
22 December	National Unity Day	Zimbabwe
25 December	Christmas Day	All SADC
26 December	Public Holiday	Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zimbabwe
1 January	New Year's Day	All SADC
2 January	Public Holiday	Botswana, Mauritius, Seychelles
4 January	Martyr of Colonial Repression	Angola
4 January	Martyr's Day	DRC
12 January	Zanzibar Revolution Day	Tanzania
15 January	John Chilembwe Day	Malawi
17 January	Lumumba's Day	DRC
18 January	Kabila Hero's Day	DRC
19 January	Thaipooam Cavadee	Mauritius
1 February	Commemoration of the Abolition of Slavery	Mauritius
1 February	Chinese New Year	Mauritius
3 February	Heroes Day	Mozambique
4 February	National Armed Struggle Day	Angola