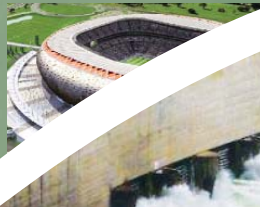




SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY



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by Joseph Ngwawi

THE SADC region has suffered a shortage of electricity since 2007 as demand exceeds supply, and the expectation is that this energy gap will be addressed by 2014. However, the implementation of projects can lag behind their planned dates due to a lack of funding and other constraints.

SADC is now taking longer term measures to address the energy deficit and ensure self-sufficiency in energy generation and an end to electricity shortages, through an ambitious Energy Sector Plan that calls for the region to increase power generation by more than 70 percent and invest at least US\$170 billion over the next 15 years.

The Energy Sector Plan is part of the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan approved by the 32nd Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government in Mozambique in August.

The Energy Sector Plan addresses four key strategic objectives:

- ☞ ensuring energy security;
- ☞ improving access to modern energy services;
- ☞ tapping the abundant energy resources; and,
- ☞ achieving financial investment and environmental sustainability.

The Plan identifies “hard” infrastructure projects that include the planned increase in electricity generation and transmission; refineries, storage facilities and pipelines for petroleum and gas; and transport facilities for coal distribution and exports.

The plan for the energy sector has identified 73 power generation projects to increase generation from the current 56,000 megawatts (MW) and ensure that the projected demand of 96,000 MW is surpassed by 2027.

Prioritisation of the various projects was determined using a formula under which projects were rated according to their ability to impact on the regional energy deficit.

Seven generation projects that scored above 50 percent and with capacity greater than 1,000MW each were ranked as top priority.

The seven projects alone are expected to add about 26,000MW to the grid managed by the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) – 65 percent of new generation capacity planned between 2013 and 2027 (see Table).

Highest priority is accorded to the Hidroeléctrica de Cahora Bassa (HCB) North Bank hydropower project in Mozambique. The project is expected to add 1,245MW to the regional power grid when completed in 2015.

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Energy Sector Plan targets surplus, sets priorities

The other projects include Mphanda Nkuwa in Mozambique, the Batoka Hydro Power Station jointly developed by Zimbabwe and Zambia, and the Inga 3 dam in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The Batoka project involves the construction of a dam and a hydropower plant on the Zambezi River with a potential capacity of between 1,600 and 2,000MW of electricity to be shared equally between Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The seven projects are expected to cost a minimum of US\$65 billion and a maximum of US\$104 billion.

The next priority will be 18 other projects that scored above 50 percent according to the Master Plan formula but have capacity of less than 1,000MW.

These include the extension of the Kariba South Power Station in Zimbabwe that should add 300MW of new power by 2016, the 800MW Kudu Gas Power Station in Namibia to be completed by 2016, and the 800MW Rumakali Hydro Power Station in the United Republic of Tanzania, due for completion in 2018.

The 18 projects are expected to increase southern Africa's power supply by 6,481MW by the end of 2019 at a cost of between US\$7 billion and US\$18 billion.

Three major interconnecting projects would facilitate the connection of Angola, Malawi and Tanzania to the SAPP grid.

The three are the only SAPP members yet to be linked to the regional power grid. Other SAPP member states are Botswana, DRC, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The island states of Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles are not members of SAPP.

The SADC Executive Secretary, Tomaz Augusto Salomão, says in a message accompanying the Regional Infrastructure Master Plan that any meaningful implementation of the plan should accord priority to addressing power shortfalls in the region through the development and commissioning of power generation and transmission infrastructure.

"The interconnection of Angola, Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania is necessary to enable the migration of these Member States to Operating Members of the Southern African Power Pool."

The grand total of all these projects to be implemented from 2015 to 2027 is estimated to cost in the region between US\$93 billion and US\$212 billion.

In addition to the "hard" infrastructure projects, the master plan has also identified 16 "soft" infrastructure issues that need to be addressed before the region can achieve self-sufficiency in the electricity sub-sec-

tor. These include harmonised policies and increased cooperation in energy development and trading. Lack of alignment in regulatory policy frameworks and tariff structures can hamper investment and financing, and poor project preparation can cause delays.

The master plan notes that apart from the existence of energy policies and, to some limited extent, renewable energy policy in all SADC Member States, comprehensive renewable energy strategies and action plans exist only in Mauritius and South Africa.

Botswana, Mauritius and South Africa have put renewable energy electrification targets into their energy systems, while only Namibia and South Africa have renewable energy regulatory frameworks.

Five countries have integrated the deployment of renewable energy in their rural energy/electrification agencies. These are Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

A key challenge to regional planning is to harmonise the fragmented policies and targets set by the Member States. □

Impact on island states

THE ISLAND states of Mauritius and Seychelles are not affected by improvements to the SAPP regional grid as they are not connected to it.

They are already 100 percent or almost 100 percent connected to electricity and have access to modern energy sources such as liquefied petroleum gas for cooking.

However, they can benefit from harmonised policies and regulatory frameworks to enable trade of energy equipment between the mainland and the island states. Coordinated financial resource mobilisation would also be beneficial.

They can participate in the exchange of experiences for renewable energy research and development, the manufacturing and trading of renewable energy technologies, clean coal technologies and coal export arrangements. They can also benefit from harmonised tariffs and standardised power purchase agreements. □

SAPP PRIORITY GENERATION PROJECTS (Capacity >1,000MW)

Priority Ranking	Country	Project Name	Capacity (MW)	Technology	Expected Commissioning Date
1	Mozambique	HCB North Bank	1,245	Hydro	2015
2	Mozambique	Mphanda Nkuwa	1,500	Hydro	2017
3	Zambia/Zimbabwe	Batoka	1,600	Hydro	2022
4	DRC	Inga 3	4,320	Hydro	2018
5	Zimbabwe	Gokwe North	1,400	Coal	2017
6	South Africa	New PF + FBC	6,250	Coal	2026
7	South Africa	Nuclear	9,600	Nuclear	2023
Total			25,915		

Source: SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan

Infrastructure Action Plan

A PLAN of Action has been developed to guide the region towards implementation of priority infrastructure projects as presented in the Infrastructure Master Plan. Key elements include the following:

❖ Proposed funding mechanisms

The Plan of Action outlines some key modalities for financing infrastructure, which include public financing through fiscal mechanisms and sovereign loans, grants from development partners, private sector funding and private-public partnership arrangements.

❖ Institutional structures/monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

The following structures will continue to set the approval process of the SADC infrastructure programme as per SADC protocols:

- * Sectoral project committees
- * Sub-sectoral committees
- * Committees of senior officials
- * Sectoral ministerial committees
- * Infrastructure ministers committee
- * Council of Ministers
- * Summit. □

"SAPP should have more authority to promote energy development"

THE SADC Secretariat has called for Member States to review the role and function of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) to ensure that the regional body becomes more effective in its efforts to promote development in the energy sector.

SAPP is a regional body that coordinates the planning, generation, transmission and marketing of electricity on behalf of member state utilities in SADC.

The power utilities in mainland SADC, with the exception of Angola, Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania, are interconnected through SAPP, allowing them to trade in electricity through a competitive market.

Established in 1995 through an Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), SAPP has, among other things, managed to create a market for electricity in the region, allowing customers to benefit from the advantages associated with energy cooperation.

The regional power pool has also coordinated efforts to exploit the numerous energy resources that are in abundance in the region.

For example, SAPP has identified a number of priority energy projects for commissioning over the next few years to address energy shortages in the region.

Most of these projects target renewable energy sources such as solar, hydro and wind – which are less polluting to the environment than other forms such as coal thermal.

Addressing the recent 33rd SAPP executive committee

meeting held in Harare, Zimbabwe, the SADC Senior Programme Officer for Energy, Freddie Motlathledi said for SAPP to fully carry out its duties, member states need to review the role and functions of the regional power pool.

Presently, SAPP has limited power to implement energy projects, and Motlathledi says there is need for the power pool to have more authority in spearheading efforts to ensure that the region recovers from crippling power shortages that became more widespread in 2006/07.

"It is time we revise the Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding (IGMOU) and other agreements that created SAPP so that the organization is empowered and given more powers to enforce decisions made by member states," Motlathledi said.

The IGMOU of 1995 was last reviewed in 2006 by the SADC Energy Ministers when they signed the Revised Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding.

The IGMOU is one of four agreements that govern SAPP operations. Others are the Inter-Utility Memorandum of Understanding that established SAPP's basic management and operating principles; the Agreement between Operating Members which established the specific rules of operation and pricing; and the Operating Guidelines, which provide standards and operating guidelines.

In this regard, SAPP operations are mainly based on a set of agreements among the member utilities as opposed

to formal laws, which would allow the regional body to have greater authority over energy issues in the region.

Motlathledi said consultations on the review of the IGMOU should commence ahead of the SADC Energy Ministers meeting scheduled for April 2013 in Lesotho.

He urged member states to set up a committee that will look at how best to restructure and review SAPP so that the recommendations could be approved by the SADC Energy Ministers next year.

Addressing the same meeting, Zimbabwe Energy and Power Development Minister, Elton Mangoma, urged SAPP to ensure that all member states are interconnected on the regional grid.

"SAPP needs to connect its three non-connected members," he said. "The continued lack of interconnection of these member states is depriving the region and the citizens in these countries the benefits of interconnection that the rest of the members currently enjoy."



More transmission lines through the SAPP would also enable member states to benefit from new generation capacity installed in other countries.

With Angola, Malawi and Tanzania not interconnected through SAPP, it means that any new generation capacity installed in any of the three countries is not realized in the nine other SAPP members.

The 33rd SAPP executive committee was held on 18 October and included the inauguration of the new SAPP Coordination Centre offices in Mt Pleasant, Harare.

The centre acts as a focal point for SAPP activities, particularly through the technical oversight of pool operations and facilitating electricity trading. sardc.net □

About the Southern African Power Pool

SAPP WAS created with the primary aim to provide reliable and economical electricity to consumers of each of its member utilities, consistent with reasonable utilization of natural resources and the effect on the environment.

Co-operation in the electricity sector is not a new phenomenon in the region --

it has taken place at policy, planning and operational levels and involved governments, power utilities and financial agencies over a period of several decades.

To formalize this interaction, utilities in the region came together under the auspices of SADC to form the Southern African Power Pool in 1995. □



SAPP targets 1,060 MW new power in 2013

SADC MEMBER States expect to commission new energy projects to add about 1,060 megawatts (MW) of electricity to the regional grid in 2013.

This figure is slightly below the 1,770MW that was planned for commissioning in 2012, although the actual installed electricity for this year is yet to be made public.

New electricity generation in 2013 is expected to come from Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia.

South Africa plans to commission projects that will add a total of 720MW, while Zambia will add 180MW.

Namibia and Malawi will contribute 65MW

and 60MW respectively, while Lesotho will add about 25MW. These new electricity projects will help the region to meet demand.

Southern Africa has been facing power shortages as long back as 2007, hence the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) has identified a number of projects for commissioning so as to sustain the region's power supply.

Between 2012 and 2016, southern Africa expects to

commission new power projects that will add a total of about 14,300MW to the regional grid. Most of the new power is set to come from South Africa, which plans to commission 8,382MW of electricity projects (see Table). □

New Power Generation Projects Planned in Southern Africa 2012-2016

COUNTRY	COMMITTED GENERATION CAPACITY, MW					TOTAL
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Angola	315	0	80	0	700	1 095
Botswana	600	0	0	300	0	900
DRC	120	8	0	580	0	708
Lesotho	0	25	40	110	0	175
Malawi	0	64	0	0	0	64
Mozambique	100	0	265	300	0	665
Namibia	92	60	0	0	0	152
South Africa	303	722	3 591	2 244	1 522	8 382
Swaziland	0	0	0	0	0	-
Tanzania	160	0	0	0	0	160
Zambia	56	180	915	40	339	1 530
Zimbabwe	30	0	140	0	300	470
Total	1 776	1 059	5 031	3 574	2 861	14 301

Source SAPP



New SAPP headquarters. The new offices of the Southern African Power Pool will enable the regional energy coordinating body to improve its operations and effectively serve member utilities. The building was inaugurated during the 33rd Executive Committee meeting held in October in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Batoka power project to commence soon

ZAMBIA AND Zimbabwe have stepped up efforts to construct the long-awaited Batoka Gorge hydropower station.

Batoka Gorge is located on the Zambezi River about 50km downstream of Victoria Falls and bordering both countries. When operational, the US\$2.4 billion plant will have the capacity to produce up to 1,600 Megawatts (MW) of electricity.

According to the agreement, Zambia and Zimbabwe

will share the power equally, but since the two countries are members of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) much of the electricity will be fed into the regional power grid.

All mainland SADC Member States with the exception of Angola, Malawi and Tanzania, are interconnected through SAPP.

The Zambezi River Authority, a joint authority of Zambia and Zimbabwe which manages developments the Zambezi River for

the two countries, approved the project a few years ago.

Spokesperson Elizabeth Karonga said the World Bank has expressed interest in funding the project and an Environmental Impact Assessment will soon be implemented in advance of the construction.

The Batoka hydro-station is identified as one of the most attractive projects in the region, with great capacity to help southern Africa to exploit the huge hydro potential of the Zambezi River. □



"Unity is key to continental development"

by Kizito Sikuka

THE NEW Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma has said that Africa has the capacity to achieve socio-economic growth if member states work together to address the challenges affecting the continent.

Speaking at her inauguration ceremony at African Union (AU) headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 15 October, Dlamini-Zuma said, "the only way to ensure success in our continent's endeavours is to move together as one united continent and people." "We should look at ourselves as a continent, not only as individual countries. ...

"We are a formidable force as a continent if we are united, but if we are divided we are weak. Nobody can ignore us united. Nobody can fail to see the continent as a force for global change, if we look at ourselves as a continent."

She pledged to advance the vision of the African Union of "An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena."

Dlamini-Zuma, who is the first southern African to head the AU Commission, said that Africa's vast natural resources, if fully exploited, could propel the continent to development.

Africa accounts for more than one quarter of the world's arable land, and is well endowed with natural resources, including about 30 percent of the world's known mineral reserves.

"If we invest in increasing the productivity of our land we can have food security, export and generate revenue, and also save the resources we use to import food," she said.



Dlamini-Zuma, who is also the first woman to hold the post of chairperson of the AU Commission, said women empowerment is critical to the progress of the continent.

In this regard, she said African countries must channel more resources towards improving access to health, sanitation and water, and make child-bearing safer for women.

Member states must also implement regional and continental agreements that ensure more women are elevated into decision-making positions, she said.

The Commission she leads contains 50-50 representation of men and women by decision of the AU Summit of African Heads of State and Government.

Dlamini-Zuma, who has been a cabinet minister in South Africa since 1994, noted that this is the first time a woman has been elected to the top African position in 49 years since the formation of the continental body, adding that, "This election poses a greater responsibility on women in general."

In her inaugural address, she traced the rich history of Africa in which women played an important role in economic and governance structures, and more recently in the struggle for liberation from colonial rule and apartheid.



Chairperson of AU Commission
Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma

With regard to youth empowerment, Dlamini-Zuma said there is need to harness the energy, resourcefulness and enthusiasm of the young people so that they can contribute positively to societies, nations and the continent.

"We are a formidable force as a continent if we are united, but if we are divided we are weak. Nobody can ignore us united. Nobody can fail to see the continent as a force for global change, if we look at ourselves as a continent."

On peace and security, the former South African Home Affairs Minister said that, while Africa has witnessed significant progress in its political landscape, there are some countries that are still experiencing instability for various reasons.

She said peace and stability are a prerequisite for socio-economic development, hence the need to redouble efforts to address the conflicts.

"In spite of this laudable progress, we must also acknowledge that there have been some difficulties and set-

backs, with pockets of instability and conflict. ...It is therefore our responsibility as governments, as citizens, as regional bodies to ensure that the democratic process is irrevocable and to pledge ourselves to work for its success."

She said the AU Commission will continue to work with various stakeholders and regional organizations to promote and consolidate peace in the continent, and that the principle of finding African solutions to African problems will always be maintained.

Dlamini-Zuma said Regional Economic Communities (RECs) must continue to lead the integration process as the main agents for implementation.

Three RECs are at an advanced stage of forming an integrated market covering 27 countries in eastern and southern Africa. These are the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), and SADC.

This Tripartite Free Trade Area is expected to increase intra-regional trade and deepen integration through improved investment flows and enhanced competition.

Dlamini-Zuma takes over the AU Commission chair from Gabon's Jean Ping. Her ascendency followed intense lobbying by SADC Member States, who argued that it was time for southern Africa to lead the AU Commission as other regions have had the opportunity to occupy the top post.

A skilled administrator and diplomat with a pan-African vision, Dlamini-Zuma was widely respected in southern Africa and in Africa during the decade she served as South Africa's Minister of Foreign Affairs. sardc.net □



2012

A significant year for SADC

2012

Infrastructure Development Master Plan will guide the implementation in six priority sectors

- energy
- transport
- tourism
- information technology
- meteorology
- water.

SADC Regional Development Fund.

New strategic plan for regional peace and security covering five sectors – political, defence, state security, public security, and police.

First Southern African, first woman to head African Union Commission

First woman President in SADC

Kavango Zambezi Trans Frontier Conservation Area established, the world's largest

SOUTHERN AFRICA continued to record advances towards regional integration and stability, and gender equality, with the key indicators for 2012 being the launch of the long-awaited regional infrastructure master plan and the strategic plan on peace and security, among others.

SADC took a major step forward in deepening integration when Heads of State and Government approved the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan at their Summit in Mozambique in August. The Plan contains the vision for infrastructure development in SADC between 2012 and 2027.

The Master Plan guides development in key infrastructure such as road, rail and ports, and provides a framework for coordination and cooperation with development partners and private sector. It will be implemented over three five-year intervals – short term (2012-2017), medium term (2017-2022) and long term (2022-2027).

This is in line with the *SADC Vision 2027*, a 15-year implementation horizon for forecasting infrastructure requirements in the region that is aligned with the African Union's Programme for Infrastructure Development of Africa. The Plan constitutes a key input to the proposed tripartite Free Trade Area made up of SADC, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and the East African Community (EAC).

Another significant milestone for 2012 was the approval to establish a Regional Development Fund, a financial mechanism for mobilising resources from Member States, the private sector and development partners, for financing of SADC programmes and projects.

The strategic plan for sustainable peace and security in the region, the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO) on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation launched in November, covers five sectors and provides the conditions for economic and social development (*see facing page*).

On tourism development, the world's largest Trans Frontier Conservation Area (TFCA) became a reality in March when the Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) TFCA was launched by five SADC member states – Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Situated in the Okavango and Zambezi river basins where the borders of the five countries converge, the KAZA TFCA covers an area of some 444,000 square kilometres consisting of 36 national parks, game reserves, community conservancies and game management areas, and boasts numerous other tourist attractions such as the Victoria Falls, as well as the absorbing wildlife population in an area now open to traditional migration routes.

Elections held in Angola and Lesotho further strengthened southern Africa's profile as a stable investment destination and boosted economic prospects.

In Lesotho, there was a transfer of power from the former Prime Minister, Pakalitha Mosisili, who despite winning the 26 May national poll by a slight margin, got only 48 seats in the 120-seat National Assembly, which was not enough to secure an outright majority.

He resigned to allow the opposition to form a coalition government led by the All-Basotho Convention (ABC) of Thomas Thabane. Under Lesotho law, the leader of the majority party in the National Assembly automatically becomes prime minister.

In parliamentary elections held in Angola in August, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) led by President José Eduardo dos Santos won another mandate for the next five years. The leader of the party with a parliamentary majority automatically becomes president.

Lesotho maintained its representation by women in the lower house at 31, about 25 percent of the total, and Angola with 76 women members of parliament slipped slightly to 34.5 percent.

The regional target is gender parity – 50:50 by 2015.

SADC women have been taking their place in leadership positions at home, on the continent and worldwide in 2012.

The first woman President in the SADC region is Her Excellency, Mrs. Joyce Banda, President of Malawi, the former Vice President, who was sworn into office in April 2012 following the death of her predecessor.

The Vice President of Mauritius, Hon. Monique Ohsan Bellepeau was acting President from 31 March – 21 July 2012, following resignation of the President, until a successor was chosen.

The new Chairperson of the African Union Commission is the SADC candidate, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, the former Minister of Home Affairs of South Africa, who was sworn into office on 15 October (*see page 5*). The Commission she heads has 50-50 representation of men and women by decision of the AU Summit of African Heads of State and Government.

Asha Rose Migiro was released by the Tanzanian government to serve as Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations 2007-2012. She stepped down this year but not off the world stage, as she is now the Special Envoy for HIV and AIDS in Africa.

A main challenge to regional development in 2012, in addition to the uncertain global financial environment, was the conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Initiated by anti-government rebels, the conflict generated a massive humanitarian crisis, with serious implications for regional integration and socio-economic development. This was addressed by the SADC Summit in August, and a Troika Summit in September, including a mission to Rwanda by the SADC Chairperson (*see page 13*). □

SADC launches new plan for regional peace and security

SADC HAS a new strategic plan for regional peace and security covering five sectors – political, defence, state security, public security and police.

The plan was launched on 20 November in Arusha by the Tanzanian President, Jakaya Kikwete, the current Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

He urged Member States to make resources available for implementation of the Revised Strategic Indicative Plan of the Organ (SIPO).

"Peace is an important aspect in regional prosperity, hence there is a need for member countries to chip in with enough resources to make the bloc calm and stable," Kikwete said. "Efforts towards making our region calm are in our hands. ...

"It is time for member countries to start allocating enough resources to address the emerging challenges... We shouldn't wait for other people to act on our behalf."

Kikwete also stressed that political will is needed to move forward.

Speaking at the same occasion, the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Tomás Augusto Salomão, emphasised the need to preserve "peace, security, stability and democracy, as a prerequisite for regional integration and sustainable development", in order to address the challenges posed by the new political, economic and social context in the region.

Salomão traced the history of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation established by SADC Heads of State and Government in 1996, and its achievements and challenges, saying that it constitutes a "solid platform for deepening the political cooperation and cohesion in the region".

The legal instruments already adopted for implementation include various SADC protocols, notably that on politics, defence and security cooperation signed in 2001.

Other protocols are against corruption; for combating illicit drugs; the control of firearms and ammunition; facilitation of the movement of persons; extradition; legal affairs, mutual assistance in criminal matters; and a mutual defence pact.

The first Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO) identifying strategies and activities was adopted in 2003 for implementation over five years. Discussions on revision of the plan began in 2007.

The Executive Secretary identified the key achievements as the integration of the regional police chiefs organization into the Inter-State

Defence and Security Committee; establishment of the Regional Early Warning Centre for conflict prevention and management; and the SADC Standby Force.

Salomão also cited establishment of civilian structures such as the SADC Electoral Advisory Council, and the SADC Mediation, Conflict Prevention and Preventive Diplomacy structures.

However, he added that, in addition to these achievements, there are challenges resulting from geopolitics and global dynamics, but also from inadequate coordination mechanisms and a shortage of human and financial resources for appropriate implementation.

The SIPO is to be reviewed at five-year intervals to ensure adequate response to the changing geopolitical environment, and relevance of objectives, strategies and activities in various sectors, as well as to strengthen monitoring mechanisms, human resources and structures.

A main goal of the programme, Salomão said, is to publicise and disseminate the revised SIPO to all stakeholders, to facilitate development of a comprehensive work plan to enable "relevant stakeholders to be true partners in the implementation".

In launching the new policy document, the Tanzanian President said it is intended to address some of the new challenges facing the region, Africa and the world, noting that SADC plays a "leading role in the unity and cohesion of the region and the continent, while significantly contributing to peace, security, humanitarian assistance and development activities at regional and continental levels."

Among the new challenges he cited are piracy, climate change, human trafficking, illegal immigration and economic recession.

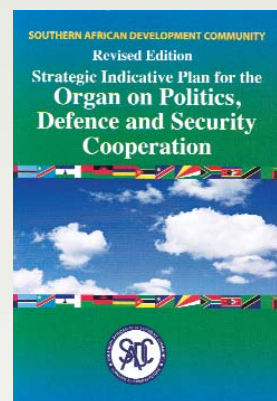
Specific challenges, in addition to poverty, are the deteriorating situation in the Great Lakes Region, notably the worsening conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). He appealed again to the parties for a ceasefire, "taking into account that innocent civilians are the ones who are most highly affected."

The launch was witnessed by senior defence, police and correctional services officers from Tanzania, and senior government officials and diplomats from SADC member states, as well as research and academic institutions attending a symposium on the new strategic plan.

SADC has 15 member states including DRC, but Madagascar is currently suspended following a non-constitutional change of government in 2009. sardc.net □

2012

The new strategic plan covers five sectors – political, defence, state security, public security, police.



RENEWABLE ENERGY technologies are expected to ease southern Africa's power shortages as the region seeks solutions to a decade-long problem that threatens to derail efforts to attain energy self-sufficiency and regional development.

Renewable energy is any energy that is naturally replenished, and includes energy from natural resources such as hydro, methane, sunlight, wind and geothermal heat. Energy produced from the refining of biomass is also classified as renewable.

Coal, oil and natural gas are fossil fuels and are classified as non-renewable energy.

Unlike fossil fuels, the renewable energy sources are generally less polluting to the environment, hence the need for southern Africa to increase the uptake of this type of energy.

The most common renewable energy in SADC is hydropower, which accounts for about 20 percent of SADC's total energy generation, while other renewables do not make any significant contribution to the national or regional grids.

Non-renewable thermal power accounts for the largest proportion of the SADC energy mix, with about 74 percent of all power produced.

This is despite the fact that southern Africa is hugely endowed with renewable energy resources.

In this regard, a rigorous programme to promote the widespread use of renewable energy products and technologies could help the SADC region reduce the burden of power shortages as well as the overreliance on non-renewable fossil fuels.

Renewable products and technologies

The use of renewable energy products and technologies is gradually increasing in southern Africa. The most common renewable energy products in SADC use hydropower.

However, the full potential of hydro as a source of renewable energy is yet to be exploited, and a number of dams are lying idle instead of producing electricity for small towns or remote areas.

The Zambezi River, for example, drains water from eight SADC Member States and has an estimated hydropower generation capacity of about 20,000 megawatts (MW), which is almost enough to meet the region's energy needs if potential sites are exploited.

Only 23 percent of this potential is being harnessed, largely from two main sites at the Kariba Dam between Zambia and Zimbabwe, and the Cahora Bassa Dam in Mozambique.

Hydropower is also in abundance with the Inga project on the Congo River in the Democratic Republic of Congo having the potential to produce about 40,000 MW of electricity.

Outside the national and regional grid, solar technology is commonly used, providing electricity to families



Solar-powered generator



Towards renewable energy Challenges and opportunities technologies

and communities. Solar technologies use panels that attract energy from the sun to generate electricity through the photovoltaic process.

Other products include solar lamps, solar water heaters, solar streetlights, solar phone chargers, solar radios, and solar torches that have many practical uses in both rural and urban areas as they are rechargeable.

There are also solar-powered generators that provide hours of solar energy to keep households powered during electricity outages. However, with the exception of hydropower, there are no sustainable incentives or subsidy schemes to encourage largescale, grid-connected electricity based on renewable energy systems.

According to the African Development Bank (AfDB), Africa could become a "goldmine" for renewable energy due to the abundant hydro, solar and wind resources that are now hugely sought after by international investors in their quest for a new clean-energy frontier.

Most African countries receive more than 2,500 hours of sunshine per year, and most of the continent has sunshine all year round.

An assessment by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Environment Facility also reveals that there is 4,000 MW of geothermal electricity ready for harvesting along the Rift Valley.

Challenges

With all their advantages, most renewable products and technologies are not cheap to install. For example, a typical home solar system in the region costs anywhere between US\$500 and US\$1,000, according to the AfDB.

A micro hydro system that converts the flow of water into electrical energy, or a wind turbine, is also expensive to install and maintain. As a result, most countries in SADC tend to focus more on fossil fuels because thermal stations are easier and cheaper to construct compared to hydro and wind plants.



Barriers for using new

There are other significant barriers that limit the development of renewable energy unless special policy measures are enacted to encourage development.

These hurdles can be grouped into several categories – commercialization barriers, price distortions, and market barriers such as inadequate information, lack of access to finance, and high transaction costs for making small purchases.

In order to compete against fossil fuel and nuclear technologies, renewable energy solutions must overcome two major barriers to commercialization – undeveloped infrastructure and lack of economies of scale.

Developing new renewable resources will require large initial investments to build infrastructure. These investments increase the cost of providing electricity, especially during early years.

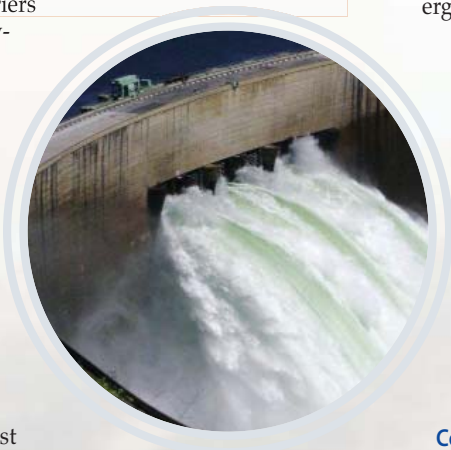
In some cases developers must find publicly acceptable sites with good resources and with access to transmission lines. Potential wind sites can require several years of monitoring to determine whether they are suitable.

There are also costs related to marketing activities that should accompany promotion of renewable energy products. Start-up companies must communicate the benefits of renewables to customers in order to persuade them to switch from traditional sources.

Public education will be a critical part of a fully functioning market if renewables are to succeed.

Opportunities

SADC Member States are slowly turning to renewable energy to boost production and meet the ever-growing demand for electricity



in the region, and knowledge about renewable energy products and technology is extensive throughout the SADC region, although its use is still limited.

The countries that are leading efforts to harness renewable energy include Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania. These countries have stepped up efforts to harness the huge renewable potential that lies untapped in the region.

For example, Mozambique is aiming to boost production at the Mphanda Nkuwa hydropower plant. The Mphanda Nkuwa power plant has the capacity to add about 1500 MW of new electricity on the regional power grid.

The DRC has also stepped up efforts to exploit the Inga Dam potential to generate income and facilitate energy efficiency.

With regard to solar energy, Botswana plans to build a 200 MW solar plant that has capacity to provide a significant portion of the country's energy needs as its national power consumption is about 450 MW.

South Africa has approved largescale wind power projects, with total capacity to generate 562 MW as part of its Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Programme.

South Africa also plans to commission at least 400 MW of wind power by independent producers within the next few years. Most of the plants will be located along the West Coast that has the potential to generate about 10,000 MW of electricity.

With respect to geothermal energy, Tanzania plans to use smallscale geothermal plants for rural electricity mini-grid systems. In Mozambique, at least 38 thermal springs have been identified, mostly within the Rift Valley just north of Metangula.

In Malawi, 21 major hot springs are reported in the Chitipa-Karonga area down to Chipudze in the southern region.

Conclusion

Development of the renewable energy industry has been made difficult by the lack of financial resources and poor infrastructure to tap the resource.

Madagascar provides a practical example of how southern African countries can benefit from the utilization of the abundant renewable energy resources.

To address some of these pertinent challenges, southern Africa can do it the Madagascan way so people can benefit from solar and wind resources. The island nation, which is the fourth largest island in the world, embarked some years ago on a smallscale exercise to harness its solar potential and provide power to the rural population, who are not connected to the national electricity grid.

Rural clinics and hospitals were equipped with solar technologies such as small solar panels to produce their own electricity and in the process enabling them to cool vital vaccines and other medicines.

Given the cost involved, experts are urging Africa to start with smaller solar projects that are cheaper to ensure that power is available to the majority of its people while bigger projects can be done in partnership with willing investors. □



Africa adopts Arusha Declaration on sustainable development

by Egline Tauya and
Stalin Tazvitya

ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS from more than 40 African countries have adopted a blueprint that outlines the continent's agenda following the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Brazil in June.

The Arusha Declaration on Africa's Post Rio+20 Strategy for Sustainable Development was adopted at the end of the 14th session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN).

The declaration outlines a number of commitments, actions and programmes to be undertaken to tackle environmental challenges facing Africa such as land degradation, climate change, deforestation, low agriculture productivity and poverty.

Flagship programmes to be initiated under the Arusha Declaration include introduction of the:

- Ecosystem-Based Adaptation Programme for Africa;
- African Programme on Sustainable Energy Development;
- Integrated Waste Management Programme for Africa;
- Africa Integrated Environmental Assessment for Sustainable Development Planning;
- African Programme on Biodiversity and Ecosystems;
- African Partnership for Capacity Building, Technology Transfer and Skills Development; and,
- A sustainable land management and desertification programme in Africa.

Decisions made include endorsing the African common position for the upcoming 18th session of the Conference of Parties (COP 18) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) set for December in Doha, Qatar.

Africa is expected to spearhead the adaptation agenda at this conference.

The plan to initiate an African green economy partnership was another outcome of the AMCEN meeting. This would facilitate coordinated support for member states to implement the global partnership for action on green economy as a vehicle for poverty eradication, job creation and sustainable development.

Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Mohamed Gharib Bilal, called for renewed commitment to tackling challenges which threaten the future of African people and urged the ministers to build a green economy that aims at reducing poverty.

The ministers agreed to review the African 10-Year Framework on Sustainable Consumption and Production which was approved in 2005. The framework supports regional and national initiatives, contributing to resource effi-

ciency while creating new job opportunities and contributing to poverty eradication.

It covers consumer information aimed at promoting environmental management tools such as life cycle assessments, eco-labelling, and environmental audits.

Another outcome was the need to use the UNEP *Africa Environment Outlook* to review the state of African environment for decision-making at national and regional levels.

This promotes the production of regional state of the environment reports such as the *Southern Africa Environment Outlook* launched in 2009.

In view of strengthening and upgrading UNEP, which was one of the key outcomes of Rio+20, the ministers urged the General Assembly to progressively consolidate UNEP headquarters functions in Nairobi, as well as to strengthen its regional presence, in order to assist countries, upon request, in the implementation of their national environmental policies.

The delegates also requested upgrading of UNEP regional offices, including establishment of five sub-regional offices in Africa to be able to respond more effectively to environmental priorities at national and sub-national levels and to assist in building capacities to address emerging issues and new development challenges.

AMCEN's 14th ordinary session was held in Arusha, Tanzania, in September 2012 and was the first major conference to discuss key issues on the environment and sustainable development after the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, known as Rio+20, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June. □

Highlights of Africa's Post Rio Strategy

✿ An agreement to strengthen and consolidate commitment to the promotion of sustainable development and effectively integrate the economic, environmental and social dimensions in local, national and regional development policies and strategies.

✿ A reaffirmation of the need to speak for the continent in one voice and ensure the adequate representation of Africa in all committees established for the follow-up of the outcomes of the Rio+20 conference.

✿ The initiation of an African green economy partnership that facilitates coordi-

nated support to member states and serves to implement the global partnership for action on green economy as a vehicle for poverty eradication, decent jobs creation and sustainable development.

✿ A request to Member States to use the *African Environment Outlook* as a tool for reviewing the state of the African environment to support decision-making at national and regional levels;

✿ A review of the African 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production to hasten the implementation of programmes;

✿ Strengthening and upgrading of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to ensure secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources from the regular UN budget (to a level of two percent of the overall budget), to be supplemented by voluntary contributions; and,

✿ Upgrading of the UNEP regional office and establishment of five sub-regional offices in Africa, as well as creation of a universal membership body known as the Environment Assembly, with a ministerial segment called the Ministerial Conference on Environment. □

SADC embraces Africa's common position for COP18

by Egline Tauya and
Neto Nengomasha

SADC ENVIRONMENT ministers have agreed to support Africa's common position for the 2012 climate change negotiations.

The ministers, who met during the Africa Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) in September in the United Republic of Tanzania, noted that the African position for the 18th session of Conference of Parties (COP18) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is in line with the SADC position.

The position includes the need for COP18 to come up with an agreement for a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

The ministers expressed concern that there was no clarity after COP17 held in Durban, South Africa as to whether the extension period of the Protocol would be five or eight years.

SADC as well as the rest of Africa prefers a commitment period that avoids a gap in the legally binding emissions reduction provided for under the Protocol.

Africa's position is to urge developed countries to commit themselves to far more extensive emission reductions than in the first Kyoto period ending this year. This would ensure global warming stays below 1.5°C.

Africa also wants an outcome that commits developed countries to honour their pledges under the Green Climate Fund.

This would ensure the provision of adequate and predictable funding for adaptation and nationally appropriate mitigation actions in developing countries.

SADC and the rest of Africa expects COP18 to come up with a mechanism to ensure fair, transparent and unbiased criteria for access to resources relating to the Green Climate Fund, the Climate Technology Centre and capacity-building efforts.

Concerns have been raised over the slow disbursement of financial resources pledged by the high-polluting industrialized countries as start-up financing for the period 2010 - 2012.

Africa is also concerned that there is no agreed level of financing for the period 2013 - 2020.

The environment ministers noted the need to ensure a fair and equitable representation of the region in all the institutions created under the UNFCCC such as the Climate Technology Centre, the Green

Climate Fund board, and the Adaptation Committee, as agreed during COP16 held in Cancun, Mexico in 2010.

One SADC Member State, Namibia, put in a strong bid to host the secretariat of the Green Climate Fund but lost to South Korea.

Africa will emphasise the need for urgency in action on agreed outcomes since the window of opportunity to avoid dangerous climate change impacts is closing.

Scientists are forecasting that a maximum of five years is remaining to avoid irreversible climate change.

Africa, therefore, notes the growing risk of catastrophic impacts, particularly to the continent.

SADC and the rest of the continent call upon developed countries to urgently increase support for the implementa-

tion of adaptation measures and plans, and to support and expedite work to understand, reduce and compensate for losses and damage associated with adverse effects of climate change, including impacts on agriculture.

They urged parties to the UNFCCC to rapidly increase technology development transfer to Africa in support of adaptation in all relevant sectors, including agriculture, water, health, forestry, energy, transport, industry and waste management sectors.

The SADC meeting in Arusha was in response to the decision of the SADC Council of Ministers held in August, which requested the region to develop a common position ahead of COP18.

COP18 takes place from 26 November to 7 December 2012 in Doha, Qatar. □

Zimbabwe to chair UNFCCC committee

A ZIMBABWEAN official, Margaret Mukahanana-Sangarwe, has been elected as the first chair of the newly formed Adaptation Committee of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

As part of the Cancun Adaptation Framework, adopted during the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) held in Mexico in 2010, parties to the UNFCCC established an Adaptation Committee to promote the implementation of action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the convention.

The committee's functions include provision of technical support and guidance to UNFCCC parties; sharing of information, knowledge, experiences and good practices;



Margaret Mukahanana-Sangarwe elected first Chair of new Adaptation Committee of UNFCCC

and promoting synergies and strengthening engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks.

The committee also aims to provide information and rec-

ommendations for consideration by the COP when providing guidance on incentives for the implementation of adaptation actions, including finance, technology and capacity-building.

The first Adaptation Committee meeting was held in Bangkok in September, where Mukahanana-Sangarwe was elected.

The new committee will set out the guidelines for countries to develop and implement their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

In addition, it will also promote technical and financial assistance for countries in implementing NAPs, although how much funding will be available to assist developing countries is still not clear. □

Natural resources can propel southern Africa's growth

by Kizito Sikuka
in Windhoek, Namibia

SADC's VAST and largely untapped hydrocarbon resources are attracting a more prominent profile among the world's biggest oil producers.

Namibia is regarded as the next big player in Africa's oil industry, expected to join continental petroleum powerhouses Angola and Nigeria. Angola is the second largest oil producer in Africa and the eighth largest in the world.

With an estimated 11 billion barrels of oil reserves, Namibia has marginally less than its northern neighbour Angola. Mines and Energy Minister

Isak Katali says Namibia could become a consequential oil producer by as early as 2015.

Recent discoveries by oil and gas firms from Italy and the United States have also sparked tremendous interest from international gas and oil companies to start exploring offshore Mozambique.

SADC and other regions of Africa have vast natural resources that include timber, fishery, land, water and minerals such as diamonds, gold and platinum, lithium, titanium and chrome, among many others.

Despite all the abundance of natural resources on the continent, some parts of Africa

continue to be among the poorest in the world.

Thus, there is need for the continent to develop viable strategies to ensure that the extraction of resources is beneficial to Africa, with significant value-addition on the continent and increase local shareholding and ownership of mining companies.

"When we extract the minerals, we are extracting our capital. Therefore, we need to use them wisely," Claude Kabemba, Director of the Southern Africa Resources Watch (SARW), told SADC journalists in Windhoek, Namibia.

He said natural resources are a valuable asset for sustain-

ing growth, reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), hence the continent must properly manage its resources and seek value-addition.

"Africa needs to invest heavily in data collection and knowledge management about its natural resources," Kabemba said, adding that most of the available data is from investors.

He urged African governments to consider re-negotiating some of the mineral extraction deals signed many decades ago as most of them do not benefit the continent.

Kabemba acknowledged that this poses its own technical and legal challenges, but concluded that it remains an important intervention if Africa is to take full advantage of its resources.

For example, the DRC has renegotiated some of its mining deals in recent years, and has published natural resource contracts in a move meant to improve transparency.

To fully benefit from its natural resources, Africa should also review its minerals laws and royalty regime systems, Kabemba said. "It's important that Africa sets good tax clauses in the contracts." □

South Africa establishes mining research institute

SOUTH AFRICA has established the country's first institute dedicated exclusively to the mining industry in a move aimed at halting the decline in human capital within its mining sector and to deepen mining research.

The Wits Mining Research Institute (WMRI), launched in September at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, will seek to advance min-

ing research as an important component of economic growth.

The institute also hopes to increase the number of students choosing to study mining, by organising high-level skills training in key areas, including the investigation of new methods for mining and exploration; mining policy; health and safety; environmental impacts; and community issues.

WMRI acting director, Nien van der Merwe, said the South African mining sector was being affected by lack of human capacity and research, coupled with inadequate training for the next generation of researchers.

"The institute will stimulate collaboration between disciplines, from law and management to migration, economics and healthcare," he said. □

EU to support regional integration and development

SADC AND the European Union have signed agreements worth 36 million Euros to support regional integration and development.

The agreement covers the strengthening of institutional capacity for the SADC Secretariat and Member States, including civil society.

The component in support of regional political cooperation amounts to 18 million Euros to strengthen the capacity of SADC to perform its mandate in the area of politics, governance, peace and security.

The programme for institutional capacity development provides 12 million Euros to strengthen capacity of the SADC Secretariat to promote equitable economic growth and sustainable socio-economic development in SADC's 15 Member States.

The third component is a technical cooperation facility of six million Euros to contribute to improving the coordina-

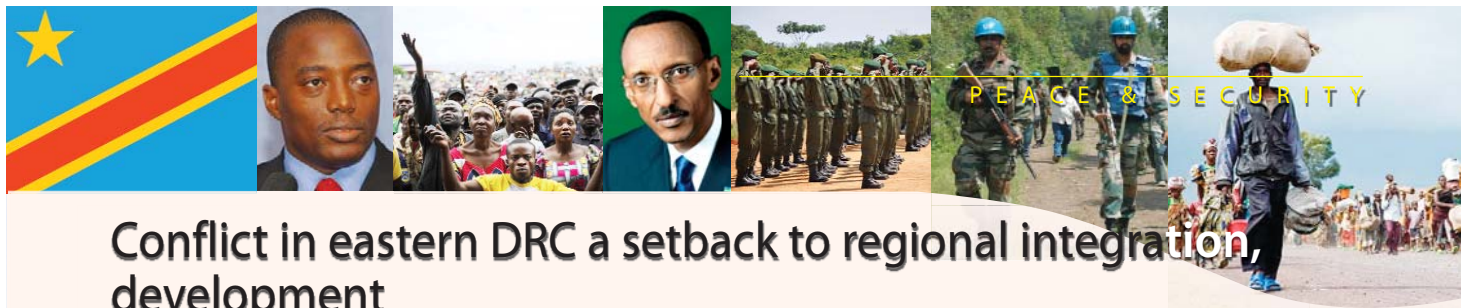
tion, harmonisation and development of national-regional linkages.

The agreements signed by the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Tomás Augusto Salomão, and Ambassador Gerard McGovern, the Head of the European Union Delegation to Botswana and SADC, mark an important milestone in the bilateral relations between SADC and the EU.

Noting that "one of the three agreements is the first contribution agreement between SADC and the EU," Salomão said the move "towards the contribution agreement modality shows a deeper commitment of the European Union to reinforce SADC's ownership, systems capacity development and aid effectiveness."

"The EU has learned many lessons in its integration experience," Ambassador McGovern said, "and is happy to share these experiences with countries on the African continent and beyond." *sadc.int.* □





Conflict in eastern DRC a setback to regional integration, development

THE CONFLICT in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo is a setback to regional integration and socio-economic development, and SADC strongly condemned the deteriorating security situation, including the invasion and capture of Goma on 20 November by anti-government rebels.

SADC demanded the immediate withdrawal of the rebels from Goma and the cessation of hostilities, and called for peaceful and durable resolution of the conflict, saying it can be resolved through collective dialogue.

"SADC in collaboration with the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region will continue to make all efforts to find the way forward in urgently addressing this matter."

The SADC Organ Troika met in September in Dar es Salaam, following the visit to Rwanda by the SADC Chairperson, President Armando Guebuza of Mozambique, who had been mandated by the SADC Summit in August to engage the government of Rwanda, and did so immediately.

The Troika welcomed his swift action and his report, and endorsed his recommendations.

The Organ Troika Summit was attended by the Presidents of Tanzania, Mozambique and Namibia, as well as DRC, the defence minister of South Africa, and SADC Executive Secretary.

They reaffirmed commitment to the decisions of the full SADC Summit in August, and requested the Executive Secretary to work with his counterpart at the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

At their Summit in Maputo in August, SADC leaders noted with "great concern" the deterioration in the security situation in the eastern DRC during the previous three months, causing displacement of people and loss of lives and property.

Summit noted that "this is being perpetrated by rebel groups with assistance of Rwanda" and urged Rwanda to cease immediately its interference "that constitutes a threat to peace and stability, not only of the DRC, but also of the SADC region."

They agreed that this situation called for renewed and urgent attention by Summit which had fielded an assessment mission to DRC, a member state, and they mandated the SADC Chairperson to engage the Government of Rwanda with the aim of urging Rwanda to stop military support to the armed rebels in the DRC.

Summit urged member states and the international community to provide humanitarian relief to the displaced people in the eastern DRC, and directed the SADC Secretariat to collaborate with the ICGLR Secretariat in pursuit of peace and security.

Leaders in the Great Lakes Region also directed the rebels to withdraw from Goma and stop all war activities, and resolved that a composite force comprising one neutral force, DRC military and national police should be deployed to Goma.

Among those present at the ICGLR summit was President Jakaya Kikwete of the United Republic of Tanzania, who currently chairs the SADC Troika on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

SADC member states who are part of the ICGLR are Angola, DRC, Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia. Other members are Burundi, Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda.

The summit expressed gratitude to South Africa which offered to provide logistical support to the Neutral International Force that would help to keep peace in eastern DRC, and Tanzania which offered to provide a Force Commander for the Neutral International Force. Other contributors to the force were not announced at that time.

The rebels launched a rebellion against DRC President Joseph Kabila's government in April 2012, and recently threatened to march on Kinshasa, the faraway capital of the vast, mineral-rich country.

They call themselves the March 23 (M23) movement as that is the date on which they had agreed to lay down arms and be integrated into the national army, before deserting and claiming their conditions had not been met.

President Paul Kagame has denied accusations by the DRC, SADC and other African leaders, and a UN panel of experts, that Rwanda is providing military support to the rebels. Uganda has also denied supporting the rebels.

The UN Security Council demanded the withdrawal of M23 rebels from Goma, and condemned their human rights abuses, including summary executions, gender-based violence, and largescale recruitment of child soldiers. UN Resolution 2076 imposed targeted sanctions on mem-

bers of the leadership, but no arms embargo.

In one of the strongest signals to Rwanda, however, their major donor, the United Kingdom, announced it was withholding almost US\$34 million in aid, following a confusion in which aid was suspended in July and reinstated in September.

The international development secretary said the government had "already set out its concerns over credible and compelling reports of Rwandan involvement with M23 in DRC."

Kabila has dismissed negotiations with M23, saying the DRC would only talk to Rwanda.

Kabila and his Rwandan and Ugandan counterparts, Presidents Kagame and Museveni, met in Uganda for talks the day after the capture of Goma, the provincial capital of North Kivu province close to the Rwandan border.

Their joint statement on 21 November said that, "in solidarity with the Congolese people and their counterpart", Museveni and Kagame had condemned both the expansion of the war and "the idea of overthrowing the legitimate government of DRC or undermining its authority."

They said they would communicate with the rebels to stop their offensive and pull out of Goma. Kabila made a commitment that DRC would look into "the causes of discontent and address them as best it can."

The three leaders agreed that "a comprehensive and operational plan geared towards lasting peace and stability will be drawn up as a matter of urgency." □

SADC ready to defend AFCON trophy

FOUR SOUTHERN African countries will raise the regional profile at the 2013 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals to be hosted by South Africa.

This is the first AFCON to be held on an odd year. Africa made this change to ensure that the tournament does not clash with the world cup.

The world cup is held after every four years, and on occasions that the global soccer event was hosted in the same year as the AFCON, most African teams did not perform at their best, with many attributing this to fatigue.

The world cup is usually held in June-July while the AFCON is held in January-February.

Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa and defending champions Zambia are the four SADC representations.

Angola, DRC and Zambia booked their places at next year's finals as winners of two-legged clashes against Zimbabwe, Equatorial Guinea and Uganda respectively. South Africa is participating as the host nation.

With the defending champions Zambia and the host South Africa from this region, expectations are high that one of the SADC representatives might win the trophy or at least reach the finals.

Zambia has been placed in the same group as Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Nigeria. South Africa is in a group with Angola, Cape Verde and Morocco, while DRC is grouped with Ghana, Niger and Mali.

Speaking soon after the group draw was made in Durban, South Africa in October, southern African representatives expressed satisfaction with the draw and pledged to do their best to win the tournament.

"All the draws were tough and I think this is a fairly good draw for us," South African coach Gordon Igesund said, adding that the hosts, Bafana Bafana, are determined to go all the way to the finals.

His Zambian counterpart, Herve Renard, whose team lifted the 2012 AFCON trophy against all odds, said Chipolopololo, as the Zambian team is affectionately known, "will prove their mettle once again".

"We are confident. We are here to make history. We did it in 2012. No one was able to say Zambia will win in 2012. We stayed a small team but we managed to go very far," he said.

DR Congo coach Claude Le Roy said he will use his vast



experience in participating at the AFCON to steer DRC to victory. Le Roy is making his seventh appearance, with different African teams.

"It is my seventh Africa Cup of Nations so I know I have the experience, but I must admit that it will be difficult," the 1988 Nations Cup winner said.

The Angolan coach Gustavo Ferrin said hosting the 2010 AFCON in Luanda had helped the country improve its preparation for such tournaments. He said the Sable Antelopes would "try to qualify for the finals".

The AFCON finals will be held from 19 January to 10 February 2013. SADC is hosting the event for only the third time. South Africa hosted the finals in 1994, the first to be held in southern Africa. Angola was the second SADC country to host the finals in 2010. □




Southern African participants ready to represent region at the 2013 Africa Cup of Nations



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EVENTS

Events December 2012-February 2013

December 26 November – 7 December, Qatar	COP 18 on Climate Change The 18th Conference of the Parties (COP 18) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change will be held concurrently with the Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 8). COP 18 will assess progress in dealing with climate change issues and deadlines.
1, Global	World Aids Day On 1 December each year SADC joins the rest of the world in commemorating World Aids Day. The theme for the event until 2015 is "Getting to Zero", signifying commitment to reduce the prevalence of HIV and AIDS to zero.
16-20, South Africa	ANC 53rd National Conference The African National Congress of South Africa holds an elective conference every five years to elect the party leadership and review progress. The ANC's nine provinces support candidates for the party's top six positions. The 2012 conference in Mangaung follows a policy review conference in August.
January 15-17, United Arab Emirates	6th World Future Energy Summit The summit will concentrate on energy innovation in policy implementation, technology development, finance and investment approaches, and existing and upcoming projects.
19 Jan-10 Feb, South Africa	African Cup of Nations A total of 16 countries from Africa will compete in the bi-annual soccer tournament. Four teams from SADC – Angola, DRC, South Africa and Zambia – will raise the regional profile at the finals.
28-29, Ethiopia	20th Ordinary Session of the African Union Heads of State and Government will gather for the 20th Ordinary Session of the African Union, preceded by the usual technical meetings and the Council of Ministers. The theme of the summit is "Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance".
February 18-22, Kenya	27th Session of the Governing Council of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum The council convenes annually to review important and emerging policy issues in the field of environment. It aims to promote international cooperation as well as provide general policy guidance for the direction and coordination of environmental programmes globally.
19-21, South Africa	Africa Energy Indaba The annual conference aims to explore ways in which Africa can harness its huge energy resources to achieve energy self-sufficiency. It is a forum for professionals from across the globe to debate and define solutions to Africa's energy challenges.
TBA, Mozambique	SADC Council of Ministers Ministers from each Member State sit in Council, usually from the ministries of foreign affairs, economic development, planning or finance. Council is responsible for supervising and monitoring the functions and development of SADC, and ensuring that policies are properly implemented, as well as making recommendations to Summit.
TBA, South Africa	SADC Infrastructure Investment Conference The conference will seek to lure potential investors for the SADC regional infrastructure development programme. It will be followed by road shows in Asia, Europe and the United States for the same purpose.

25 years

Zimbabwe Unity Accord

22 December 1987

ZIMBABWE COMMEMORATES the 25th anniversary of the Unity Agreement in 2012.

On 22 December 1987, the two liberation parties in Zimbabwe – the Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (ZANU PF) and the Patriotic Front Zimbabwe African People's Union (PF ZAPU) – signed the historic Unity Agreement to facilitate socio-economic development and political stability.

The then Prime Minister and First Secretary of ZANU, Robert Mugabe, and the President of ZAPU, Joshua Nkomo, signed the agreement that resulted in the merger of the two parties to form a united ZANU PF, effectively stopping the political dissatisfaction and instability that had erupted in the south-west of the country in the early 1980s, and closing ranks against apartheid South Africa's manipulation of the situation.

Mugabe was elected First Secretary and President of the unified ZANU PF and it was agreed that the party would have two second secretaries and vice presidents to be appointed by the first secretary and president of the party.

Joshua Nkomo and Simon Muzenda were the two Vice Presidents appointed, and both played a significant role in implementation of the agreement.

The Unity Agreement was significant in that it showed that the leaders of the main political parties had the capacity to resolve their differences for the nation and the region in general.

"Today is a great day. It is great because we have seen the coming together in body, mind and spirit of our two parties," Mugabe said after the signing ceremony.

"What we are witnessing is a tremendous blow to the forces of negation, the forces of division, the forces of destruction...let them be laid to rest for eternity."

Nkomo added that the accord was "the beginning of unity, for unity is not just the signing of documents, unity is what follows."

The two parties' historical links date back to the Patriotic Front alliance which was the effective instrument for prosecuting the struggle against white minority rule and winning democracy and national independence for Zimbabwe.

The first united front was achieved in 1896, during the First Chimurenga War against the white miners and settlers when the Shona and Ndebele leaders collaborated to resist colonial domination.

They also worked together during the Second Chimurenga War when they formed the Patriotic Front in 1976 to provide a joint front at the Geneva talks to discuss Zimbabwe's the modalities for independence.

This followed the coming together of the parties under the banner of the African National Council to give a resounding "No" to the Pearce Commission on constitutional change in 1971.

The signing of the Unity Agreement is commemorated each year on 22 December, a public holiday called National Unity Day.

Among the celebrations to mark National Unity Day are a number of sporting events, including an international soccer match in which the winning team receives the Unity Cup, and a massive all-night musical gala in one of the provinces. □



Mauritius celebrates Lunar New Year

THE CHINESE New Year or Spring Festival is the most important festival for Mauritians of Chinese origin. The festival is celebrated every year in January or February as the lunar new year, and in 2013 the festival will be held on 10 February.

It is preceded by a thorough cleaning of the home and is characterised by the traditional sharing of wax cakes among relatives and friends. The dominant colour during the festival is red, which is the symbol of happiness.

Special celebrations are held in Port Louis every year with Chinese dragon and lion dances. No knives or scissors are used on this day and food offerings are made so that the following year will be one of plenty.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

December 2012-February 2013

8 December	Immaculate Conception	Seychelles
9 December	Independence Day	Tanzania
10 December	International Human Rights Day	Namibia
16 December	Day of Reconciliation	South Africa
17 December	Public Holiday	South Africa
22 December	National Unity Day	Zimbabwe
25 December	Christmas	SADC
	Family day	Angola, Mozambique
26 December	Day of Goodwill	South Africa
	Family Day	Namibia
	Boxing Day	Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zimbabwe
31 December	Incwala Day (date to be confirmed)	Swaziland
1 January	New Year's Day	SADC
2 January	Public Holiday	Botswana, Mauritius
4 January	Martyrs Day	DRC
12 January	Zanzibar Revolution Day	Tanzania
15 January	John Chilembwe Day	Malawi
16 January	Heroes Day (Laurent Kabila)	DRC
17 January	Heroes Day (Patrice Lumumba)	DRC
24 January	Maulid Day	Tanzania
27 January	Thaipooosam Cavadee	Mauritius
1 February	Abolition of Slavery Day	Mauritius
3 February	Heroes Day	Mozambique
4 February	Public Holiday	Mozambique
4 February	National Liberation Day	Angola
10 February	Chinese Spring Festival	Mauritius
12 February	Carnival	Angola

A shared future within a regional community