

ROAD SHOW PLANNED FOR AFRICA'S WATER FUND

The Africa Water Task Force is to embark on a Millennium Development Goals (MDG) road show later this year in Southern Africa to encourage governments and communities seeking to improve water supplies to "make it happen".

Details of when the road show will set off and the route it will take are yet to be confirmed.

Announcing the decision to embark on the roadshow, Piers Cross of the World Bank's Water and Sanitation Programme for Africa, stressed the importance of meeting the MDGs as these would lead to a "long-awaited sanitary revolution" throughout Africa.

"Poverty alleviation in Africa requires large, long-term increases in water development," Cross told participants at the 3rd World Water Forum held in Kyoto, Japan in March 2003.

The Africa Water Task Force is leading the way in setting the water agenda for Africa under the guidance of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The road show is one of the innovative fund raising actions expected to be carried out by the Africa Water Facility,

launched during the World Summit for Sustainable Development held in South Africa last year.

The Africa Water Task Force hosts the Facility which is expected to raise funds that will help Africa achieve the millennium goal of halving the number of people without access to clean water and sanitation.

Meanwhile, Botswana President, Festus Mogae who addressed the opening session of the Water Forum

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President Festus Mogae of Botswana addressing the World Water forum

Youth are the key to a water-wise generation

By Bonifacio Antonio

The youth in southern Africa should create a water-wise generation to ensure adequate water supplies for the future. They should take responsibility and become involved in water-related activities as well as take ownership of the process towards achieving the Water Vision for the 21st century.

Jean Boroto, acting Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWP-SA) Executive Secretary said in a speech at the Second Southern African Youth Forum in Johannesburg, in February, that the youth could use existing regional structures such as the SADC Water

Sector to push through their agenda and issues with regards to Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

The youth are the future of the African Union and the various Ministries dealing with water. "You are the future water resource managers and you need to carry experience into the future not only written, but also oral and factual. This way, your duties tomorrow will be easier," he said.

The workshop was part of preparations for the Third World Water Forum in Kyoto, Japan held from 16-23 March 2003 and to consolidate the southern African work plans for the

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The Zambezi

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EDITORIAL

The year 1996 was the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. That did not happen. And 1997-2006 is the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty. This has not happened yet. To ensure it does, UN members adopted eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) during the Millennium Summit in 2000, among which poverty eradication is number one. They reaffirmed their commitment to working toward a world in which sustaining development and eliminating poverty would have the highest priority.

The MDGs grew out of the agreements and resolutions of world conferences organised by the UN in the past decade. The goals have been commonly accepted as a framework for measuring development progress. Poverty eradication is first on the list of eight priorities. Poverty continues to be the major challenge for developing countries in the twenty-first century. It is the root of most natural resources management problems in southern Africa including land degradation, desertification, soil erosion and biodiversity loss.

It is because people do not have alternatives to fuel wood, that they cut trees. It is because they do not have access to good arable land that they cultivate in fragile and marginal areas. Natural disasters such as drought leave people with little choice but to cultivate on riverbanks, and in wetlands, thus contributing to soil erosion and river siltation.

Despite many efforts made to alleviate poverty, it remains widespread in southern Africa and the wider world and it is most severe and predominant in rural areas. The Zambezi basin, home to 40 million southern Africans, is predominantly rural, with over 70 percent of the population living in the rural areas.

The United Nations defines poverty as "a human condition characterised by the sustained or chronic deprivation of the resources, capabilities, choices, security and power necessary for the enjoyment of an adequate standard of living and other civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights."

In southern Africa, particularly in the Zambezi basin countries, poverty issues, apart from low incomes, are mainly around lack of access to basic resources such as clean water and sanitation. Despite having one of the largest river basins in the world, people from the eight southern African countries still find themselves without clean water and sanitation.

The MDGs listing of poverty eradication as the number one priority should therefore be supported. The World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) endorsed the MDGs when they set the goal to halve the number of people without access to clean water and sanitation by 2015. Thus the world has come to an agreement that poverty is a menace that should be dealt with in an integrated manner.

It is encouraging to note that the world has finally realised the urgency of eradicating poverty and have placed it high on the agenda of addressing world problems. As Professor Muhammad Yunus, founder and managing director of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh noted in his address to the sixth annual Commonwealth Lecture in March this year, "setting world attention to halving the number of poor people, particularly those without access to water and sanitation is the most courageous goal mankind ever set for itself."

In southern Africa, particularly in the Zambezi basin where 40 million people reside, there is widespread poverty due to a wide range of deprivations. These include lack of knowledge, denial of opportunities for a creative and productive life, social exclusion, lack of freedom and deprivation of income, and health. Income distribution is highly skewed with the richest 20 percent of the people in most countries owning a larger portion of the national income.

Lack of access to water is part of the deprivations that poor people experience. The demand for water in the Zambezi river basin for example continues to rise because of the increasing human population, growing irrigation and food needs as well as general climatic changes. And yet, the availability of rainwater, which remains the primary source of freshwater, is erratic as drought continues to haunt the region.

It is obvious that ensuring everyone has access to clean water and sanitation is part of fulfilling the human rights of every human being and of moving towards eradication of poverty. One of the main reasons for water problems is a lack of integration within governments and at international levels. Realising this, the Heads of State and Government who met at the Millennium Summit stated the need to take determined and concerted action at national and international levels.

The elimination of poverty and achievement of both the WSSD goals and the MDGs is only possible if the people concerned are placed at the centre of development. The process must be participatory, people must have a voice.

While the talk at most conferences now is about the MDGs, one wonders how different these are from goals that have been set previously. As Professor Yunus observes: "What is emerging reminds us of the decade of the Nineties when the global goals were put in the form of 'education for all by the year 2000', 'health for all by the year 2000', 'everything else for all by the year 2000'. My worry is that these courageous Millennium Goals may degenerate into a cut and paste job of the earlier edition, merely replacing the 'year 2000' with the 'year 2015', with appropriate changes in the text."

Three SADC countries lead a new sub-regional initiative

By Bonifácio António

Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia are leading a sub-regional development initiative aimed at stimulating inter-regional trade, economic growth and improving the quality of life for people in the three countries.

The three countries are part of the 14-member Southern African Development Community (SADC) and are part of the Zambezi river basin.

The initiative involves attempts to develop the Nacala Corridor, the line of rail that runs from the Nacala Port, in the Indian Ocean, to landlocked Malawi and Zambia, and certain large-scale projects throughout the northern four provinces of Mozambique - Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Niassa and Zambezia.

The Nacala Development Corridor (NDC) initiative is one, among other regional development corridor initiatives, that form part of the Spatial Development Initiatives Programme whose key objectives include:

- ♦ To increase the rate of regional and national economic growth and development.
- ♦ To generate long term and sustainable regional and national employment.
- ♦ To enhance the levels of economic integration of the Southern African economies.
- ♦ To promote greater complementarities in economic strategies between southern African countries as opposed to unnecessarily competitive structures of production.
- ♦ To enhance intra-regional trade and to begin to correct the large trade imbalances between South Africa and the wider region.
- ♦ To increase international competitiveness of southern African exported goods.
- ♦ To mobilise increased flows of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

Speaking during a conference on the initiative, the Mozambican President, Joaquim Chissano called for greater cooperation between the southern African countries, so that together they may seek concrete actions to overcome their problems.

Chissano declared that regional cooperation "fits perfectly into the spirit of the great initiative of the African Union that we are together creating - the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)".

NEPAD too sought concrete actions that solve the problems of the region and overcome development challenges.

"That is the spirit that brings us together in Nacala", said Chissano.

President Chissano said the strategy of the three countries directly involved in the Nacala Corridor rests on partnerships between public and private sectors. Taking the Nacala port and railway as the starting point, the strategy sought to mobilise public and private resources to allow the modernisation and expansion of infrastructures in priority areas.

For Chissano, the most important areas for investment, apart from the port and railway themselves, were roads, airports, electricity, telecommunications and water supply. Improving these infrastructures, he said, together with an "attractive" tax and customs regime, would promote business opportunities allowing greater use of the vast economic potential in the area covered by the development corridor.

The time has come, Chissano said, to give shape to "our common challenge to overcome poverty. Poverty does not exist in the abstract. It affects, directly or indirectly, the quality of life of the 16 million Mozambicans, Malawians and Zambians who live within the 520,000 square kilometres covered by the corridor".

Malawi President, Bakili Muluzi, said the Nacala Corridor would strengthen plans for regional integration. It would benefit, he added, not only those living in the immediate area of the corridor, but the entire SADC region.

One of the major priorities for Malawi, within the context of the NDC, is to seek support for building a pipeline from the northern Mozambican port of Nacala to the Malawian capital, Lilongwe.

President Muluzi said Malawi needed to lower fuel transport costs, usually by road, in tankers from South African ports. The pipeline from Nacala, the nearest port to Malawi could provide the solution. He added that plans for an oil refinery in Lilongwe are also on the drawing board.

Zambian Deputy President Enoch Kavindure, called for greater priority to be given to local investors to ensure they feel they are part of the process and that they benefit from trade liberalisation and other economic reforms under way in their countries. Economic reform, in his view, should "protect the local private sector".

Nacala could serve eastern Zambia. This would involve building a rail link between the Zambian town of Chipata and Mchinji, in Malawi, a distance of 31km. □

Bonifácio Antonio is a journalist working in SARDC's Maputo office

Tourism planning crucial for Southern Africa's rural communities

By Lynn Halstead

There are many tourism activities going on in the Zambezi basin and the Caprivi region of Namibia is host to some of them. Growing community-based tourism in Caprivi over the years has prompted a call for good tourism planning.

With careful planning and coordination, the basin could become one of the best tourism destinations in southern Africa.

Tourism planning is the first step towards sustainability. Planning aims at guiding tourism development through identifying existing and potential land-use locations for future developments, type and size of proposed developments, gaps in the present market, and socio, environmental and economic impacts and benefits, while also taking into consideration transboundary opportunities.

In Caprivi, there has been growing interest in tourism opportunities from communities, conservancies and private sector operators.

The biodiversity and landscapes of Caprivi are unique, making the region of prime importance for Namibian and regional tourism activities. The 1996 figures indicated that tourism is the third highest contributor to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) after mining and agriculture, and within the next six to seven years, is set to become the largest contributor in Namibia.

The country's Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) programme is growing, with emerging conservancies in Caprivi, some of which have already been registered. As conservancies become registered and strive to adopt sound natural resource management practices they are also able to benefit from



Tourism planning takes into consideration present land-use activities

income generated through non-consumptive use of wildlife, such as tourism.

There is therefore a need to be proactive and support communities in their attempts to develop sustainable tourism in their conservancies. By empowering the local communities living in communal lands, strong and lasting partnerships can be forged between private sector and local communities.

The Namibian national policy for tourism defines community-based tourism as private sector tourism enterprise on communal land that involve and benefit local residents, and provide incentives for conservation of those that bear the costs of wildlife and tourism to the maximum extent possible.

The planning process in Caprivi has been done in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. It has taken a bottom up approach to ensure it is community-driven tourism planning.

The planning is done through a consultative process with the communities to ensure the plans are for community development, and have good support from all players. Emphasis is placed on having tourism contribute towards diversity of current livelihood options, and should not be seen as replacing the key rural livelihood options already in existence. It is planning that should add value to 'sustainable tourism' by balancing the 'triple bottom line' on economics, environmental

and social factors.

Crucial to successful implementation of such plans is the institutional relationships and capacity of the communities. This is being addressed through the registration of conservancies and building capacity for strong and active committees. Without such bodies in place and functioning, it is difficult to ensure that the collective needs of local communities are fairly met without destroying the surrounding environment.

The first challenge in implementation of such plans must be structuring and building the capacity of conservancy committees that can guarantee effectiveness, accountability and transparency. □

Lynn Halstead works with the Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC), one of the eight SOE Zambezi project National Collaborating Centres.

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has pointed out that lack of water is not just a developing countries issue but also a global one, which should be dealt with through partnership and international cooperation.

For this reason, he said, developed countries have an obligation towards meeting water and sanitation goals set during WSSD. The Summit agreed to halve the number of people who have no access to clean water and proper sanitation by 2015. This includes 400 million Africans.

President Mogae said Africa needs the support of wealthy nations to achieve the MDGs and that investing heavily in water would improve the continent's economies, as "issues of water are matters of life and death".

Thirty-eight percent of Africans do not have access to clean drinking water. This is by far the highest proportion in any region of the world. At least 40 percent do not have access to basic sanitation. These figures need to be halved by 2015 if Africa is to meet the MDGs.

Echoing President Mogae's sentiments, Ronnie Kasrils, South African Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry said the developed countries need to put their money where their mouths are to ensure water and sanitation targets in southern Africa are achieved.

"We would need to do enormous work to achieve the targets. It is essential to develop partnerships with international agencies," he said.

These partnerships are not just crucial in terms of getting funding from international agencies, they are vital in a region where nearly all major river systems are shared in one way or the other.

According to the World Water Report, almost all Africa's major rivers cross international boundaries and, with the exception of Lake Tana in Ethiopia, all large African lakes are shared across international borders. This makes international cooperation a necessity if the continent's freshwater resources are to be used equitably, dams built to provide power, and conflict between riparian states avoided.



Mr Jean Boroto (right) of the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWP SA) with Democratic Republic of Congo Ambassador to Japan (centre) standing in front of the Southern Africa Water Vision Posters at the World Water Forum.

In the Treaty establishing the African Union (AU) and NEPAD, Heads of State and Government, have clearly indicated that the primary responsibility for ensuring the sustainable and equitable management of water resources in Africa, rests with governments and the people. The Ministers responsible for water resources, in this regard, have a special role to play.

Through the African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW), one of the Ministerial conferences set up under NEPAD, Africa hopes to halt and reverse the water crisis and sanitation problems on the continent.

The Abuja Ministerial Declaration on Water signed during the launch of the AMCOW in August 2002 states the need for adequate supplies of freshwater, both for survival and social and economic development, will remain a major national, regional and international priority in the years to come.

It further notes that an adequate supply of freshwater is the most important prerequisite for sustaining human life, for maintaining ecosystems that support all life, and for achieving sustainable development.

At regional level, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) sees water as one of the major areas of cooperation and integration. As far back as 1995, the regional body entered into a Protocol on Shared Watercourses. The protocol, now revised, sets the framework for utilisation of watercourses shared by two or more member states and it emphasises among other principles, the right of each member state to use shared watercourses.

The World Water Forum coincided with the United Nation's International Water Day, which falls on 22 March every year. The Forum addressed the growing world water crisis. More than 10,000 people from 165 countries attended the forum.

Taking place during the International Year of Freshwater, the forum focused on global efforts towards conservation and sustainable use of fresh water. Crucial issues discussed included access to and management of water supplies, and the growing danger of conflicts over water. □

Wetlands are biological supermarkets

By Singy Hanyona

Wetlands are the source of life and biological supermarkets where resources such as fish and agricultural products are found. A report by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) - Kafue Partners for Wetlands Project in Zambia, shows that wetlands are also a source of culture.

The report presented at the World Water Forum in Kyoto, Japan in March says in this amazingly diverse society, more than 70 cultures agree on at least this one important issue - that water represents nourishment, not only for the body but the spirit as well.

The WWF-Kafue Partners for Wetlands has taken the cultural aspects of water seriously through its Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) programme launched in 2001.

Project Manager Nyambe Nalumino agrees that water plays an important role in the spiritual health of a nation.

"Some of the traditional beliefs about wetlands can really work in our favour as conservationists. Nature has its own anti-poaching measures," Nalumino says in a special report "Cradle of Civilisation", published by the Global WWF-Partners for Wetlands.

Nalumino's report indicates that culture has special links to conservation and water use.

WWF-Zambia is working with private partners such as the Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation (ZESCO) to ensure a return to the natural flow of both Kafue and Zambezi rivers.

Nalumino says people in Zambia celebrate the natural rhythm of water in many ways including poems, song



Wetlands are a source of livelihood not just for people but for other forms of biodiversity.

and dance and other events in their daily lives.

"The pattern of rainfall is the pattern of life in Zambia, and if we kill that pattern by using the water unsustain-

ably, then we run the risk of losing the whole web of life that surrounds it."

The Lozi in the western province have a spectacular Kuomboka traditional ceremony. The ceremony takes

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Should men drink tea while women fetch water?

The sustainable management of water requires participation of women at all levels and yet the situation is that from policies to projects, women who are the main users and managers of water have been excluded.

Maliha Hussein, Chairperson of Gender and Water Alliance, a network of women fighting for water rights, said if equitable access to clean water has to be achieved, all must participate in decision-making.

"Water is everyone's business, men and women alike," she said in an interview during the World Water Forum in Kyoto, Japan.

Hussein said good governance and the integrated approach to water management implies that women and their organisations can participate on an equal footing with men. The current

short-comings offer important lessons and challenges for the international water community, she added.

Some speakers at the forum referred to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which stress the need to halve the number of those without access to clean water and sanitation by 2015.

A report by the Water Action Unit of the World Water Council confirms the fears of women in the water reform process when it states that: "While men drink tea and relax, women fetch water and cook. After a weary day, instead of carrying water, I would like to have time for my children and myself," the report quotes a Turkish woman as saying.

The report says pressing household needs for water and sanitation make

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Youth are the key to a water-wise generation

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year. The Southern African Youth Water Action Team (SAYWAT) organised the meeting under the auspices of GWP-SA.

In a paper on the Framework for Action to Achieve the Southern Africa Water Vision for the 21st Century, Boroto said the youth should own the process because "ultimately, it is your process".

Youth participation in IWRM in southern Africa will help attain the Southern African Water Vision of, "equitable and sustainable utilisation of water for social and environmental justice, regional integration and economic benefit for present and future generations."

The involvement of the youth in the management of water resources is crucial for the sustainability of the world's water.

IWRM is a process, which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximise the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.

Speaking at the same workshop, a University of Zimbabwe Lecturer in the Department of Civil Engineering, Bekithemba Gumbo pointed out the need to deliberately direct capacity building, particularly in water education towards the youth.

Capacity building of the youth in IWRM should be considered as a priority pivotal to national development and securing of the future. National, regional, and global authorities should allocate financial resources for building the capacity of the youth in IWRM," he said.

Stressing the importance of strategic partnerships in IWRM education and training, he said it is vital for these networks to be focused on what they know best rather than being "all things to all people". The networks will be able to complement each other in areas where others could be lacking.

He said regional networks aimed at IWRM such as the Waternet should be

driven by the regional capacity needs and demands, otherwise real problems may never be addressed.

The Forum focused on three main themes of water education, water governance and sanitation. □



Participants to the SAYWAT workshop pause for a group picture.

Wetlands are biological supermarkets

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the Lozi people from the winter areas across the Zambezi river, to the summer pastures, with their traditional Chief or King travelling in an enormous wooden canoe locally known as "Nalikwanda".

The Toka-Leya, another indigenous tribe in Zambia's tourist capital-Livingstone, have a great "passing of the power" ceremony, each time the Chief leaves the area. In this ceremony, the water which must be drawn from the Zambezi river is carried up an 800-foot cliff for the Chief to literally 'spit' and thus show his power over the subjects.

Experts say there is need for research to get explanations to the cultural expressions associated with wetlands. Music, oral traditions, hunting expeditions and medicinal practices are some of the countless cultural expressions associated with wetlands.

The United Nations Convention on Wetlands, adopted in 1971 on the small Island of Ramsar in Iran, recognises the fact that the destruction of a particular culture or wetlands represents the demise of people. □

Singy Hanyona is a Zambian freelance environment journalist.

Should men drink tea while women fetch water?

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women the major water users. Although both men and women have water-related responsibilities, gender-based divisions of labour determine who controls the many uses of water.

"Their obvious skills as managers of water resources must be harnessed," says the report.

At the Kyoto Water Forum, women demonstrated and discussed concrete examples of "how to" mainstream gender, mainly in organisational policies, structures and practices.

Gender was mainstreamed within other themes of the Forum, which

were: Africa day, Latin America day, and Water and Poverty day.

The main objective of the Gender and Water Session at Kyoto was to assess progress made in mainstreaming gender in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) since the 2nd World Water Forum in the Hague-Netherlands.

Research and practical experience from many gender networks have demonstrated that effective, efficient and equitable water resources management is only achieved when both women and men are involved in IWRM. □

Revisiting gender equality and the Millennium Development Goals

By Barbara Lopi

The global theme for this year's International Women's Day (IWD) "Gender Equality and the Millennium Development Goals" provided an opportunity for re-examining progress towards the goals.

Commemorated every 8 March, IWD accords women around the globe the opportunity to rejoice in their achievements and success towards gender equality and women's emancipation. The day also gives women a platform to echo their concerns at the "pace" the globe is moving towards a gender sensitive and just society.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) come from the agreements and resolutions of a number of world conferences organised by the United Nations in the first half of the 1990s and provide an opportunity for the international community to agree on steps needed to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development.

At the Millennium Summit in September 2000 countries throughout the world reaffirmed their commitment to working towards a world in which sustaining development and eliminating poverty would have the highest priority.

The first seven MDGs are mutually reinforcing and are directed at realising measurable improvements in people's lives in all its forms in the areas of Poverty, Education, Gender Equality, Child Mortality, Maternal Health, HIV/AIDS and other diseases, and the Environment. The last goal - Global Partnership for Development - is about the means to achieve the first seven.

The Human Development Indicators in the 2002 UNDP Human

Development Report indicate that most countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have either achieved or are on track towards achieving the MDG on gender equality. This goal challenges states to make progress towards gender equality and empowering women by eliminating gender disparities in

five and infant mortality rates by two-thirds. Only two out of the 14 SADC countries are on track towards meeting the benchmark under the child mortality goal.

The MDGs are to be achieved over a 25-year span starting in 1990 and 40 per cent of that should have been covered by 2000 — meaning that SADC member states still have a lot of work before they could meet the targets.

The goals will not be easy to achieve, but progress in some countries shows what can be done. Mauritius for instance, cut its military budget and invested heavily in health and education and to date all Mauritians have access to sanitation, 98 percent to safe water, and 97 percent of births are attended by skilled health staff.

On the other hand, the spread of HIV/AIDS coupled with reductions in economic growths in most countries in SADC is impoverishing individuals,

families and communities in the region.

Success in meeting the goals will therefore require practicing gender sensitivity in all operations, stronger voices for the poor, economic stability and growth that favours the poor, basic social services for all, open markets for trade and technology and enough resources for development, well used. □

Barbara Lopi is a Zambian journalist working for SARDC's Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness (WIDSAA) programme.



The girl child sometimes has to forego school as she is expected to remain at home to look after younger siblings

primary and secondary education by 2005. But although the gender gap may be narrowing, girls' enrolments remain persistently behind those of boys.

With regard to the goal to reduce the proportion of people living in extreme poverty between 1990 and 2015 by half, only four countries in the SADC are on track while the rest are either far behind, slipping back or lagging.

Many countries are also slipping back in their pursuit to reduce under-

SADC countries coordinate Zambezi Basin management

Realising the importance of working together to manage the Zambezi basin, eight riparian states are working towards the establishment of a Commission for water resources management in the basin. The Commission will deal with conflict prevention and make use of the natural resource as a foundation to strengthen unity in southern Africa.

Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe share the Zambezi basin, which is home to more than 40 million people. The basin represents the best of what the southern African region has in terms of natural capital. Within the basin's large expanse, there are water resources, land and soils, forests, and wildlife.

According to the Mozambican Minister of Housing and Public Works, Roberto White, Mozambique supports multi-country management of the Zambezi basin as the valley holds 50 percent of the national water resources and 20 percent of its population is settled there undertaking fishing and agricultural activities.

Speaking to journalists after the launch of the National Committee for the Project Implementation, White said that Mozambique defends a shared agreement on planning and management of the Zambezi basin due to the role the basin

plays in the country's economy. He underlined that the absence of an agreement among states in the basin may present problems that could lead to a reduction in water availability, a situation that could result in conflict among the riparian states.

The implementation of this three-year Zambezi Basin Planning and Development project started in 2001 with an estimated cost of US\$3.5 million, co-funded by DANIDA and Sida. Currently the project is being implemented by the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA) for both SADC and the eight riparian countries.

"Mozambique should play an important role in the implementation of the Zambezi basin management strategy, in order to strongly defend its interests on this regional resource shared by eight countries, each one with particular interests," said the committee's report presented during the ceremony.

Mozambique is obliged to speed up the negotiations on the agreements related to the international shared rivers, to increase its capacity of water storage for consumption purposes and to protect the underground water in the rural areas, particularly in Tete, Quelimane and Pemba, where the local authorities had already identified some problems related to the quality of water. - *Noticias*

Angola headed for post-war boom as SA comes on board

Now that the "guns have fallen silent" in southern Africa, it is time for economic reconstruction. Angola, having been haunted by a civil war that lasted almost three decades, is now looking to neighbouring countries for an economic boom.

A number of South African companies are exploring opportunities for investment in an oil and diamond rich country. Large investments into the country could see Angola become one of the leading economic giants in the region and the world.

From being South Africa's seventh investment destination, it has become third after Mozambique and Zimbabwe, according to South Africa's *Business Day* newspaper.

South African Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to Angola was \$42 million with that to Zimbabwe at \$47 million and to Mozambique at \$1,82 billion, according to the Business Map Foundation.

"The government has oil revenue, and is beginning to spend a lot more money on infrastructure, services and goods. There will be a massive boom," predicts Paul de Souza, a director on the KPMG Africa Board and senior partner in its Angolan and Mozambican operations.

South African and European investors often team up with Angolan entrepreneurs to do business in Angola, where \$250 000 is needed to register a company.

"We are already seeing a very significant pickup in the number of South

Africans visiting Angola looking for opportunities," says De Souza. "But Angolans are savvy, and have already camped on many interests, like concessions, waiting for a foreign investor with big bucks."

Tourism and fishing also offer potential, and Tourism Minister Jorge Valentim promises to assist South Africans wanting to invest in the tourism and hotel industries. He says the number of mostly "business tourists" has risen from about 9,000 a year to 100,000 annually, many of them from the US, France, Japan, Korea as well as South Africa.

"We have more than 1600km of coast and abundant wildlife. We need to build our hotels, from five-star accommodation through to affordable hotels," the tourism minister told *Business Day*. □

África perspectiva fundo para o abastecimento de água

A Comissão de Trabalho dos assuntos de água em África vai iniciar nos finais deste ano a explicação dos Objectivos de Desenvolvimento do Milénio (MDG) na África Austral, por forma a encorajar os governos e as comunidades a "concretizarem" os seus esforços destinados a melhorar o abastecimento de água no continente.

Os pormenores sobre a forma de explicação dos Objectivos de Desenvolvimento do Milénio e o itinerário a obedecer na região estão ainda por ser anunciadas.

Ao anunciar a decisão de arrancar com a iniciativa, Piers Cross, do Programa de Água e Saneamento no Banco Mundial, sublinhou a importância de se alcançar os Objectivos de Desenvolvimento do Milénio uma vez que os mesmos conduziram para a "tão aguardada revolução sanitária" em África.

"O alívio da pobreza em África requer um enorme desenvolvimento no que diz respeito ao abastecimento de água", afirmou Cross, numa entrevista a BBC, durante o 3º Fórum Mundial de Água, realizado em Kyoto, Japão, de 16 – 23 Março de 2003.

A Comissão de Trabalho dos assuntos de Água está a frente da criação da Agenda de Água para a África sob a orientação da Nova Parceria para o Desenvolvimento de África (NEPAD). Esta iniciativa da Comissão de Trabalho dos assuntos de Água constitui uma acção inovadora de angariação de fundos a ser levada a cabo pela African Water Facility, lançada durante a Cimeira Mundial sobre o Desenvolvimento Sustentável realizada o ano passado na África do Sul.

A Comissão de Trabalho dos assuntos de Água será responsável pela geração de fundos destinados a ajudar a África a atingir um dos objectivos de desenvolvimento do milénio que é reduzir para metade o número de pessoas sem acesso a água potável e saneamento no continente.

Entretanto, O Presidente do Botswana, Festus Mogae, que discursou na sessão de abertura do Fórum, indicou que a falta de água é um assunto global que não diz respeito apenas aos países em

desenvolvimento, e que deve ser tratado através de uma parceria e cooperação internacional.

Por este motivo, afirmou, os países desenvolvidos tem a obrigação de caminhar em direcção as metas de fornecimento global de água e saneamento estabelecidas durante a Cimeira Mundial sobre o Desenvolvimento Sustentável (WSSD) realizada em Agosto de 2002, na África do Sul. A WSSD acordou que o número de pessoas sem acesso a água e saneamento seja reduzido a metade até o ano 2025. Este número inclui 400 milhões de Africanos.

O Presidente Mogae afirmou que a África precisa do apoio das nações ricas para alcançar os Objectivos de Desenvolvimento do Milénio (MDGs). Sublinhou que um forte investimento na água poderia melhorar as economias do continente, pois "sem água não há vida".

Em África 38 por cento das pessoas não tem acesso a água potável. Esta é uma proporção muito elevada quando comparada com qualquer outra parte do mundo. Cerca de 40 por cento de Africanos não tem acesso ao saneamento básico. Estas cifras devem ser reduzidas para metade até o ano 2015 se é que a África pretende atingir os MDGs.

Apoiando a posição do Presidente Mogae, o Ministro sul-africano dos Assuntos de Água e Florestas, Ronnie Kasrils, afirmou que os países desenvolvidos devem por dinheiro onde estão os seus rios e garantir que as metas de abastecimento de água e saneamento sejam alcançadas na África Austral.

"Nós precisaríamos de trabalhar muito para alcançar as metas. É necessário desenvolver parcerias com as agências internacionais", afirmou.

Essas parcerias não são vitais apenas em termos de obtenção de

financiamentos das agências internacionais, são vitais numa região onde quase todos os grandes sistemas de rios são partilhados de uma ou de outra forma.

Segundo o Relatório Mundial de Água, todos os grandes rios africanos atravessam várias fronteiras internacionais e, com a excepção do Lago Tana, na Etiópia, todos os outros lagos africanos são igualmente partilhados através de fronteiras internacionais. Isto torna pertinente uma forte cooperação internacional se é que se pretende que os recursos de água partilhados sejam usados de uma forma equilibrada, para a construção de barragens e para se evitar conflitos entre os países ribeirinhos.

No Tratado que estabelece a União Africana (UA) e a Nova Parceria de Desenvolvimento de África (NEPAD), Chefes de Estado e de Governos, indicaram claramente que a principal responsabilidade de garantir uma gestão sustentável e equilibrada dos recursos hídricos em África recai aos governos e a população. Nesse sentido, os Ministros responsáveis pelos Recursos Hídricos tem um papel especial a desempenhar.

Através da Conferência Ministerial Africana sobre a Água (AMCOW), uma das conferências criadas no âmbito da NEPAD, a África espera por fim e reverter a crise de água e os problemas de saneamento no continente.

A Declaração de Abuja sobre a Água, assinada durante o lançamento da AMCOW em Agosto de 2002, sublinha que a necessidade de um abastecimento adequado de água doce, para a sobrevivência e para o desenvolvimento económico e social, continuará a ser uma grande prioridade nacional, regional e internacional durante os próximos anos.

O documento observa mais adiante que um adequado abastecimento de água é o mais importante pré-requisito para uma vida humana sustentável, para a manutenção dos ecossistemas que apoiam a vida, e para se alcançar o desenvolvimento sustentável.

A nível regional, a Comunidade para o Desenvolvimento da África Austral (SADC), considera a água como uma das grandes áreas de

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Porque é que os homens tomam chá enquanto as mulheres buscam água?

Por Singy Hanyona

Agest o sustentável da água requer uma efectiva participação das mulheres a todos os níveis, desde a definição de políticas até à implementação de projectos. Contudo, as mulheres, que são as principais utilizadoras e gestoras da água, têm sido frequentemente excluídas.

Maliha Hussein, Presidente da Aliança do Género e Água, afirma que se é que se quer conseguir um acesso equitativo à água potável, então todos devem participar na tomada de decisões.

"Água é um assunto que diz respeito a todos, homens e mulheres", afirmou numa entrevista concedida durante o Fórum Mundial de Água em Kyoto, Japão.

Hussein afirmou que a boa governação e a abordagem integrada para a gestão da água implica a participação das mulheres e das suas organizações em pé de igualdade com os homens. Os actuais problemas relacionados com a água dão importantes lições e desafios para a comunidade internacional, acrescentou.

Alguns delegados do Fórum referiram-se aos Objectivos das Nações Unidas de Desenvolvimento do Milénio (MDGs), que sublinham a necessidade de se reduzir para metade o número de pessoas sem acesso à água potável e saneamento até ao ano 2015.

Um relatório da Unidade de Acção de Água do Conselho Mundial de Água confirma o receio das mulheres no processo de reforma da água ao indicar que: "enquanto os homens tomam chá e relaxam, as mulheres buscam água e cozinham. Depois de um dia fatigante, em vez de buscar água, eu gostaria de ter algum tempo para as crianças e para mim mesmo", refere o relatório citando uma mulher Turca.

O relatório refere que a pressão das necessidades de água e saneamento nos agregados familiares, torna as mulheres as principais utentes da água. Apesar dos homens e mulheres terem responsabilidades relacionadas com a água, a divisão do trabalho baseada no sexo determina quem controla os

principais utentes da água. "As suas habilidades óbvias como gestoras dos recursos de água devem ser aproveitadas," diz o relatório.

No Fórum de Água de Kyoto, as mulheres debateram e demonstraram exemplos concretos sobre "como" tornar o género uma questão principal nas políticas organizacionais e estruturais.

A questão do género foi tomada como fundamental no seio de outros eventos do Fórum, designadamente o Dia Africano, o Dia da América Latina e o Dia da Água e Pobreza.

O principal objectivo da Sessão de Género e Água em Kyoto foi o de avaliar o progresso feito no sentido de tornar fundamental a questão do



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- 1 – Surface Water; topic: Effective Flood Control Methods
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- 3 – Alternative (non-traditional) Water Resources; topic: Economical Technologies in Sea Water Desalination
- 4 – Water Resources Management; topic: Effective New Techniques for Irrigation Water Conservation
- 5 – Protection of Water Resources; topic: Protection of Ground Water from Agricultural Pollutants

Nominations are now accepted for the above 5 topics from individuals and organizations. The last date for nominations is October 30th 2003. For more information, please contact the Prize General Secretariat at Prince Sultan Research Center for Environment, Water and Desert – King Saud University, or visit us at www.psgm.org

género na Gestão Integrada dos Recursos Hídricos (IWRM) desde a realização do Segundo Fórum Mundial de Água em Haia - Holanda.

Pesquisas e experiências práticas de muitas redes de género tem demonstrado que uma gestão efectiva, eficiente e equitativa dos recursos hídricos só pode ser conseguida com o envolvimento de homens e mulheres na Gestão Integrada dos Recursos Hídricos. □

África perspectiva fundo para o abastecimento de água

Continuação da página 10

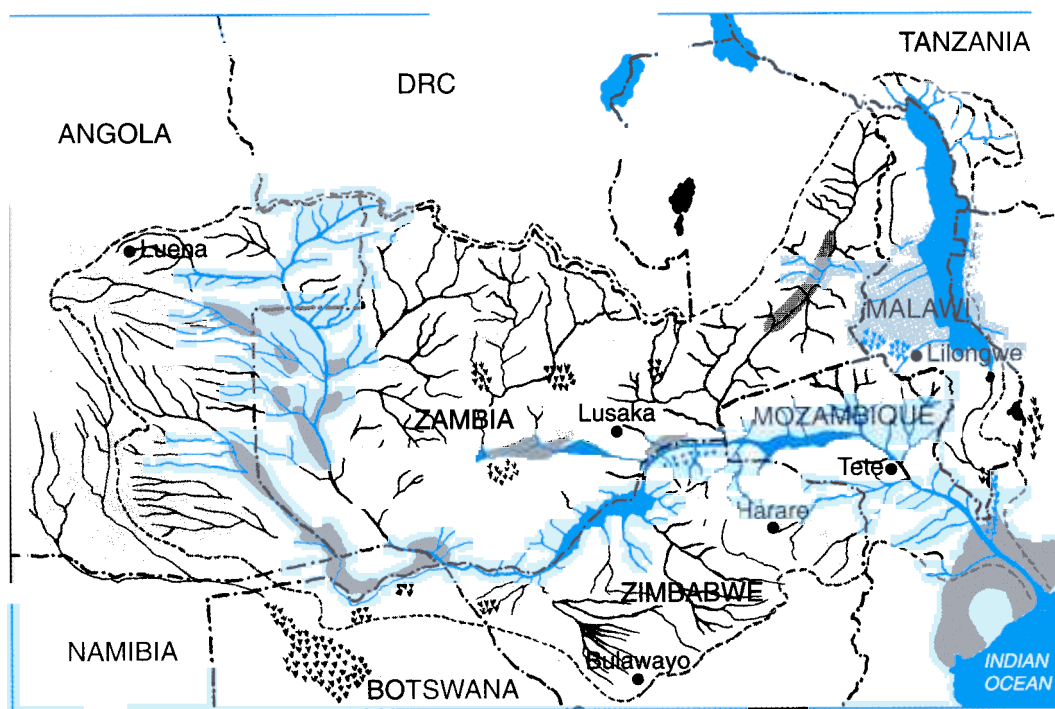
cooperação e integração. Em 1995, a organização regional adoptou um Protocolo sobre os Recursos Hídricos Partilhados. O protocolo define o quadro de utilização dos recursos hídricos partilhados por dois ou mais países membros e sublinha, entre outros princípios, o direito de cada país membro utilizar esses cursos de água partilhados.

O Fórum Mundial de Água coincidiu com o Dia da Água, definido pelas Nações Unidas para ser

comemorado a 22 de Março de cada ano. O Fórum debateu a crescente crise mundial de água. Mais de 10 mil pessoas de 165 países participaram no fórum.

Realizado no Ano Internacional de Água, a conferência destacou os esforços globais em direcção à conservação e uso sustentável da água. Entre as questões cruciais debatidas figurou o acesso e a gestão do abastecimento da água e o crescente perigo de conflito sobre a água. □

THE ZAMBEZI



THE ZAMBEZI BASIN AT A GLANCE

- The Zambezi basin is the most shared in southern Africa and third largest in Africa after the Congo and the Nile.
- The Zambezi drains a total area of over 1.388 million sq km, stretching across eight countries — Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- The Zambezi river rises on the Central African Plateau in the Kalene Hills in north-western Zambia to its delta in Mozambique before flowing into the Indian Ocean.
- The basin takes up approximately 25 percent of the total geographic area of the riparian countries, estimated at 5.6 million sq km.
- Almost 40 million of SADC's estimated 200 million people live within the basin.
- Some of the major urban areas in the basin include Luena in Angola, Kasane in Botswana, all urban centres in Malawi, Tete in Mozambique, Katima Mulilo in Namibia, virtually all urban areas in Zambia including the capital Lusaka, and most of the cities in Zimbabwe, including Harare.
- Victoria Falls, popularly referred to as one of the seven natural wonders of the world, along with lakes such as Kariba and Cahora Bassa, (which supply electricity to some of the countries in the region), are all located on the Zambezi river.
- The largest natural freshwater lake in the basin is Lake Malawi/Nyasa/Niassa that covers 28,000 sq km and is Africa's third largest freshwater lake after Lakes Victoria and Tanganyika.

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