



SADC appeals for more foreign direct investment

Efforts by southern African countries in opening up their markets and creating an investment friendly climate have not been complemented by sufficient foreign direct investment especially from Europe.

This was said by SADC Executive Secretary, Kaire Mbuende, at the joint third SADC-EU joint ministerial meeting in Vienna, Austria on 3-4 November.

"We are concerned over the declining Overseas Development (ODA) which contrary to conventional wisdom is not being replaced by trade and investment.

"There is a role for ODA as an expression of international solidarity and as a mechanism for social justice among nations," he told the meeting which was attended by representatives of foreign ministries from the EU and SADC.

He said SADC countries were implementing sound economic policies which had in many instances resulted in declining budget deficits, low inflation rates and positive economic growth.

"Notwithstanding all these efforts, foreign direct investment particularly from Europe is slow in coming," he said.

A major EU-SADC Investment Promotion Programme, which aims at creating a mechanism to facilitate trade and



Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam meets SADC Executive Secretary, Kaire Mbuende at the Summit in Grand Baie, Mauritius. See pages 7-8.

investment between the two regions, is currently being worked out.

On foreign debt, Mbuende said there was need for in-depth dialogue on the issue adding that external debt servicing obligation had virtually been turned into a national priority as it was being attended to before everything else.

He explained how debt deprives countries of resources to invest in the social sectors of health and education.

"There is a direct political and social dimension to external debt which has an adverse effect on the development potential of our countries and can lead to social upheavals and political instability of the region.

"Debt is a political issue. The debt burden of a number of southern African countries is partially a product of the struggles for national liberation and against apartheid," he said. □

DRC: Rwanda admits involvement

There are rays of hope for peace in the troubled Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) after Rwanda admitted that it has troops in the country.

Following intensive diplomatic persuasion by the SADC chairman President Nelson Mandela of South Africa the Rwandese government admitted that it has soldiers in the war-torn central African country, thus paving the way for peaceful negotiations.

The SADC allied forces called in by President Laurent Kabila to repulse the invading forces had insisted that unless Rwanda and Uganda make clear their involvement in the war, no negotiations would be entered into with the rebels.

Several regional summits have been held to try and find a solution to the conflict in Africa's third largest country. However, most of them ended in deadlock due to Rwanda's refusal to acknowledge their involvement in the conflict.

continued on page 6

Protocols usher in new phase for SADC

SADC is entering a new phase in its programme of regional integration with the recent ratification of some of its protocols.

Speaking at a recent SADC/European Union conference on implementation of the SADC transport protocol in Maputo, SADC Council of Ministers, South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo said this was one of three SADC protocols that had now come into force.

continued on page 5

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Gender 10



Guest Column 12

- Policy Review: Revisiting desertification in southern Africa* **3**
- Rainfall forecast* **4**
- Lomé negotiations begin* **5**
- Regional Security: DRC and Lesotho updates. SADC statement on Angola* **6**
- SADC Summit communique* **8**
- Profiles* **11**
- Community building: Sports and culture* **13**
- News from around the region* **14**
- Book review, recent publications and acquisitions* **15**
- SADC Diary, public holidays, currency checklist* **16**

A note to the reader

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Southern Africa focuses on desertification activities



An aerial view of sand dunes in the Namib desert in Namibia.

Desertification is a problem in southern Africa where huge chunks of land have been rendered useless especially in Namibia and Botswana. The Namib and the Kalahari deserts are the biggest deserts in the region.

In the international arena, governments endorsed the Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa in an effort to provide guidelines on how governments can work together to contain massive land degradation. According to the SADC Environment and Land Management Sector (SADC-ELMS), all member countries have ratified the CCD.

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa was officially adopted on June 17 1994.

In 1997, the United Nations called a conference on desertification in Nairobi, Kenya, and adopted a Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. The plan failed because the international community lacked the coordination, financial and political commitment. The plan of action was written without consultation with the actual people worst affected by land degradation.

Considering that the people severely affected by land degradation are among the poorest in the world, the convention has the potential to:

- reduce the vulnerability of affected populations by securing their land tenure rights;
- strengthen the role of women in the implementation;
- improve productivity of the land; and
- create new opportunities for alternative livelihoods, not necessarily linked to the land.

Successful implementation of the convention should improve living conditions, and reduce poverty while also helping to alleviate related problems such as urban migration, loss of plant and animal species, climate change and the need for emergency aid to populations in crisis.

The convention states that the policy must have a "bottom-up" approach and that the local people must be fully involved in deciding how to tackle the problems of land degradation and overcome poverty.

Through SADC-ELMS, member states are working together in certain areas to find how best to develop partnerships and joint programmes that will ensure equity-led growth in the SADC sub-region. Relevant sub-regional insti-

tutions should be strengthened and these programmes must compliment each country's National Action Programme (NAP).

Sub-regional and regional action programmes

Parties to the convention have committed themselves to provide for effective participation of all interested parties including farmers and pastoralists. The African countries agree in their annex that NAPS shall be a central and integral part of the broader process of policy formulation for sustainable development. They also agree that sub-regional and regional action plans should harmonise, complement and increase the efficiency of NAPs.

Financial resources and mechanisms

Rather than setting up a single system of funding, the convention concentrates on mobilising resources through existing channels, strengthening them and re-orientating them to fit its integrated, bottom-up approach.

Alliances have been formed within SADC, and a sub-regional action programme is being developed, as well as conducting various other actions such as workshops on:

- Early Warning Systems and the CCD
- the integration of the Kalahari-Namib Action Plan into the NAP;
- the integration of gender concerns in the NAP process
- the establishment of the Multi-disciplinary Scientific; and Technical Consultative Committee (MSTCC) on the CCD. This also involves considering a programme of action and future ad hoc panels of the CCD and a programme of action and future activities for the MSTCC to combat land degradation, desertification and drought in SADC, with emphasis on research and development and transfer of technology. □

This review is largely based on the presentations and recommendations of a meeting held by the GLOBE Southern African Network in South Africa, September 1998. The meeting was attended by several government and non-government representatives from SADC countries.

Weather experts predict normal rainfall for SADC

by Tinashe Madava

Most of the southern African region is set to receive normal rainfall, meteorologists in the region have predicted.

Although it is not yet certain how widespread the rains are going to be, the news of a better rain season should bring relief to farmers in the region.

Weather experts at the Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum meeting in Harare recently mapped out the likelihood of rainfall distribution in southern Africa based on probabilities.

probabilities of normal to below normal rainfall. This is also expected over the northern part of Mozambique, southern half of Malawi and central Zambia.

Southern Zambia, the southern half of Malawi, central Mozambique and Zimbabwe, excluding the south-western portion of the country, have enhanced probabilities of near normal rainfall. The south-western portion of Zimbabwe, Botswana, the southern part of Mozambique, Swaziland, central and eastern South Africa and northern Namibia have enhanced probabilities of normal to above-normal rainfall.

Between January and March next year, the rest of the sub-continent, excluding parts of Tanzania, normal to above-normal rainfall is expected.

Commenting on the forecasts, Principal Meteorologist at Zimbabwe's Department of Meteorological Services, Wish

Marume pointed out that the forum considered other factors that contribute to rainfall distribution such as wind speed and direction as well as the level of atmospheric pressure.

The forum, however, warned that the outlook was relevant only to seasonal time scales and relatively large areas while localised and month-to-month variations may occur.

"If it rains in October, people should go ahead and plant especially long season varieties of crops," said Marume advising farmers to expect a normal season. She however pointed out that farmers should expect a mid-season dry-spell.

Last year farmers either planted late or reduced hectareage after warnings that the region was going to face its worst drought in years due to the El Nino weather phenomenon which causes changes in weather patterns. Although there were instances of floods and dry spells in some areas, they were not as

severe as was originally predicted.

This combination of factors – late planting, reduced hectareage and the unfavourable weather conditions – resulted in an overall cereal deficit of 510 000 tonnes in the region.

Weather experts have tried to avoid the panic caused last year by making more cautious statements about forecasts for the coming season.

Meanwhile, SADC members recently ratified the Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology, undertaking to promote sustainable development with emphasis on climate and protection of the environment.

The protocol aims to fulfill this objective by "fostering an awareness of the contributions which can be made by national meteorological centres to planning sustainable development in agriculture, forestry and related areas".

Commenting on the protocol, Marume stressed that governments should prioritise the research in drought monitoring and "carry out awareness campaigns on weather forecasts to enable maximization of agricultural profits and reduce risks". She explained that countries in the region could take advantage of public information services provided by their respective extension departments as well as radio and television networks.

Within its cooperation framework, the Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology seeks to embark on increasing liaison with users to "ensure effective utilization of services". □



Some farmers concentrate on cash crops, compromising food reserves.

The Climate Outlook Forum was convened to formulate consensus guidance for the October 1998 to March 1999 rainfall season in southern Africa.

The highest probabilities for above normal rainfall are in the south-eastern part of the sub-continent while the north-eastern part of the region should expect normal to below normal rainfall conditions during the period October this year to March next year.

An exception is north-eastern Tanzania where the rainfall season is usually divided into two periods namely, October, November and December, and March, April and May, as well as the extreme south-western part of South Africa where winter rainfall predominates.

According to the communiqué, there is a high probability of below normal rainfall over eastern Tanzania over the period October to December. West and central Tanzania, northern Zambia, northern half of Malawi and Mauritius have high

For the Record

In our June issue of *SADC Today*, Vol.2 No.2, we published a story on page 11 which was entitled "SACU may admit Zambia". The story erroneously gave the impression that Zambia was going to join the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) whose members are South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland. It has since been established that Zambia is not, and does not intend to join SACU as suggested in the article picked from a usually reliable regional news service. The Editor and publisher sincerely regret the error.

Lomé negotiations begin

Lomé negotiations commenced in September 1998 with some hope that parties involved would salvage a new agreement that will help to define the future economic opportunities of many of the world's poorest countries.

The negotiations which involve the European Union (EU) and the broad group of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries were top of the agenda during the recent SADC-EU parliamentary and foreign ministers meetings in Vienna, Austria.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs), including Eurostep are optimistic about the outcome of the negotiations but are worried about the risks facing poor people if the civil society does not exert enough pressure on the negotiating parties.

"Concerted pressure from European and ACP civil society will be needed throughout the negotiation to ensure an

agreement which is ambitious enough to tackle the enormous challenges to development, and which contributes fully to enhancing the livelihoods of poor people and reduce the risk of war," says Eurostep, a coalition of European NGOs.

The Lomé Convention is an agreement that provides a framework of aid and trade between the ACP countries and the EU. It was agreed on in 1975 and will expire in February 2000, the very time by which a new framework should be in place.

The preferential treatment given to the ACP, including SADC, violates the new World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules which require that such treatment be extended to all other developing countries at the same level of development.

However, SADC along with other ACP countries, is fighting to change rules and policies which could exclude poor and vulnerable economies and block international collaboration for achieving objectives such as the eradi-

cation of poverty through sustainable development as set out in the international commitments made at Rio de Janeiro, Copenhagen, Beijing and Cairo.

Many analysts say if developing countries are expected to be at the same level of development as the industrialised, there is need for a gradual exposure to international competition, and not an "overnight" change as required by the WTO.

SADC and most ACP states are in agreement that if the status quo cannot be maintained, a ten-year waiver should be sought to allow affected countries adequate time to position themselves for the new world order.

The EU has over the years been an important destination for SADC exports such as beef and sugar under the Lomé trade provisions. SADC member states have between 20-50 percent of their exports directed to the EU where the margins of preferences are superior to all other preferential trade arrangements extended to developing nations by the developed countries. □

Protocols usher in new phase for SADC

continued from page 1

"Since they [protocols] are, in fact, the building blocks of the community, it is evident that this new phase is of the utmost importance", he said.

The conference was a joint initiative of the SADC Transport and Communications Commission (SATCC) and the government of Austria, which currently holds the EU rotating presidency.

The Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology, signed in 1996 in Lesotho and ratified by 10 SADC states, excluding Lesotho and Zambia, is now in force. The DRC and Seychelles which joined SADC last year are yet to accede to the protocol.

Officially opening the meeting, Mozambican Prime Minister Pascoal Mocumbi stressed that "the integration of southern Africa will remain incomplete, if it is not accompanied by an integrated network of communications which by opening up the markets of each of the member states, permits the circulation of goods and the movement of people, for business or for tourism".

Mocumbi's views were echoed by

Benita Ferrero-Waldner, the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Austria, who added that in a globalised world of open markets and free movement, transport provides the essential links between regions, countries and peoples.

"Transport stimulates economic growth, increases investment and spreads prosperity throughout a region", she said adding "transport means linking production areas with their potential markets, thereby generating additional, much needed income in marginalised regions".

The Austrian diplomat however, warned of some of the drawbacks such as environmental and social problems, and the fact that transport infrastructure needs continuous, sometimes costly maintenance and upgrading, irrespective of short term profits.

Ferrero-Waldner cited one example of severe funding constraints. Austria had financed a study into the condition of railway track in the SADC region, which found that "in some countries the situation is alarming and urgent repairs are



Mozambican Prime Minister Pascoal Mocumbi who officially opened the meeting in Maputo.

needed". But the repairs could not be carried out, she said, because the financial resources needed were not there. In fact the railways did not even dispose of sufficient funds to reduce the backlog of priority work.

The protocol strengthens SADC's new spirit of smart partnerships as it marks the shift away from government-run transport systems to much greater involvement of the private sector. □

Lesotho: Life returns to normal after months of civil unrest

Once explosive Lesotho is calm after the intervention of the South African and Botswana troops, under the SADC banner, to stop chaos after opposition parties refused to accept the May election results in which ruling Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) was declared winner.

Some of the South African troops have since withdrawn from Lesotho following restoration of peace in the country.

A total of 3,500 Botswana and South African troops were deployed in Lesotho in September to restore peace and order, after civilians with tacit backing of the army decided to put law into their own hands.

South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki has stressed that the SADC peacekeeping force would only withdraw from Lesotho when peace is restored.

Political parties in Lesotho have accepted a SADC proposal to hold fresh

elections in the next 15 to 18 months. There was an initial disagreement on who was to govern the country in the run-up to the polls.

The LCD has agreed to work with an interim government which will include representatives from opposition parties and other interested groups in Lesotho.

The Langa Commission, which investigated allegations of rigging in the country's May elections, found that the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) had mishandled the exercise, but fell short of calling for fresh elections.

Lesotho, surrounded by South Africa, has been wracked by political tur-



Lesotho delegation at the SADC summit in Mauritius.

moil, including coups, since attaining independence in 1966. SADC member states have, on several occasions, restored peace in the mountainous kingdom of about 2.1 million people. □

DRC: Rwanda admits military involvement

continued from page 1

Recent efforts include the October Lusaka talks chaired by Zambian President Frederick Chiluba, who was tasked at the last SADC Summit in Mauritius to mediate in the negotiations. The meeting was attended by foreign affairs and defence ministers from the allied countries, as well as rebel leader Wamba dia Wamba.

Mutombo Kabindji, spokesperson of the Union for Democracy and Social Progress – one of the rebel groups – said a plan was forwarded to the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan as part of the “quest for peace” and follows a recent call by opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi for a meeting with Kabila.

However, fighting continues and the government said it has launched an offensive against the rebel-held town of Kalima in the eastern part of the country. Government and allied forces have increased the number of troops to retake the key eastern town of Kindu occupied by the rebels.

The war in the DRC started in August after the rebels, backed by Rwanda and Uganda, turned against the Kinshasa government. □

SADC statement on Angola

Following are excerpts from the SADC statement on Angola.

The Heads of State or Government of the Southern African Development Community meeting at the 18th Annual session from the 13th to the 14th September 1998 at Grand Baie, Republic of Mauritius have thoroughly examined the prevailing situation in Angola on the light of the extensive briefing provided by His Excellency Jose Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola.

The Heads of State or Government concluded that the peace process in Angola and all its related efforts both by the Government of the Republic of Angola and by the international Community are being hindered by Unita's constant and deliberate non-compliance with the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, the relevant resolutions of the security Council and the laws of the Republic of Angola.

Considering the delaying tactics engineered by Unita, the process of implementation of the Lusaka Protocol has been frustrated for the past four years. ...

The Heads of State or Government of

SADC consider Jonas Malheiro Savimbi as the person solely responsible for the increasing deterioration of the security situation in Angola and the tragic consequences which have been felt throughout the region over a long period, by stubbornly and persistently opting for war as a means of seizing political power and, to this end, continuing to train men inside the country and abroad, recruiting mercenaries and increasing his military arsenal through all possible means.

The Heads of State or Government concluded that the behaviour of Savimbi is that of a war criminal and, thus renders him objectively incapable of leading his party onto the road of peace in Angola. ...

Heads of State and Government praised the tireless efforts being made by the Angolan Government in bringing about peace in Angola, within the framework of the Lusaka Protocol, and urged the International Community to render its full support in order to facilitate the social integration of demobilised soldiers and the involvement of all Angolan citizens, who opt for genuine peace, in the process of peace and national reconstruction of Angola. □

Mauritius summit resolves to end political conflicts

by Munetsi Madakufamba in Mauritius

The 18th SADC Summit ended on 15 September in Grand Baie, Mauritius, adopting resolutions aimed at finding lasting solutions to the emerging political problems in some parts of the region.

After meeting into the early hours of the morning, the summit issued a 15-page communiqué after debate that largely centred on the deteriorating political situation in Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Lesotho.

Meeting amid a gloomy economic outlook worsened by the pervasive global economic turmoil and the current political crisis in the region, the 12 heads of state or government plus representatives of Malawi and Seychelles, whose leaders could not attend the summit, unanimously agreed on the need for an urgent cooperative effort to tackle the far-reaching political problems.

Host Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam summed up the monumental task facing the summit in his welcome address saying: "We must first and fore-

most restore the climate of peace and security that is, as we all know, the *sine qua non* for economic development."

The leaders soundly condemned perpetrators of the political violence in the three SADC countries, and issued a separate statement endorsing a diplomatic drive by Angola to isolate guerrilla chief Jonas Savimbi, branding him a war criminal.

Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos said his government welcomes an initiative by a breakaway group of Unita leaders whom he said were in favour of peaceful dialogue, as opposed to Savimbi who "has been showing unequivocally that he does not want peace in Angola".

The summit, which hailed the governments of Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe for timeously providing troops to assist the DRC fight rebels and their allies, denied Ugandan and Rwandese delegations access to their discussions. The two countries are not SADC members.

The summit also expressed concern over increased civil disturbances and loss of life in Lesotho following elections

early this year which the opposition say were rigged. The leaders pledged support to Prime Minister Bethuel Pakalitha Mosisili in maintaining law and order in the beleaguered mountainous kingdom.

However, the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, which many expected to feature prominently during the closed-door talks, was not discussed partly because the three-men committee of Presidents Joaquim Chissano, Bakili Muluzi and Sam Nujoma which was set up last year to chart out the operational modalities of the organ had not finalised its recommendations.

SADC Chairman, President Nelson Mandela presented former Botswana President, Sir Ketumile Masire, with SADC's most prestigious award, the Seretse Khama SADC Medal. The medal is a preserve of people who are considered to have made outstanding contributions to the achievement of the goals of SADC.

Current vice chairman, President Chissano will host the next summit in Maputo. □

Debt crisis key issue for church assembly in Zimbabwe

The largest church assembly of its kind ever held in Africa will focus on globalization of the world's markets and the debt crisis when it meets in Harare from 3-14 December.

More than 4,000 delegates and official visitors from around the world are expected for the Eighth Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC). It is also the 50th anniversary of the WCC's formation in Amsterdam in 1948.

The theme of the Assembly is "Turn to God-Rejoice in Hope" and the underlying motif will be Jubilee to mark the anniversary.

Delegates from 330 member-churches, including many from Africa, will attend the deliberations held on the campus of the University of Zimbabwe. President Robert Mugabe is expected to attend the opening plenary on 3 December. The Jubilee festival on the closing Sunday, on 13 December, will be addressed by, among others, Thabo Mbeki, Deputy President of South Africa.

According to Dr. Konrad Raiser, WCC General-Secretary, the Assembly will be an occasion to convey a vision for Africa in the coming years. A special plenary session will present a realistic image of the continent, emphasizing the crushing burden of debt, the impact of globalization and the turmoil of currency speculation.

"The plenary will challenge the world to affirm Africa in this era of globalization which tends to exclude the continent. The plenary is likely to end with a dramatic act of commitment by all Africans present to work for the future and to say never again will Africa suffer humiliation.

"In turn, the entire Assembly is expected to make its own formal response to this act of commitment," Raiser said in an interview.

In the biblical spirit of Jubilee, the Assembly is expected to call for an end to the stranglehold of debt on the poor, especially in Africa. "Let the Trumpet



Dr Aaron Tolen of Cameroon, President of the World Council of Churches for Africa.

Sound" is a statement to be drafted at Harare in which delegates will be asked to affirm debt cancellation and forgiveness as an urgent priority. □

The chairman of the Summit, his Excellency President Mandela, who delivered the official opening statement, expressed satisfaction over the significantly improved overall macro-economic situation in the region. He commended SADC Governments for their commitment to the implementation of sound economic policies, and for their resolve to make Southern Africa the number one destination for international investors.

President Mandela observed that regional development and stability could not be achieved without social justice and equity. He therefore praised SADC for its efforts in ensuring that Member States benefit from equitable regional integration.

His Excellency, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, in his address, briefed the Summit on recent developments in Angola, President dos Santos brought the attention of the Summit to the fact that the Lusaka Protocol, which was to have been implemented in 18 months, will soon be completing its fourth year. ...

The opening Ceremony was also addressed by SADC Executive Secretary, Kaire Mbuende who urged Member States to aim for annual GDP growth rates of eight percent if they are to make inroads in the reduction of poverty, as well as the creation of gainful employment. Mbuende expressed optimism that with its abundance of resources, the SADC region can achieve this growth rate, provided appropriate sectoral policies and strategies continue to be put in place by SADC member states.

In his address to the Summit, Jeremie Bonnelame, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Seychelles, expressed the appreciation of his Government on being admitted as a full member of SADC. He described SADC as a dynamic regional grouping that is making significant progress in promoting sustainable development and economic growth.

The Assistant Secretary General of the OAU and African Economic Community, Ambassador Vijay S. Makham, stressed that the success of African integration and the establishment of the African Economic Community will very much depend on the seriousness and commitment with which regional economic communities such as SADC, tackle issues of integration, as well as negative

factors such as conflict, which thwart socio-economic development efforts. He called for effective leadership that encompasses regional, continental and global considerations, in order for Africa to face the challenges of the third millennium.

The President of the African Development Bank Omar Kabbaj briefed the Summit on how the ADB was responding to the challenges of the evolving global environment as well as how the bank was proceeding to build partnership and dialogue with the southern African region. ...

The summit noted with satisfaction that the process of political reform in Swaziland was in progress, with the Con-

stitutional Review Commission expected to complete its work on a new constitution within two years. The Summit welcomed the smooth transfer of power in Botswana following the retirement of Sir Ketumile Masire from the presidency of Botswana. It paid tribute to President Nelson Mandela for his wise leadership of the African National Congress as its president for many years. ...

The Summit expressed concern at the civil disturbances and loss of life following the recent elections in Lesotho. It welcomed the mediation initiative led by the South African government, which resulted in the setting up of a SADC Committee of Experts to investigate the validity or otherwise of allegations that the elections were fraudulent. It also expressed concern at the recent developments in Angola, and strongly condemned Savimbi's belligerent non-compliance with the major provisions of the Lusaka Protocol, which commits him to full demilitarisation of his armed forces, participation in a government of national unity and a national defence force.

The Summit urged Member States to ensure tight regulation and improved control of airports and airspace to ensure effective implementation of the UN sanctions against UNITA. It undertook to adopt the necessary measures to ensure compliance with decisions made by member states through SADC, OAU and UN resolutions on this matter. The Summit further called on the international community, particularly countries and leaders who have an influence on Savimbi to persuade the rebel movement to rededicate itself to the path of peace and reconstruction in Angola as a matter of urgency. ...

It welcomed initiatives by SADC intended to assist in the restoration of peace, security and stability in the DRC. The summit expressed its heartfelt condolences to the Governments and peoples of Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa and the United States over the hundreds of lives which were lost as a result of the bombing of American Embassies in Dar es Salaam, Nairobi, as well as a restaurant in Cape Town in August 1998. The Summit expressed its strongest reservations regarding the US government's unilateral act in the missile bombing of a presumed "terrorist target" in Sudan. It emphasised the need to demonstrate confidence in continental and international fora such as the OAU and UN Security Council in seeking collective action to combat common threats to international peace and security. ...

The Summit noted with regret that the Great Lakes region continued to pose serious security and refugees problems to the regions of eastern, central and southern Africa. It called on the international community to provide the necessary diplomatic and logistical support towards efforts by regional leaders to start a genuine process of negotiations in the Great Lakes, including Burundi and Rwanda, leading to a new political dispensation guaranteeing liberty, democracy and security for all citizens.

The Summit expressed satisfaction that member states have continued to



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implement sound economic policies that augur well for long-term sustainable development citing continuing positive annual growth rates since the post 1995 period.

The Summit observed that the 1997 average GDP growth rate stood at 2.2 percent while budget deficits and inflation rates had decreased dramatically to six and 10 percent respectively during the same period. It appealed to both local and foreign investors to fully take advantage of the changing economic situation to further increase intra-regional trade beyond the current 20 percent of total SADC trade.

The Summit undertook to further enhance efforts to coordinate and rationalise their programmes of economic reconstruction, to give more impetus to the region's emerging market of over 190 million people with a combined GDP of more than US\$160 billion.

The Summit expressed concern over the unfavourable weather conditions which prevailed during the 1997/98 cropping season characterised by erratic and below normal rainfall in some countries and excessive rains leading to disruptive floods in others, resulting in a projected overall cereal deficit of 510 000 tonnes. ...

The Summit undertook to ensure, through the relevant institutions, the monitoring of strategic food reserves, and the determination and implementation of appropriate contingency plans to address the projected cereal deficits particularly in wheat, sorghum and millet, to avoid suffering by vulnerable groups.

The Summit commended Council for finalising the major task of establishing policy guidelines that will facilitate the speedy completion of the transformation of SADC into a dynamic development community, through the Review and Rationalisation of the SADC Programme of Action exercise. The summit endorsed the decision to reorient the role of SADC to include a focus upon policy formulation, coordination and harmonisation, the involvement of the private sector and other stakeholders in community building. The summit reaffirmed the necessity of continuing with the system of sectoral coordination by member states, and the rationalisation of sectors where appropriate. ...

The Summit welcomed the creation of a new Sector of Legal Affairs, which would deal, among other, with coopera-

tion in the administration of justice, harmonisation of member states legal and judicial systems, the provision of critical legal support services to other SADC sectors, as well as the SADC Tribunal.

The Summit expressed satisfaction that protocols on Transport, Communication and Meteorology, and Energy, had recently acquired the required two-thirds majority ratification by member states to come into force.

The Summit expressed disappointment that so far four countries (Botswana, Mauritius, Tanzania and Zimbabwe) have ratified the Trade Protocol, which is the key to successful regional integration and economic development



Dr Kaire Mbuende

in southern Africa. It warned that the Organisation could lose its credibility unless member states moved with speed to address problems impeding ratification of the Trade Protocol. The Summit welcomed the decision to convene a SADC Trade Negotiating Forum in October, and an extra-ordinary meeting of Ministers of Trade and Industry before the end of 1998, to finalise outstanding matters on the Trade Protocol.

A new Protocol on Tourism was signed. Among other things, the protocol aims to ensure balanced and complementary development of the tourism industry in the SADC region through collective efforts. The Summit signed an Addendum to the 1997 SADC Declaration on Gender and Development: Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women and Children. ...

The Summit noted with appreciation,

measures that member states were taking to combat corruption in the region. It agreed that corruption was an insidious evil practice that would sabotage the region's socio-economic development if it was not uprooted and eradicated completely. It therefore commended member states for establishing autonomous and accountable anti-corruption agencies.

The Summit expressed concern at the speed at which HIV/AIDS was spreading to all sectors of the population, particularly the youth and the most economically active groups. It expressed an urgent need for SADC and Member States to review and revamp their strategies and programmes for fighting HIV/AIDS to ensure that socio-economic gains made over the years are not drastically reversed especially in areas like lower infant mortality, increased literacy, life expectancy and skills acquisition. The Summit further called for closer cooperation between Governments, NGOs, the private sector and other stakeholders in the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The Summit reflected on possible "worst-case" scenario problems likely to result from the Year 2000 Computer Problem (Y2K) such as disruption or collapse of utilities, transport and communication networks including financial, social services, food supply and defence systems. It urged member states to treat the Y2K problem as an emergency and to allocate resources to initiatives seeking solutions on a top priority basis.

The Summit expressed satisfaction at the progress being made in the implementation of the African Economic Community, following the signing of the Protocol on the Relations between the African Economic Community and Regional Economic Communities on 25th February 1998, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

It reaffirmed the 1995 decision that all the activities and policies of SADC should be carried out in the context of achieving the objectives of the African Economic Community. The Summit committed SADC, as a building bloc, "to play a catalytic and strategic role in the process of establishing the African Economic Community.

A decision was made to reduce the tenure of office of the Chairperson of SADC from three years to one year with effect from 1999, in order to facilitate greater participation by all member states in the leadership of the organisation at the highest level. □

SADC takes steps to empower women: Gender unit established at secretariat

Since adopting the gender and development declaration a year ago, SADC has taken steps toward mainstreaming gender in its various programmes and activities including the recent establishment of the Gender Unit at the Secretariat in Botswana.

Two senior officers presently staff the unit. The main function of the unit is to advise the executive secretary on gender issues, and work with other officers in the SADC Secretariat to ensure that a gender perspective permeates the entire SADC Programme of Action and Community Building Initiative.

The process of putting into place a policy and institutional framework for gender in SADC can be traced to 1990, when the SADC Council of Ministers mandated the SADC Secretariat to explore best ways to incorporate gender issues in the SADC Programme of Work. Since then, a number of important milestones leading to the establishment of the Gender Unit have taken place.

At its meeting in Maseru in August 1996, council noted the report of the conference on Social Development in the SADC Region and approved that gender issues at the regional level should be co-ordinated by the secretariat.

During preparations for the Fourth UN World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995, women from National Machineries, NGOs and other stakeholders in gender in SADC member states consolidated their networks. Following the conference, they established a Regional Advisory Committee and its executive body, the Senior Management Committee.

The Advisory Committee is composed of two representatives from each member state, one from Government and the other from the NGO sector. The Management Committee consists of three member states, with one as the focal point.

At their meeting held in Windhoek in February 1997, the SADC Council of Ministers approved the establishment of a policy framework for mainstreaming gender in all SADC activities, and for strengthening efforts by member countries to achieve gender equality.

In addition, council approved an institutional framework for advancing gen-



Dr Athalia Molokomme, Senior Programme Officer.



Ms Elizabeth Khaxas, Programme Officer.

der equality consistent with that established for other areas of cooperation, but which ensures that gender is routinely taken into account in all sectors. The institutional framework has four components.

First, a Standing Committee of Ministers responsible for Gender Affairs in the region is established.

Secondly, it adopts the existing Advisory Committee, which consist of one government and one NGO representative from each SADC member state, whose task is to advise the Standing Committee of Ministers, and other Sectoral Committees of Ministers on gender issues.

Thirdly, Gender Focal Points at sectoral level are established whose task would be to ensure that gender is taken into account in all sectoral initiatives, and is placed on the agenda of ministerial meetings.

Finally the framework establishes a Gender Unit in the SADC Secretariat consisting of two senior officers.

Significant progress has been made since the institutional framework was formally adopted. SADC Ministers responsible for Gender Affairs held their annual meetings in 1997 and 1998. The following significant developments have also taken place.

The Addendum on the Prevention of violence against Women

In implementing the commitments in the 1997 Declaration on Gender and Development, SADC leaders signed an Addendum to it entitled 'The Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women and Children'. This addendum, which was signed on 14 September 1998, contains the following major elements:

- A recognition that violence against women and children is a violation of fundamental human rights;
- An identification of the various forms of violence against women and children in SADC; and
- A concern that the various forms of violence against women and children in SADC continue to increase, and a recognition that existing measures are inadequate.

A Plan of Action for Gender in SADC has been in the process of development by SADC structures and stakeholders in gender in the region since 1995.

The Plan was approved by the SADC Ministers Responsible for Gender/Women's Affairs and the Council of Ministers in July and September 1998 respectively. The overall goal of the plan is to provide the tools for the achievement of gender equality through the empowerment of women in SADC region,

and the mainstreaming of gender into the SADC Programme of Action and Community Building Initiative.

The principal objectives of the plan are to:

- ensure the development of policy and institutional framework for gender mainstreaming in the policies, programmes and activities of all SADC Member States, in its programme of action;
 - cultivate and promote a culture of equality between men and women in SADC, respect for human rights of women, and the elimination of violence against women;
 - facilitate the achievement of gender equality in access to economic structures and control of resources in the SADC region;
 - promote equality between women and men in the sharing of power and ensure the achievement of at least 30% female representation in decision-making structures by year 2005;
 - monitor and evaluate the implementation of the 1997 SADC Declaration on Gender and Development, and Gender Programme of Action; and
 - facilitate the promotion of peace and stability in the SADC region and evaluate the impact of war and conflict on the social, economic and psychological development of women and children.
- To implement the above objectives, the following broad strategies will be adopted at both national and regional levels:
- Capacity Building and Training
 - Policy Development
 - Lobbying and Advocacy
 - Networking
 - Research and Information Management
 - Monitoring and Evaluation
 - Programmes and Projects

A number of specific activities have been identified, to be undertaken in collaboration with Sector Coordinating Units, Regional Commissions, the Committee of Ministers Responsible for Gender/Women's Affairs, the Regional Advisory Committee, and the Gender Focal Points. □

Prega Ramsamy

Prega Ramsamy, the new Deputy Executive Secretary of SADC, was born on 5 May 1950 in Rose-Hill, Mauritius.

He obtained his Bachelor of Arts honours degree in Economics at Delhi University in India and a *Diplome Post Universitaire* in Population and Development from the UN Centre for Population Studies, CEDOR, in 1977. From 1975-82 he worked for his government as an Economist in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development. During 1981, he was associated with Macedon College in Melbourne, Australia.

Ramsamy continued to strengthen his academic background, obtaining the Tokyo Certificate in Project Evaluation, Appraisal and Analysis in 1982 from the International Development Centre of Japan (IDCJ). He obtained his MBA from the California University for Advanced Studies' School of Economics and Management in 1985 and his PhD in Development Economics from the same university three years later.

During the period 1983-97, Ramsamy was associated with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Secretariat holding a number of positions. He was Senior Trade Expert from 1983-90, Chief of Technical Co-operation and Aid Co-ordination from 1991-93, before being appointed Director of Development Finance and Technical Co-operation from 1994-97. He joined the SADC Secretariat as its Chief Economist in 1997 and subsequently became the Deputy Executive Secretary in September 1998.

Lengolo Bureng Monyake

In April this year, Lengolo Bureng Monyake, who was SADC's Deputy Executive Secretary left the organisation after serving the region since November 1993.

Born in Lesotho on 1 April 1930 at Thabana Morena, Monyake matriculated in 1947 at Lesotho High School.

He held several senior posts in his home country and abroad in a career spanning almost five decades. With several educational degrees from different universities, he worked for the IMF from November 1988 to October 1992. Monyake was an Alternate Executive Director of the IMF, representing 19 African countries from November 1988 to October 1990.

Monyake was Lesotho's ambassador to Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg and the European Economic Union from 1979 to October 1983. From 1986 to October of 1988, he served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs and then the minister of Works in Lesotho.

Monyake held directorships with the Lesotho Lower Income Housing Corporation and the Lesotho Airways Corporation as well as the Central Bank of Lesotho. He represented his country in different working groups and negotiating fora. He is married with three children. □



Former SADC Deputy Executive Secretary Lengolo Monyake (L) and new Deputy Executive Secretary Prega Ramsamy (R). □

Need for joint conservation strategies



March Turnbull

VIEW ON WILDLIFE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Southern Africa is a region richly endowed with a diverse wildlife and other natural resources. Unfortunately, current conservation strategies are largely concentrated within national borders. Individual countries, however, stand to benefit from economies of scale and the multiplier effect of transboundary conservation, writes March Turnbull.

Transfrontier conservation is not a recent development. Over 100 countries around the world are involved in joint conservation efforts with their neighbours. These range from the 1932 international treaty between Canada and the USA and to the simple letter of understanding between Bhutan and Nepal.

And now Africa is taking a close look at the model. In the SADC region alone at least ten potential transfrontier conservation areas (TFCAs) have been identified. With the exception of Mauritius and Seychelles, every SADC nation has been linked with one TFCA or another. For example, Mozambique has very advanced thinking in this area but perhaps the most ambitious current proposal is to link Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe in a project centred on the Upper Zambezi.

Traditionally, TFCAs have national parks at their core and are established to advance conservation objectives. These large areas can encompass complete faunal life and allow for largescale management. Southern Africa would certainly benefit in this way, particularly for animals with large home ranges such as wild dogs, cheetahs and elephants.

Transfrontier conservation in Africa is different from the rest of the world for a number of reasons.

First, SADC's natural assets may well underpin the future economic success

of the region. It is estimated that by 2010 one in ten jobs in the SADC region will be attributable to tourism. Most international travellers visit the region because of the wildlife and many visit more than one country.

The second reason lies in the distribution of Africa's national parks. Almost every SADC country has one or more national parks on an international border. Many of these borders are also rivers or other natural features for instance the Zambezi river.

Finally, southern Africa cannot divorce conservation from human development. Traditionally excluded from its benefits, most Africans do not accept a strict protectionist model of conservation. TFCAs must win the support of these people and that means sharing the economic opportunities as well as the responsibilities of conservation.

Seventy percent of all SADC's people rely entirely on natural resources to feed and shelter themselves. No realistic transfrontier plan can be agreed upon without addressing the environmental demands made by the local communities.

There are a number of things that need to be achieved before a TFCA can be realised, ranging from the building of consensus among all interested parties, to the building of roads that link up the countries. This is time consuming and costly and for already cash-strapped wildlife departments, it may be such a complex task that may not receive the priority that it deserves.

The founding of the Peace Parks Foundation was a response to these needs. It is a non-profit organisation, based in southern Africa, that undertakes to help realise the environmental and economic potential of transfrontier areas – regional cooperation, job creation and biodiversity conservation.

The term 'peace park', broadly synonymous with TFCA, is a World Conservation Union (IUCN) term that recognises the role such structures can play in international cooperation.

The foundation does not have a mandate to own or operate any part of a TFCA. What it seeks to do is help put in place the right organisational and physical infrastructure to make a TFCA a viable entity. Seven SADC heads of state

are patrons of the Peace Parks Foundation.

The tourist potential of SADC is enormous. By securing larger contiguous wildlife areas and managing them cooperatively, southern Africa can become one of the greatest wildlife showcase in the world – and reap the rewards due to those who invest in their energies and resources in it. Transfrontier conservation is one way of doing that but it will take a common purpose to pull it off.

The public sector needs to commit its priceless assets (the parks) and the private sector needs to commit itself to meaningful partnerships at a community level, and the NGO community must support as needed. But these partnerships should not overlook the needs of the people at the grassroots level.



TFCAs have national parks at their core.

Botswana and South Africa are close to achieving something quite extraordinary. Almost 40,000 sq km of the southern Kalahari will soon come under joint management, right down to an agreement on the sharing of gate receipts. There are still details to be worked out, including the participation of rural communities in the structures, but the foundations are in place.

A new tool has been forged in southern Africa. Transfrontier conservation can open up huge environmental and economic opportunities and if used carefully, southern Africa could become a giant in natural resource management. □

The author, March Turnbull, is the Director of Development at the Peace Parks Foundation. His functions include managing the external communications of the Foundation and managing the Peace Parks Club which is a body of individual and corporate donors who support the Foundation.

Festival seeks to empower African film producers

by Jean Chimhandamba

Sankofa, a powerful award winning feature film about the fight for freedom by a slave girl, was the film set to open the Southern African Film Festival (SAFF) in Harare and set in the mood of empowering Africans through African films, which was the overall theme at this year's SAFF.

The festival was the third such event following SAFF '93 and SAFF '96. Through the Federation of African Filmmakers (FEPACI), SAFF is now officially recognised by both the OAU and FEPACI as the third Pan African film festival on the continent.

Said Isaac Mabhikwa, the executive director of SAFF: "We at SAFF truly believe that entertaining African people with African films is empowering them."

Film giants from around the conti-

nent attended the workshop putting forth their views that filming should be made an important instrument to spread African culture and help keep it alive.

Guston Kabore from Burkina Faso, who has a long career in film-making, believes that Africans have a lot of tales to tell that can be put on screen. "I believe film production should not be viewed as a luxury in Africa. It's vital for people to have access to their own image," he said. "It's the only way we can portray our reality and understand each other better," he added.

Guston started to take film production seriously when he was doing his Ph.D. in History in Paris in the 1970s. He used his academic background to see how film can portray history. In the four feature films that he has produced to date including *Bud Yam*, which is his latest, and *Zam Boko*, he tries to access the

African imagination in order to help his audience see Africa from an African point of view.

Award winning South African film producer and director, Lionel Ngakane, also attended the festival. Ngakane makes social and political films. Among his productions are the original *Cry the Beloved Country*, a feature film on apartheid and discrimination against Africans; and *Mandela - The Struggle Is My Life*, a documentary film on Nelson Mandela and his struggle for freedom.

The festival ended with the war torn DRC scooping six awards despite being a new participant in the SAFF. It entered two films for the competition, *Macadam Tribu* and *Pieces d' identite* (Pieces of Identity). The latter was billed as one of the major attractions at the one-week event. □

Zambia retains regional football championship

by Caiphos Chimhete

Zambia once again emerged as southern Africa's soccer power house after beating Zimbabwe's youthful national team 1-0 to retain the title in the Confederation of Southern African Football Association (Cosafa) mini league in Harare recently.

The Zambians, who won the cup last year, walked away with the winner's prize of about R425 000.

The Zambia team, accompanied by scores of supporters, broke into song and traditional dance soon after the final whistle to celebrate their victory.

Needing a victory to overtake the Warriors of Zimbabwe on the mini-league log, Zambia snatched victory from the

jaws of success starved Warriors 11 minutes from the final whistle.

The Chipolopolo of Zambia, playing for the first time under the guidance of new coach Fighton Simukonda, showed great determination and skill despite the team being comprised mainly of new youthful players.

The Zimbabwe national soccer team has never beaten Zambia in more than a decade. The Warriors of Zimbabwe only needed a win or a draw while Zambia needed an outright win to lift the Cup, which they did.

The Cosafa Castle Cup tournament started last year.

The five teams that were in this year's edition of the regional competition are Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The southern Africa soccer champions, Zambia, finished with eight points from two wins and two draws while Zimbabwe and Angola secured six points each and five and one for Namibia and Mozambique respectively.

Meanwhile, Cosafa has changed the format of next year's Castle cup series with the final being played on a home-and-away basis. The winners will walk away with an increased champion's cheque of about R500 000.

In a statement, Cosafa general secretary Ashford Mamelodi said the confederation's executive agreed that the 1999 Castle Cup be played on a knock-out-basis, as opposed to the league format used in the last two championships.

Mamelodi said the matches played in terms of knock-out phases must produce a winner and it was expected that a penalty shoot-out would ensue in accordance with the laws of the game and no extra time would be played.

The runners-up will get about R250 000; losing semi-finalists will earn R150 000 each while R100 000 will go to the losing quarter-finalists and R75 000 for secondary knockout losers.

The preliminary round draw of the Castle Cup is set for 15 December in Mozambique's capital, Maputo. □

Southern Africa makes impact at Commonwealth games

Most southern African countries which participated in the 16th Commonwealth Games in Malaysia recently managed to win at least a gold medal with South Africa topping the list with nine gold medals. Zimbabwe had two gold medals, followed by Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique and Tanzania with one each.

The 11-day games extravaganza, which drew together nearly all Commonwealth countries, was officially closed by Britain's Queen Elizabeth. The next Commonwealth Games are scheduled to be held in the northern English City of Manchester in the year 2002. □

Asian financial crisis worries SADC

The Mozambican government believes that SADC member states should come together and reassess their trade relations with countries currently undergoing a financial crisis, particularly those from south-east Asia.

Mozambican Planning and Finance Minister Tomas Salomao told a recent press conference that SADC members should endeavour to know the reality of the financial crisis in depth so as to be able to take realistic measures to deal with its negative effects.

He noted that the crisis in Asia is now affecting world markets, and this may have particularly negative effects on Mozambique, classified as one of the poorest countries in the world.

Calling for joint work within SADC, Salomao noted that only "by acting en bloc" can the organization deal with an impending financial crisis.

Exporters in particular would have to take care, since they might not be able to rely on south-east Asian markets.

"We have to realise that with this crisis, we are losing the Asian market," he said. "We have to look for new markets, and the cohesion of SADC could be one of the solutions."

To illustrate the dramatic effects of the currency devaluations that have occurred in Asia, Salomao cited Malaysia, where someone earning the equivalent of 100 US dollars before the crisis, is now earning the equivalent of only about 30 US dollars.

Salomao said that the first issue he posed to the Briton Woods institutions during their annual meeting early October, was about the implications of the financial crisis on Mozambique, taking into account the poverty situation in Africa. (AIM) □

Region fights environmental degradation

The private sector and governments of SADC have been called upon to unite in fighting environmental degradation.

Parliamentarians and officials from non-governmental organisations in southern Africa meeting in South Africa recently emphasised that sustainable development depends on social and environmental justice. They pointed out that sustainable development would not be possible without the eradication of poverty.

Danie Stewart of the Development Bank of Southern Africa expressed the need for quality management of information on poverty and natural resources. This was echoed by other speakers who stressed the importance of indigenous knowledge and the sharing of information.

The meeting highlighted the need to integrate environment and development in decision making and national policy formulation.

The southern African legislators undertook to hold parliamentary debates aimed at reviewing member countries' strategies for the coming Buenos Aires Climate Change meeting regarding how the region will fulfill the commitments signed in Kyoto last year.

The meeting called upon ministers in the region to develop a regional consensus position with regard to climate change for tabling at or before the Fourth Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP4). There was consensus at the meeting that the National Secretariats of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification should be "appointed in each country at the highest political level to coordinate and facilitate policy". □

Swaziland elections

The Swazi people finally elected a government that will lead them into the next millennium after several election postponements and calls from trade unions and opposition parties to cancel the elections until a "democratic system" was set up in the country.

The opposition parties dubbed the "Progressives" and other pressure groups have been calling on the electorate to boycott the elections, denouncing the Tinkhundla system of government, where the King has executive powers, as "inhumane and undemocratic".

The elections held on 16 and 24 October 1998 were previously scheduled for 9 October but were postponed due to

SADC countries ratify landmine treaty

Five SADC countries are among 40 countries around the world which have just ratified the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty, effectively putting it into force. The treaty will become binding law on 1 March 1999.

The five countries are Mauritius, Malawi, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, nations where mines have been used most extensively.

Angola has signed the treaty but has not yet ratified it. However, the The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) has expressed concern about reports of continued laying of mines in a number of countries that have signed including Angola.

The ratification comes in the wake of a global movement to eradicate antipersonnel landmines. "It is fitting that this treaty will enter into force faster than any other major treaty in history," said Jody Williams, Ambassador of the nobel prize laureate, the ICBL.

"This accomplishment underscores the urgency of dealing with the global landmine crisis and the strength of the new international standard against this insidious weapon," she said.

The treaty aims to achieve the destruction of stockpiled mines within four years and of mines already in the ground within 10 years.

The 40 countries which have ratified are part of 130 nations which have signed the treaty since last December.

Zimbabwe has already started on its demining programme by launching a demining campaign in July 1998. A report released in October by the National Demining Office and the Zimbabwe Campaign to Ban Landmines (ZCBL) revealed that 166 000 square metres of land in the country has been cleared of landmines. □

"logistical" problems. Swaziland chief electoral officer, Robert Thwala, says the electoral commission wanted to give the candidates "enough time to campaign" and so that the electorate would vote the right people into power.

The elections were characterised by a low turnout. Less than 100,000 of the 200,000 registered voters managed to cast their votes. □

The trade and sustainable development debate

Trade and Sustainable Development – A Guide for the Perplexed published by Group for Environmental Monitoring, PO Box 30684, Braamfontein, 2017, South Africa. Review by M. Munetsi.

Trade and Sustainable Development – A guide for the perplexed is an overview of trade and environment debates currently underway in international meetings.

The book seeks to enlighten policy-makers and the general public about some of the dangers of the current world order being shaped up by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and, in general, the North increasingly represented by transnational corporations (TNCs).

Globalisation, as advanced by the WTO, seeks to create "free trade" and open up economies to international competition. But, as the book explains, countries with greater economic and political power are only negotiating a version of free trade that is beneficial to their power base – the TNCs.

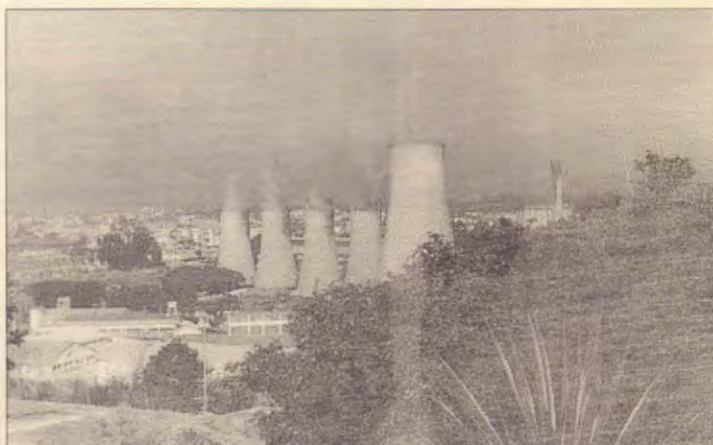
TNCs, which control 70 percent of

world trade, are working on achieving the best combination of free trade and protected trade to suit their profit margins, independent of any national interests.

The book says there is need to examine the overall implications

of the global industrial exploitation of natural resources, especially by TNCs. There is need to improve people's lives through sustainable development – ie meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of further generations to meet their own needs.

"We need to look at how industrial exploitation is rapidly depleting or de-



Development can be at the cost of environmental degradation.

stroying natural systems.

"Above all, we need to adjust our whole understanding of what kind of growth is possible, not just for developing countries but also for the massively industrialised countries of the North, which are today attempting to define the growth path for poorer underdeveloped countries to follow," says the book. □

Recent publications and acquisitions

Dancing with People to the Song that the People have Chosen.

—UNDP. - 1998

Available from UNDP, P.O. Box 4775, Harare, Zimbabwe.

SADC-Environment & Land Management Sector Gender Strategy.

—SADC. - 1998

Available from SADC Secretariat.

An Economic Analysis of the Effects of Production Risk on the Used and Management of Common-pool Rangelands.

—McCarthy, Nancy. - 1998

Available from SADC Secretariat.

SADC Food Security Training Project: A Training Module on Food Security for Development Workers in the SADC Region 1997.

—SADC. - 1998

Available from the SADC Secretariat.

SADC Initiative in Education Policy Development, Planning and Management: Report of a Needs Assessment Study.

—UNESCO. - 1998

Available SADC Secretariat.

Landmines in Zimbabwe: A Deadly Legacy

Rupiya, Martin Revai. - 1998

Available from SAPES Books, PO Box MP 1005, Mount Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe.

Africa Confidential Who's Who of Southern Africa.

Smith, Patrick. - 1998

Available from Blackwell Publishers Ltd. 108 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1JF, UK.

A Crime Against Humanity: Analysing the Repression of the Apartheid State.

—Coleman, Max. - 1998

Available David Philip Publishers (Pty) Ltd. 208 Werdmuller Centre, Claremont, 7700, South Africa.

Social Security Systems in Rural Zimbabwe

—Kaseke Edwin. - 1998

Available from Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, PO Box 4720, Harare, Zimbabwe.

SADC diary

Date	Event	Venue	
1998			
November	02 - 03	SADC/EU Joint Steering Committee and the Joint Committee of Senior Officials	Austria
	04 - 05	SADC/EU Ministerial Conference (Foreign Affairs)	Austria
	17	SADC Executive Secretary Annual Briefing of Diplomats	Botswana
	22 - 27	Workshop to Review Gender Issues in SADC	Namibia
	25 - 26	Symposium organized by UNHCR on Challenges to the Institution of Asylum and Refugee Protection in Southern Africa	South Africa
	27 - 30	Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women	Zimbabwe
	29	Rural Livelihoods, Empowerment and the Environment - Going Beyond the Farm Boundary	South Africa
December	03 - 14	World Council of Churches Assembly	Zimbabwe
1999			
January	25 - 28	Workshop for Commonwealth African Countries on "Integrating Economic and Environmental Policies and Using Economic Instruments to Promote Sustainable Development"	Zimbabwe
	29 - 31	Roundtable on "Elections, Regional Stability and Peace: The Challenge for Civil Society."	Tanzania
February	11 - 12	SADC Consultative Conference with theme "SADC in the next Millennium: The Challenges and Opportunities of Information Technology"	Zambia

Currency Checklist

Country	Currency	(US\$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 lewi)	-
Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	4.56
DRC	Congo Franc	-
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	5.73
Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	43.86
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	25.12
Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	11 995.18
Namibia	Dollar (100 cents)	5.73
Seychelles	Rupee (100 cents)	5.50
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	5.73
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	5.73
Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	686.55
Zambia	Kwacha (100 ngwee)	2201.83
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 cents)	38.66

Sourced from Standard Chartered Bank Zimbabwe Ltd,
13 November 1998

SADC Public Holidays

November 1998 - January 1999

Date	Holiday	Country
2 November	All Saints Day	Angola
11 November	Independence Day	Angola
9 December	Independence Day	Tanzania
10 December	International Human Rights Day	Namibia
16 December	Day of Reconciliation	South Africa
22 December	Unity Day	Zimbabwe
25 December	Christmas Day	SADC
26 December	Boxing Day	Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Tanzania & Zambia
26 December	Family Day	Namibia
26 December	Day of Goodwill	South Africa
26 December	Public Holiday	Zimbabwe
01 January	New Year's Day	SADC
02 January	Public Holiday	Botswana & Mauritius
04 January	Martys Day of Colonial Oppression	Angola
12 January	Zanzibar Revolution Day	Tanzania
15 January	John Chilembwe Day	Malawi
28 January	Chinese Spring Festival	Mauritius