



SADC's answer to trade woes: increase productivity



by Helge Schutz

More than 500 delegates from member countries and international partners attended the Southern Africa Development Community's annual consultative conference in Windhoek in February, where an urgent call was made for increased productivity in a new world order in which Africa's share of international trade was steadily diminishing.

At the official opening the President of Namibia, Sam Nujoma set the tone for the conference, entitled "Productivity - Key to Sustainable Development in SADC", by saying that the region's productivity would influence its ability to attract foreign investment and enhance its chances of gaining access to important world markets for products produced in the region.

Nujoma said that the title of the conference was all the more applicable in light of the current low levels of productivity in the region.

"Productivity in Southern Africa has only grown at a yearly average of 1.3 percent over the last 10 years, as against the annual population growth rate of about 3 percent."

SADC's executive secretary, Dr Kaire Mbuende summed up the region's concern: "Productivity in Southern Africa has only grown at a yearly average of 1.3 percent over the last 10 years as against the annual population growth rate of about 3 percent."

SADC's ranking in global competitiveness also needed to be improved.

"In the 1995 World Competitiveness Report only South Africa was placed among the 48 countries in the ranking; and then at the bottom of the scoreboard."

Mbuende added that South Africa only earned its ranking, because of its modern infrastructure, but scored low in other critical areas such as science, technology, management and the quality of human resources.

This however, was mainly due to South Africa's 3.4 percent growth in 1995 and the high growth rates of Angola (9.2 percent) and Malawi (9.9 percent).

The consultative conference was preceded by several meetings, including the standing committee of officials, the ministerial gender seminar, the Council of Ministers and SADC-Nordic ministers meeting.

In particular, the Council of Ministers considered progress reports on the

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PRODUCTIVITY: at Chimoio, Mozambique

Belgium signs US\$10 million-a-year pact with SADC

SADC and Belgium have signed a General Agreement of Cooperation, providing a policy framework worth US\$10 million per year.

Both parties said they expect the pact to give new impetus to their cooperation after eight years of working together on a project-by-project basis.

The main objective of cooperation is "to steer and enhance" sustainable development, community building and regional integration.

The agreement, which includes a Joint Technical Committee representing the Belgian Agency for Development Cooperation and the SADC Secretariat, was signed in Gaborone, on 20 March 1997 by the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr K. Mbuende, and the Belgian Ambassador, H.E. Mr. L. Willems.

In a joint statement, SADC and

Belgium said their future common programme should aim at "strengthening SADC's institutions and their management

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Institutional status for gender

Gender issues, after several years of concerted lobbying, are in the process of attaining institutional makeup in SADC. This follows the adoption by the SADC Council of Ministers of a comprehensive gender programme that will cut across all structures and programmes of SADC to ensure that gender issues are always given the priority consideration that they deserve.

At the Windhoek conference, gender issues formed an important part of the agenda, culminating in the adoption of several recommendations.

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Made in SADC

The *Made in SADC* Electronic Exhibition at this year's Consultative Conference was a positive recognition of the importance of keeping abreast with information technology.

The exhibition, consisting of 18 workstations linked to the rest of the world, provided conference delegates with 24-hour access to the Internet. It enabled them to communicate with their home countries and request information from anywhere in the world.

Highlights of the exhibition included information on the SADC Secretariat, each of the member nations, the political, social and economic activities of the members, the region's private sector and NGOs. Also featured was *SADC Today*.

The principals of *Made in SADC* believe the development of an internationally accessible network will contribute to enhancing productivity on a macro scale.

Choices and opportunities for sustainable development

The following are excerpts from a recently published booklet by SADC-ELMS, SADC Policy and Strategy for Environment and Sustainable Development, on policies about environment and sustainable development.

The majority of people and countries in Southern Africa and the world over are poor and sometimes they behave in a way that degrades the environment.

This is not because they choose to do so. They only do so when they have no other choices.

The Earth Summit and Agenda 21 must expand the development choices and opportunities for the majority of disadvantaged communities and countries.

After a decade of largely unsustainable development in southern Africa the livelihoods and lives of many people and the economic prospects of most countries continue to be threatened by environmental degradation.

Most SADC countries now face a formidable series of critical demographic, social, economic, agricultural, energy, technological and institutional transitions in order to move towards development that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

Agenda 21, the global action plan for environment and development adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit, provides a new integrated policy framework for national and regional action for moving toward sustainable development within and among the SADC countries.

Unsustainable development has been and remains largely driven by economic and sectoral policies which are too narrowly conceived and focused and particularly neglect the adverse impacts on the poor majority and the environment.

To break away from unsustainable development in the SADC region, environmental concerns need to be increasingly incorporated as an integral part of the development policies and decision-making of the major economic and sectoral Ministries.

Agenda 21 contains many

recommendations for integrating environment and development in all major sectors and proposes a broad range and mix of regulatory measures and economic incentives to ensure national development becomes ecologically and economically sustainable...

Some of the key policy and goals in Agenda 21 are not explicitly reflected in the present SADC structure.

While the mandates of several SADC sector groups could be extended to cover some of the missing key issues (e.g. biodiversity), new SADC institutional arrangements need to be considered for other key issues such as health and human settlements...

SANGER - BRITISH RED CROSS



NATURAL RESOURCES: also for future generations.

Alleviating the poverty of the majority of the 140 million people in the region remains the overriding goal and priority.

A crucial element which must be added to "environment and development" to make Agenda 21 more applicable and operational in the SADC region is equity.

Throughout the SADC region the poverty of the poor majority remains the main cause and consequence of environmental degradation which in turn undermines the possibilities for future economic growth. But the poor are not the problem.

The national development and international aid policies which fail to

reach, involve and benefit the poor majority are the problem.

Policy changes to achieve greater equity for sustainable development are needed in national economic policies, agricultural policies, land tenure laws and policies, human settlement policies, health policies and even wildlife and parks policies. Significant changes are also needed in the international trade, aid and lending policies developed countries and multilateral financial institutions...

Growth strategies which are not economically, socially and environmentally sustainable, however spectacular the short term results may be, are not and should not, be called development...

Without growth, poverty-driven environmental degradation will continue to escalate. Without growth there will be no additional financial resources for tackling the already large backlog of environmental degradation...

Economic growth is nevertheless needed throughout the SADC region. With growth, the region must become more equitable, less polluting and more efficient in the use of energy and natural resources. National and international equity-led growth strategies are needed for sustainable development to provide "a new basis for a new deal for the majority of poor people and countries in order to secure and sustain a common future."

The three overall goals for sustainable development in the SADC region are to:

- accelerate economic growth with greater equity and self-reliance
- improve the health, income and living conditions of the poor majority and
- ensure equitable and sustainable use of the environment and natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations...

A new SADC policy and strategy for environment and resource management cannot be separate. It must be developed and implemented as an integral part of a larger SADC agenda and strategy for equity-led growth and sustainable development in and among the countries of the SADC region... □

Conference calls for anti-personnel mine-free zone in SADC

by Caiphaz Chimhete

SADC countries have been urged to intensify measures to make the region a mine-free zone to stop human suffering caused by landmines.

In a final declaration of the 4th International Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) Conference on Landmines: "Toward a Mine-Free Southern Africa" held in February in Maputo, Mozambique, the campaigners called on governments to ban landmines and publicly commit themselves to the objective of signing the Ottawa Treaty in December in Canada this year, which seeks to ban the production and use of anti-personnel landmines.

The conference, organised by the Mozambique Campaign to Ban Landmines and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) was officially opened by President

Joaquim Chissano, and attended by more than 450 delegates from over 60 countries.

During the conference, almost all SADC countries announced that they have banned the production, stockpiling, exporting, importing and use of landmines, showing support for the Ottawa Process.

The conference was, however, particularly perturbed by the unwillingness of the US to commit itself to the Ottawa process. Michael McKinley, a US representative to the conference,

clearly stated his country's position saying that it reserves the right to use the so-called "smart mine". Other countries resisting total ban are Britain, China, France, Russia and India, all major manufacturers of anti-personnel landmines.

Meanwhile, the "Ottawa momentum" is building fast in southern Africa. National campaigns have been formed in Angola, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

For the past three decades, landmines have claimed more than 250 000 victims in southern Africa. According to estimates, between eight and 20 million landmines are buried on Angolan soil while there are more than one million in Mozambique.

Angola has one of the highest rates of landmine injuries per capita in the world. □



INNOCENT VICTIMS: lifelong pain

The fourth international NGO conference on landmines calls on all governments:

- To publicly commit to the objective of signing an international treaty banning all anti-personnel landmines in December 1997;
- To actively participate during 1997 in the process of negotiating a simple, clear and unambiguous treaty that bans all anti-personnel landmines and not just those weapons "primary" designed or adapted to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person;
- To open all meetings of the Ottawa process to participation by an ICBL delegation, and additionally to invite NGO representatives to form part of government delegations;
- To take unilateral and regional steps to ban anti-personnel mines to continue to build momentum toward the signing of the Ottawa treaty;
- Of SADC to take all measures to make the region a mine free zone;
- In Africa to implement the OAU resolutions urging continent-wide ban on anti-personnel landmines, using appropriate fora such as the OAU landmine meeting in South Africa in May and the OAU summit in Zimbabwe in June;
- Of mine-affected countries to follow the lead of Mozambique and take unilateral steps to ban landmines;
- To increase greatly resources for mine clearance for all mine contaminated countries, and particularly, to encourage other countries to do the same, in those nations and

regions that have banned the weapon;

- Who have produced and supplied mines to accept their responsibility and to assist with clearance and victim assistance programs; and
- Of mine-contaminated countries to develop and implement national mine clearance policies that are transparent and include the needs of all sectors.

And calls upon the ICBL:

- To present this declaration to their governments, at regional and continent-wide meetings;
- To press governments to participate in the Ottawa process and sign the ban treaty in December 1997;
- To attend the treaty preparatory conferences;
- To increase networking and communication among campaigns in the south and within regions;
- To broaden the base of participation in national campaigns by including organisations such as student groups, trade union, women's organisations, professional groups, disability advocacy groups and others not yet actively in the campaign;
- To make particular effort to empower landmine survivors to participate actively in national campaigns and speak out for a ban;
- To increase networking and communication between campaigns in the north and the south;
- To encourage national campaigns and NGOs to document the socio-economic impact of mines on their societies;
- To begin planning for campaign work beyond the signing of the comprehensive ban treaty in Ottawa in December 1997. □

SADC-EU discuss water-resource sharing protocols

by Maxwell Chivasa

SADC countries are moving ahead with measures to implement the protocol on the management of shared river basins in Southern Africa and will next month with the European Union, jointly hold an international conference on improving the system.

The conference, to be held in Maseru on 20-21 May under a jointly selected theme "the Management of Shared River Basins", will look at examples of sharing of water in international rivers. SADC's shared rivers are the Zambezi, the Limpopo-Incomati, the Orange, and in Europe they are the Rhine-Meuse and the Danube.

SADC states have long realised that water is the key to sustainable development and are moving forward on measures to implement an agreement to equally share the region's water. In August 1995, they signed the protocol on Shared Water Course Systems as a guide to any water extraction activities across the borders.

Under the protocol member states within a shared watercourse system, should exchange information and data regarding the hydrological, hydrogeo-

logical, water quality, meteorological and ecological condition of such watercourse system. This will ensure peace and stability is maintained in the region.

Eight southern African countries share the region's longest river, the Zambezi and several other countries share watercourse systems which form their borders, in some cases. Water experts are expecting that Namibia and Botswana should use the same protocol and avoid conflict over the resource.

In support of water sharing efforts, the United Nations urged member states on March 22, the World Water Day, to find suitable measures and technologies to safeguard and properly utilise limited water resources for future generations which is also the main objective of the conference.

For decades, water has always been considered as a plentiful, a renewable and an infinite resource, yet of all the water on earth 97.5 percent is salty — primarily in the oceans and only 2.5 percent is fresh.

The UN says out of the remaining 2.5 percent, only 0.26 percent is in storage and 0.007 percent of the water on earth is renewable and actually

available for use on a sustainable basis.

A recently released book, *Water in Southern Africa* published by SADC, IUCN and SARDC, says the distribution and availability of the water resources in SADC is uneven among the region's 16 main river basins. There seems to be little choice other than sharing the resource to meet the water needs of others or neighbours.

The SADC/EU water conference in Maseru next month will be addressing three levels of water management: political; legal and institutional levels; and the operational level of river basin planning. The conference will look at ways of:

- dealing with water crises
- reducing inequality in management capacity
- finding win-win situations in sharing water resources
- stimulating joint research in sustainable development
- conserving water resources
- investigating the potential for joint water use
- formulating recommendations for improved management of international rivers. □

Chairman and ministers launch water book at consultative conference

SADC has launched a book on *Water in Southern Africa*, the product of a unique partnership with non-governmental collating partners.

The book was launched at the SADC consultative conference in Windhoek on 9 February by the Chairman of the SADC Council of Ministers, who is the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alfred Nzo.

He said the great rivers of the southern African region are not only a source of life but can also be a source of unity or conflict among nations.

Noting that water knows no national boundaries, he said that 11 of the 12 SADC member countries share the seven principal river basins in the region, the Zaire, Zambezi, Limpopo,



BOOK LAUNCH: Alfred Nzo (seated) and Bautang Leleka, Director of SADC-ELMS, view new book.

Okavango, Orange, Ruvuma and Cunene, whose total catchment area covers 6.76 million square kilometres.

"We trust that through the SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses System, the people of southern Africa will have unity of purpose in collectively and wisely utilising their common rivers."

The book is a product of "enduring and successful partnership" between the SADC Sector on Environment and Land Management (ELMS) and its non-government collaborating partners: the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC). □

Gender issues firmly on SADC programme of action

Continued from page 1

Recommendations

The SADC gender strategy workshop recommended the following for consideration and decision by the Council of Ministers; that SADC:

Putting Gender on the SADC Agenda

Places gender firmly on the agenda of its Programme of Action and Community Building Initiative through:

- A Declaration to this effect by Heads of State and Government at their next Summit in August 1997, and
- the designation of "Gender and Development" as the SADC theme in the earliest possible year, not later than the year 2000.

Policy Framework

Establishes a policy framework for mainstreaming gender in all its activities, and in strengthening the efforts by member countries to achieve gender equality by:

- Recognising that *gender is a cross cutting issue* that needs to be taken into account in all areas of endeavour, but that requires deliberate interventions and mechanisms to ensure that this takes place.
- Giving gender and development specific recognition as an *Area of Co-operation under Article 21 (3) of the SADC Treaty and Protocol*.
- Concluding a *Protocol on Gender and Development* as provided for in Article 22 of the Treaty.

Institutional Framework

Put in place an institutional framework for advancing gender equality similar to that established for other areas of co-operation, but which ensures that gender is consistently taken into account in all sectors as follows:

- A *Standing Committee of Ministers* Responsible for Gender Affairs in the region.
- An *Advisory Committee* whose task would be to advise the Standing Committee of Ministers. This body would consist of one government and NGO official, as well as the Gender Unit in the SADC secretariat (*see below*).
The Advisory Committee would be serviced by a *Management Committee*, consisting of senior officials from the National Women's Machineries of three member countries with one of these countries acting as the Secretariat for the committee. The present Committee has a three year mandate (ending in November 1998) when a new Management Committee will be elected. The three year rotational principle would be continued.
- *Gender Focal Points in all Sector Co-ordinating Units and Regional Commissions* whose task would be to ensure that gender is taken into account in all sectoral initiatives, and is placed on the agenda of all SADC meetings.

- A *Gender Unit in the SADC Secretariat* consisting of at least two officers at a senior level to:
 - advise the Executive Secretary on gender issues and work closely with other officers in the Secretariat to ensure that a gender perspective permits the entire SADC Programme of Action and Community Building initiative.
 - coordinate and support the work of all the gender structures in SADC.
 - monitor the main streaming of gender considerations in all SADC policies, programmes and practices, and ensure equal participation by men and women in all SADC activities.
 - ensure that the Secretariat and Regional Commissions lead by example through main streaming gender in their own structures by setting targets for achieving gender parity at all levels in their staff composition, and creating a gender sensitive working environment.

Plan of Action on Gender and Development

SADC adopt a Plan of Action on Gender and Development to include the following key elements:

- A *gender audit* to identify the gender gaps in current SADC programmes;
- The *mainstreaming of gender into SADC programmes* to ensure that their planning, analysis, implementation, monitoring and evaluation is done from a gender perspective;
- Develop *programmes and projects* to ensure:
 - sufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women;
 - equality between women and men in the sharing of power in decision making at all levels;
 - gender responsive economic structures and policies; as well as equitable access to and control of productive resources;
 - the eradication of the feminisation of poverty as part of overall poverty eradication efforts in the region, through the economic empowerment of women;
 - increase respect for, adequate promotion and protection of, the human rights of women and children, especially the girl child;
- Develop an integrated *training* programme to ensure gender mainstreaming and capacity building;
- Set *targets and indicators* for the achievement of gender equality, and monitor these;
- Create an enabling environment to ensure the informed participation of NGOs and other groupings in *civil society* in the Plan of Action.

Resources

Mobilise and commit adequate resources for programmes and policies aimed at advancing gender equality. □

SADC answer to trade woes

continued from page 1

development of the new water sector, coordinated by Lesotho. A sector coordinating unit is already in place and functioning, while ratification and implementation of the protocol on shared water course systems was set as a priority for 1997. Integrated development and management of water resources of the region was also discussed, with two further conferences on water scheduled for 1997.

Mauritius gave an update on the tourism sector, having already established institutional mechanisms to carry out the projects and to help the Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa get off the ground.

Botswana updated the Council on the transformation of Southern African Centre for Co-operation in Agricultural Research, while the SADC Secretariat reported on community-building activities and the development of protocols in various sectors.

The Council of Ministers also reviewed financial and investment projects and continued negotiations on SADC's stance vis a vis the World Trade Organisation.

The aims of the SADC finance and investment protocol include:

- gradually removing restrictions on capital movements within member states;



OFFICIAL OPENING: Namibia's President, Sam Nujoma (second from right), South African Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo (extreme right), Namibia's Foreign Affairs Minister, Theo-Ben Gurirab and SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Kaire Mbuende at the Consultative Conference in Windhoek, Namibia.

- enabling nationals of SADC member states to set up financial institutions within the region;
- establishing a Southern African development fund;
- co-ordinating economic policies to reduce disparities between the levels of development of SADC member states.

The council also reaffirmed SADC's common position at the World Trade Organisation meeting in December in Singapore, which objected to the proposed multilateral investments agreements. According to Mbuende it would be detrimental to

developing countries as it would eliminate protection of local investors against unfair competition or take-overs by international companies.

The Council of Ministers also reviewed progress on a study which would contain SADC's position on the successor to the Lome Conventions which expire in the year 2000.

A SADC ministerial workshop on gender was also held, with the gender advisory committee calling on SADC leaders to show their support for gender equality and urging them to issue a declaration of support at their next summit.

Mbuende assured the gender committee of his support, saying that gender equality formed part of SADC's transformation process from an exclusive club of ministers to an organisation which included all of its stakeholders.

Employment creation was listed as a priority, with particular focus on the development of small scale enterprises.

The communique called for the creation of tripartite consultative forums, which would include governments, the private sector and labour movements; entrepreneurship promotion through national campaigns; and the creation of a regional business association.

Regarding labour-management relations, the communique called for the establishment of SADC progress reports to monitor productivity improvement.

Finally, regarding productivity measurement, the communique called for an awareness campaign and a co-ordinating body to orchestrate national productivity efforts. □

The author of this article, Helge Schutz is a Namibian journalist.

Real GDP Growth Rate %

	1994	1995
Angola	8.20	6.0 est.
Botswana	4.06	5.10
Lesotho	11.90	8.80
Malawi	-11.59	9.00
Mauritius	5.10	5.30
Mozambique	5.00	3.00
Namibia	6.50	2.60
South Africa	2.70	3.30
Swaziland	3.70	2.90
Tanzania	3.03	3.90
Zambia	-3.10	-3.90
Zimbabwe	4.60	-3.20

Source: SADC Finance and Investment Report, February 1997

International cooperating partners speak out

Following are excerpts of statements by some of SADC's international partners who attended the Consultative Conference.

United Nations

Dr. K. Y. Amoako United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission For Africa:

The economic progress in southern Africa is wonderful to see and it is the result not only of the dedicated efforts, discipline and commitments of so many working in the national context, it is also the result of great strides in economic and political cooperation you have made together in this sub-region. You are setting a tremendously important example to the rest of Africa, of the benefits of sub-regional cooperation.

The more we progress in creating firm links within Africa, the larger will be our opportunities for beneficial links outside of Africa. Larger markets, and better development within Africa will be the twin magnets to engage the global economy for mutual gain of enormous significance.

European Union

Jan Pronk, Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation, on behalf of the EU:

I am very pleased to note that, after some initial hesitation, the South African government has accepted a leading role in the development of the region.

Because of the dominant position of the South African economy in the region, I consider it crucial that South Africa play a more prominent role in the SADC.

The SADC is also transforming itself into a platform for political cooperation. A good example of this new role is the recent creation of a SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security.

I am pleased to note that the peace process in Angola is moving in the right direction.

Political instability in southern Africa prevented any serious form of

integration among the countries in the region for decades.

What SADC itself thinks about the prospects for regional integration is perhaps the region's greatest opportunity to realise sustained growth and development.

Political, social, cultural and economic integration of the 12 countries of southern Africa needs to progress beyond SADC conferences.

Australia

Australian delegation on behalf of Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer and Minister of Trade, Tim Fischer, to SADC:

Australia welcomes the focus of this year's conference on productivity as a key to sustainable development.

This theme is a logical extension of the trade and investment focus of last year's conference, at which member countries so clearly affirmed their commitment to economic reform and trade liberalisation at a regional level.

Australia fully supports and encourages efforts by SADC member countries to implement the recommendations that will lift productivity performance, and establish an institutional capacity to promote productivity.

Canada

Arthur C. Perron, High Commissioner to South Africa:

Canada is confident that bold measures are precisely what many SADC members have in mind and in this regard we offer our full support and encouragement.

Canada welcomes the creation of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security. There is no doubt that peace and stability are essential preconditions to economic growth and prosperity.

A matter of great concern to Canada, is the control of anti-personnel mines. In at least two SADC countries, Angola and Mozambique, these hidden killers have killed or maimed thousands of citizens and relegated a staggering amount of productive land into a "no-man's land".

China

Yang Wensheng, Assistant Minister, Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation:

China, as a member of the developing nations, has always set great store by South-South cooperation and rendered its support to the joint efforts made by southern African countries to strive for prosperity, safeguard peace and stability, intensify regional economic cooperation and seek development.

China and SADC member countries are economically complementary to each other. In 1995, the trade volume between the two sides stood at US\$1.679 billion, among which, China exported US\$803 million to SADC and imported US\$876 million. In 1996, the trade volume topped US\$1.875 billion. In the breakdown, China's exports stood at US\$865 million and imports at US\$1.01 billion.

Crossway investment and mutually beneficial cooperation have witnessed smooth development. Chinese enterprises have established in SADC countries large number of projects in the form of wholly-owned enterprises or joint ventures.

Cuba

Noemi B. de Mendoza, Deputy Minister for Foreign Investment and Economic Cooperation:

Cuba has cooperated with SADC member countries in training over 4,500 workers, middle-level technicians and professionals, and in educating more than 12,000 of its citizens.

As part of our own experience, we would like to say that in Cuba, owing to the new demands imposed by International Economic Relations, there has been a major retraining process for top officials in a climate of higher competitiveness, self-management of financial resources, and location and consolidation of new markets. In this respect, we have gathered enough experience in the country's higher-education centres and we are ready to organize extension courses for SADC member nations so that they can retrain African officials engaged in business management. □

Excerpts from the 1997 SADC consultative conference:

The Conference noted that the process of change within SADC was gaining momentum and had made Southern Africa a region at peace with itself and the world at large. This, the Conference agreed, meant that the energies of Southern Africa should be now focused on the cardinal issues of economic growth and sustainable development.

The Conference commended SADC for the bold steps it had taken in its regional integration agenda through the signing of the Protocols on Shared Watercourses Systems; Transport Communication and Meteorology; Energy; Illicit Drug Trafficking; and Trade.

The Conference noted that the Trade Protocol, in particular, will be the main engine that drives economic integration in Southern Africa. The Conference, therefore, urged SADC to move rapidly towards the implementation of the Trade Protocol, as this will no doubt lead to significant productivity improvements.

The Conference also commended SADC for the prudent measures its member States were taking to implement appropriate economic policy reforms.

In this regard, the Conference noted that greater emphasis is being placed on private sector development, sound

macro-economic management and better allocation of resources with a view to making the region more attractive to both regional and foreign investment.

The Conference re-affirmed that increased investment and trade, within and beyond the region, are key to economic growth and sustainable development.

The Conference agreed that the key factors that impact positively on productivity improvement include democracy and good governance; free enterprise; human resources development; harmonious labour/management rela-

1997 Communique

tions; science and technology; quality control; infrastructure development; dependable market access; gender equality; and equitable distribution of the benefits emanating from productivity gains.

The Conference urged the region to pay particular attention to the development of small and medium scale enterprises; the informal sector; and the small holder agriculture sector as these sectors offer greater prospects for gains in productivity.

The Conference also observed that in order for SADC to achieve the required levels of productivity necessary to sustain development, the exist-

ing institutional structures at both the national and regional levels need to be strengthened.

In this regard, the Conference noted with appreciation the measures SADC was pursuing to restructure its organisational aspects and rationalise its Programme of Action.

In particular, the Conference underscored the urgent need to establish a SADC productivity movement, supported by an appropriate institutional framework at both the national and regional levels.

The Conference noted with appreciation that the 1997 Consultative Conference was preceded by a historic Workshop on Gender. The Conference, therefore, commended SADC for adopting a comprehensive set of recommendation that will make gender an integral element in its Programme of Action and the Community Building Initiative.

This, the Conference agreed, would facilitate the broad and active participation of the majority of the region's citizens, namely the women, and thereby enhance productivity.

The Conference particularly focused on four broad sub-themes; namely; macro-economic policy framework at the regional level, Enabling Environment at the Enterprise level, Labour Management Relations and Productivity Measurement... □

Caribbean community and SADC establish relations

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Kaire Mbuende and a delegation of Secretariat Officials visited the headquarters of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) in Guyana to exchange views and share experiences on regional integration as well as establish formal relations between the two organisations.

Welcoming the SADC delegation, CARICOM Secretary General, Edwin Carrington, said the visit was most propitious as CARICOM countries were currently preparing to forge closer trade and investment relations with Southern Africa. He pointed out that CARICOM planned to establish a representative mission in South Africa with accreditation to the entire Southern Africa region.

Carrington briefed the SADC delegation on his organisation's efforts to launch a Single Market and explained CARICOM policies and programmes.

In response, Dr Mbuende noted that although each region's integration process was a product of its own his-

torical circumstances, mutual understanding and sharing of experiences could assist the two regions to consolidate their successes in regional integration while avoiding pitfalls experienced by the other.

The meeting committed SADC and CARICOM to work closely together to ensure that negotiations for a successor agreement to Lome IV Convention are undertaken by the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states within a united and cohesive ACP structure. It was agreed that the ACP group should seek to safeguard the gains obtained in Mbuende's visit.

The Caribbean Community comprises 14 members, Antigua and Barmuda, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. □

Trade protocol: thorny road to ratification

The implementation of the Trade Protocol in SADC will probably become one of the thorniest issues in the region in the years to come. Executive Secretary, Dr Kaire Mbuende, took the bickering over access to South African markets by its neighbours that preceded the signing of the protocol as indication of things to come.

When his organisation was concerned with raising money and distributing to member states, life was easy for everyone, he said.

But now that SADC is moving to regional integration the clashes between national and regional interests have become more pronounced. Trade is one such area where differences appear to be more glaring and at time appear to be standing on the way of progress.

The protocol itself is a declaration of strong commitment to integration on the part of government and is noble on its aims. The objective is defined as being "to further liberalise intra-regional trade in goods and services on the basis of fair, mutually equitable and beneficial trade arrangements".

This ensures "efficient production within SADC reflecting current dynamic comparative advantages of its members" and contributes towards "the improvement of the climate for domestic, cross border and foreign investment" the protocol states. These are grand ideas and seem to tie in with the political cohesiveness that has always characterised SADC.

The protocol establishes a time frame of eight years to gradually remove all tariff and non tariff barriers to trade which will culminate in the creation of a version of "fortress southern Africa" with a common external tariff and zero internal tariff amongst the SADC member states.

The unfortunate aspect about it is that trade has in recent times been the root cause of serious differences between the organisation's member states.

Any observer following developments in SADC would not fail to notice that, for the time being, virtually every country seems to have set its priority on bilateral agreements and the

protocol has been relegated to the back seat. The South Africa and Zimbabwe negotiations is a well known case but there is a multiplicity of similar developments behind the scenes.

South Africa's minister of trade and industry, Alec Erwin, declared publicly that his government's aim is to allow for a situation in which Pretoria will deliberately run a deficit in the current account with its SADC neighbours for a while by according them greater access to its markets. Should that happen, it will be to everybody's satisfaction except the South African manufacturers, who perhaps stand to lose more with the opening up.



Antonio Gumende

VIEW ON TRADE

Trade statistics confirm Pretoria might but they also suggest that indeed South Africa has to do something about the trade flows with its neighbours. In 1994 South Africa ran a positive balance of trade with the rest of SADC in the tune of R 26 billion (US\$ 6 billion). It exported R 34.258 billion and imported goods and services worth R 8.226 billion. Pretoria's partners in SADC particularly Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mauritius have complained bitterly about the imbalances.

South Africa has not been keen to open up itself to neighbouring countries who regard it as their prime market: on average between 15 and 50 per cent of exports of other SADC countries go to South Africa.

South Africa, on the other hand, is also their main source of imports: countries source between 33 and 85 per cent of goods and services from South Africa.

Interestingly, South Africa is not the only country to stand accused of shutting the region out of its markets. In

March this year Zambian manufacturers halted the exports of cement to Zimbabwe after the southern neighbour decided unilaterally to increase import duty on the product tenfold - from \$ 13 to \$ 180 a tonne. This happened at a time when Zimbabwean manufacturers of cement were not able to cope with demand due to the boom in the construction industry.

These incidents are just the tip of the iceberg and in a way are indicative of the sort of challenges that SADC faces in getting the region to move towards a free trade area.

There is no doubt that if SADC member states were to push for a regional trade arrangement with the same zeal that they are negotiating for bilateral agreements among themselves, greater strides would have been made in forging ahead with the implementation of the trade protocol.

As matters stand, chances are that the negotiations for the implementation of the provisions of the Trade Protocol are likely to be painstakingly slow.

When Zimbabwe's foreign minister, Stan Mudenge, returned from the Annual Consultative Conference of the SADC in Windhoek, Namibia, in February he said that SADC member states should speed up the ratification of the trade protocol, signed last year, if the organisation wants to be taken seriously.

By February only a handful of the organisation's 12 member states had ratified the trade protocol.

The fact that Mudenge singled out trade to pinpoint the direction of progress or rather the lack of it was no mere coincidence.

He was in a way reminding everyone that in August 1996 SADC had set a time frame of eight years during which it hopes to turn the region into a free trade area. By February, seven months had lapsed after SADC's heads of state signed the protocol, and there were very little signs that progress is being made and time is ticking away. □

Antonio Gumende is a Mozambican journalist who has covered SADC extensively.



Peace in Zaire important to SADC region

Southern Africa is playing a key role in efforts to bring peace to Zaire and, by extension, to the unstable Central African region, knowing that stability is essential to the process of development and democratisation.

Although Zaire is not a member of SADC, it has maintained close ties with the region sharing borders with Angola, Tanzania and Zambia. Member-

states have been closely linked to attempts to bring about a ceasefire and negotiate a five-point agreement between ailing President Mobutu Sese Seko and his faltering regime and the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (AFDL) led by Laurent-Desire Kabila.

Kabila's forces have captured more than half of Zaire with little difficulty, as unpaid and ill-disciplined Zairean soldiers looted and fled before the AFDL, who have been greeted by ordinary citizens as liberators, rather than conquerors.

Kabila has shown little interest in Kinshasa politics. He says that his first priority is get rid of the 31-year Mobutu regime which has been marked by corruption, underdevelopment and despotism.

In addition to refugees entering Zambia and Tanzania, SADC countries are concerned about the close ties between Zaire and the UNITA forces in Angola. An extensive power grid also links SADC countries with Zaire. □

UN welcomes GURN in Angola

The United Nations has welcomed the decision by the Angolan government to establish a Government of Unity and National Reconciliation (GURN) on 11 April, and the return to Luanda of opposition deputies for that purpose.

More than two months after the original date set for the swearing in of GURN, the leader of National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), Jonas Savimbi, still refused to go to Luanda.

Yet he was under increasing pressure to do so, including the threat of UN sanctions, and the erosion of his rear support base in Zaire by the advance of an opposition alliance opposed to President Mobutu Sese Seko.

The UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, visited Angola from 22-25 March, when he met with Savimbi in Bailundo and President Jose Eduardo dos Santos in Luanda.

He reported that, while 70,904 UNITA troops had been registered in the 15 UN selection and demobilization centres, 26,966 had deserted or were temporarily absent; and that little progress has been made in demobilization in recent weeks.

As of 20 March, 7,491 UNITA soldiers were incorporated into the national armed forces; and 449 Unita personnel had been selected for the Angolan National Police.

Regarding Savimbi's status in the new government, Annan reported that the Joint Commission adopted a draft law on 21 March "on the special status of Mr. Savimbi, in his capacity as the leader of the largest opposition party". The draft was later presented to the National Assembly for promulgation into law.

The international community has become increasingly impatient with his unwillingness to choose between a role as a government leader or an opposition leader.

A key outstanding issue is the normalization of state administration throughout the country, but UNITA has insisted this could not begin until after the GURN was established. □



Japan extends grant to SADC

SADC stands to benefit from a second contribution of US\$200,000 from Japan to the regional body to be used in strengthening human resources development and enhance the integration process, a statement released at the annual consultative conference said.

"This is the second time that the Government of Japan provides direct assistance for the SADC Secretariat. This year's assistance will also target training projects and seminars," said Yoshizo Konishi, Ambassador of Japan to Namibia, South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland.

The 1996 direct assistance was utilised by the SADC Agricultural Research Centre for training projects and seminars.

This year's assistance will also target training projects and seminars in a field that the Japanese government and the SADC Secretariat mutually agree upon.

Japan has also extended bilateral assistance to projects which constitute a significant part of the regional projects. □

Belgian agreement

continued from page 1

capacity; and the implementation of projects with a regional or cross-border dimension, or which are replicable in different SADC Member States".

Areas of cooperation are: Health, including sanitation; Food security, Agriculture and Natural Resources; Industry and Trade, with emphasis on small and medium enterprises and social economy; Human Resources Development, with emphasis on basic education, vocational training and teachers' training; Transport and Communications, insofar as the rural and urban poor are the main beneficiaries; Finance and Investment, with emphasis on macro-economic stability and social development; Energy, insofar as the rural and urban poor are the main beneficiaries; Water Supply; Technical Assistance to SADC's Central Institutions and Sector Coordinating Units; and Support to Good Governance, Democratisation and Conflict Prevention. □



Min. of Information (Zimbabwe)

Culture enhances community-building

by Patience Zongwe

Cultural activities are an integral part in the SADC region's community building efforts. This is apparent as the majority of the people living in the region are of Bantu origin, sharing a great deal in their language and literature, social and cultural institutions.

"Investing in culture is investing in sovereignty. It is investing in our pride," says the Culture and Information Sector Co-ordinator, Renato Matusse. "To this end, culture, information and sports should attempt to promote mutual knowledge of the people of the region, understanding and solidarity."

Various activities, broadly termed Arts and Culture Festivals encompass the SADC Music Festival held in Harare in 1995, the Theatre festival to be held in Maputo June 1997, the SADC Visual Arts and Craft Exhibition set for September 1997 in Windhoek and the SADC Dance Festival in Mauritius in 1998. The Southern Africa Film Festival was also held in Harare, September 1996.

The music and the film festivals were successfully staged.

The theatre festival had to be postponed due mainly to financial reasons.

It will now be held in Maputo from June 21 to 28 this year.

With major funding from the European Union and Nordic countries, the theatre festival will bring together diverse cultural performing artists. The festival's objectives are to:

- promote and emphasise the value of the cultural and artistic identity of the member states;
- stimulate and provide incentives for artistic creativity;
- promote theatrical groups and their work;
- demonstrate and represent the cultural patrimony and the social reality of the countries in the region;
- stimulate dramatic activity, especially in the area of production and circulation;
- and above all, to create the base for a policy of cooperation between the artists in the region.

Running parallel with the festival, will be workshops, seminars and exhibitions connected with the event, with such themes as "The Role of the Theatre in the Educative Process and Development of Southern Africa," "The Role of the Press, TV and Radio in Covering the Festival" and "Types of Theatre and Theatrical Productions". The festival will also include an exhibition of masks. □

Cape Town shortlisted

South Africa's Cape Town moved a step further towards hosting the 2004 Olympic Games when it was shortlisted with four other cities — Athens, Buenos Aires, Rome and Stockholm.

Cape Town has six months to convince the International Olympic Committee (IOC) members, who will make the final decision in early September this year, that it is the best among the bidders.

Cape Town could have an upper hand because of its geographical location. The senior IOC vice-president and head of the selection delegation, Marc Hodler of Switzerland, says Africa has never hosted the Games.

Sam Ramsamy, president of the South African Olympic Committee says, "We are extremely excited and relieved because there was so much expectation from the whole of Africa and we did not want to let Africa down."

Doubts over political stability and crime in South Africa could erode its geographical advantage. However, reports say a South African delegation had made a compelling case at the final presentation to the selection team. □

SADC should promote sport

SADC countries should promote and provide for sport as they do other programmes, Zimbabwe's Minister of Sport, Recreation and Culture, Witness Mangwende has said. Officially opening a Forum for Sport and Youth Development in Southern Africa in Harare recently, Mangwende said that sport is also an aspect of national development, and should get equal treatment.

Anne Hillmer, of the Commonwealth said that in recent years there has been growing recognition of the value of sport as a means of helping to address some of the most pressing problems in the Commonwealth member countries.

The forum, which attracted delegates from Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe is co-ordinated by Zimbabwe Olympic Committee president, Tommy Sithole. □

SADC begins 1997 with new leadership to guide the organisation as it faces challenges leading up to the 21st century. Following are brief profiles of the new Chairman of Council of Ministers and Vice-Chair, as well as the retiring Chairman and his deputy. Profiles by Patience Zonge and Tinashe Madava.

Alfred Nzo

Chairman, Council of Ministers

Minister of Foreign Affairs, South Africa



When South Africa took over the chairmanship of SADC early this year, Alfred Baphethuxolo Nzo, the country's Foreign Affairs Minister became Chair of the Council of Ministers.

Nzo, who spent 26 years in political exile and returned to South Africa on 1 July 1990, has had a turbulent political life since his school days in the Eastern Cape. He was born in 1925. He became actively involved in politics, joining the ANC Youth League at Fort Hare University in 1950.

In 1964, Alfred Nzo left the country under the instructions of the ANC and he represented the organization in various countries. He was elected Secretary-General of the ANC in 1969 and again in 1985. He left this post in 1991 but has continued to serve on the National Executive Council.

In December 1989, Nzo was appointed acting president of the ANC when Oliver Tambo suffered a stroke, until the release of Nelson Mandela from prison in early 1990.

Festus Mogae

Past Chairman, Council of Ministers

Vice President of Botswana and Minister of Finance and Development



Festus Gontebanye Mogae became Chairman of the Council of Ministers of SADC in 1992.

He was born in 1939, graduated with a BA honours degree in Economics at Oxford University in 1968 and a Masters degree in Development Economics at the University of Sussex in 1970.

He has held several high-ranking positions in the government.

He represented his country as alternate governor with the International Monetary Fund, African Development Bank, and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development from 1971 to 1976.

He is the Leader of Government Business in the Botswana National Assembly.

Leonardo Simão

Vice-chairman, Council of Ministers

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Mozambique



Leonardo Santos Simão is the current Vice Chairman of the SADC Council of Ministers. Born 6 June 1953 in Matsinhe, Manjacaze district in the province of Gaza, he studied medicine at the Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo.

A practicing medical doctor, he has received several prizes for scientific research and a Cuban prize for investigation of a plant used in some regions of Mozambique for medicinal purposes.

Dr Simão became the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, in 1994. He is a member of the Frelimo Central Committee.

Themba Masuku

Past Vice-chairman, Council of Ministers

Minister of Finance, Swaziland



The outgoing vice-chairman of SADC of Council of Ministers is Honourable Themba N. Masuku of Swaziland.

Masuku is an agriculture major, having first attained a diploma in General Agriculture in Swaziland, then a BSc degree in Agronomy and an MSc in Agricultural Mechanisation at the University of Missouri in the United States.

Born 7 July 1950, Masuku worked in the agricultural field both in government and the private sector. He was appointed Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives in 1991. He became Minister for Economic Planning and Development in 1993. Masuku is now the Finance Minister.

LETTER BOX

Dear Editor

During the SADC Consultative Conference, Namibia, in February 1997, I saw your publication *SADC Today*. I very much appreciate it.

As the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) is becoming increasingly involved in SADC countries, we would like to keep informed about regional issues. As an economist at the DBSA, I am specifically tasked to provide strategic guidance to expansion of our investment portfolio.

Ms. L. Kritzinger-van Niekerk,
Halfway House, South Africa

Dear Editor

Thank you for sending the first issue of *SADC Today*. It is indeed a very useful and interesting source of information about SADC programmes and policies.

I have addressed your newsletter to our Embassies in the SADC countries and forwarded to several French government departments.

Jacques Migozzi
Ambassador of France, Harare

Dear Editor

Thank you very much for the copy of *SADC Today*. It looks very interesting and useful for an Embassy like ours with accreditation to many countries of SADC.

Jan Voderadsky
Ambassador of the Slovak Republic
Harare

Dear Editor

I am grateful to receive the first issue of the news letter *SADC Today* which is really an excellent effort of dissemination of events, policies and progress of this region.

Mansoor Ahmad Khan
Acting High Commissioner for
Pakistan, Harare

SADC Today welcomes letters and comments from readers. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Regional economies show varied and modest growth

Following is an extract from a report by the SADC Finance and Investment Sector, February 1997.

The macro-economic outlook for the SADC region varies from country to country. As a whole, the economies of the region are well managed, with structural adjustment programmes realising some successes. Performance comparisons for all the member states would be difficult because of the significant differences in the levels of economic development. However, the economies of the region have registered modest growth for the past two years, yet in most, cases GDP growth has not been accompanied by employment growth.

The SADC region has a population of 130 million people. Population growth in SADC ranges between 1.12% and 3.5% per annum. Though the population is widely dispersed in some countries, population growth rates are nevertheless high when compared to levels of economic growth.

As is the case with most developing economies, mining and agriculture continue to be the main contributors to GDP for half of the SADC economies. Significant economic performance fluctuations are frequently experienced by those member states heavily dependent on agriculture and mining.

This is largely due to, for the agricultural sector, the frequent occurrence of cyclical droughts, and, for the mining sector, the fluctuations and depressed prices of most mineral products on the world market. Likewise, where fishing is a significant contributor to GDP, oceanic conditions responsible for fish stock development are also unpredictable.

Regional GDP performances for the years 1991 to 1994 in most of the countries reflects the impact of the drought. Good rainfall in 1995 contributed to increased agricultural production and a concomitant improvement in the economic performances of a number of countries. The region's current export base is not broad enough to absorb external shocks such as droughts and fluctuations in the international commodity markets.

These shocks also have a negative influence on the region's effort to diversify economies. In addition, the past five years have not been beneficial for the terms of trade for most commodities produced by the region. Nevertheless, results have been better

than predicted, especially with respect to such commodities as diamonds, tobacco and coffee.

Important contributors to the slow progress stem from weaknesses in the delivery processes caused mainly by capacity constraints in national systems, the length of the time needed to build credible track record and changes in management styles necessitated by the commitment to adjustment processes...

As part of the effort to improve the investment environment of the region, especially in the area of fiscal discipline, government expenditure has been declining for the past five years. However, levels of domestic and international investments have not increased significantly to take advantage of these policy changes. It is unclear why there is hesitancy on the side of investors...

Investment promotion centres have been established in almost all the member states to present and promote investment opportunities, while some investment centres also issue licences and grant incentives to various categories of investments.

It should, however, be noted that, in comparison with the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa, the SADC region has fared better in terms of attracting foreign direct and venture seeking investment flows. The level of international interest in regional capital markets peaked with the Johannesburg Stock Exchange attracting flows in excess of US\$5 billion (R20 billion) in 1995. Most of these flows, however, were of a short term nature and did not result in increased employment of a permanent nature.

Time tables for tariff adjustments



D. Martin-APG

INDUSTRY: Harbours are an integral part of economic activity for SADC.

are conflicting and cause, among others, the attendant problem of lack of reciprocity. This has also delayed the conclusion of a multilateral trade regime under SADC, necessary for stimulating growth.

Inflationary pressures continue to undermine recovery in a number of countries. Some of these pressures are due to rising prices of food stuffs, currency speculation and high wage demands. This has led to wide spread currency depreciation. The benefits of weaker currencies have, however, not yet been fully realised in the form of higher export earnings.

Generally, it is increasingly accepted that the overriding objectives of monetary policy should be price stability and the protection of value of the national currencies. These objectives require the development of efficient financial markets.

Until recently, there was an inadequate focus on monetary and financial policies at regional level; this however is currently being addressed at meetings of the committee of Central Bank Governors through discussions on monetary developments in each of the member states.

Closer cooperation in this regard is being promoted by the development of an information data bank on monetary policies and structures in SADC countries. Although monetary policy decisions remain the autonomous domain of individual central banks, national monetary authorities may increasingly take into account regional considerations in future policy decisions. □

The Official SADC Trade, Industry and Investment Review 1997, published by Southern African Marketing Company (Pty) Ltd in association with SADC Secretariat, 1997.

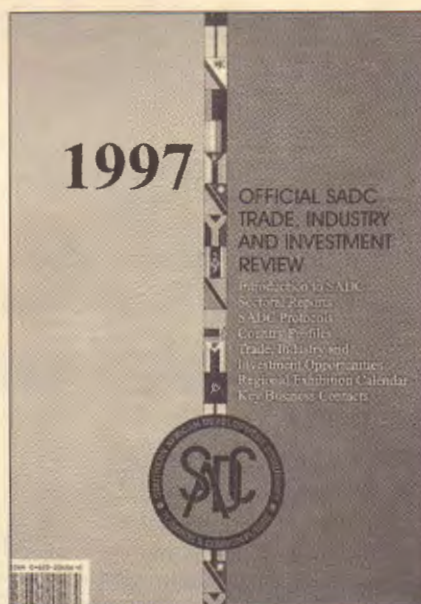
Review by Munetsi Madakufamba.

This important publication is the inaugural issue of a series of annual reports on the vast and rapidly improving economic potential of southern African.

As the political and socio-economic environment of the region keeps changing, the report offers an in-depth source of reference for business people in the region and beyond. The report is a mirror image of the various economies in southern Africa, portraying the past performances and the plans each country has for the future.

In addition, it acts as a medium that transcends the boundaries of individual countries bringing them closer to each other, highlighting the similarities and diversity within a region that shares a common past as well as a future destiny.

"The publication is designed to ensure maximum publicity for each member state and yet market SADC as a single entity," says the Foreword by South African President Nelson



Mandela, who is also Chairman of SADC. The book is structured in such a manner that it introduces new and potential investors to the vast opportunities in the region, yet reminding existing entrepreneurs that there is greater scope for expansion beyond their borders.

With wide coverage of issues in the region, its history, current and projected political and socio-economic pat-

terns, it is a welcome and resourceful guide, particularly for policy-makers and researchers. The publication also contains individual country sectoral responsibilities and a list of sector coordinators as well as SADC national contact points.

The report gives, in alphabetical order, country profiles of the 12 member states. The profiles contain, among other valuable data, a useful fact file on each country in brief, geo-political features, key economic indicators as well as overviews of key industries.

A list of trade contacts and diplomatic missions abroad is given at the end of each country profile for people who require further details. The use of well-illustrated tables and maps makes the information more accessible and easy to understand. □

Available from:

Botswana Book Centre, P O Box 91, Gaborone, Botswana.

Tel: (267) 35 2931

Fax: (267) 37 4315 Price BWP 89.95

Other SADC Member States

Southern Book Publishers (Pty) Ltd.

P O Box 3103, Halfway House 1685, RSA. Tel: (2711) 315 3633

Fax: (2711) 315 3810 Price ZAR 99.95

Recent publications and acquisitions

SADC Consultative Conference on Trade and Investment South Africa, Johannesburg, 1996 31 January - 2 February, 177p. Available from SADC Secretariat, P Bag 0095, Gaborone, Botswana.

A Basic Strategy for the Development of Farm Animal Genetic Resources in SADC countries, 23p. Available from SADC Secretariat.

Report on the SADC/BCFP Attachment Malawi, Blantyre, 1996 11-25 February, 47p. Available from SADC Secretariat.

SADC Annual Sectoral Reports: Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources; Energy; Transport and Communications; Culture and Information; Tourism; Mining; Industry and Trade; Human Resources, 1997. Available from SADC Secretariat.

Annual Report July 1995 - June 1996, 93p. Available from SADC Secretariat.

Productivity - Key to Sustainable Development in SADC: 1997 Theme Document. Available from SADC Secretariat.

Regional Conference on Social Development in the SADC region. Swaziland, Mbabane, 1996 25-28 March, 99p. Available from SADC Secretariat.

SADC Policy and Strategy for Environment & Sustainable Development, 1996, 56p. Available from SADC ELMS, Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperatives and Marketing, PO Box 24, Maseru 100, Lesotho.

SADC 1996 Trade Directory, 1996. Available from BoldAds, PO Box 1027, Harare, Zimbabwe.

Water in Southern Africa, 1997, 238p. Available from SARDC, PO Box 5690, Harare, Zimbabwe.

Transcending the Legacy: Children in the New Southern Africa, 1995, 242p. Available from SARDC.

Periodicals

Locate Africa: A newsletter on the promotion of investment in Africa. Available from Investment Center, Ministry of Trade and Industry, P Bag 13340, Windhoek, Namibia.

Pan-African Productivity Association Newsletter: A newsletter on productivity. Available from PAPA Secretariat, NPI, PO Box 3971, 0001, Pretoria, RSA.

SADC diary

1997	Event	Venue	
April	3	Launch of the Benguela Environment, Fisheries, Interaction and Training Programme (Benefit)	Walvis Bay
	7-9	Meeting of Legal Experts	Gaborone
	7-12	20th Ordinary Session of the OAU Labour and Social Commission	Addis Ababa
	10	Second Comesa Summit	Lusaka
	10	Africa Economy Day	Hamburg
	10	Workshop on Update of SADC Trade Protocol Agreement	Harare
	14-18	Regional Workshop on Gender Strategies and Implementation of the Plan of Action	Swaziland
	15-21	SADC Trade Mission to USA	USA
	17-19	EU Conference on southern Africa	Maastricht
	23-26	13th Meeting of WTO Commission for Africa	Addis Ababa
	24	Proposed launch of Rural Development Exhibition	South Africa
May	12-17	15th Commonwealth Forestry Conference	Zimbabwe
	13-15	Follow up on UN Development Conferences: Regional Forum on Poverty in Southern Africa	Windhoek
	20-21	SADC/EU Conference on Shared Watercourses Systems	Maseru
	21-23	World Economic Forum: Southern African Summit	Harare
	23-24	GCA Economic Committee	Abidjan
	26	RSA President and Chairman of SADC State Visit	Ottawa
	27-4/06	OAU Preparatory Meetings/Summit	Harare
June	9-20	Cites 10th Conference of Parties	Harare
July	2-4	Launching German Business Initiative in Namibia	Namibia
	4-5	Sector Coordinators Meeting	Gaborone
	6-7	French Mission	Johannesburg

Public Holidays in SADC countries for the period May-June

Date	Holiday	Country
1 May	Labour/Workers' Day	All SADC countries
4 May	Cassinga Day	Namibia
5 May	Public Holiday	Namibia
8 May	Ascension Day	Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland
25 May	Africa Day	Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe
26 May	Public Holiday	Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe
14 June	Freedom Day	Malawi
16 June	Youth Day	South Africa
25 June	Independence Day	Mozambique

Currency checklist

Country	Currency	(US\$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 lewi)	200929.00
Botswana	Pula (100 Thebe)	3.46
Lesotho	Maloti (100 Lisente)	4.40
Malawi	Kwacha (100 Tambala)	15.30
Mauritius	Rupee (100 Cents)	19.63
Mozambique	Metical (100 Centavos)	12607.73
Namibia	Dollar (100 Cents)	4.26
South Africa	Rand (100 Cents)	4.26
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 Cents)	4.42
Tanzania	Shilling (100 Cents)	597.72
Zambia	Kwacha (100 Ngwee)	1287.00
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 Cents)	11.39

Source: Standard Chartered Bank Zimbabwe Ltd, April 1997

SADC Today receives enthusiastic response

SADC Today published its first issue to coincide with the 1997 Consultative Conference; and the newsletter proved very popular with participants. It has received immediate favourable response throughout the region, with some embassies ordering in bulk to distribute to their colleagues; and distribution throughout the UN system in the region and headquarters, courtesy of UNDP. The publishers would like to thank all those who have expressed their support for the publication; and thanks also to the UN publication, *Africa Recovery*, whose lively format provided the inspiration for this one. The first three issues will be distributed widely through SADC sectors and focal points, government departments, embassies, UN agencies and NGOs; and free distribution through SADC structures in the region will continue after that. However, the already increasing demand for individual copies has encouraged the development of a subscriptions list for readers who wish to ensure that they receive their own copy on a regular basis. □