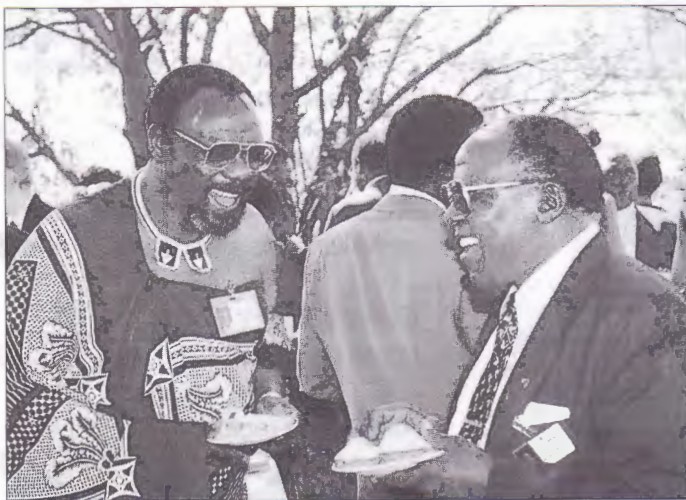




SADC TODAY

Southern African Development Community

Vol. 1 No. 6 January 1998



FLASH BACK... Swazi Minister of Economic Planning Albert Shabangu (left) shares a joke with Botswana's Minister of Commerce and Industry George Kgoroba at the 1997 SADC Summit in Malawi.

Region reaffirms commitment to integration

Southern African countries have reiterated their commitment to regional integration as a fundamental means of survival in a rapidly globalising and liberalising world economy.

Addressing delegates attending the third edition of the 1997 Southern Africa Trade and Investment Summit in Botswana, Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano said regional economic blocs were fast emerging and taking shape worldwide, and southern Africa would not be left behind.

"The emergence of southern Africa as a regional market comprising more than 200 million people strengthens the opportunities for a greater cooperation among our nations towards the fulfilment of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Treaty," said President Chissano, who is also vice-chairman of SADC.

Chissano pointed out that it was the implementation of the SADC Treaty, supported by extensive trade liberalisation, political stability and improved security, that had contributed to increased intra-

SADC trade. Intra-SADC trade increased from about five percent in 1990 to about 17.4 percent by the middle of 1996.

He cited a weak diversity and complementarity of the production structures, lack of currency convertibility, credit constraints and the high debt serv-

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Preparations to curb drought underway

by Tinashe Madava

SADC's Food Security unit is continuing with preparations, in consultation with member countries, to curb the anticipated El Nino inspired drought despite good rains in January.

However, the regional distribution of rainfall pattern is still worrying as central parts of South Africa have reportedly been drier than normal for much of the current rain season while Malawi and Tanzania have been experiencing floods. Rivers are also running in Namibia.

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Council to ponder on ratification of protocols

by Munetsi Madakufamba

The 1998 SADC Council of Ministers meeting scheduled for 29-30 January in Maputo, Mozambique, is expected to discuss, among other things, the thorny issue of slow ratification of protocols so far signed but yet to be ratified by the required two-thirds majority before implementation can begin.

SADC has to date signed eight protocols covering areas including energy, water, transport, trade, education and mining. So far only the protocol to the SADC Treaty, on Immunities and

Privileges has been ratified. The protocol grants immunity and privileges to SADC, its property, assets and employees.

During his annual briefing of diplomats in Maputo late last year, SADC Executive Secretary Kaire Mbuende expressed concern over the ratification of protocols which he described as a painfully slow process. "The Secretariat finds itself with several signed protocols, activities of which cannot be implemented because they have no legal force," he lamented.

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Editorial Committee

Naume Ziyambi, Alice Kwaramba,
Patience Zonge, Tinashe Madava,
Caiphas Chimhete, Phyllis Johnson

Editorial Advisor

K.G. Moesi
SADC Information Officer

Editor

Munetsi Madakufamba

Design/Production

Munetsi Madakufamba/H. McCullum

Layout/DTP

Anderson S. Mwale

Origination/printing

Crystal Graphics and Print Holdings, Harare

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Correspondence, letters-to-the-editor and other materials should be addressed to:

SADC TODAY

Southern African Research and
Documentation Centre (SARDC)
13 Bath Road, Belgravia,
P.O. Box 5690, Harare, Zimbabwe

Tel: 263.4. 738 694/5/6

Fax: 263.4. 738 693

Email: sardc@mango.zw

Internet: sardc@samara.co.zw



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A note to the reader

We would like to notify you that *SADC Today* is now available through an annual subscription fee. For six issues a year, the fee is US\$30 for outside Africa and US\$15 for Africa. Your subscription will also enable you to receive *SADC Today* by airmail and electronically via e-mail and internet should you choose to do so. We would like to thank you for your comments and support throughout the past year and would also like to remind you that we welcome your contributions to the newsletter. For more details on subscriptions, please contact the Editor.

Region enjoys relative stability, steady economic growth

The 1996/97 SADC Annual Report shows that the region has continued to enjoy an atmosphere of relative political stability and registered steady positive real economic growth. Munetsi Madakufamba summarises the report.

The report, which covers the period July 1996 to June 1997, contains figures obtained mainly from member states' central banks and statistical offices, as well as ministries responsible for economic planning.

Since the demise of apartheid in South Africa in April 1994, the region has witnessed the consolidation of a democratic culture, good governance and the respect for human rights. The report further notes that such a scenario presents a "conducive environment for both domestic and foreign investment."

South Africa, Malawi and Mozambique, which are relatively new democracies in the region, were cited as having done well to keep the process on track, while Zambia's second multi-party elections were held in November 1996. "All these developments augur well for the region," says the report.

In the case of Swaziland, where opposition political parties are still illegal, the report says broad consultations on the constitutional reform process are in progress among key stakeholders and expected to be completed soon.

However, the report indicates that the Angolan situation has remained a source of great concern. It says the "apparent lack of commitment by UNITA to participate fully in the Government of National Unity and to implement other key provisions of the Lusaka Protocol remain causes for concern and anxiety within SADC".

The report also highlights SADC's involvement in political developments in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and other parts of the Great Lakes region.

On the economic front, it is noted that member states achieved varying degrees

of success in the year under review, and the positive growth rates recorded point in favour of longterm sustainable development.

The strongest performers during the period are given as Lesotho, Malawi, Angola and Zimbabwe which registered between 13.1 and 8.1 percent. Four other countries were at between four and six percent while the rest had modest growth rates of between two and 3.1 percent.

The good economic performance is attributed principally to high growth in the agricultural sector which recovered

Zambia, which had high rates of inflation in 1996, witnessed steady decreases through 1997.

Southern Africa shares the same debt constraints as other developing countries. Member states with unsustainable debt levels are Mozambique and Zambia.

However, countries such as Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland have manageable external debt levels. In a show of regional cooperation, South Africa last year cancelled Namibia's debt of about US\$290 million making the latter one of the lowest indebted countries in the region.

SADC's overall growth rate of 4.1 percent was slightly lower than that of Sub-Saharan Africa which recorded 4.4 percent, but slightly higher than the world rate of four percent during the same period.

SADC has in recent years embarked on a massive campaign to lure investors. Fora such as the World Economic Forum's Southern Africa Economic Summit and the *International Herald Tribune's* Southern Africa Economic Summit have in the last five years been used as a platform to sell the region international investors.

On rainfall patterns, the report says the 1996/97 cropping season was generally characterised by the prevalence of excessive rains and flooding in southern parts of the region, while Tanzania was hit by drought. Both factors led to reduced crop yields.

The report says projections on maize availability and requirements for 1997/98 marketing year indicate a downswing in fortunes from a surplus situation of 1.79 million tonnes in the previous year to a deficit of 783 000 tonnes. The situation is likely to be worse with effects of the El Nino phenomenon slowly emerging.

However, many factors point in favour of overall positive economic growth in the coming year against a backdrop of rich natural resources that the region is endowed with, as well as political stability which is expected to continue. □

Growth in Real GDP 1994 -96 SADC and Selected Group of Countries

	1994	1995	1996
World	4.1	3.7	4.0
Industrial Countries	6.8	6.0	6.5
Sub-Saharan Africa	2.6	4.0	4.4
SADC (excl. DRC, Seychelles)	3.0	3.7	4.1
Angola	9.0	12.0	8.6
Botswana	3.0	4.9	6.1
Lesotho	11.5	9.3	13.1
Malawi	-10.2	9.6	10.4
Mauritius	4.2	3.3	4.4
Mozambique	5.0	1.5	5.7
Namibia	6.5	2.6	2.0
South Africa	2.7	3.4	3.1
Swaziland	3.4	2.5	2.5
Tanzania	3.5	3.8	4.5
Zambia	-3.0	-3.9	5.0
Zimbabwe	6.3	2.3	8.1

Source: International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook, May 1997 and SADC Secretariat

significantly after adverse weather conditions which had afflicted many countries in previous years. SADC economies are generally dependent on agriculture. During a good rain season, the economies perform well while they tumble during years of inadequate rains.

In 1996, six countries registered inflation rates between six and 11 percent and these are Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland, while Tanzania and Zimbabwe were in the twenties. Mozambique and

Southern Africa fastest growth region in Africa, Mbuende

by Munetsi Madakufamba

Southern Africa's economic growth since 1994 suggests that it is the fastest growing region in Africa accounting for 60 percent of Sub-Saharan Africa's gross domestic product of US\$300 billion. The regional GDP per capita of US\$990 is double that of sub-Saharan Africa.

SADC Executive Secretary, Kaire Mbuende, made this comment during his traditional annual briefing of heads of diplomatic missions resident in the region on 1 December 1997 in Maputo, Mozambique.

The executive secretary, who gave a review of SADC activities during the year, said there has been a steady rise in average GDP growth from three percent in 1994 to 3.7 percent in 1995 and 4.1 percent in 1996.

"With this trend, it is expected that the growth rate will rise to six percent in 1997," he said adding that all member states had registered positive growth rates in 1996 ranging from two percent to 13.1 percent.

Mbuende attributed the good performance to sound market-oriented policies implemented by member states over a number of years, as well as a resurgent agricultural sector.

The previous norm of double digit inflation rates was slowly becoming a thing

of the past as central banks in various member states were successfully employing appropriate economic and monetary measures aimed at lowering inflation.

Mbuende expressed hope that budget deficits would continue to decline even lower than what was achieved in 1995/96.

The executive secretary also spoke on the political situation in Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Swaziland and Zambia.

On Angola he said it was a matter of great concern that rebel UNITA movement was dragging its feet on the implementation of key aspects of the Lusaka Protocol signed in 1994.

"In that regard we fully support the UN sanctions on UNITA. Our leaders will be meeting soon to consider concrete actions and strategies that the region can put in place to facilitate implementation of UN sanctions," he said.

Regarding the DRC, Mbuende expressed contentment on the resolved impasse between the government and the UN regarding investigation of possible human rights violations.

"SADC Head of States will over the coming months address the question of how best to integrate DRC into SADC and assist the country towards speedy economic recovery and modalities for putting in place effective democratic structures," he announced. □

SADC plans dual listings

The committee of stock exchanges in the SADC region has drawn up proposals that would facilitate dual listings of companies and harmonise flotation rules in the SADC's stock exchanges.

According to a report in the SADC's finance and investment coordinating unit's latest quarterly newsletter, FIS News, the committee of stock exchanges is also looking at other ways of facilitating share trading, including the introduction of depository receipts.

The move is aimed at enabling more capital to be raised in the SADC bourses. Use of depository receipts is currently

hampered by exchange controls in the region.

The harmonised listings requirements will be based on those of the Johannesburg and London stock exchanges. The committee is also considering the harmonisation of clearing and settlement procedures at stock exchanges.

The director of SADC's finance and investment unit at the Department of Finance in Pretoria, Bongsi Kunene, said the committee of exchanges would meet in February to discuss the proposals further.

SADC finance ministers are expected to consider the recommendations at a meeting in June 1998. □

Asian currency collapse

Southern African countries, some times referred to as the African lions, are along with the rest of the world closely monitoring developments in south-east Asia currently mired in financial sector turmoil, with the hope of avoiding similar pitfalls in future.

Currency crisis has recently hit most members of the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN), particularly Indonesia and Thailand, as well as South Korea. The currency and stock market tentacles have since stretched to most parts of Asia, and world markets have also plunged, prompting the IMF and the World Bank to intervene giving bail-out packages.

The turbulence has been strongly blamed on currency speculation, a practice Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has publicly condemned on many occasions. He was quoted during the IMF-World Bank annual meetings in Hong Kong toward the end of 1997 as saying currency trading was "unnecessary, unproductive and totally immoral" and should be "made illegal".

The Malaysian premier, who like his fellow leaders in the Group of 15 countries strongly oppose World Trade Organisation plans for a multilateral investment agreement, has clashed with tycoon and global currency speculator George Soros over practices of currency trading.

Mahathir's sentiments are shared by Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe whose country may have been a victim of similar practices when its currency plunged in mid-November 1997.

Although south-east Asia is currently experiencing financial sector crisis, economic analysts say the situation may have a temporary impact on the overall macro-economic performance of what has become the world's fastest growing region in the last few decades.

World Bank vice-president for Africa, Callisto Madavo, says the Asian model is of particular importance to Africa insofar as it shows that "it can be done". He however, concedes the recent currency crisis in Asia has indicated that "it's not a flawless miracle". □



Zimbabwe Minister of State Responsible for Gender Issues, Oppah Ruesha-Muchinguri.

The SADC Women's Expo held in the Zimbabwean capital, Harare, from 20 - 25 November 1997, was a mirror of what women entrepreneurs in the region are capable of producing.

About 120 community-based business women from 13 SADC countries demonstrated that with supportive economic policies that ease the operations of smallscale traders, they can contribute more meaningfully to the development of the region. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was unable to participate.

With the sparkling clarity of a polished diamond that was displayed at the SADC Women in Mining display, community-based women entrepreneurs, who are often denied commercial exposure, demonstrated through their produce that there can be no sustainable development if women, who are more than half the population in the region, are isolated from key economic forces.

While most delegates confirmed having made business contacts, a task which would have been difficult and expensive had it not been for the expo, there was a consensus that more sales would have been realised if the Expo was held in South Africa.

Most of our products have turned out beyond the reach of common people," said Francina Motgoadi of South Africa's Basadi - Ba Bapedi, a community-based cooperative specialising in designing African garments.

Customs regulations also prevented some delegates from selling their products. By the second last day of trading, some delegates had not yet been cleared by customs to sell their wares.

Seychelles' Raymonde Course, a representative of that country's women entrepreneurs, said she did not source any orders because people "are afraid of the

SADC Women's Expo: Mirror for developing new markets

high import duty imposed on products that could be purchased locally."

Women entrepreneurs whose exhibits included mining products, gemstones and jewellery, ceramics, carpentry products, textiles, leather products, paper-based products and processed food recommended that the event be held annually on a rotational basis in all SADC member states.

Chairperson of the SADC Women in Mining, Namakau Kayangu of Zambia, observed that with more women engaging in the traditionally male-dominated fields, such as mining and construction, SADC governments should revisit related policies and legislations to accommodate women.

In Angola, says Regina Fontes Preira Helmo, anti-personnel mines and unfavourable mining policies that do not allow women to trade in precious stones, forced women miners to operate illegally. With the help of SADC, negotiations to facilitate the formation of an association for women miners are in progress with relevant authorities in the country.

The expo's theme, "Supporting Women's Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) by sharing experience, networking and buying exclusive products" was a timely follow-up to the region's quest to promote and strengthen women's economic empowerment.

SADC leaders committed themselves to promote women's full access to, and control over productive resources such as land, livestock, markets, credit, modern technology, formal employment and

a good quality life to alleviate poverty among women by signing a historic Gender and Development declaration at the last summit. The traders deplored the rigorous immigration and visa regulations which subjected them to producing consent from their spouses before they could be issued with passports or visa permits to neighbouring countries in the region.

South African high commissioner to Zimbabwe Jeremiah Mamabolo, whose country received most of the censure for its stringent visa restrictions especially from the Zimbabwean women entrepreneurs, argued that "while governments in the region have the obligation to combat illegal immigration, they should at the same time try to salvage informal trading in the region. This is a difficult task which calls for co-operation at the level of SADC to acknowledge and encourage emerging informal sector."

The concept of a women's expo, which provided a forum for exhibiting products and exchanging ideas, also served as a response and follow-up to implementation of one of the critical areas identified by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (PFA) as an obstacle to the reduction of poverty among women — providing women access to means of economic empowerment.

The expo was organised by the SADC Gender programme of the UN Development Fund For Women (UNIFEM) in collaboration with the UN volunteers/Participatory Development Resource Centre for Africa (UNV/PDRCA). □



Women are increasingly engaging in traditionally male-dominated fields of commerce.

Kyoto: What lessons for SADC ?

by Tinashe Madava

The Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations, which among other things, aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that lead to climate change, was reached at the Kyoto Conference in Japan, leaving behind a trail of lessons to the developing world on the importance of emissions reduction in both economic and environmental terms.

The recent Third Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Kyoto, had delegates from about 168 countries seeking to draw legally binding targets and timetables to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In a global study on climate change, scientists have concluded that human activities, especially fossil fuel combustion from manufacturing industries mostly in the developed countries are increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases, altering the earth's climate.

The Kyoto talks on new emission commitments addressed mainly developed countries, leaving the matter of emissions limitation by developing countries to future negotiations.

But southern Africa need not take a relaxed approach. Another issue that has been raised is the role of developing countries in controlling emissions in the immediate future since they have a commitment of addressing climate change.

Coupled with climate change is the emitting of ozone depleting substances from industries, resulting in increased incidence of skin cancers, especially deadly melanoma, has increased significantly. Exposure to ultra violet radiation also causes cataracts which lead to blindness. Scientists admit that they have no idea how many other crippling ailments might be triggered by global warming.

"Climate change threatens each and every individual nation in the world," said the outgoing conference president, Chen Chimutengwende, Zimbabwe's Information Post and Telecommunications Minister, adding that "climate change is already occurring, as evidenced by recurrent droughts, floods, pests and diseases."

Zimbabwe's Minister of Mines Environment and Tourism, Simon Khaya Moyo said that although developing countries were exempt from new commitments to mitigate global warming, they should move with speed to reduce pollution and effluent from both air and public rivers.

"Climate change puts more stress on systems that are already stressed by increasing resource demands, non-sustainable management practices and pollution. We need to place climate change in the context of all the pressures on all resources use and development decisions," said Robert Watson, Director of the World Bank's Environment Department and head of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

With 27 articles, the protocol was unanimously adopted in draft form following protracted negotiations during the two-week long conference.

The protocol generally calls for a 5.2 percent reduction emissions from developed countries. Specifically the European Union (EU) would reduce its emissions by eight percent, the United States by seven percent and Japan by six percent of the 1990 levels between 2008 and 2012.

"The momentum has now been set to move forward with collective responsibility as the next meeting takes place in Buenos Aires, Argentina next year to monitor progress," said Moyo.

Although scientists have also pointed out that it is quite clear that industrialisation in SADC may not harm the environment immediately from increased carbon dioxide emissions, some countries in the region are taking early action by using energy more efficiently and thus limit the increase in their emissions while pursuing sustainable development.

Through the Global Carbon Initiative (GCI), the World Bank is exploring ways to use market mechanisms and payments to reduce emissions and support sustainable growth in developing countries. A Carbon Investment Fund (CIF) is one of the projects being explored under the GCI.

The CIF would obtain money from industrialized countries and private companies and invest it in emissions reductions in economies in transition and in developing countries.

Despite the light treatment given to developing countries including southern Africa, the Kyoto conference demonstrated that the third world has a major role to play in combating global warming as they will soon be major emitters of greenhouse gases. SADC countries are expected to take a unified approach to global warming as they did during the CITES conference in Harare in June last year. □

Preparations to curb drought underway

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Food Security Training Project brought together senior government officials concerned with drought policy and management.

The high level policy seminar on drought was aimed at evaluating each country's readiness. Each country in southern Africa has introduced a national consultancy to look at the state of preparedness in drought management.

Swaziland's swift steps in advising the people has been welcomed by experts in the Early Warning unit as one of the best methods to ensure that everything is done to alleviate the impact of the drought. Authorities in Swaziland issued a report of steps taken so far to help people prepare for impending drought such as advising people to consider stocking more grain, planting early,

plant fast maturing varieties, drought resistant crops, culling animals that might not survive, selling part of stock before prices fall, storing fodder and conserving pasture.

The Botswana seminar in November recommended that in the long-term, member countries should understand that drought is a regular feature of the region's economy and measures to cope with this climatic variability should be reflected and dealt with in national and local policies.

"Governments should ensure that there is a clear division of responsibilities amongst national and local institutions and their staff... and that provisions for adequate capacity building are made in the planning and implementation of short as well as long term measures," reads part of the recommendations of the Drought Policy seminar. □

Moves to improve water resources management

by Tinashe Madava

Southern Africa is making efforts to improve its water resources management in order to ease the pressure on the region's water resources.

The region, which is expected to experience a crippling decline of fresh water supply between now and the year 2050, has lined up a number of projects to alleviate the expected water shortages.

"An holistic approach to management of freshwater resources, commonly known as Integrated Water Resources Management, is in our view essential in order to achieve sustainable management of water resources in southern Africa," said Jakob Granit of the Swedish Embassy in Harare at a SADC-EU Joint Committee of Senior Officials meeting in Lusaka, Zambia early December last year.

It was noted during the meeting that regional cooperation around the Zambezi river drainage basin which comprises eight riparian countries is quite promising. In order to strengthen and build a foundation for joint planning, the concerned governments are currently discussing the establishment of a Zambezi River Action Plan. These two initiatives are coordinated by the SADC-Water Resources Sector Co-ordination Unit in Lesotho and the Zambezi River Authority which is based in Zambia.

The India Musokotwane Environment Resource Centre for Southern Africa (IMERCSA) is also set to produce a state of the environment report of the Zambezi river basin aimed at raising awareness about the environmental aspects in the river basin as well as promoting and strengthening community participation in the sustainable management of natural resources in the Zambezi River while highlighting both the ecological and economic importance of the Zambezi River in southern Africa.

Other regional commissions identified as having promising agendas are Okavango River, the Pungue River and the Nkomati River systems.

The concept of water demand management, which may be defined as any strategy or management action which affects the actual demand that recognised users have for water, will be promoted in a regional programme by the World Con-

servation Union's Regional Office in Southern Africa (IUCN). The programme will highlight and encourage the systematic practice of water demand management in the region.

On the other hand the Global Water Partnership, an institutional networking

organisation of NGOs and government agencies as well as the private sector plans to establish a southern Africa Technical Advisory Committee which will be an independent professional and technical facility to compliment existing structures within SADC. □

Efforts to curb cattle-lung disease

In a bid to curb the cattle lung disease threatening herds in the region, SADC countries are making frantic efforts to effectively control and eradicate the disease within the next three years.

The 14-member regional bloc has launched an emergency appeal for US\$7.42 million to eradicate the disease. SADC Executive Secretary Dr Kaire Mbuende said cattle lung sickness, also known as Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) could have devastating effects on the region which depends heavily on livestock for foreign currency.

Most SADC countries' economies are dependent on agriculture, with cattle ranching being a major component of the sector in the region. Most of the beef is exported to the European Union.

Mbuende said CBPP had taken a heavy toll on the 25 million cattle in Angola, Tanzania, Zambia and Namibia and states bordering the infected countries were at high risk of getting the disease. In view of contagious nature of the disease, a regional approach is needed to control the spread and eventually eradicate it.

In 1995, Botswana slaughtered 320 000 head of affected cattle. The Executive Secretary said lung sickness could wipe out all livestock in a short period of time.

Financial assistance is being sought to harmonise cross-border movements of cattle, undertake epidemiological surveillance at borders, share relevant information among member states, systematically vaccinate cattle in affected countries, and to undertake joint research. □

SADC states tackle the AIDS pandemic

Southern African states are making vigorous efforts to curb the AIDS pandemic, now undermining regional economic development, as it affects the productive workforce.

Almost all SADC countries are undertaking AIDS awareness programmes to sensitize people about the disease. In Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe awareness programmes are conducted in schools, churches and other civic agencies.

Pamphlets with AIDS information are usually given free while posters are in public buildings where everybody has access to them.

Statistics indicate that 7.4 percent of the people aged between 15 and 49 are infected with the virus that causes AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa.

The World Bank has forecast life ex-

pectancy in 2010 for Zimbabwe to drop to 57 years for those without AIDS and 30 for those with the disease. In more than a dozen other sub-Saharan African countries, AIDS will reduce life expectancy by at least 10 years. More than 500 Zimbabweans die from the disease every week.

Botswana, which escaped early outbreaks, is slowly creeping into danger. The rate of HIV-infection in Botswana has doubled over the past five years. South Africa and Mozambique are less affected but are in serious danger of the pandemic worsening.

The Lesotho National AIDS Prevention and Control Programme says more than 40 000 people will have full blown AIDS in Lesotho in four years time. The Kingdom of Lesotho has a population of about 2 million. □



Zambian President Fredrick Chiluba (5th from left) with delegates at the ISDSC meeting

Security chiefs map out strategies for conflict prevention, resolution

by Mildred Mulenga

SADC Inter-State Defence and Security Committee (ISDSC), met recently in the Zambian capital, Lusaka, to consider practical means and modalities for maintaining peace and security in the region.

The meeting took place barely two weeks after Zambia survived, and foiled a military coup attempt organised by junior army officers. The participants did not mince their words. They strongly condemned the coup attempt in Zambia and commended the defence and security forces for the swift action taken to quash the rebellion. In a communique issued at the end of its four-day meeting, the ISDSC reaffirmed its resolve never to tolerate similar illegal actions within the region.

One of the developments in the region that remains a source of worry to SADC member-states is the non-implementation of the Lusaka Peace Protocol signed between the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and the ruling MPLA government.

The committee noted with concern that the former rebel movement, UNITA led by Jonas Savimbi has not fully adhered to and implemented the 1994 Lusaka protocol on peace in Angola.

It, therefore, strongly supported the sanctions imposed against UNITA by the United Nations Security Council and expressed the hope that the sanctions would compel UNITA to fulfil its obligations.

The committee which also included SADC defence ministers and other de-

fence and security chiefs, however, commended the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for its efforts to stabilise the country so that democratic structures could be established. It observed that peace and stability in the DRC would impact positively on the Great Lakes Region. The committee further encouraged the government of President Laurent Kabila to work toward creating a climate conducive to the development and much needed reconstruction of the country.

Zambian President Chiluba who officially opened the meeting expressed concerns about the conflicts situations in the region. He appealed to all parties involved in the Angolan peace process to move with due speed and show greater resolve towards the full implementation of the Lusaka Protocol.

He also observed that the SADC organ on defence and security has an enormous task in ensuring that peace is consolidated in the DRC which he said would require building up mutual confidence and reconciliation of the various groups within the country.

"Most importantly, the SADC organ has to ensure that civil strife in the neighbourhood of Congo-Kinshasa does not spill-over to disrupt that stability that Kabila's government is strenuously trying to achieve. We need collective solutions to all these problems, in search of durable peace," Chiluba added.

The SADC ISDC was born out of the Frontline States founded in 1975 as a bastion against what was then apartheid South Africa. □

SADC countries sign 'people's treaty'

by Caiphas Chimhete

Almost all SADC countries signed the Ottawa Treaty in Canada late last year which bans the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines, a move which might see southern Africa a landmine free zone.

The Ottawa Treaty, dubbed "the Peoples' Treaty" for its humanitarian considerations, was signed by more than 100 other countries worldwide. Zambia is the only SADC country which did not attend or sign the treaty, as were Nigeria, Libya, Morocco and Sierra Leone.

The conference was attended by some of southern Africa's most gallant human rights activists, including South Africa's former Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Mozambique's Graca Machel.

Canada, the host nation, pledged a C\$100 million fund to support early ratification and entry into force of the Convention and universal acceptance and compliance with its provision. The fund will also support mine-affected countries in the areas of clearance, capacity-building for indigenous mine-action programmes, mine-awareness education and assistance to victims.

Several other countries and organisations pledged different kinds of assistance. The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) says it will implement a Plan of Action adopted at The First Continental Conference of African Experts on Landmines at Kempton Park in South Africa while the European Union promised a further contribution to demining and victim assistance as well as a moratorium on the transfer and production of landmines.

Although the Ottawa conference was hailed as a success, some large producers and users of landmines, refused to sign: US, Cuba, Turkey, China, Israel, South and North Korea and Vietnam.

US Senator Patrick Leahy, a Democrat, attacked the Clinton administration for refusing to ratify the treaty. He said even though landmines are not a problem in US, "by not signing, we weaken the treaty, we give others an excuse not to sign, and thereby we become part of the problem." □

Region reaffirms commitment to integration

continued from page 1

ice as some of the impediments the region was facing in expanding intra-regional trade.

The Mozambican president was, however, quick to stress that the Trade Protocol signed last year by heads of state and government in Lesotho was a fundamental instrument adopted by the region to improve trade relations among member states.

The SADC Trade Protocol aims, among other things, to liberalize intra-regional trade, ensure efficient production, contribute toward the improvement of climate for domestic, cross-border and foreign investment. Its ultimate goal is to establish a Free Trade Area in the region.

The summit, organised by the *International Herald Tribune*, was attended by about 350 business and political leaders from Africa, Asia, Europe as well as North and South America. The summit was also attended by Presidents Sir

Ketumile Masire of Botswana and Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe as well as Namibian Prime Minister Hage Geingob.

The aim of the Southern Africa Trade and Investment summit, which has become an annual event, is to provide a platform for discussions between government and business leaders in the region and their counterparts from all over the world. Similar summits have been held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1995 and in Harare, Zimbabwe, in 1996.

Among the topics discussed at this year's summit were: building business confidence in the region; opportunities on southern Africa's stock markets; and increasing inter-regional trade and investment, as well as thematic workshops on manufacturing, mining, tourism, agriculture and infrastructure.

President Masire, who hosted the summit, appealed to international investors to take advantage of southern Africa's economic revival and the stable po-

litical environment and increase investment flows into the region.

In a keynote address on "Building Business Confidence in the Region", Sir David Steel, former leader of the Liberal party in the United Kingdom, said it was pleasing to note that SADC countries were increasingly making their economies investor friendly. He added that in modern days, foreign direct investment was the single most important engine of development and poverty elimination.

Steel, however conceded that while public and private resource flows from UK to developing countries had risen from US\$90 billion in 1988 to US\$310 billion in 1996, the change in Africa's share remained rather insignificant. He said this was because in the past Africa was treated by the West as a "basket case" politically and economically.

"But all has changed. Africa is no longer ideologically divided, and SADC is an outstanding example of regional cooperation in place of open disagreement and even warfare. We in the outside world look on and applaud," he said. □

Council to ponder on ratification of protocols

continued from page 1

Against this background, the issue is expected to dominate the ministers' discussions.

The council is also expected to discuss progress on the study on Review and Rationalisation of the SADC Programme of Action. The study was carried out by a team of consultants which submitted its findings and recommendations to the secretariat last year. The programme seeks to revamp the operations of the 14-member regional grouping.

In addition to discussing the traditional SADC-European Union (EU) cooperation, the council is likely to deliberate on the successor to Lome IV, a trade and aid pact between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of nations. Formal negotiations on what will replace the 22-year-old convention will commence in September 1998 and final agreement should have been reached by February 2000 when the current framework expires.

Any future framework is set to be some compromise between what the SADC countries and other ACP states want -- the status quo maintained or even

bettered -- and what the EU wants -- an arrangement harmonised with the global trade regime enforced by the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The Lome pact violates certain articles of the WTO which forbid preferential market access.

The SADC council is also set to use their meeting as a preparatory platform for the second WTO ministerial conference scheduled for May in Geneva, Switzerland. During the previous WTO meeting in 1996 in Singapore, the southern African grouping underscored the need

to retain existing preferential trading arrangements saying these were crucial in catering for SADC trade and development needs, as well as those of many other countries.

In addition to other official SADC work, the Maputo meeting is expected to lay the groundwork for the 1999 Consultative Conference which was an annual event, but is now held as and when necessary. This decision was taken during the 1997 Windhoek ministerial meeting. □

Ratification of protocols as of January 1998

Protocol	Countries that have ratified protocol											
	Ang.	Bot.	Les.	MaT.	Mau.	Moz.	Nam.	RSA	Swa.	Tan.	Zam.	Zim.
Immunities and privileges	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Shared watercourse systems		●	●	●	●			●	●			●
Energy		●	●		●				●			●
Combating illicit drug trafficking		●	●		●							
Transport, communication and meteorology		●		●	●		●					
Trade		●			●						●	
Education and training		●										
Mining		●										

Expiry of Lome IV: stakes, risks and challenges

The Lome Convention is due to expire in February 2000 after having served as the basic framework for economic co-operation between the EU and 71 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries for the past two decades. The Convention's main objective is to promote economic, cultural and social development of the ACP states.

However, the Lome model of co-operation can no longer address expectations of all ACP and EU countries. A large number of ACP states have experienced restrained economic growth accompanied by marginalization from meaningful international division of labour while some of the ACP states benefited from the partnership. The EU is moving towards a common market, a monetary union, and it is expanding eastwards. On the other hand, the global economic outlook has drastically changed under the momentum of trade liberalization within the WTO.

In view of these changes, there is no way parties to the Lome Convention can escape the effects of globalization of the world economy to which they are also one of the largest players in terms of their economic influence and geographical coverage.

For SADC countries collectively, the Lome arrangement has been beneficial in as much as it helped support domestic prices, provide price protection against loss of industry to South Africa, create a stable and competitive market and stimulate liberalization and the development of downstream industries, improve production standards and infrastructure particularly the abattoirs which are often better than some EU abattoirs.

The EU has become the most important destination for SADC exports due to the Lome trade provisions. SADC countries 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 countries by the developed countries.

A number of SADC countries benefit from beef and sugar commodity protocols. The beef protocol with a total quota of 52 100 tones for six ACP countries [four are SADC countries] and an import duty reduction of 92 percent has assured the region of a large lucrative

market for its beef and source of foreign exchange earnings. The sugar protocol has supported sugar production in the region through the quotas that attract EU guaranteed prices, which are well above world market rates.

However, trade preferences have not justified themselves in terms of production and export diversification, international competitiveness and stimulating economic transformation in the SADC/ACP countries.

It is generally argued in the EU that non-reciprocal trade preferences have not only failed but they have become irrelevant and incompatible with the WTO provisions. Global trade liberalization renders preferences to non-LDC/ACP meaningless.

In a 'Green Paper', the EU offers four options to guide any trade co-operation

Article
by
Moses
Tekere

FOCUS
ON
LOME IV

beyond the year 2000 — maintaining the status quo, introduction to Generalized System of Preferences, introducing reciprocity and differentiated treatment. Our reading of the green paper is that there are only two options, i.e. introducing reciprocity or maintaining preferences because the GSP is automatically available to all developing countries.

Non-reciprocal trade preferences can be terminated by either removing trade preferences or introducing reciprocity. Either of these options have profound economic consequences for SADC countries in terms of customs revenue, domestic industries and increased competition and macroeconomic policy formulation.

Domestic industries in many SADC countries that developed behind high protective tariffs would be seriously undermined by reciprocity because they failed to attain competitiveness prior to entry into effect of the reciprocal obligations.

Some adjustment costs would arise when tariffs are eliminated and formerly

protected industries find themselves unable to compete with duty free imports. This lack of competitiveness can lead to factory closure and job losses.

On the other hand, uniform reciprocity with the EU leads to imported goods becoming cheaper and this is likely to apply to everything from beef to beer and from pasta to porsches. SADC producers would then have to respond to the increased competition by improving their efficiency and cutting costs. Furthermore, reciprocity serves as a bargaining tool of ACP countries for increased market access, dismantling EU production and export subsidies and other non-tariff-barriers such as the rules of origin.

However, the benefits of a free trade area in terms of "consumer gains" and "efficiency gains", therefore need to be weighed against production, employment and income losses, which could occur as an immediate response to increased competition from the EU.

It is in this context that the proposed EU-SA free trade area that is sometimes viewed as a model for future EU-SADC co-operation poses problems to SADC/ACP countries. An EU-SA free trade area could provide a window through which EU exports enter the SADC market resulting in the erosion of trade preferences under Lome. In the event of an EU-SA free trade area and given that the EU accounts for over 40 percent of all imports into SADC, adjustment costs will fall disproportionately on weaker SADC states.

The green paper makes it clear that beyond the year 2000 change of principles that underlie EU-ACP co-operation is inevitable. The era of preferences and privileged relations is over and we should be prepared for some reciprocity. This in actual fact signifies increased marginalization of ACP countries as the EU shifts its priorities towards what is best for it in this post-colonial era. The EU is turning a blind eye to the reasons that created underdevelopment in its former colonies. The guidelines of the new co-operation will most probably be "trade in place of aid, aid related to performance, institutional pluralism, differentiation of partners and harmonization with global trade systems". □

The author is a lecturer in the department of Economics, University of Zimbabwe.

DRC luring investors

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), formerly Zaire, which for the better part of 1997 was embroiled in controversy with the UN over allegations of human rights violation, is out to lure foreign investors as a way to rebuild an economy plundered by the previous government of the late Mobutu Sese Seko.

Although admitting it's going to be tough, President Laurent Kabila has proclaimed reconstruction would be the national priority. A recent World Bank study has put the country's gross domestic product per capita at US\$150, about the level it was 40 years ago — some seven years before Mobutu — while the population has since tripled to about 48 million.

However, given the DRC's mineral and agricultural potential, the country could become one of Africa's economic powerhouses. The DRC is second richest in diamond deposits after Angola but this, and its other mineral deposits, are yet to be fully commercially exploited. Its offshore oil reserves also remain largely untapped while the rivers give potential for hydroelectric power generation.

Observers say the country's pace of reconstruction could be slowed down by a rather hesitant international aid community which still awaits the outcome of the ongoing UN probe on an alleged massacre of thousands of Rwandese refugees during the recent civil war in the former Zaire.

Although the World Bank concluded at its donor conference in Brussels in early December that reconstruction in the DRC was "among the highest priorities for Africa", not much has been achieved to persuade donors to support the country's reconstruction programme.

Only the EU and Belgium have set the ball rolling by committing specific amounts of US\$85 million and US\$20 million respectively, but this is less than 10 percent of government needs for the reconstruction programme. The government recently announced a US\$1.6 billion programme of stabilisation and relaunching of the Congolese economy.

With the DRC now a member of SADC, the country stands to benefit as the natural resource-rich nation can market itself under the umbrella banner of the 14-member group. □

SADC launches promotions campaign

SADC's information unit is planning a vigorous campaign to improve the image of the organisation by engaging in several corporate promotions activities. "Corporate image-building the world over requires investment in items such as the standard issue of calendars and diaries, gifts and donations to worthy charitable causes as well as the production of souvenirs like ties, scarves, beer and coffee mugs among other things," says the SADC Public Relations Officer, Esther Kanaimba.

Other forms of corporate advertising that will help raise the organisation's profile in the region include placing one-page advertisements in two national newspapers in each country to commemorate member states' national days. The adverts will also give a brief outline of how that particular country benefits from SADC.

Speaking at a media coordinators workshop in Maputo recently, Kanaimba pointed out that very few member countries celebrate SADC Day despite financial support from the secretariat. The SADC Information Unit will in future actively assist member states in organising SADC Day celebrations such as marches by school pupils culminating in an address on the role of the organisation in the country by a dignitary such as a cabinet minister.

The Secretariat will also celebrate SADC Day by hosting a reception. A message by the chairman will be distributed for publication and/or broadcast in all the SADC countries. Other countries will be given ideas and suggestions on the activities they could hold on this day.

Addressing the same workshop Executive Secretary Kaire Mbuende told the participants that the secretariat considers them as key players in educating the SADC society on the need for integration in southern Africa. He added that the workshop was an attempt on the part of the secretariat to find ways of enhancing not only the role of media coordinators, but also finding ways to work with media houses in the region to tell the "SADC story".

The workshop, where all countries except Tanzania and Swaziland were represented, also discussed practical solutions to facilitate the exchange of information on SADC-related issues. □

Angolan government closing in on UNITA

The Angolan government has continued to reduce Unita's influence in neighbouring countries, cutting many of the remaining supply lines the organization has maintained for arms and petrol.

Angola Peace Monitor says following representations by the Angolan government to the Zambian government, action has been taken by the Zambian authorities to close down several companies suspected of operating flights into Unita-held territory.

To the north of the country, Angolan troops are preparing to withdraw from Congo-Brazzaville following their military involvement last October.

Media reports say Unita has been using Congo-Brazzaville as its "rear base" for importing arms and exporting diamonds. However, with the fall of Lissouba, Unita's bases in the country are under threat.

Meanwhile, UN secretary general,

Kofi Annan, has warned that Angola must conduct the extension of State Administration in such a way that it does not aggravate the already tense situation in some areas of the country.

The Secretary-General said there had been "no significant progress" in the peace process since last October. He said Unita has failed to give unconditional cooperation in the fulfilment of its obligations under the Lusaka Protocol.

He said there is need to assess whether sanctions against UNITA should be lifted or additional measures taken against the rebel movement.

Meanwhile, the government and Unita met recently and agreed to complete implementation of the outstanding elements of the Lusaka Protocol, which include: complete demobilisation of Unita forces, handing over of Unita controlled areas to central government and stopping disseminating propaganda through Radio Vorgan. □

Preparations for Africa Cup of Nations

Southern African countries which qualified for the Africa Cup of Nations have started preparations as the dates of the soccer tournament, to be held in Burkina Faso in February, draw nearer.

SADC provides six of the sixteen countries taking part in the tournament running from 7 - 28 February. The countries, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia have already held a number of international friendly matches in preparation of the finals.

The cup is likely to be retained in the region given the record and potential of major contenders -- holders South Africa, 1994 finalists Zambia and vastly improving Angola.

South Africa, who proved to be a force to reckon with when they lifted the cup in 1996, only four years back from international isolation, have also qualified for the 1998 World Cup in

France. Meanwhile they will participate in the tournament under the guidance of caretaker coach Jomo Sono following the resignation of Clive Barker, arguably their most successful coach so far, after failing to win a single match during the Confederation Cup in Saudi Arabia last December.

1994 losing finalists Zambia, ranked number two on the continent according to recent FIFA international rankings, are also major contenders for the cup. Mighty Zambia also won the inaugural Southern Africa Castle Cup played during 1997 after beating Namibia.

Angola ranked ninth on the continent has improved greatly and lost only one game during the qualifiers where they were pitted against Ghana and Zimbabwe after Sudan withdrew.

The DRC and South Africa are the only two SADC nations that have won the cup in the history of the tournament which dates back to 1957. □

Past champions

1957	Egypt
1959	Egypt
1962	Ethiopia
1963	Ghana
1965	Ghana
1968	DRC (then Zaire)
1970	Sudan
1972	Congo (Brazzaville)
1974	DRC
1976	Morocco
1978	Ghana
1980	Nigeria
1982	Ghana
1986	Egypt
1988	Cameroon
1990	Algeria
1992	Cote d'Ivoire
1994	Nigeria
1996	South Africa

Source: *New African*, January 1998

Zambia retains COSAFA Youth Cup

Holders Zambia Under-20 soccer team emerged the winner in the Confederation of Southern Africa Football Association (COSAFA) Youth championship, after thrashing the highly regarded Young Warriors of Zimbabwe 2-0, at the National Stadium in Botswana recently.

Before crushing Zimbabwe in the finals, Zambia had walloped Mozambique by an unbelievable score line of 6-0 in the semi finals. The other semi final was played between Zimbabwe and Malawi which the former won 5-1.

South Africa, who had the most sophisticated team at the competition with expensive kits and luxurious camping, headed home much earlier, after being held to a 2-2 draw by Swaziland.

Hosts Botswana were booted out by the Young Warriors of Zimbabwe.

Lesotho and Namibia were also knocked out in the preliminaries.

Namibia was originally scheduled to host the tournament but withdrew due to financial constraints. □

Belgium showcases Zimbabwean art

by Patience Zonge

"The collection of cultural artefacts leads to universal cultural understanding and aesthetic appreciation of our traditions and the history of our diverse societies". President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe was speaking on the occasion of his recent visit to the Royal Museum of Central Africa, Tervuren in Belgium where an exhibition of Zimbabwean art is on display since November 1997.

The exhibition has been hailed as an excellent one which has on display some of Zimbabwe's finest cultural artefacts, including one of the stone birds from Great Zimbabwe. One part of the bird has been in a museum in Zimbabwe while the other has been in Germany. Both parts were reunited at the exhibition.

"The exhibition encapsulates the finest of Zimbabwe's traditional talent, vision and aspirations: this, all steeped in history and therefore, assured of posterity", noted President Mugabe.

The artefacts on display have been drawn from collections of Zimbabwean art all over the world representing "a wide spectrum and international strata, both private and public, institutional and individual."

The exhibition is meant to give international exposure to African culture in general, and with specific reference to that of Zimbabwe. The aim is to enhance "cross-fertilisation of ideas, technology transfer", and to appreciate and understand Zimbabwe's culture on the international arena.

The exhibition was made possible through the close partnership and collaboration of the Royal Museum of Central Africa and the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe.

In recognition of the need to curb illegal trafficking in cultural objects, the International Council of Museums (ICOM) declared 1997 as the year of the missing object and has also repeated the same theme for 1998, calling on the international community to mark 18 May 1998 as International Museums Day. □

Various events attract SADC leaders



Presidential Photographer (Zimbabwe)

Sir Ketumile Masire, who retires as President of Botswana on 31 March 1998, addresses delegates attending the 1997 Trade and Investment Summit in Gaborone.



SADC

Foreign Minister of South Africa and Chairman of SADC Council of Ministers, Alfred Nzo, with Zimbabwean Minister of Mines, Environment and Tourism, Simon Khaya Moyo.



SADC

SADC first ladies of Tanzania, Swaziland, Malawi and Botswana at the 1997 SADC Summit in Blantyre, Malawi. L to R -- Mrs Mkapa (Tanzania), Queen La Magwaza (Swaziland), Mrs Muluzi (Malawi) and Lady Masire (Botswana).



SADC

President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique, who is also Vice Chairman of SADC, greets secretariat staff during his visit to SADC House in Gaborone.



SADC

SADC Executive Secretary Dr Mbuende proudly displays the SADC *laissez-passer* launched by the SADC Chairman President Nelson Mandela at the Blantyre Summit. The *laissez-passer* has the status of a diplomatic passport and grants its holders (SADC staff) visa-free entry into territories of all SADC member states.

Overview of mining sector

Following are excerpts from the current mining sector report.

The share of the mining industry in Gross Domestic Product in the SADC continues to average about 10 per cent. Globalisation and liberalisation processes which encompass, inter alia, growth in international trade in goods and services and the dominance of market oriented economic policies, continued to be strengthened throughout the world. These processes will enhance SADC's opportunities in the global market.

The commodity price boom experienced in 1994-95, which saw the largest price rise in copper in 1995 of 25 per cent, came to an end in 1996, when prices for metals and minerals declined by 9.7 per cent due to large declines in copper prices and other metals and minerals.

The least developed countries (LDCs) share of world commodity market continues to shrink. For instance the LDCs world market share in metals and minerals declined from 3.97 per cent in 1983 to 1.88 per cent in 1993. As a group, SADC's contribution to the world mineral supply has also continued to decline mainly due to lack of investment in the mining sector in most of the member states. For instance, SADC's production of copper and chromite has declined between 1991 and 1994 from 10 per cent to about 8 per cent and about 43 per cent to about 36 per cent, respectively. Despite the decline in contribution to the world mineral supply, the region's current and potential contribution still remains significant as witnessed by the increased interest in mineral exploration and mining development by both local and foreign companies.

The implementation of SADC Mining Sector Programme is progressing at a far much better rate and according to priority as compared to the past when progress on projects depended on donor funds. This has been achieved due to the work of the Subcommittees and their Working Groups as opposed to external consultants.

All the Sub-committees have now been established, the latest being the Information Sub-committee. This Sub-committee was established in May 1996 and had its inaugural meeting in October... The Sub-committee is basically to look into the problems of communication and information dissemination between member states and the world at large. The SADC Mining Sector now comprises six Sub-committees i.e. Geology, Mining and Marketing, Mineral Processing, Environment, Human Resources Development and Information.

The SADC Mining Sector Programme comprises 31 projects estimated at a total cost of US\$19.2 million. The total cost has increased from last year. This has been due to cost revaluation of projects taking into consideration the work being undertaken through Sub-committees and Working Groups. This means that out of a total estimated cost of US\$19.2 million, US\$12.8 million has been secured (through commitments from member states) representing 67 per cent of total funding requirements.

The revaluation therefore has identified a financing gap



Min. of Information (Zimbabwe)

Mining contributes 10 percent of GDP in SADC.

of US\$6.4 million representing 33 per cent of the estimated programme cost.

The Geology Sub-committee had published two reports on the Geology of Bauxite Deposits in the Region and another on Heavy Mineral Sand Deposits in the Region. Two reports on Diamond Deposits in the Region and Dimension Stone were in print.

Under the Mining and Marketing Sub-committee, the Gemstone Trade Working Group was compiling gemstone production and sales statistics for promoting the gemstone industry while the Safety in Mining Working Group compiled mine accident statistics as a way of facilitating the sharing of experience by member states and reducing mine accidents.

Of particular note in the Environmental Sub-committee was the work carried out on the Kafue River which showed elevated concentrations of copper, cobalt and other major elements like potassium, magnesium and sodium downstream.

Under the Human Resources Development Subsector, funds were negotiated with the EU under the National Indicative Programme of South Africa to implement four training programmes. These training courses are targeted to commence at the beginning of 1998. Furthermore, a report on Facilitation of Training of Gemologists had been completed for circulation to beneficiaries of the training course.

An Internet Working Group had been created under the Information Sub-committee and the SADC Mining Sector Home Page had been moved to Lusaka from the Council for Geoscience in Pretoria.

With regard to the administration of the sector, the major constraint was the inadequate financial allocation to the Coordinating Unit to facilitate smooth operations of the unit so as to effectively support the activities of the Sub-committees and the Working Groups. In this regard, Zambia had assured that she would seriously review this matter with a view to increasing the financial allocation to the unit. ...

The SADC Mining Protocol was signed by Heads of State at the 1997 summit in Malawi. The Five Year Development Strategy for the period 1997 - 2001 and the SADC Mining Sector Promotional and Publications Fund were also approved by the Council of Ministers at their Blantyre meeting in September 1997. □



Beyond Inequalities: Women in Mauritius, Beyond Inequalities: Women in South Africa and Beyond Inequalities Women in Tanzania.

Published by SARDC-WIDSAA and Mauritius Alliance of Women (MAW), University of Western Cape's Gender Equity Unit (UWC-GEU) and Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP), 1997.

Review by Patience Zonge.

Gender issues are high on the regional agenda, with nations recognising the importance of addressing existing imbalances as these negatively impact on developmental and economic growth in most countries.

Key to highlighting these issues is the availability of relevant and useful information in the area. To this effect, three comprehensive and insightful national profiles on the status of women in Mauritius, South Africa and Tanzania have been published by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre's Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness programme (SARDC-WIDSAA) and partners namely MAW, UWC-GEU and TGNP.

These profiles, which are part of a 13-part series titled *Beyond Inequalities*, highlight the status of women in the respective countries, and the initiatives being made to mainstream gender in development processes at national and regional levels.

They recognise that women, though they constitute more than half the population, remain a vulnerable, marginalised group that is yet to enjoy equality in status, and access to services and resources with their male counterparts.

The profiles review the roles and responsibilities, access to and control over resources, decision-making powers, as well as needs and constraints of women vis-a-vis men. They are written along themes drawn from the Critical Areas of Concern as identified in the *Beijing Platform for Action* and derived from what the countries consider to be priorities.

The *Women in Mauritius* profile outlines the situation of women in different spheres of social, economic and political life, and describes some of the major actions taken to change the situation of women and empower them.

The South African profile recognises the new opportunities for solutions to gender imbalances in light of the massive political transition and transformation that has taken place over the last five years. It provides information which makes visible the position of women in South Africa, the contributions they make to national development and it highlights the spheres in which women's needs and concerns are still not sufficiently taken into account. One of the innovative initiatives discussed in the

South African profile which others can and are learning from is the newly launched Women's Budget Initiative which examines how national and provincial budgets can disadvantage or empower women.

The *Women in Tanzania* profile provides a review of existing policies and an analysis of possible ways forward. It provides valuable gender-disaggregated data which represents a useful resource tool, combining a situational analysis with a critical analysis of policies, actions, plans and a conceptual framework for gender analysis. Tanzania is one good case which shows what can be achieved in the quest to addressing gender imbalances if the political and economic will exists within the relevant structures.

The publication of these profiles could not have come at a better time. Recently SADC Heads of State and Governments adopted a Gender and Development Declaration which in effect recognises the commitment of SADC countries in mainstreaming gender issues in all their policies and programmes.

The *Beyond Inequalities* series consists of 12 national profiles on the status of women in 12 SADC countries (prior to the admittance of Democratic Republic of Congo and Seychelles) plus a regional book.

The series is an achievement of SARDC-WIDSAA in collaboration with a range of national partner organisations in each SADC country, with support from the Netherlands Government Directorate of International Cooperation (DGIS), through the Royal Netherlands Embassy regional WID programme. □

Recent publications and acquisitions

Workshop SME development in the EU-SADC context: experience, instruments and perspectives (workshop held in Rome September 30 - 4 October, 1997)

--European Commission/SADC.- 1997

Available from, IPALMO - Via del Tritone, 62/b - 00187 Rome.

Community-based natural resource management: a select foundation bibliography with emphasis on southern Africa

Edited by SADC Wildlife.

--Taylor, M.- 1997.

Available from, TCU/NRMP, PO Box 30131, Blantyre, Malawi.

SADC: Papers of the meeting of the committee of central bank governors in SADC (South Africa, 22 October 1997)

--SADC Secretariat.- 1997.

Available from, SADC Secretariat, P/Bag 0095, Gaborone, Botswana.

A Regional Profile: Children Growing Into the 21st Century. Annual Report 1997.

--UNICEF Eastern and Southern African Regional Office.- 1997.

Available from, Unicef Offices in SADC Countries.

Towards a Mine-Free Southern Africa: An Overview of the Situation in Southern Africa

—Rupiya, Martin.- 1997

Available from, Centre for Defence Studies, Department of History, University of Zimbabwe, P.O. Box MP167, Mt Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe.

Regional Research Priorities in the Natural Resources Sector

--SACCAR.- 1997.

Available from, Southern African Centre for Cooperation in Agricultural Research, P. Bag 108, Gaborone, Botswana.

SADC diary

1998	Event	Venue	
January	15-16	IUCN Commission on Communication and Education meeting	Zimbabwe
	29-30	SADC Council of Ministers Meeting	Mozambique
February	31	SADC Roundtable	Mozambique
	2-7	Farming Systems Approach in Changing the Socio-Economic Environment of southern Africa	Zambia
February	17-20	Drug Control Conference	Botswana
	18-20	Lesotho National Seminar on SADC	Lesotho
March	3-4	40th Meeting of CITES Standing Committee	UK
	16-8	AWEPA/SADC Parliamentary Action on Gender Equality and Personal Security Seminar hosted by Parliament of Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe
	8	International Women's Day	
	10-11	From Truth to Transformation	South Africa
	25-27	Tanzania National Seminar on SADC	Tanzania

Public holidays in SADC for the period February - March 1998

Date	Holiday	Country
3 February	Heroes' Day	Mozambique
4 February	Armed Struggle Day	Angola
25 February	Maha Shivaratree Day	Mauritius
3 March	Martyrs	Malawi
11 March	Moshoeshoe's Day	Lesotho
12 March	Youth Day	Zambia
12 March	National Day	Mauritius
21 March	Independence Day	Namibia
21 March	Human Rights Day	South Africa

Currency checklist

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	(US\$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 Lewi)	-
Botswana	Pula (100 Thebe)	3.77
DRC	Nouveau Zaire	-
Lesotho	Maloti (100 Lisente)	4.97
Malawi	Kwacha (100 Tambala)	21.60
Mauritius	Rupee (100 Cents)	22.30
Mozambique	Metical (100 Centavos)	11101.45
Namibia	Dollar (100 Cents)	4.97
Seychelles	Rupee	5.20
South Africa	Rand (100 Cents)	4.97
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 Cents)	4.97
Tanzania	Shilling (100 Cents)	618.50
Zambia	Kwacha (100 Ngwee)	1465.00
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 Cents)	19.43

Source: Standard Chartered Bank Zimbabwe Ltd, January 1998

LETTER BOX

Dear Editor

As a citizen of SADC, I am very impressed to be informed through your newsletter *SADC Today*. It is very important that citizens have access to news and other information to help them make decisions on economic, political and social issues affecting them. Your newsletter covers diverse sectors of the society.

IT Shikongo
Windhoek, Namibia

Dear Editor

I received a copy of your *SADC Today* newsletter and found it to be very informative and makes us in the Embassy of Indonesia keep updated on SADC information and activities. I am also planning to write a paper on comparative study between ASEAN and SADC. I would like to receive the newsletter regularly.

M. Hery Saripudin
Second Secretary (Economics), Indonesian Embassy
Republic of South Africa

Dear Editor

We have seen a copy of your newsletter *SADC Today* during a recent visit to the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone. We are the only southern African Library in Switzerland and like to be put on your mailing list.

Basler Afrika Bibliographien (BAB)
Namibia Resource Centre -- Southern Africa Library
Basel Switzerland

SADC Today welcomes letters and comments from readers. The editor, however, reserves the right to edit or use letters.