



# SADC

# TODAY



\* Southern African Development Community

Vol. 3 No. 4 February 2000

## High level attendance expected at new-look consultative conference in Swaziland

The SADC Consultative Conference, scheduled for Mbabane, Swaziland, from 20 to 22 February, is expected to return to its high level status following steps by the Secretariat to focus its agenda on broader political dialogue.

The consultative conference, regarded as SADC's platform for surveying results, evaluating performance and identifying strengths and weaknesses as well as agreeing on future plans, has seen a decline in attendance by the organisation's international cooperating partners.

The Secretariat and member states have attributed the low level status to the highly technical discussions which

were increasingly becoming narrower and thus requiring attendance by technocrats rather than the ministers for whom the meeting is targeted. Thus the level of decision-making had been severely compromised.



King Mswati III of Swaziland

At a pre-conference media briefing, the Acting Executive Secretary, Prega Ramsamy, said the 2000 meeting has been structured in a way that ensures optimum interaction and exchange of views among delegates. The conference has been divided into three components: Sectoral working groups; Interactive group session and the Plenary.

Sectoral working groups will dwell on issues affecting SADC's 20 sectors, review the projects and programmes and

funding proposals, while the international cooperating partners are expected to make funding pledges.

The interactive group session will cover economic, political and social developments in SADC, while cooperating partners are expected to inform the 14-member group about their policies towards southern Africa.

SADC has been holding consultative conferences every year except in 1998. The meetings accord member states an opportunity to engage in policy dialogue with the organisation's international cooperating partners, often at ministerial level. Representatives of business, labour, non-governmental organisations and other civil society groups also participate. □

## Free trade by second quarter of 2000

The implementation of the SADC Trade Protocol will commence in the second quarter of 2000, and not in January as previously scheduled. This follows the need to finalise outstanding issues relating to rules of origin and market access, according to the Acting Executive Secretary, Prega Ramsamy.

Although the protocol has laid down rules of origin, some member states are of the opinion that there is need to have separate and product-specific rules. This in line with international norms which require that substantial value-added must occur before a product can be re-exported to another country. Thus if a product is imported from within SADC or outside, it should undergo substantial transformation with an agreed proportion of local content added before it can be re-exported.

Further, some member states want an assurance that borders are going to be tightened to avoid flouting of agreed rules-of-origin requirements.

Also outstanding is the issue of principles relating to non-tariff barriers. It has emerged that while the trade protocol will eventually result in zero tariffs, some countries may still have non-tariff barriers for instance in the form of standards, which can effectively keep out products from other countries. Member states therefore need to agree on certain standards before the protocol is implemented.

The trade protocol is seen as the cornerstone of regional integration. Its implementation, over eight years, is likely to result in increased market opportunities and cross-border investment. (see extract from speech by Acting Executive Secretary on page 6).

### Unita attacks condemned

SADC is deeply concerned about the spillover of the Angolan war into neighbouring Namibia. Unita rebels are reportedly attacking civilians, including tourists, in the northern Kavango region of Namibia, along the border with Angola.

"This situation is of grave concern to us, as Unita rebels continue to commit acts of banditry resulting in the loss of lives," says Acting Executive Secretary, Prega Ramsamy.

Unita rebels have also been accused of terrorising Zambian villagers on the border with Angola. Angola government forces have in recent months launched a military offensive leading to the liberation of several towns previously occupied by the rebel movement.

In 1998 SADC leaders declared Jonas Savimbi a war criminal and pledged their support and solidarity to the government of Angola. □

# SADC TODAY

Southern African Development Community  
Vol. 3. No 4. February 2000

SADC TODAY is produced by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) six times a year on behalf of the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official positions and opinions of the SADC Secretariat or SARDC. Materials from this newsletter may be reproduced freely by the media and others with attribution to SADC TODAY.

© SADC, SARDC, 2000

## Editorial Committee

Alice Kwaramba, Tinashe Madava,  
Phyllis Johnson, Luisa Banze, Jean  
Chimhandamba, Walter Tapfumaneyi,  
Jabulani Sithole, Diana Mavunduse

## Editorial Advisor

Esther Kanaimba  
Head of SADC Public Relations  
Petronilla Ndebele  
SADC Information Officer

## Editor

Munetsi Madakufamba

## Design & Layout/DTP

Juliet Mucheki

## Print Coordination

Brighton Kadzambaira

## Origination/Printing

Crystal Graphics and Cannon Press, Harare

Contributions are welcome from individuals and organisations within the SADC region in the form of articles, news items, and comments, and also from outside the region. The publishers reserve the right to select or reject items and edit for space available.

Correspondence 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@sardc.net**  
**Website: www.sardc.net**



**Review of 1999** 4



**Food Security** 7



**Refugees** 10



**Guest Column** 12

- Policy Review:  
SADC Annual Report 1998/99* 3
- Visit by the Chinese  
Vice Premier* 5
- Acting Executive Secretary  
speech on the Trade Protocol* 6
- UN Security Council  
resolution on DRC conflict* 8
- Communique of the  
Extraordinary summit on DRC* 9
- Ramsamy appointed SADC acting  
Executive Secretary,  
Parliamentary Forum meeting* 11
- Community building:  
Sports and culture* 13
- Around the region:  
News briefs* 14
- Book review, recent publications  
and acquisitions* 15
- SADC diary, public holidays,  
currency checklist* 16

## 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.

# Political conflict, debt burden slow economic growth in SADC

*Following is a summary of the SADC Annual Report, 1998/99.*

## Political Situation

The period 1998/99 saw the emergence of political conflicts in Lesotho and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), as well as the resumption of hostilities in Angola, which have compromised credibility of the whole region.

It is encouraging to note, however, that some strides have been made in trying to bring peace and stability to the SADC region.

Several initiatives towards the peace process have taken place in the DRC resulting in the signing of a ceasefire in Lusaka on 10 July 1999.

Following a request by Lesotho for intervention to restore law and order in September 1998, the SADC forces moved in and quickly normalised the situation.

The post conflict losses were estimated at about US\$27 million, covering the cost of demolition, reinstatement and professional fees for firms and individuals involved in construction.

In order to make peace a lasting reality in the region, there is still need for action at regional and international level, in the case of Angola, to resolve the stalemate on the Lusaka Peace Accord.

## Economic Situation

There was a continued slow down in economic activity in the whole SADC region, with GDP rising by a mere 1.7 percent compared to 2.2 percent for 1997/98. This indicates a further decline from the four percent recorded in 1996.

Similarly, per capita income fell by 1.3 percent in 1998, representing a further 0.9 percentage points decline over the previous year.

The continuation of the armed conflict in the DRC negatively impacted on economic stability, macro-economic management and investor confidence not only for the countries directly involved but also on the SADC region in general.

Foreign direct investment to Sub-Saharan Africa has fallen and the resource gap widened, reflecting on the dependence on foreign resources. The marginal increase in domestic investment was not enough to offset the decline in foreign resource flows.

DRC, Lesotho and Zambia recorded negative growth in economic activity in 1998 (-3.5, -5.8 and -1.8 percent respectively). Strongest economic growth was witnessed in Mozambique (11.6 percent GDP growth), Botswana (8.3 percent), Malawi (6.2 percent), Mauritius (5.6 percent), Tanzania (4 percent) and Seychelles (3 percent). The other SADC countries – Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe registered growth rates between zero and three percent.

In 1998, inflation generally decreased in most SADC countries. Nine members recorded single digit inflation with Mozambique and Seychelles achieving the smallest rise in consumer prices of slightly more than two percent.

Angola and DRC recorded three-digit inflation while Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe recorded double-digit inflation.

Although SADC economies were largely unaffected by the Asian financial crisis, the consequences had negative effects on the region's Balance of Payments. Commodity prices went down during the crisis, especially agricultural raw materials and metals. Export prices and volumes also fell.

## Food Situation

The 1998/99 cropping season was characterised by incessant rains followed by dry spells in the latter part of the season in some of the southern countries of the region. Cereal shortfalls in most SADC countries are going to result in imports from outside the region at greater cost because South Africa, which normally provides cheap maize to the region, will not be able to service the shortfall.

The importation of staple cereals by the region deprives the SADC countries of scarce foreign currency, which could have been better used for essential services such as health and education.

There is need to adopt alternatives that increase food production and agricultural productivity. These include irrigation and the use of biotechnology. Policies should encourage use of continuous and sustainable use of modern technology.

## External Debt Situation

The first indicator of the severity of debt burden of a country can be assessed

through a comparison of GNP per capita and external debt per head of its population.

Angola, Tanzania and Zambia form a group of seriously indebted countries, about twice the level of GNP per capita. Malawi and Zimbabwe have ratios of about 1:1 while for the other SADC countries, the ratio is less than half of GNP.

Other important considerations are the structure of the debt (i.e. short term, long term) and the debt service payments as a proportion of the country's export earnings from goods and services.

On the basis of the above indicators, Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia, seem to present the most alarming external debt problem.

Although the debt ratio for Lesotho, South Africa and Zimbabwe are quite high, the ratio of external debt per head to GNP per capita was modest, indicating a potentially problematic debt problem.

A high debt service ratio implies high propensity to borrow more to service productive and social sectors.

Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia and Swaziland do not exhibit a significant debt burden as these happen to be relatively richer countries in the region, in terms of GNP per capita.

Due to the high dependence on imports, the overall economic performance of SADC countries has remained low.

Accumulation of debt over the years has resulted in some countries reneging on service payments, which has negatively impacted on their credit-worthiness and flow of new investment.

In an effort to rescue heavily indebted countries, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under the Extended Social Adjustment Facility (ESAF) and Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) decided to sell gold, the modalities of which were discussed at a board meeting in July 1999.

Concerns have, however, been raised on the merits of such a decision as it negatively impacts on the countries it is supposed to assist, in terms of loss of value of gold which contributes a significant proportion of exports, and loss of employment due to closure of mines. □

# The Year 1999 in retrospect

by Munetsi Madakufamba

It was a year when southern Africa lived up to its promise. Living by the basic axiom of economics that more is better, the requisite two-thirds majority of the 14-member Southern African Development Community (SADC) ratified the trade protocol, paving the way for deeper market integration in the new millennium.

It was also the year when multi-party democracy was buttressed with the holding of elections in five of southern Africa's old and new democracies.

Sadly, however, 1999 was also a year when SADC, and Africa became poorer with the death 14 October of one of its luminaries, Julius Kambarage Nyerere. Many hope the death of the 77-year-old statesman was not the end of Africa's struggle for equal partnership in international affairs.

Nyerere left his continent a legacy of hope that will guide Africa's renaissance into the new millennium. But a new and perhaps even more visionary leader is needed to guide the continent through the darker era of internationalised trade.

Borrowing from the words of the late Botswana President and one of the founding fathers of SADC, Sir Seretse Khama in 1980: "The struggle for economic liberation will be as bitterly contested as has been the struggle for political independence."

Twenty years on, the struggle has proved to be even more difficult than he imagined. The drama in the US city of Seattle where world trade talks collapsed was not just a manifestation of events of the mal-functioning, immoral global system, but one that also offered an insight into why a new form of global governance and a different form of political economy should be sought in the new millennium.

The insatiable drive for profits by relatively few trans-national companies and individuals has ruined many smaller economies and driven others to war. Evidently, the desire to control resources has emerged as the principal cause of conflict in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The only differ-

ence has been the weaponry used to acquire the desired wealth.

Some countries or individuals, such as those in Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), have chosen the barrel of the gun while others have taken the path of economic destabilisation.

Once again profits are paramount over humanity in the diamond and petroleum-fuelled war in Angola which has never completely ended since it started more than two decades ago. Under the watchful eye of the UN monitoring force in Angola, UNITA, led by guerrilla chief Jonas Savimbi,

successfully rearmed. And innocent civilians are once again the victims of a vicious bush war.

During the course of the year, government forces have been battling to end the UNITA insurgence whose strength is fuelled by the sale of diamonds, and made worse by the volatile situation in neighbouring DRC.

The DRC conflict, in which at least five countries – Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe on one side, Uganda and Rwanda on the other side – are involved, erupted in August of 1998. The UN has been accused of dragging its feet, failing to support a peace initiative brokered by SADC resulting in the Lusaka peace accord of 10 July 1999.

Many hope SADC's remaining conflicts in Angola and the DRC will return to normalcy to enable the citizens, who are tired of the war, to join the region in electing their leaders through the ballot box.

Elsewhere, regional democracies were put to the test as elections were held in five countries – Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa.

President Thabo Mbeki, who took

over the leadership of the African National Congress (ANC) from retired Nelson Mandela, led his party to victory in the 2 June election, falling one seat short of the two-thirds majority.

Then came the hotly contested Malawi election on 15 June. President Bakili Muluzi was returned as president in an election won by a narrow margin, the result of which the Malawi opposition is disputing in the courts.

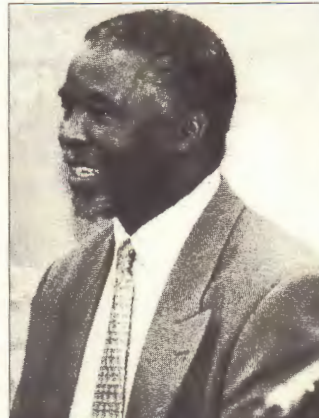
Four months later, Botswana, the oldest multi-party democracy in the region nearly wrote another piece of history when President Festus Mogae had to intervene in an election registration mix-up, which might have disenfranchised 15 percent of the registered voters. He went on to declare a six-day state of emergency to deal with the problem, paving way for the election to take place as scheduled on 16 October. His party won for the seventh consecutive time.

Botswana's western neighbour, Namibia was next, holding its presidential and legislative polls on 30 November and 1 December. President Sam Nujoma and his South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) came out victorious in an election nearly marred by queries over the indelible ink which, some voters alleged, washed off easily, raising fears of double voting. The electoral commission, however, moved in quickly to defuse the potentially explosive situation. The election result was accepted by all parties.

Presidential and legislative polls in Mozambique on 3–5 December concluded



The Late Nyerere of Tanzania



President Mbeki of South Africa



President Mogae of Botswana



President Nujoma of Namibia



President Chissano of Mozambique



President Muluzi of Malawi

ed "SADC's year of the elections". After a lengthy and complex vote-counting process, the incumbent Frelimo came out victorious amid threats by opposition Renamo that it was not going to recognise the result citing rigging among other issues. Renamo claims have since been dismissed by the courts.

The elections gave the new leadership in SADC a fresh mandate to join their colleagues in the region in ensuring peace and stability as part of the struggle for economic development in a globalised world.

By pledging to deepen the integration of markets under the trade protocol, which SADC has vowed to start implementing in the new year, the countries of the region have seen sense in tackling globalisation as a bloc, rather than as

individual, often too small, economies.

Away from the tense moments of electioneering, southern African countries vowed to market their economic potential at what have become traditional trade and investment windows for mirroring the region. First it was the World Economic Forum-sponsored Southern Africa Economic Summit in Durban in July, and then followed the annual SADC summit in Maputo in August.

In the October heat of Zimbabwe's resort town of Victoria Falls came the Southern African International Dialogue (SAID'99), which once more underlined the importance of engaging government, business, labour and the media as equal partners in development.

And right on the eve of the Mozambican election, SADC government and

private sector leaders converged in Maputo for the International Herald Tribune-sponsored Southern Africa Trade and Investment Summit with one common objective – to convince overseas investors that the region is ready for its share of foreign direct investment.

But perhaps one of the greatest economic challenges facing the region in 1999 was in the negotiations to save the Lomé duty free access to European markets. These conditions expire in February 2000.

Proponents of globalisation, who have presented the process as an "irreversible one-way road to the future", want the preferential treatment extended to African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states under the Lomé Convention scrapped in line with World Trade Organisation rules and regulations.

But SADC, along with other ACP countries has vehemently resisted, saying Europe has a moral responsibility to rebuild the economies it impoverished during decades of colonialism.

No wonder developing countries mounted a united blockade to the emergence of new trade rounds under the WTO in Seattle. And for once, the viewpoint of developing countries, Africa in particular, was heard.

The message was loud and clear for all to hear — time has come to reconstruct a system of global governance that only considers profits at the expense of people's concerns.

Most important for southern Africa, the time has come to consolidate its democracy and deepen market integration to ensure its voice as an emerging market is going to be heard and respected in the new millennium. □

## Chinese vice premier at SADC House

The visit by Her Excellency Wu Yi, the Chinese Vice Premier, at SADC House in Botswana recently was aimed at exploring avenues of co-operation between SADC and the Peoples Republic of China.

SADC's acting executive secretary, Dr Prega Ramsamy called upon People's Republic of China to take advantage of the SADC's enormous economic potential with 200 million people and combined GDP of US\$180 billion.

"We would like to co-operate in areas of science and technology, agriculture, small scale and medium scale enterprises," said Ramsamy.

In response, Wu Yi said, "apart from providing loans and grants to SADC member states, China has 60 projects aimed at promoting economic and social development in the region. In 1998, the trade volume between SADC countries and China was US\$2,2 billion."

She went on to commend the existing cordial relations between her country and SADC member states adding that her country will continue to attach great importance to the South-South co-operation.

## Acting Executive Secretary update on Trade Protocol

*Below is an extract from a speech by the Acting Executive Secretary regarding progress on the SADC Trade Protocol whose implementation has been postponed from January to the second quarter of the year.*

"... Trade negotiations by Member States through the Trade Negotiating Forum (TNF) negotiated the tariff reduction schedules on a tariff line by tariff line from chapter one to ninety seven of the *Tariff Handbook*.

The tariff schedules are such that under their joint offer, the SACU (Southern African Customs Union) countries will liberalise their tariffs faster than the rest of the Member States; while special differential tariff reduction will be applied for the BNLS (Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho and Swaziland) and non-SACU countries in consideration of their relative underdevelopment.

It has been agreed that by year 2008, 85 percent of the goods entering the non-SACU market will be at zero tariffs. On the other hand, 97 percent or more of the exports entering the SACU market will be at zero tariffs.

This level of liberalisation would give international credibility to the SADC Trade Protocol in the context of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules, which require that all trade be substantially liberalised in a free trade area. It is expected that all trade would be fully liberalised by 2012.

The implementation of the SADC Trade Protocol will be launched in the second quarter of 2000 starting off with products that are categorized for immediate liberalisation and those under gradual tariff reduction. Products considered as sensitive will be liberalised up to the year 2012.

Beside the tariff reduction schedules, the TNF also negotiated on product specific rules of origin. Although the protocol already has rules of origin, some member states are of the opinion

that complementary rules of origin are necessary for tightening protection of certain products of particular strategic importance in the region against transshipment of foreign goods.

The product specific rules of origin are also aimed at fostering greater utilisation of regional resources and upgrading the level of manufacturing processes in the region through adoption of new technology and investment in the manufacturing sector. These rules of origin, which are in line with the rules of the



**Prega Ramsamy**

trade protocol, are expected to increase intra-SADC trade. However, agreement is still being sought on the rules of origin pertaining to clothing and textiles, which form the area of interest for all Member States.

It has been agreed that all outstanding issues on rules of origin and market access should be concluded by February 2000, so that the effective implementation of the Trade Protocol can start by the second quarter of this year.

It has been further agreed that Member States draw up schedules for the elimination of non-tariff barriers as well as ensuring that trade measures and technical barriers to trade are addressed.

The question of customs documentation and trade facilitation has also been attended to through the establishment of the SADC Sub Committees on Cus-

toms Cooperation and Trade Facilitation.

Agreed customs and trade documentation and procedures are being finalised for use in Member States along with the need for improved procedures.

In order to facilitate the implementation of the trade protocol, the Ministers of Trade have agreed to set up a Trade Protocol Implementation Unit (TIU). They agreed that the unit would include experts in the fields of trade information, legal affairs, customs and standards.

While efforts will be made to avoid or minimise disputes, it has been decided that a practical dispute settlement mechanism should be in place by the launch of the free trade area. Accordingly, proposals and guidelines in order to operationalise the provisions on Trade Dispute Settlement in the context of the trade protocol are being worked out.

There are still some important elements that need to be worked upon in order to assist Member States take full advantage of the protocol. These relate to policies that individual member states need to put in place to cushion the effects of tariff reduction.

At regional level, the is need to move with speed on adopting a regional industrialisation policy strategy that is capable of underpinning the capacities of industry to produce tradable goods for the regional market. Such a policy strategy is of crucial importance for member states with an underdeveloped manufacturing sector.

The other issue that will need to be attended to in the course of the year 2000 is notification of the SADC Free Trade Area to the WTO. A decision will have to be made as to which article the notification will be made.

This can only be done once a thorough analysis of the two options is made, and the negotiations on the tariff schedules are concluded." □

# Late rains, floods plunge SADC into cereal deficit

by Diana Mavunduse and Tinashe Madava

The prime November planting period in southern Africa passed without the expected significant soaking rains, which restricted planting and land preparations in the main grain regions of Swaziland and Zimbabwe while most farmers in Malawi, South Africa and Tanzania resorted to dry planting.

Climate experts, however had predicted above-average rainfall in a seasonal forecast issued last September by the Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) for much of the region. Only the northern and eastern parts of Tanzania were forecast to have below-normal precipitation through the critical October to March rain season.

However, contrary to the forecast, rains came much too late and in some cases not enough at all, leaving many countries facing serious food security problems.

In Tanzania, once the early short rains were over, dry conditions prevailed leaving poor harvest prospects and food security problems across most of the country except in the northwest and Lake Victoria regions.

Angola, crippled by civil war, has gloomy production prospects for this harvest season. Production has been hampered by poor rains and the on-going violence which has forced people to flee their fields for relative safety of government-controlled cities.

The fighting, which has intensified in recent months in the main cereal growing central highlands has led to the displacement of over a million people. Most refugees are now camped in barren terrain in cities such as Huambo, Malange, Kuito, Luena and Uige.

Malawi's Meteorological Department predicted that most parts of the country would receive normal to above normal rainfall during the rain season. However, only erratic rains were experienced in the northern and parts of the central regions from October to December.

Harvests are also likely to be adversely affected by lack of fertilizer, especially among smallholder farmers. The government has launched a US\$29 million food security scheme to boost agricultural productivity by providing an estimated 2.8



Late planting may compromise crop yields

million farming households with free fertilizer and seeds.

Reports in Zimbabwe indicate that despite forecasts of above-average rains, maize output may decline from the 1.54 million tonnes produced last season due to low prices to producers and high input costs. However, October thunderstorms throughout the country enabled most communal farmers to embark on early land preparation in readiness for the cropping season.

Meanwhile, the month of February has seen torrential rains that have flooded parts of Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe, killing people and destroying infrastructure worth millions of dollars.

Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland are reported to be experiencing their worst floods in decades. The floods have cut off a road linking Botswana to Zimbabwe and South Africa as well as links between Mozambique, Swaziland and South Africa.

Crops have been severely damaged, dashing any hopes of a normal harvest in these southern African countries.

In South Africa's Northern Mpumalanga and Gauteng provinces, rains have left a trail of death and destruction as dams overflowed and rivers broke their banks, sweeping away bridges and roads. The damage in the worst affected area has been estimated at US\$39 million as of the second week of February.

The floods have left scores of people either missing or dead. Rivers in the country have been reported to be at their highest in 50 years.

South Africa is already providing aid to Mozambique, where floods have also isolated cities and left more than 100,000 people stranded.

A World Food Programme (WFP) spokesman in Mozambique recently revealed that outlying parts of the capital Maputo and the nearby city of Matola, about 25 km east of the capital, are the hardest hit.

In its latest report on the flooding situation, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said that Maputo and its neighbouring province of Gaza were among the most heavily affected areas.

It said an estimated 18 people had died so far in Maputo Province alone because of the floods.

In Gaza Province, the most heavily affected areas had been the districts of Chibuto, Ckoke, Mabalane and the Limpopo river basin especially around the provincial capital, Xai-Xai.

According to OCHA, an estimated 7,000 hectares of cultivated land in Xai-Xai, had been flooded.

It also said several communities in Gaza's Chibuto district had been isolated by the floods.

Last year most of southern Africa experienced floods with Mozambique the worst affected as floods destroyed an estimated 400,000 hectares of farmland and an estimated 70,000 affected, with up to 6,000 displaced.

The floods also had a bearing on the southern African region's overall cereal and grain output as the food security situation deteriorated. □

## DRC: SADC and UN take steps to end conflict

After SADC leaders met in Maputo recently in an extraordinary session, they issued a communiqué strongly urging the UN to deploy a full peacekeeping force to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), as well as provide the necessary means for its operation in the context of the implementation of the Lusaka Peace Agreement.

Within days, the Security Council met to give the faltering Congo peace process new impetus with a pledge of 5,000 troops to protect about 500 unarmed military observers who are expected to arrive soon.

The unanimous request by the leaders of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), who have repeatedly expressed their frustration at the UN's slow reaction to the DRC conflict, unquestionably influenced the non-African members of the Council.

At the Maputo summit, the SADC leaders decried a war, which they said should never have started, reaffirmed their commitment to reconciliation and underscored the responsibility of the international community in addressing African problems.

They insisted that the Lusaka peace accord of 10 July 1999 was still alive, notwithstanding several breaches of the ceasefire and despite delays in the overall implementation process.

At New York, Mozambique's President Joaquim Chissano, chair of SADC, said "the unprecedented presence of so many security council members bears testimony to our resolve to find an immediate and peaceful solution to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo."

The Security Council's DRC statement recognised the importance of the crisis and committed itself "to act promptly" underlining the "absolute necessity of security and access for United Nations personnel deployed in support of the Lusaka process." It stressed that "such a climate of co-operation is an essential pre-requisite for the successful implementation of the mandate of the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo."

Along with President Chissano, Presidents Frederick Chiluba of Zambia, José

Eduardo Dos Santos of Angola, Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, and Pasteur Bizimungu of Rwanda attended the New York meeting. DRC President Laurent Kabila who had not attended the Maputo Summit also led a delegation to the UN.

Supporting the African heads of state were former Botswana president, Sir Ketumile Masire, OAU Secretary-General, Salim Ahmed Salim, and the foreign ministers of Namibia, South Africa and Burundi.

The Security Council however, did not go as far as the SADC countries wished, failing to commit itself to a full-fledged peace-keeping force, a move analysts said might further delay the peace process.

The Lusaka accord, implementation of which is already behind schedule, calls for the withdrawal of foreign troops and the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force to bolster the agreement.

Troops from Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe supporting the DRC government and those from Rwanda and Uganda backing the rebel movements are still in the DRC, more than six months after the Lusaka Accord was signed.

The Maputo summit was held 16 January to push the agenda for peace in the DRC, taking advantage of the presence of the Heads of State and Government who were in Maputo to attend the inauguration of Chissano for his second five-year presidential mandate. Chissano was re-elected in Mozambique's second multi-party elections late last year.

The meeting was one of the most well attended extra-ordinary summits. Twelve of the 14 member states were represented at the summit dedicated exclusively to the peace process in the DRC.

Ten countries were represented at the level of head of state, Lesotho and Swaziland by their prime ministers while Mauritius was represented by its deputy prime minister. Only the DRC and Seychelles did not attend.

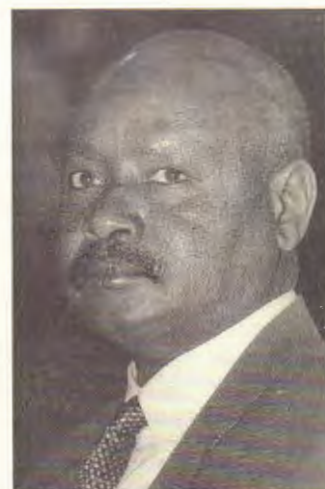
The presidents of Uganda and Rwanda came as "invited guests". Salim was there from the OAU and Masire, who has been appointed as facilitator in the dialogue between the warring sides in DRC, also attended. □



President Laurent Kabila



Sir Ketumile Masire



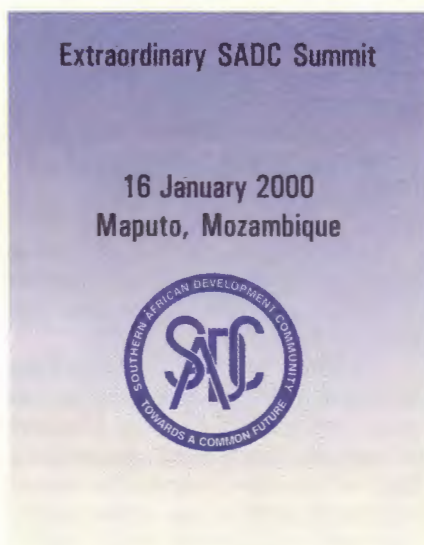
President Yoweri Museveni

# Final communique of the extraordinary summit on DRC

- At the invitation of the President of the Republic of Mozambique, H.E. Joaquim Alberto Chissano, in his capacity as Chairman of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), an Extraordinary Summit of the SADC Heads of State and Government was held in Maputo, on 16 January 2000.
- The objective of the Summit was to evaluate the degree of implementation of the Lusaka Agreement of 10 July 1999 on the Cease Fire in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and review the work of the commissions set up within the framework of the said Agreement, concerning the modalities and mechanisms of its implementation, with a view to the adoption of appropriate measures for the rapid normalisation of the situation in that SADC member country.
- The Summit was attended by the following Heads of State and Government:

Angola:	H.E. President Jose Eduardo dos Santos
Botswana:	H.E. President Festus Mogae
Lesotho:	Rt. Hon Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili
Malawi:	H.E. President Bakili Muluzi
Mozambique:	H.E. President Joaquim Alberto Chissano
Namibia:	H.E. President Sam Nujoma
South Africa:	H.E. President Thabo Mbeki
Swaziland:	Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Barnabas S. Dlamini
Tanzania:	H.E. President Benjamin William Mkapa
Zambia:	H.E. President Frederick Chiluba
Zimbabwe:	H.E. President Robert Mugabe

- The Summit was also attended by Honourable Rajkeswur Purryag, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mauritius.
- Also in attendance as special guests were H.E. President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and H.E. President Pasteur Bizimungu of Rwanda.
- The Summit was also attended by H.E. the Secretary General of the OAU, Salim Ahmed Salim, by H.E. the Acting Executive Secretary of SADC, Prega Ramsamy and the former President of Botswana, H.E. Sir Ketumile Masire.
- The Summit applauded the appointment of the former President of Botswana, Sir Ketumile Masire, by the



Congolese parties, as the facilitator of the National Dialogue between the political forces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and considered that his appointment will contribute to the expeditious implementation of the Cease Fire Agreement so that a global solution to the conflict can be reached.

- The Summit noted with concern the lack of progress in the implementation of the Lusaka Cease Fire Agreement of 10 July 1999.
- The Summit reiterated the importance and validity of the Lusaka

Cease Fire Agreement of 10 July as a fundamental instrument for the process of a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the DRC. In this connection, it urged the signatories to co-operate in a more active manner towards its full and successful implementation. For that purpose, an urgent meeting of the belligerents will soon be convened to speed up the implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement of 10<sup>th</sup> of July 1999.

- The Summit reaffirmed the importance of the involvement of the United Nations, the Organization of the African Unity, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and of the whole International Community in the search for a global and lasting solution to the conflict. The Summit encouraged them to continue with their political and diplomatic efforts aimed at the achievement of the intended results.
- The Summit called on the Security Council of the United Nations to send urgently a full peace-keeping force to the DRC as well as to provide the necessary logistical means for its operation in the context of the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement.
- The Summit appealed to the International Community to provide humanitarian assistance to the refugees and displaced populations in co-operation with humanitarian assistance organizations, as well as to provide resources for the process of the national reconstruction.
- The Summit expressed its expectation that the session of the United Nations Security Council to be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January will further deliberate towards this direction.
- The Summit thanked the Government of the Republic of Mozambique and President Joaquim Alberto Chissano for the hospitality and facilities made available for the success of the deliberations of the Maputo Extraordinary SADC Summit. □

## Deteriorating security situation worsens refugee problem

by Renato Pinto

**A**frica has the largest number of refugees in the world. The number of uprooted people has spiralled from 700,000 at the time when the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention was adopted in 1969 to the current 9.1 million, including those displaced in their own countries. In southern Africa, this scenario has been aggravated by the internal conflicts in Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

About 21,000 Angolans have fled to Zambia since last October when the Angolan government started a military offensive against Unita. Angolan refugees on the Zambia-Angola border are living in precarious conditions, which will be exacerbated by the rain season.

According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the influx of new refugees has brought the total number of Angolans in Zambia to 160,000.

Another large wave of refugees crossed over from the DRC with 18,000 of them being settled in Mwange camp, near western Mporokoso. It is believed that there are more than 200,000 refugees in Zambia.

Nicholas Bwakira, UNHCR's Regional Director for Southern Africa, recently reached an agreement with the Namibian government to increase his staff to manage the number of Angolan refugees which has increased due to the intensified Angolan civil war.

The refugees are estimated at over 7,000. Recently, there has been violent clashes on the Namibian border allegedly orchestrated by Unita. This follows a move by the government of President Sam Nujoma to allow Angolan forces to launch attacks from Namibian territory under a mutual defence pact.

Almost 3,000 Burundians a day have entered Tanzania fleeing fighting between Hutus and government forces, congesting camps and overburdening services. It is estimated that by the beginning of 2000 there were approximately 424,300 refugees in Tanzania. The situation is so critical that within three weeks of its official opening on 23 December, the new Karago refugee camp



Unloading humanitarian aid at Porto Amboim, Angola

in Kibondo district reached almost half its 45,000 to 50,000 capacity.

In those regions where locals are obliged to share with refugees their scant resources, xenophobia has increased. Resentment has arisen over the privileged refugees have received from donors and humanitarian organisations, such as UNHCR, Red Cross and/or local and international NGOs.

In Tanzania, Burundian refugees are blamed for terrorising villagers living near the camps with weapons brought from their countries.

However, South Africa is one country where xenophobia is more evident. According to a recent survey, 45 percent of South Africans wanted tougher restrictions on foreigners entering the country. Violence against asylum seekers and illegal immigrants, who are accused of taking employment from nationals, has

gravely increased.

The problem of refugees, apart from the obvious negative impact to the economy and society in either countries of origin or asylum, could aggravate other critical issues such as cholera, TB and also HIV/AIDS.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, visited southern Africa in January to assess the refugee situation in South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia. She expressed concern over increasing numbers of internally displaced people on the continent. She also lamented the fact that there are no effective conflict resolution mechanisms in place in Africa.

According to Ogata, the international community has paid less attention to refugees in Africa than in other parts of the world. She also stated that UNHCR alone could not change the situation. □



Women and children are the most affected by displacement. Here mothers queue up for immunization at a refugee camp in Angola

# Ramsamy appointed SADC acting executive secretary

With effect from 1 January 2000, the SADC Deputy Executive Secretary, Dr. Prega Ramsamy became the regional organisation's Acting Executive Secretary.

The SADC Chairperson, President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique, effected Ramsamy's appointment following the departure of Kaire Mbuende on 31 December 1999.

Ramsamy, a Mauritian national, holds a Ph.D. in Development Economics from the California University for Advanced Studies' School of Economics and Management in 1988.

He had earlier attended International Development Centre of Japan (IDCJ), Tokyo where he graduated with a certificate in Project Evaluation, Appraisal and Analysis in 1982. He got his first degree in Economics in 1974 at the Delhi University, India.

Ramsamy has extensive experience having worked for the Mauritian government's Ministry of Economic Planning and Development and the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA).

He was appointed to the SADC Secretariat in September 1997 as Chief Economist responsible for the organisation's overall programmes division. On 15 September 1998 he was appointed SADC's Deputy Executive Secretary.

Ramsamy, who is fluent in written and spoken English and French, accepted his new role reiterating his commitment to the development of the SADC region through regional co-operation and integration.

Born Pakeereesamy Ramsamy on 5 May 1950 in Rose-Hill, Mauritius, the Acting Executive Secretary is a married father of two.

He has participated in more than seventy inter-governmental technical and policy meetings during the period 1983-1999 in various capital cities of the countries of Eastern and Southern Africa.

His appointment is effective until further notice from the SADC Chairperson. □

## More active role for parliaments

Parliaments would want to play a more active role in strengthening and accelerating regional cooperation and integration. This was agreed at a recent meeting of the SADC Parliamentary Forum in Johannesburg, South Africa, held under the new leadership of Frene Ginwala, Speaker of the South African Parliament.

She took over from Mosé Tjiten-dero, Speaker of the Namibian Parliament who has chaired the forum since its official launch in 1996.

The meeting was convened to plan for the new millennium, to chart ways in which the 12 Parliaments of the SADC region could work together to contribute to the acceleration of regional co-operation (DRC and Seychelles are not members of the forum). The forum is anxious to strengthen the role of parliaments in the work and functioning of SADC.

A major conference for 100 Members of Parliament drawn from the 12 SADC Parliaments will be held in mid-April in Cape Town, South Africa.

The workshop/conference will be held to deliberate on a three-year Strategic Development Programme for the Forum for 2000-2003. The Executive Committee has also developed a programme of strengthening its secretariat and the exchange of information and knowledge among parliaments for strengthening democratic governance in the region, said a statement from the secretariat in Windhoek, Namibia.

In the interests of contributing to peace building, democracy and development, the SADC Parliamentary Forum has a programme of observing elections in SADC countries which was initiated in 1999. □

## Former SA Foreign Minister Nzo dies

The former Chairman of the SADC Council of Ministers and South Africa's first post-apartheid foreign affairs minister, Alfred Nzo, died on 13 January 2000 in Johannesburg.

Speaking at Nzo's funeral, South African President, Thabo Mbeki said: "Even as some sought to present him as an object of ridicule and failure, those of us who knew who he was and what he was worth to the people of South Africa, determined that we like him, would continue to be informed by our knowledge and our consciences, rather than the voices of those who sought to play various and insensitive games."

Former South African president, Nelson Mandela, described Nzo as a "highly revered, much loved leader". He said it was due to Nzo's leadership that the international community had declared apartheid a crime against humanity.

When South Africa took over the chairmanship of SADC in 1997, Nzo became the chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Born in 1925, the 74-year-old Nzo served as secretary-general of the African National Congress (ANC) in exile from 1969-1991. He was born in Benoni near Johannesburg. Nzo attended a missionary school before proceeding to the University of Fort Hare, where prominent



The late Alfred Nzo

figures such as Nelson Mandela and Robert Mugabe were also educated. He became actively involved in politics at Fort Hare University in 1950, joining the ANC Youth League.

During the 1950s, he played a key role in the defiance campaign against apartheid. In 1962, he was placed under house arrest and later detained before joining the ANC in exile. He spent 26 years in political exile and returned to South Africa on 1 July 1990.

Nzo was elected Secretary-General of the ANC in 1969 and again in 1985. He left the post in 1991 but continued to serve on the National Executive Committee. He was appointed acting president of the ANC in December 1989 in place of Oliver Tambo, a position he held until the release of Mandela from prison in February 1990. □

## Theatre directors seek support from SADC

Performing arts directors have come together to form the Southern Africa Theatre Initiative (SATI), an organisation that will deal with problems facing theatre groups in the region.

SATI is a regional organisation that seeks to help national theatre groups through out the region. So far SATI helped to put up national structures in Namibia called the Artist Guild of Namibia (AGN). In Lesotho they formed the Lesotho Association of Theatre (LAT) and in Mozambique, the Mozambique Association of Theatre (ATEMO).

"We as theatre groups realised that our profession is not supported by government and the society. Very few people appreciate theatre in southern Africa, so we decided that year 2000 is the year where we want to lobby for the appreciation of the role of arts and culture in the region," said Mpho Molepo, Director of Market Theatre in South Africa.

SATI decided to hold workshops among its members to share ideas on how to develop the business on a more professional level.

The first workshop was held in Harare recently. It was organised by Davis Guzha, producer/director of Roof Top Promotions in Zimbabwe. It was



Cultural groups feel more could be done with better support

supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) under its department of culture, represented by Peter Kollarik and Helena Smeds, two resource persons from the Stockholm City Theatre.

"We need our governments to support and protect, amongst others, the rights and welfare of the artists and also the preservation of our culture," said Guzha.

The directors also called upon SADC culture departments to support their needs. They pointed out that SADC is aware of the existence of SATI, but it is doing little to support the organisation.

"It would be nice if the SADC Secretariat could combine with SATI and we help each other in organising the SADC cultural celebrations," said Henri Favory, producer/director of the Favory Troupe in Mauritius. □

## Davis Cup: Zimbabwe goes down fighting

by Renato Pinto

The city of Harare hosted between 4-6 February, the Davis Cup tennis first round tie between Zimbabwe and the United States.

Being the first time that these countries met in a Davis Cup competition, this encounter was deemed as an historic event. After exciting final match, the Americans were victors 3-2 over Zimbabweans in front of a capacity 4000 strong crowd in the City Sports Centre.

The absence of the key pair of Pete Sampras and Todd Martin in the American side increased the chances of their counterparts.

On the Zimbabwean side, the presence of the talented Black brothers, Byron and Wayne, as well as the advantage of playing at home, including the

support from the colourful drum-beating fans, was a clear advantage.

However, the fact that Wayne had to play both the singles and doubles matches could have jeopardized their performance. He was visibly tired in the reverse singles match.

In fact, the Zimbabwean double team of Wayne Black and Kevin Ullyett beat their American counterparts Rick Leach and Alex O'Brien, 7-5 (7-4), 5-7, 0-6, 7-5, 7-5, in an exciting exhibition of high level tennis.

However, Wayne and Byron Black succumbed to world number one Andre Agassi and Chris Woodruff, respectively, in the final singles matches.

Zimbabwe was the only African team in the elite group of 16 nations in the Davis Cup. □

### Africa Cup of Nations 2000

The Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa and Zambia were the three countries representing southern Africa at the 2000 Africa Cup of Nations soccer tournament co-hosted by Ghana and Nigeria.

South Africa, who were champions in 1996, were ousted by Nigeria in the semi finals.

The DRC and Zambia were eliminated in the first round. □

## SA optimistic about trade protocol

The SADC Trade Protocol is set to come into force during the first half of this year, signifying a critically important step towards the transformation of the region into a vibrant economic region.

In his millennium State of the Nation address delivered recently, South African President Thabo Mbeki noted that the SADC Trade Protocol is central to southern Africa's economic growth. He stressed that as soon as a few hitches relating to "rules of origin" were solved, the protocol would come into force.

"We continue to work hard to conclude the matters relating largely to the issue of rules of origin, which have de-

layed the implementation of the SADC Trade Protocol," said Mbeki, adding that "we remain convinced that this Protocol will come into force during the first half of this year."

South Africa has been criticised for the delay in implementing the protocol. Mbeki's speech has been welcome by the business sector and is seen as boosting confidence in the market. He promised a faster pace in privatisation and improved road and rail links.

Mbeki's speech was wide ranging, slamming racism, promising a review of rigid labour laws, action on inflation and exchange controls. □

## Tanzania fights environmental pollution

Tanzania intends to approve a comprehensive law to hamper environmental degradation, including illegal waste dumping by industrialists. This law will oblige organisations to conduct Environmental Impact Assessments before their projects are sanctioned.

Magnus Ngoile, the director general of the National Environmental Management Council, the country's environmental watchdog, said that if the law passed, it would empower the council to check those who break the country's environmental laws.

Ngoile was uncertain over when the law under formation would come into effect but stressed that all developers will be bound to undertake an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) in

respect of their industrial plans, once this legislation is assented to by the president.

According to the proposed national framework, "EIA is to be an environmental permitting prerequisite and issuance of any development permit is subject to provision of an 'environmental clearance' by the council," he said.

Currently, the undertaking of an EIA is not a legal requirement although the national policy on environment stipulates that the assessment should be used as a guide towards sustainable socio-economic development. The assessment is also to ensure that environmental concerns receive due and balanced considerations in reconciling urgent development needs and long-term sustainability. (PANA) □

## Mozambique devalues currency

The Mozambican currency, the metical, devalued against the US dollar by 1.5 per cent in January - a much higher rate of depreciation than normal in a single month. The exchange rate policy of the central bank has been non-interventionist for several years: it has frequently declared that the value of the metical should be determined by the laws of supply and demand.

Since 1996, the metical has been a remarkably stable currency. But for several months now, it has been clear that devaluation against the dollar, once just a gentle slide, has been picking up speed, and the January figures are a cause for concern.

On the official exchange market, the metical started the year at 13,300 to the dollar. On 28 January, the figure was 13,500, a fall of about 1.5 per cent.

But on the (illegal) parallel exchange market the fall was sharper - from about 13,900 to 14,200 to the dollar, a devaluation of 2.1 per cent. The difference between the official and the parallel rates is now 5.2 per cent, considerably higher than the Bank of Mozambique had hoped. Cited in a recent issue of the daily newsheet *Metical*, one of the central bank's administrators, Antonio Pinto de Abreu, said that a devaluation of over one percent in a single month was ex-

## Zimbabwe poll for April

Campaigning for parliamentary elections in Zimbabwe scheduled for April this year, got underway with the real race being between the ruling Zimbabwe African National Unity - Patriotic Front (Zanu-PF) and the newly formed labour-based Movement for Democratic Change (MDC).

President Mugabe launched Zanu-PF's election campaign with a promise to introduce measures to prevent further collapse of the Zimbabwe dollar, speed up the land acquisition programme and drive the economy out of its current problems.

Mugabe said the current foreign exchange shortage was "artificial" and had been caused by exporters banking their money in foreign banks. He also blamed the current fuel shortage on the commercial farmers whom he said are hoarding, and the former management of the oil parastatal, Noczim, under investigation for massive corruption.

On the other hand, MDC is promising better macro-economic management, a smaller but efficient civil service and no military involvement in other countries, which they say has drained the country of much-needed foreign currency.

A referendum to decide on the new draft constitution, which at the time of writing was scheduled for 12 and 13 February, will provide a warm-up to the legislative election. The presidential election is scheduled for 2002. □

cessively high, and that the "spread" between official and parallel rates should be around two per cent.

Pinto de Abreu said the metical had come under pressure from several directions, including the strength of the American economy and hence of the US dollar, and the decision of the South African Reserve Bank to align the rand to the dollar, rather than let the rand depreciate still further. Additional factors were the political uncertainty that had surrounded the December general elections, and the annual drain on the country's foreign currency caused by the Moslem pilgrimage to Mecca. (AIM) □

# Global Environment Outlook 2000 Report

by Munyaradzi Chenje

The state of the terrestrial, fresh water and marine environments in the SADC region and the rest of Africa has declined over the past 100 years, according to the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-2000) report.

The report, published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) together with more than 20 collaborating centres worldwide, says environmental degradation and resource depletion have escalated particularly over the past three decades due to the cumulative impacts of rapid growth in population, intensive agriculture, urbanisation and industrialisation.

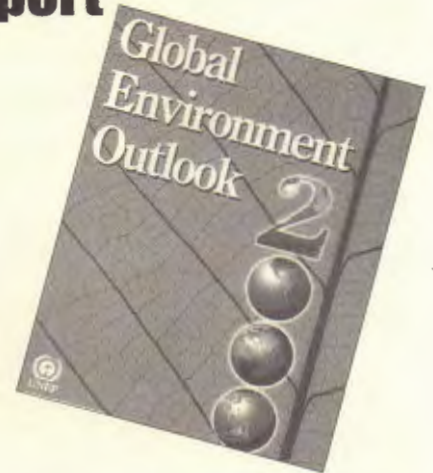
The Southern African Research and Documentation Centre-Musokotwane Environment Centre for Southern Afri-

ca (SARDC-IMERCSA), one of the collaborating centres, coordinated the research and writing of the sections for east and southern Africa.

The priority list of environmental challenges includes land degradation, deforestation, declining biodiversity and marine resources, water scarcity, and deteriorating water and air quality, says the report.

In Southern Africa, for example, increased livestock has caused escalating land degradation over the past decade. Overgrazing causes more than half the soil degradation in SADC, says the GEO-2000 report.

The report also says a major reason for these adverse environmental trends in Africa is that most people and countries are poor. Poverty is both a cause and a consequence of environmental degradation.



However, the main cause of many environmental problems is the persistence of economic, agricultural, energy, industrial and other sectoral policies, which largely neglect and fail to avoid harmful impacts on the environment and natural resource base. □

## Recent publications and acquisitions

*SADC Sector Reports on Culture and Information; Employment and Labour; Energy; Environment and Land Management; Finance and Investment; Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources; Health; Human Resources Development; Industry and Trade; Transport, Communications and Meteorology, Tourism; and Water*

—SADC. - 2000

Available from: SADC Secretariat, P Bag 0095, Gaborone or Sector Coordinating Units

*SADC Summit 1999: Brochure*

—SADC. - 1999

Available from SADC Secretariat

*Payment Systems in the Southern African Development Community*

—Bank for International Settlements. - 1999

Available from the Bank for International Settlements, Information, Press and Library Services, CH-4002 Basel, Switzerland

*Managing Water Points and Grazing Areas in Namibia: Erongo*

—Irving, Tani Forbes and Ward, Viv. - 1999

Available from Desert Research Foundation of Namibia, PO Box 20232, Wind-

hoek, Namibia

*State of the Environment in South Africa: an Overview*

—Ballance, Anna and King, Nick. - 1999

Available from Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, P. Bag X447, Pretoria 0001, South Africa

*AFRA 20 years in the Land Struggle 1979 - 1999*

—Harley, Anne and Fotheringham, Romy. - 1999

Available from Association for Rural Advancement, PO Box 2517, Pietermaritzburg 3200, South Africa

*The State of the World 1999*

—Brown, R. Lester; Flavin, Christopher and Frech, Hilary. - 1999

Available from W. W. Norton Company, 500 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10110

*Co-managing the Commons: Setting the Stage in Mali and Zambia*

—Hilhorst, Thea and Aarnink, Nettie. - 1999

Available from Royal Tropical Institute (RTI), PO Box 95001, 1090 HA Amsterdam, The Netherlands

*Civil Society's Perspective on Land Reforms in Zimbabwe: Some Key Suggestions from a Survey*

—Marongwe, Nelson. - 1999

Available from ZERO - Regional Environment Organisation, 158 Fife Avenue, Greenwood Park, PO Box 5338, Harare, Zimbabwe

*Empowering National and Regional Gender Machineries: African - European Cooperation on the Beijing Mandate.*

—AWEPA. - 1999

Available from Prins Hendrikkade 48, 1012 AC Amsterdam, The Netherlands. or Plein Park Building, 16th Floor, Plein Street. Cape Town 8001.

*A Quick Guide to Using Gender - Sensitive Indicators: a Reference Manual for Governments and Other Stakeholders.*

—Beck, Tony. - 1999

Available from Commonwealth Secretariat, Malborough House, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HX, United Kingdom.

*South Africa Survey 1999/2000: Millennium Edition*

—Forgey, Herma [..et al]. - 1999

Available from South African Institute of Race Relations, Auden House, PO Box 31044, Braamfontein, Johannesburg, 2017 South Africa.

**SADC diary**

2000		Event	Venue
February	10-11	Sub-Committee of Finance	Mbabane, Swaziland
	12-13	Standing Committee of Senior Officials meeting	Mbabane, Swaziland
	14-15	Finance Committee Meeting	Mbabane, Swaziland
	17-19	Council of Ministers Meeting	Mbabane, Swaziland
	20-22	Consultative Conference	
		Sectoral Working Groups	Mbabane, Swaziland
	22-23	AFRITEL 2000-Moving Beyond Basic Telephony	Cape Town, South Africa
March	27-28	African Solutions: Towards Sustainable Urban Development	Pretoria, South Africa
April	13-21	Developing a Strategic Five Year Plan for the SADC Parliamentary Forum	Cape Town, South Africa

**Currency checklist**

Country	Currency	(US\$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 lewi)	254.13
Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	4.60
D.R.C	Congo Franc	134.400
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	6.14
Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	44.34
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	25.42
Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	12835
Namibia	Dollar (100 cents)	6.12
Seychelles	Rupee (100 cents)	28.40
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	6.14
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	6.14
Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	700
Zambia	Kwacha (100 ngwee)	2527
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 cents)	38.52

Source: Standard Chartered Bank Zimbabwe Ltd, 4 February 2000

**Public Holidays in SADC for the period January - March 2000**

Date	Holiday	Country
1 January	New Year's Day	All SADC countries
2 January	Public Holiday	Mauritius
3 January	Public Holiday	Botswana, Malawi
4 January	Martyrs Day of Colonial Oppression	Angola
12 January	Zanzibar Revolutionary Day	Tanzania
15 January	John Chilembwe Day	Malawi
28 January	Chinese Spring Festival	Mauritius
3 February	Heroes' Day	Mozambique
4 February	Beginning of Armed Struggle Day and Carnival Day	Angola
10 February	Thaiposam Cavadee	Mauritius
25 February	Maha Shivaratee Day	Mauritius
3 March	Martyrs' Day	Malawi
8 March	International Women Day	Angola
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
29 March	Ougadi	Mauritius