



THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY TODAY



SADC Today, Vol 9 No 3 August 2006

INSIDE...



SADC region reaps peace dividend

by Joseph Ngwawi

AN UNPRECEDENTED peaceful and stable environment in southern Africa signals new opportunities for a region that has witnessed successive conflicts for the greater part of the last 50 years.

For the first time since the late 1940s when South Africa consolidated its then policy of apartheid and African nationalism gave birth to liberation movements in most SADC Member States, southern Africa is enjoying relative peace, political stability and security.

Lasting peace has returned to Namibia after independence in 1990, to Mozambique following the signing of the 1992 peace accord that ended 16 years of civil war, and to South Africa after majority rule and the end of the apartheid system in 1994.

The guns have fallen silent in Angola while small pockets of armed insurgents periodically disturb the generally peaceful and tranquil environment in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Guided by the Strategic Indicative Plan of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation (SIPO) - the region's 15-year blueprint on political and security matters - SADC has been undertaking various actions aimed at contributing to the maintenance and consolidation of peace and security.

Structures have been designed to make the initiatives to preserve peace and security more effective.

Implementation of SIPO is divided into four main sectors: political, defence, state security and public security.

Judging by the outcomes of elections held in the past two years, the regional political situation is characterised by an acceptance of political pluralism.

Regional cooperation in the political sector builds on strong historical ties among Member States, and a number of structures have been created to facilitate regional integration and defence cooperation.

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SADC region reaps peace dividend

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One such structure is the Inter-State Politics and Diplomacy Committee (ISPDC), comprising the ministers of foreign affairs from SADC Member States.

At its annual meeting in Namibia in June, the ISPDC observed that the region generally remained politically stable and peaceful, and that the international environment was favourable towards the region with regard to the flow of public and private investment.

The real prize of peace and stability in the region is the consolidation of current macroeconomic successes enjoyed by Member States.

The return to sustainable peace to Angola, DRC, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa has strengthened their ability to effectively exploit the vast mineral and other resources at their disposal, and to develop policies for the provision of social services and eradication of poverty.

In the case of the DRC, the country is home to one of the world's largest deposits of diamonds, copper and cobalt. DRC (then Zaire) was the fourth largest producer of industrial diamonds in the 1980s and the mineral continues to account for over half of its annual exports.

The DRC also has vast untapped agricultural capacity and could be the next food-basket of Africa, if the current peace process can be sustained.

Straddling the equator and spanning two tropical zones, its climate favours the cultivation of a wide range of tropical and sub-tropical crops. More than half of the DRC's land is arable and suitable for farming but currently just a fraction is being utilised.

Angola, too, has vast agricultural potential and is beginning to

reap a peace dividend from the stability now existing in the country.

Petrol-dollars have fuelled a restoration boom in the country torn by 27 years of civil war that ended in 2002, and donors and investors are also helping with reconstruction, especially of roads, railways and housing.

Angola is the second largest producer of crude oil in sub-Saharan Africa after Nigeria and pumps 1.4 million barrels a day, a figure the government sees rising to two million barrels per day by the end of 2007.

Since the end of the civil war in 1992, Mozambique's economy has grown on the back of economic reforms and infrastructural developments. It registered average Gross Domestic Product growth of about eight percent a year from 1995 to 2004, with the government and International

Monetary Fund forecasting 7.9 percent growth in 2006.

Namibia has also enjoyed the benefits of peace and stability since its independence 16 years ago.

The mining sector is the traditional backbone of the economy and generates the biggest share of Namibia's foreign-exchange earnings. Namibia is the world's fifth-largest producer of uranium and has large deposits of diamonds.

It has contributed significantly to regional integration and hosts the SADC Parliamentary Forum and the SADC Tribunal.

The fall of apartheid in South Africa opened up enormous opportunities for the region, putting behind a lengthy period of economic and military destabilisation.

The new South Africa has been a major regional and inter-

national player in conflict resolution efforts and plays host to the Pan African Parliament (PAP) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) among other continental bodies. PAP and NEPAD are two of the most important institutions of the African Union.

Another dividend from the return to multiracial democracy in South Africa has been its ability to host major international events such as the Rugby World Cup in 1995, the soccer African Cup of Nations in 1996 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002.

The country will host the 2010 FIFA World Cup, the first time such an event will be held in Africa. The World Cup is going to attract international attention to the SADC region, with spin-off benefits for all the Member States.

Region excels in peacekeeping

SADC HAS strengthened its peace support capacity by building a standby army whose role will be to provide peacekeeping duties in times of conflict.

A total of 1,330 peacekeepers have been trained at the Harare-based Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (RPTC) since its establishment in 1995.

The target is to have a 4,000-5,000 strong regional standby force by 2010 that will respond to requests for peacekeeping duties in the SADC region or in other parts of the world.

Besides training army personnel, the RPTC also trains civilians who have an important role in peace support missions where they facilitate the smooth transition from war situations to peace.

They provide the necessary support services to military personnel and lay the groundwork for the establishment of crucial

infrastructure to ensure a smooth return to peace.

"Civilians are key in peace support missions because they manage the political and humanitarian offices and their role is to advise other players on how to handle the whole process," said Joe Muzvidziwa, director of RPTC.

Since 1991, SADC troops have contributed to more than 15 peacekeeping missions within and outside Africa.

Zimbabwe has been offering training to the region on peacekeeping duties since 1995. Previously, the centre was a facility for the Zimbabwean government and was transformed into a regional training centre when the Danish government funded the construction of the centre following a request from SADC Member States.

The formation of a stand-by force is in line with the African

Union Commission's Article 13 on stand-by armies, which requires that each of the five African regions should have a minimum of 4,000 peacekeepers.

Namibian ambassador to Zimbabwe, Kakena Nangula, speaking at the college graduation ceremony in March, said the creation of the standby force was a crucial condition for the attainment of deeper regional integration and cooperation as well as the spirit of "prosper thy neighbour".

"It is only when we are united and speak with one voice that our region can participate in global debates and other activities from a position of strength," she said.

Namibia chairs the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation which deals with issues such as peacekeeping and conflict prevention.



Countries urged to decide on multiple membership

SADC MEMBER States have been urged to resolve the question of multiple membership as the region moves towards establishing a Customs Union by 2010.

Several SADC countries belong to other economic blocs with different trade arrangements which presents challenges because legally no country can belong to more than one customs union.

"By 2010, SADC's own Customs Union will be in place and each country has to choose where it wants to belong. The ICM has thus urged the Member States to submit their positions to the Secretariat on this issue," said SADC Executive Secretary, Tomaz Augusto Salomão, at the end of the two-day Integrated Committee of Ministers (ICM) meeting held in South Africa in June.

Overlaps exist in the membership of SADC, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), South African Customs Union, East African Community and the Regional Integration Facilitation Forum (RIFF).

RIFF is a voluntary and non-binding arrangement under which participating countries implement measures aimed at facilitating the flow of investment into their economies and across the region.

Not only do the RIFF measures mirror those called for under the SADC and COMESA treaties, but also several elements of the programmes already on the agenda of other sub-regional organizations.

It is made up of 14 countries – Burundi, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The ICM requested ministers of trade to submit recommendations on overlapping trading arrangements to the Council of Ministers meeting in August 2006.

Six countries – who are members of both SADC and COMESA – are currently negotiating, outside the SADC configuration, on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the European Union.

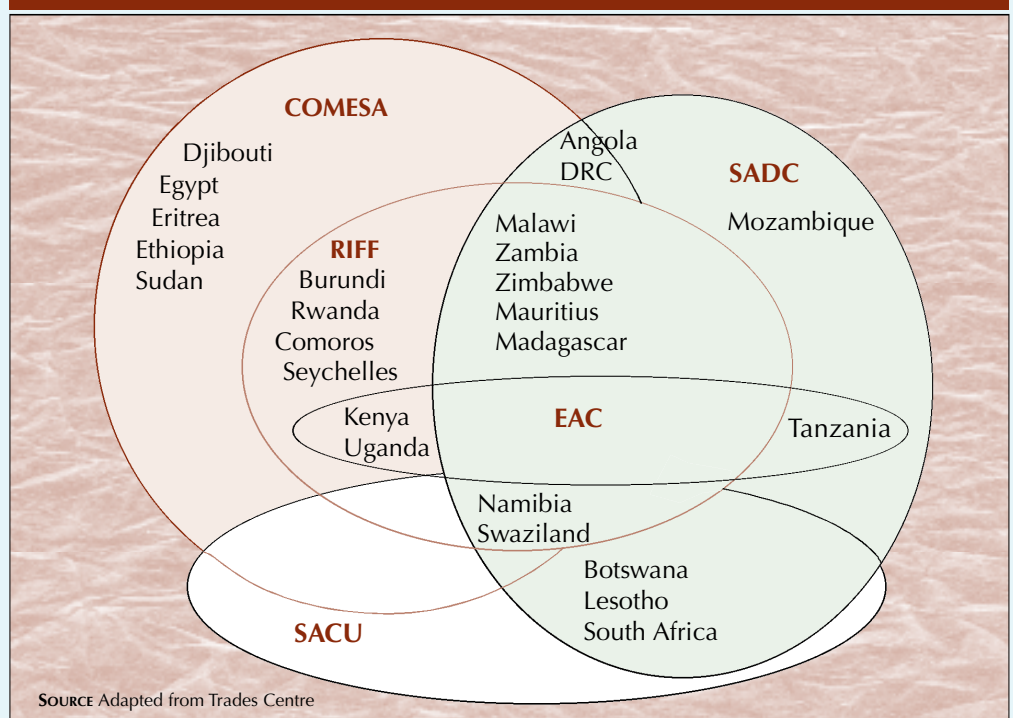
The countries – DRC, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Zambia and Zimbabwe – are negotiating under the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) banner.

Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swazi-

land and the United Republic of Tanzania are negotiating as SADC.

South Africa participates as an observer after having concluded its own trade agreement with the EU in the late 1990s.

Regional trading blocs in east and southern Africa



Visa-free entry for key tourist source countries by 2008

THE REGIONAL Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa (RETOSA), a SADC institution responsible for promoting the region's tourism sector, is aiming for visa exemption for citizens travelling between southern African states, as well as introduction of the SADC UniVisa for visitors from key source markets, by the end of 2008.

This was the recommendation of a meeting of SADC tourism stakeholders in Swaziland in May, which discussed the findings of a study on the implications of a SADC UniVisa and visa exemption.

According to RETOSA, the tourism stakeholders agreed that visa exemptions should apply to key source markets for the SADC region.

Countries not listed as key source markets would be on the UniVisa system, allowing them to travel throughout the entire SADC region with only one visa, said RETOSA.

Visa exemptions for SADC citizens were also discussed at the Swaziland meeting and it was agreed that this should be the number one priority. About three-quarters of Member States are already exempting

citizens of some fellow SADC countries.

The SADC Integrated Committee of Ministers (ICM), which met in South Africa in June, noted that this region continues to achieve a low global market share in tourism due to low arrivals from global source markets caused by impediments such as visa restrictions.

The ICM resolved that the SADC ministers responsible for tourism should meet soon to finalise the modalities for the UniVisa implementation, in consultation with key stakeholders.

China, India become major trading partners for Africa

SADC IS poised to benefit from the commodities boom triggered by Chinese and Indian demand and is set to cement existing relations with these new economic powerhouses.

Political and business leaders from the region and other parts of Africa, meeting in South Africa for the World Economic Forum on Africa in June, agreed on the need to establish a new partnership with China and India so that they contribute to the continent's development.

Widely seen as the "new centres of economic power", China and India have emerged as Africa's major trading partners in the past five years.

The rapid economic growth of China and India has boosted their ties with Africa, and the continent's trade with the two countries has tripled in just five years. Investment and aid have also increased.

Tanzanian president, Jakaya Kikwete, described the Asian countries as models for change that can significantly contribute to Africa's transformation.

"They give Africa hope that it is possible to transform our nations from abject poverty and put them on a development path. One day, with the right policies and the right actions, we too can get there," said Kikwete.

China and India have emerged from underdevelopment and widespread poverty to become economic giants.

On a practical level, they can contribute to Africa's development by providing markets for African goods, as well as through being inexpensive sources for technology and medicine.

Mandisi Mphahla, South Africa's Minister of Trade and Industry, said the "new centres of economic power" under-

stand the issues that Africa is grappling with.

"They have the experience of similar conditions, such as huge numbers of African people whose livelihoods depend on agriculture. That is very different from the developed world," said Mphahla.

Trade between China and Africa has more than trebled since 2000, rising from US\$10 billion in 2000 to US\$35 billion in 2005.

Chinese investment in Africa is also growing fast, with some 800 Chinese firms doing business on the continent.

China's appetite for raw materials is helping to push African economies to their fastest growth in three decades. Chinese-made products have provided cheaper options for African consumers.

Much of China's African trade and investment is energy-related. Once the biggest oil exporter in Asia, China became a

net importer of oil in 1993 as domestic demand grew and local production of crude oil declined.

It imports more than 40 percent of its oil requirements and about 25 percent of that is from Africa. China has oil investments in Angola, Sudan, Nigeria, Chad, Algeria, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea.

India has also been actively promoting trade with Africa in recent years. To boost the country's trade with the Sub-Saharan African region, the Indian government launched the "Focus: Africa" programme covering the period 2002-07.

Target countries identified during the first phase of the programme include Mauritius, Kenya and Ethiopia, but this has been expanding to include more countries.

India provides financial assistance to various trade promotion organisations, export pro-

motion councils and apex chambers in the form of market development assistance under the "Focus: Africa" programme.

Indian carmaker, Tata Motors, has made significant inroads into South Africa's lucrative vehicle industry.

Through the SADC-India Forum, southern Africa and India have resolved to work together in the areas of agriculture, promotion of small and medium scale industries, drugs and pharmaceuticals, human resources development, water resources management, and information and communications technology.

The first session of the forum was held in Windhoek, Namibia, in April.

A SADC-India Business Forum to spearhead promotion of trade and investment on both sides was proposed during the Windhoek meeting.

One-stop border concept for SADC

BEITBRIDGE AND Chirundu border posts have been selected for the pilot phase of the SADC one-stop border initiative that aims to facilitate trade and free movement of persons between Member States.

At present people travelling from South Africa to Zimbabwe

and vice versa have to complete immigration formalities on either side of the Beitbridge Border Post. The same applies to travellers between Zimbabwe and Zambia who have to be cleared on either side of Chirundu Border Post.

Under the initiative, travellers would be cleared just

once for passage into another country.

The project is meant to harmonise customs and immigration procedures at border points within the SADC region.

Delays are often encountered at border posts in the region due to duplication of work, and the purpose of the one-stop border initiative is to remove the barriers to trade through improvement of operational procedures.

The initiative will require the harmonisation of the customs and immigration procedures of South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It will go a long way in improving efficiency and decongesting the two border posts, considered to be among sub-Saharan Africa's busiest ports of entry.



One-stop border post to facilitate trade and free movement of people in SADC.

Food security in southern Africa

More investment needed for irrigation

by Tigere Chagutah

SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS has been made in strengthening southern Africa's capacity to feed itself despite indications that investment in agriculture is declining.

A review of progress in agriculture and food security by the SADC Integrated Committee of Ministers (ICM) in June revealed that although the overall cereal deficit in the region has increased this year, food security for most Member States has improved compared to last year. Speaking after the ICM in South Africa, SADC Executive Secretary, Tomaz Augusto Salomão said the increase in the deficit was due to a substantial reduction in maize production in South Africa.

However, some countries such as Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia, have reported surplus maize production while Namibia, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe have recorded significant increases in production.

Maize is the major cereal crop in southern Africa. The other cereal crops include wheat, barley, rice, sorghum and millet.

Production of cassava also improved with 22.03 million tonnes expected in 2006, up 19 percent from last years' production of 18.47 million tonnes

Attributing the improved food situation to the implementation of the Dar es Salaam Declaration, and improved rainfall in the 2005/2006 season, the SADC ICM noted that the region is likely to require less humanitarian assistance.

The region has recently experienced highly erratic rainfall patterns which have negatively affected agricultural production and regional food security.

In addition, as the SADC Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) says, the last three decades have seen a decline in financing inflows into agricultural development from the public, private and donor sectors.

"The most significant decline was in multilateral aid to African agriculture," says FANR in a document on sustainable food security prepared for the SADC Consultative Conference held in Namibia in April.



The last 30 years have seen a decline in financing inflows into agricultural development from public, private and donor sectors.

Perennial food shortages prompted SADC leaders to call an extraordinary summit in 2004, whose main outcome was the Dar es Salaam Declaration. The document is a framework of short, medium and long term measures needed to improve food security in the region.

A communiqué issued after the FANR Cluster Ministers meeting held in South Africa in April to review progress on the implementation of the Dar es Salaam Declaration noted that, although some progress has been made in improving the availability and accessibility of key agricultural inputs such as improved seed and fertilizers to small-scale farmers, declining

investment and national budgetary allocations to agriculture remain a major concern.

In Zambia, budgetary allocation to agriculture was a mere two percent in 2001, rising to seven percent in 2004, before declining to about four percent in 2005, according to a presentation on Resource Allocation for Agriculture by Jones Govere of the Food Security Research Project.

In the United Republic of Tanzania, there has been a gradual decline in public sector in-

In a region that experiences persistent droughts, irrigation has been cited as the long term solution to ensuring food security. FANR has been working with partners such as the African Development Bank and the government of India to promote the adoption of simple and cost-effective irrigation and water harvesting technologies.

These technologies include treadle and motorised pumps, water tanks, canals and pipes to draw water from streams.

During the post ICM media briefing in June, Salomão said development of the SADC Water Management for Food Security Programme is at an advanced stage.

It is expected to bolster regional food security and production by improving water use efficiency and management.

SADC aims to double cropland under irrigation, which currently stands at only 3.5 percent of total cultivated land.

Malawi has 62,000 hectares under irrigation out of a total irrigation potential of 400,000 ha, while Zambia has developed 100,000 ha out of a possible 423,000 ha.

Zimbabwe irrigates 150,000 ha out of a potential 400,000 ha, Swaziland 49,860 out of 90,000 ha while the United Republic of Tanzania has 200,000 ha under irrigation.

To further improve crop production, the FANR Directorate has initiated the implementation of a regional Seed Harmonisation Policy to promote seed multiplication through irrigation, contract farming, on-farm seed production and biotechnology.

The policy also promotes private sector participation in seed production and distribution as well as production and marketing of quality indigenous seed varieties.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Elections a major step toward reconciliation and reconstruction

THE SUCCESSFUL elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on 30 July are a major step toward national reconciliation and reconstruction.

Final poll results are expected to be announced by the Supreme Court before 31 August, with the inauguration of the president-elect provisionally set for 10 September.

In the event that there is no clear winner from the 30 July presidential poll, the inauguration would be postponed to 10 December, after a second round of voting to determine the winner.

DRC law requires that the winner of the presidential election garners at least 50 percent of the votes to avoid a run-off.

The chairperson of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), Apollinaire Malu Malu, said the management of the electoral process went according to plan.

Over 25.6 million people were eligible to vote in the first democratic elections since the DRC attained independence in 1960.

The polls were contested by 33 presidential candidates, including five women. More than 9,700 parliamentary candidates contested 500 legislative seats.

The elections attracted a lot of attention from various international organisations, which sent teams to observe the elections. There were over 4,000 national and 1,500 international observers to monitor the process. More than 70 international journalists were on the ground, covering the elections.

SADC sent a 200-member observer team led by John Pandeni, Namibia's Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development.

In a preliminary statement issued after the polls, the SADC team described the elections as "peaceful, credible, well managed and transparent."

"Despite the complexity of the process in a country emerging from armed conflict and a long transition coupled with resource and infrastructure constraints, the people of Democratic Republic of the Congo have expressed their will in an impressive manner that will remain in the annals of history of not only of the people of Congo but also of Africa and the world as whole," said SADC.



The SADC Election Observer Mission is guided by the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections.

Under the guidelines, SADC Member States have agreed to guarantee the full participation of all citizens in their country's political processes.

This includes, among others, the need for political tolerance; regular intervals for elections as provided for by the respective national Constitutions; equal opportunity for all political parties to access the state media; and equal opportunity to exercise the right to vote and be voted for.

Other countries where these guidelines have been applied are

Mauritius, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Among other organisations that sent observer teams to the DRC were the African Union (AU), the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) and the European Union.

"I congratulate the Congolese people for their patience, courage and faith in the future which they have demonstrated throughout the long years of war experienced by the DRC as well as during the three years of political transition," said Alpha Omar Konare, AU commission chairperson.

The southern African region hopes to extract immense benefits from the vast central African country, which boasts of rich diamond fields and a vast market for trade and investment.

With a population of 60 million people, the DRC is set to provide the much-needed market to benefit the rest of the SADC region.

The DRC has vast untapped agricultural capacity and could be the next food-basket of Africa, only if current peace holds.

Straddling the equator and spanning two tropical zones, its climate favours the cultivation of a wide range of tropical and Mediterranean crops. More than half of the DRC's land is arable and suitable for farming but currently just a fraction is being utilised.

The landmark election has resulted from several peace-building initiatives, culminating in the 18 December 2005 referendum that embraced changes to the national Constitution.

Through the referendum, the Congolese decided that elections should take place in 2006 to elect a popular government.

The holding of the elections was postponed several times this year to allow the IEC time to prepare for the polls.

Preparations were hampered by unforeseen hurdles mostly to do with the immense size of the country, coupled with the poor state of the communications infrastructure.

South Africa assisted by providing material and logistical support in the run-up to the polls. It contributed material for printing the ballot papers and assisted in the distribution of voting papers to 14 hubs across the country.

Lesotho

Country driven by a shared national vision

"BY 2020, Lesotho shall be a stable democracy, united, prosperous nation at peace with itself and its neighbours. It shall have a healthy and well-developed human resource base. Its economy will be strong, its environment well-managed and its technology well established."

This is the vision statement that has been the rallying point for all Basotho since 2004 and is expected to guide the development agenda of this kingdom of just over two million people up to 2020.

The Vision 2020 was the culmination of wide national consultations that started in 2000. Inspired by the Basotho values of peace, unity, tolerance, self-respect, order and sharing, the Vision 2020 blueprint was officially endorsed as representing the developmental aspirations of the Basotho in 2004.

It is envisaged that by the year 2020, Lesotho shall be a stable democracy where the principles of good governance will be anchored on the respect for human rights, the rule of law, political openness, political participation and tolerance.

This form of governance will be based on five pillars of democracy that encompass: supremacy of the will of people, transparency, a devoted and efficient public service, justice for all and efficient chieftainship.

Changes to the country's electoral system, from First Past The Post (FPTP) to Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) representation, and the restructuring of the defence forces in the past few years have substantially improved the political environment.

The Vision 2020 programme also envisages that Basotho shall be a united nation with cherished norms and values that will

enhance a sense of belonging, identity, and pride in every citizen.

The long-term national vision foresees a prosperous Lesotho, with a robust economy whose performance will be underpinned by good economic policies. Its vibrant economy with a strong industrial base will fully exploit the potential for locally available natural resources.

The country's key textile and clothing industry, which has not been performing well since 2005, is showing signs of recovering from the slump caused by the removal of privileges into the lucrative European and American markets.

Lesotho's single largest employer, the textile industry has made a remarkable comeback, with several factories that were closed being reopened. The number of jobs which had shrunk from just more than 50,000 to below 40,000 over the past two years, has climbed back to around 47,000.

Lesotho was one of the victims of the 2005 phase-out of the 30-year-old Multi-Fibre Agreement that protected smaller textile industries in developing countries by insulating them from Chinese competition.

The phase-out, courtesy of a World Trade Organisation rul-

ing, opened the United States and European markets to market forces, which allowed Chinese textile and clothing companies to export to these markets.

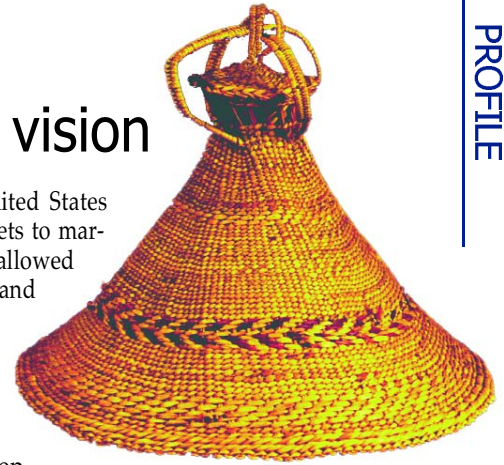
Lesotho has also set its sights on deepening its cooperation with other countries in the areas of trade, investment and economic advancement as part of the Vision 2020 strategy.

One of the areas it has been deepening its cooperation is tourism where the country has just developed a strategy to take advantage of South Africa's hosting of the soccer World Cup in 2010.

One of the measures proposed by the Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation is the establishment of an "African Pavilion" during the tournament at which southern African culture will be showcased through handicrafts and works of arts.

The corporation has also set its sight on improving existing and developing new infrastructure ahead of the World Cup as well as an improvement of facilities at the country's border posts.

The country has set out to improve its education system,



with emphasis on the improvement of quality, efficiency and effectiveness. The target is to ultimately achieve universal primary education and to improve access to early secondary education while securing high quality and performance standards.

Lesotho also hopes to have met all international environmental standards by 2020. The Basotho people will be empowered in designing and managing biodiversity conservation projects relevant to their own communities and environmental education will be integrated at all levels of learning.

Culture plays a crucial role in the lives of the Basotho and it is hoped that by 2020 all the country's citizens will share common goals based on their heritage. They will also continue to show respect for their national symbols such as the national anthem and flag.

The target is to create a country characterised by sustained political stability, political tolerance and peaceful coexistence among its people and with its neighbours.

It is further envisaged that Basotho shall be a healthy nation with a well-developed human resource base. The country will have a good quality health system with facilities and infrastructure accessible and affordable to all Basotho, irrespective of income, disabilities, and geographical location and wealth. (*Lesotho Government on-line*)



Textile and clothing industry, the largest employer in Lesotho (Left); King Letsie III



Integrated Committee of Ministers sets priorities

THE INTEGRATED Committee of Ministers (ICM) is one of the new institutions established in the restructuring of SADC, to ensure the smooth implementation of regional programmes and projects.

The role of ICM is to ensure proper policy guidance and coordination of cross-sectoral activities. That mandate involves the review of the activities of SADC directorates to ensure rapid implementation of programmes.

The ICM meets once a year to review progress. The 2006 meeting was held in South Africa in June, during which the ministers reviewed the implementation of 2005/2006 priorities of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and of last year's ICM decisions.

Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan

Successful implementation of the RISDP holds the key to the attainment of regional integration objectives. Member States were urged to mainstream the RISDP into their national development plans and the ICM resolved to recommend to the Council of Ministers in August to approve the introduction of a Policy and Planning element in the structures of priority directorates.

This will strengthen the capacity of directorates for operational planning, monitoring and reporting.

The RISDP has broad targets and priorities, five of which have been identified for immediate implementation. These are in the areas of:

- peace, security and democracy;
- trade and economic liberalisation;
- infrastructure and services development;
- human and social imperatives, such as HIV and AIDS and food security; and,
- cross-cutting issues with a critical bearing on these core integration areas.

The ICM approved and adopted cluster reports on the implementation of programmes and activities, including priorities for the next financial year.

Challenges faced in the implementation of regional programmes

include inadequate human resources capacity for the directorates as some senior positions are still to be filled, while others remain frozen due to budgetary constraints.



Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment

Member States plan to expedite the decision on the extension of an agreement on textiles between the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) countries and Malawi, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia (MMTZ) due to end in July.

The agreement, known as the SACU-MMTZ Textiles and Clothing Quota Arrangement, allows duty-free access for MMTZ textiles and clothing exports into SACU countries.

The SACU-MMTZ Textiles and Clothing Quota Arrangement is in line with the implementation of the SADC Trade Protocol, which came into force in 2000, paving the way for the creation of a free trade area in SADC over an eight-year period.

The MMTZ countries have for the past five years been able to export their clothing and textile products to the SACU region on the basis of what is termed a

“single stage transformation” rule of origin.

This rule is used to ensure that Member States at least add a certain minimum value of local content to imported products before they can re-export to other SADC countries.

The actual quotas vary on the basis of current production capacity and the arrangement was in place for a period of five years commencing 1 August 2001.

SACU comprises Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland and South Africa. Its members

ministers of trade and finance from selected Member States whose role will be to spearhead activities leading to the formation of the SADC Customs Union by 2010.



Social and Human Development and Special Programmes

There are plans to improve interventions on combating communicable and non-communicable diseases.

This will involve improvement of the coordination and facilitation of programmes on the prevention and control of major communicable and non-communicable diseases, including traumas and accidents, and the development of a regional strategy to accelerate HIV and AIDS prevention in all Member States.

Of particular concern is the limited progress made in reducing incidence of tuberculosis despite having been declared TB an emergency in Africa, including the SADC region.

Ministers attending the ICM noted that the Cluster on Social and Human Development continued to face the problem of limited policy guidance and direction at the ministerial level, especially in the areas of labour and employment, culture, information and sports.

The ICM endorsed the Human and Social Develop-

ities for SADC 2006/07

ment and Special Programmes Directorate's business plan and priorities for 2007/08, as well as actions that would address some of these challenges and constraints and facilitate effective implementation of the RISDP.

Identified priorities include coordination and implementation of business plans for the protocols on health and education and training; strengthening of national quality assurance systems within the context of the Regional Qualifications Frameworks; and implementation of the SADC/African Development Bank project on open and distance learning.



Infrastructure and Services

The Infrastructure and Services Directorate facilitates programmes that promote access to transport, communications, energy, water and tourism by rural communities, and seeks to promote community participation in the mainstream business as a vehicle for poverty reduction and attainment of Millennium Development Goal targets.

Projects that the directorate is undertaking include the following.

WESTCOR

Western Corridor Project (WESTCOR) is a regional project conceived through the com-

bined initiative of the SADC Secretariat and the power utilities of Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Namibia and South Africa. There are plans to include other SADC countries.

The project intends to exploit the hydroelectric energy of the Inga rapids on the Congo river in the DRC and will add about 3,500 megawatts of power to the regional grid. It will also develop associated telecommunications and transmission infrastructure in the western part of SADC.

The consortium has established an office in Gaborone, Botswana, and is in the process of mobilising resources to start the project by constructing power transmission lines to countries in need of energy.

Energy sector reforms

The ICM said Member States need to speed up reforms of their power utilities to improve access to electricity by rural communities and quicken the pace towards attainment of MDGs.

The meeting also directed the SADC Secretariat to facilitate the sharing of regional modalities for best practices regarding access, ownership, and financing options for rural electrification.

Under its rural electrification programme, the region has set a target of electrifying 70 percent of rural households by 2018.

In view of the fact that the majority of SADC's population lives in rural areas, an efficient and integrated infrastructure system - including access to electricity - will unleash the production potential of these communities and contribute to poverty eradication.

2010 promotion strategy

The SADC Secretariat and the Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa are formulating a tourism strategy to benefit from visitors to the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Member States are currently preparing proposals on how to benefit from the 2010 tournament. These include how the Member States can utilise the various Trans-frontier Conservation Parks that have been established.

Air transport

Significant progress has been made by the region in terms of institutional reforms aimed at facilitating implementation of the air transport liberalisation process in line with the SADC Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology.

Article 9.2 of the protocol requires SADC countries to implement gradual air transport liberalisation of intra-regional air transport markets for regional airlines.



Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources

The food security situation for most Member States has improved this year as compared to last year. However, the cereal

production for 2006 is expected to be lower than 2005.

Total regional cereal production for 2006 is assessed at 21.31 million tonnes, which is 15 percent lower than last year's production of 24.99 million tonnes. This is due to a substantial reduction in maize production in South Africa from 11.45 million tonnes in 2005 to the 2006 forecast of 6 million tonnes.

Regional maize harvest for 2006 is estimated at 15.78 million tonnes, representing a 20 percent decrease over last year's harvest of 19.74 million tonnes.

Other harvests are estimated at 2.82 million tonnes for wheat; 713,000 tonnes rice and 1.84 million tonnes for sorghum/millet.

Cassava production was up 19 percent over last year at 22.03 million tonnes. Only 18.47 million tonnes were produced in 2004/05.

Transboundary animal diseases

To avert the avian influenza, SADC has approved a ban on imports of poultry and poultry products and other birds from infected countries.

The ICM approved the ban in compliance with recommendations of the World Organisation for Animal Health.

The ICM also approved a five-year programme on strengthening institutions for risk management of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) which aims to enhance animal health through improved capacity for detection, identification, monitoring and surveillance of TADs in the region.

The programme is estimated at US\$21.86 million and the proposal was expected to be presented to the African Development Bank in July for funding.

Tanzania develops drought-resistant wheat variety

TANZANIAN SCIENTISTS have developed a new wheat variety which is high-yielding, matures fast and is drought-resistant.

Called Riziki, the wheat variety is the product of six years of trials and matures in only 90 days, yielding up to three tonnes a hectare.

The Riziki variety is also resistant to major fungal diseases affecting the crop, especially stem and leaf rust.

Richard Ndoni, principal agricultural research officer with the Arusha-based Selian Agricultural Research Institute, said the variety was suitable

for regions of the United Republic of Tanzania that normally receive marginal rainfall.

Released by the country's Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives early this year, the new wheat variety will prove successful in Hanang district, a major wheat growing

zone hit by drought in recent years.

Ndoni said four more wheat seed varieties will be released by the ministry before the end of this year. According to him, currently there are nine wheat seed varieties grown in the country. (*Arusha Times*)

Student develops mini-hydroelectric plant

A ZIMBABWEAN engineering student has invented a mini hydroelectric plant capable of generating electricity for irrigation.

According to Christopher Chinhongo, a student at the Harare Polytechnic, the mini plant is powered by water from a dam through pipes that force turbines, sprockets and the fly-wheel to turn as they generate electricity.

It is already in use in some villages in the Macheke resettlement area to the north-east of the capital, Harare.

The development of the mini power plant comes at a time southern Africa is facing electricity generation shortfalls, which are projected to worsen from 2007, unless new projects take off.

Rising demand for electricity caused by high economic growth and lack of investment in new generation capacity are blamed for the power shortage.

Zimbabwe has significant small hydropower potential, particularly in the Eastern Highlands. Feasibility studies that have been carried out show that there are a number of perennial rivers with sufficient capacity that can be tapped for mini hydro power development.

A United Nations Development Programme-sponsored study conducted in 1996 identified 12 potential hydro sites on irrigation dams and a further 32 run-of-river sites.

Potential also exists at many irrigation dams throughout Zimbabwe to develop small-scale hydroelectric projects to partially offset the energy importation requirements of the country.

Existing micro hydropower schemes include the Rusitu Pro-

ject in the Eastern Highlands, which is the country's first and only small hydropower plant to be developed as an independent public-private partnership and connected to the national grid. The 750 kilowatt (kW) project was commissioned in June 1997 and has been selling power to

the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority.

Claremont Hydropower Project, also in the Eastern Highlands, was one of the earliest private sector small hydro plants to be developed in Zimbabwe in 1962 with a capacity of 450kW.

Mozambique signs up for e-schools project



E-schools project, connecting young Africans.

MOZAMBIQUE HAS become the eighth African country - and the third from SADC - to sign up for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) e-schools programme.

The southern African country signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the NEPAD e-Africa Commission, Microsoft and HP to join Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Senegal, South Africa, Rwanda and Uganda as the only countries to sign up for the e-schools project.

The NEPAD e-schools project aims to equip young Africans with information and communication technology (ICT) skills to enable them to compete favourably in the information society and global economy.

First announced in 2003 at the Africa summit of the World Economic Forum in Durban, South Africa, the e-schools project focuses on providing ICT solutions that will connect schools across Africa to the NEPAD e-schools network and the Internet.

New antibiotic from South African soil

A GROUP of researchers says a new antibiotic found in South African soil could be the solution to two dangerous germs that are bedeviling hospitals.

The antibiotic is yet to be tested in humans and is years away from showing up on pharmacy shelves but the researchers said it has plenty of potential, especially since no other similar drugs have landed on the market since 2000.

They hope to use the antibiotic to fight several bacteria that have developed resistance against existing drugs. One is an infection known as methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), which can cause pneumonia in hospital settings and skin infections in the general population. Another is vancomycin-resistant enterococcus (VRE).

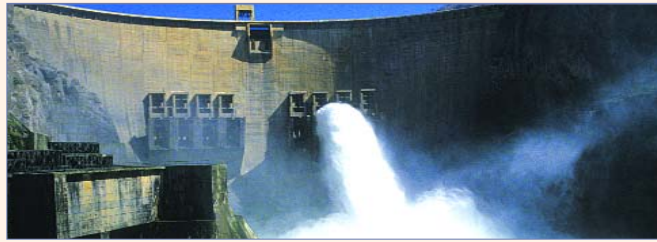
In mice, the antibiotic, known as platensimycin, destroyed both MRSA and VRE.

Cahora Bassa becomes a "technically complex issue"

NEGOTIATIONS TO finalise the deal allowing Portugal to sell the giant Cahora Bassa dam to Mozambique have stalled because Eurostat is yet to make a technical ruling on the impact of the deal on the Portuguese economy.

Eurostat is the European Union's statistical body whose responsibility is, among other things, to assess member states' public expenditure and national accounts.

The two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 2 November 2005 under which Mozambique would pay US\$950 million for an 85 percent controlling stake in Hydroelectric of Cahora Bassa (HCB), the company that operates the dam.



The Cahora Bassa, a major power supply in southern Africa.

Currently, Portugal holds 82 percent of the shares, while the remainder is held by Mozambique.

Mozambique would pay the amount in tranches, with the official handover initially scheduled for December.

President Armando Guebuza raised the issue after meeting Portugal's Prime Minister, José Socrates, during the Summit of the Community of Portuguese

Speaking Countries (CPLP) held on 18 July in Bissau, the capital of Guinéa Bissau.

"I did not negotiate with Eurostat or the European Union. I negotiated with Portugal and it is from that country that I await a response," he said.

Former Portuguese Prime Minister and current President of the European Commission, José Manuel Durão Barroso, has

told Guebuza that the sale of Cahora Bassa is "a technically complex issue" which will take "some time to solve".

Barroso stressed that Eurostat "is trying to determine whether this operation is compatible with the obligations assumed by Portugal under the convergence plan for budget deficit reduction."

Thermal power station planned for Swaziland

A PRIVATE company in Swaziland has announced plans to construct one of southern Africa's largest thermal power stations to contribute to easing the region's electricity shortages.

The power station is expected to produce about 3,500 megawatts (MW) of electricity.

Peter Canham, one of the project promoters, said the electricity to be produced will satisfy local demand while the surplus can be exported to other countries in the region.

"It will satisfy the local demand, as we will be facing shortages from next year when South Africa stops supplying the country," Canham said.

The project is worth over US\$1 billion and should provide about 15,000 jobs.

The Swaziland Electricity Board is carrying out a feasibility study on the project before construction can start.

Swaziland currently has an installed capacity of 51 MW and relies on South Africa for about 80 percent of its electricity.

Region woos investment for 2010

THREE SOUTHERN African countries that share the Limpopo Trans-Frontier Conservation Park are putting together investment incentives to spin benefits from South Africa's hosting of the soccer World Cup in 2010.

Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe agreed on a shared investment drive at a conference held on 28 July in Polokwane, South Africa.

The three countries are directly involved in the soccer fiesta through one of the 10 host stadiums - the Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane. The stadium is less than 300 kilometres from both Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

The Limpopo trans-frontier park is made up of South Africa's Kruger National Park, the Limpopo National Park in Mozambique, and Zimbabwe's Gonarezhou National Park.

The programme by the three countries is backed by a Master Plan launched by the SADC Council of Ministers in February

to develop a joint strategy to improve infrastructure ahead of the World Cup. The strategy is known as the Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas 2010 Soccer World Cup.

Local and foreign companies wishing to invest in the Limpopo region will be grant-

ed incentives ranging from tax relief to investment grants.

The Limpopo initiative is targeting US\$1.4 billion worth of investment and expects to create 5,000 jobs in the next three to five years with spin-off impact on the surrounding areas of Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Zeroes removed by Mozambique, Zimbabwe

MOZAMBIQUE AND Zimbabwe have removed three zeroes from the value of their money as part of currency reforms aimed at making business and other transactions manageable.

The Bank of Mozambique introduced a "new family" of metical banknotes on 1 July. The new notes bear the face of the country's first post-independence president, Samora Machel.

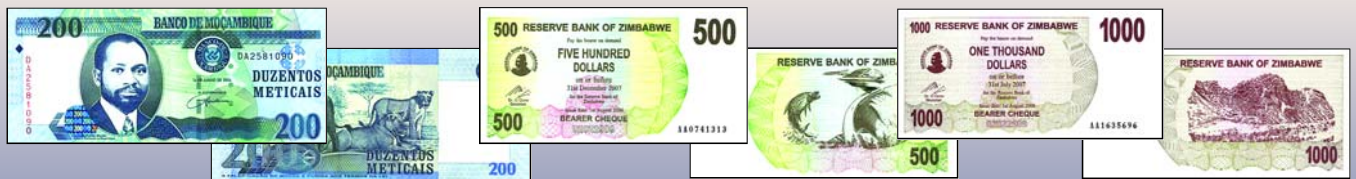
The old banknotes and coins will remain legal tender until 31 December when they will be removed from circulation.

In a midterm monetary policy review at the end of July, the governor of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, Gideon Gono, announced a "new family" of bearer cheques effective from 1 August, after removing three zeroes from all denominations. The old notes will cease to be legal tender from 21 August at the latest.

CURRENCY CHECKLIST

Country	Currency	(US \$1)			
Angola	Kwanza (100 lweie)	80.38	Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	5.93
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	7.23	Madagascar	Ariary	9,275.00
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	30.95	Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	26.18
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	6.93	Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	7.05
Zambia	Kwacha (100 ngwee)	3,550.00	Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 Cents)	250.00
			DRC	Congo Franc	436.00
			Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	139.25
			Namibia	Dollar (100 cents)	6.93
			Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	1,288.00

August 2006



Natural wealth key to poverty reduction in Africa, study

POVERTY CAN be eradicated for Africa's 800 million inhabitants if the continent's wealth of natural resources is effectively, fairly and sustainably harnessed.

However, rapid deforestation, widespread land degradation, wasteful water use and climate change must be urgently addressed, according to a new report.

"The report challenges the myth that Africa is poor," the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) executive director, Achim Steiner, said of the *Africa Environment Outlook 2* (AEO 2).

"Indeed, it points out that its vast natural wealth can, if sensitively, sustainably and creatively managed, be the basis for an African renaissance - a renaissance that meets and goes beyond the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)," he added.

According to AEO-2, African countries face stark choices.

"If policies remain unchanged, political will found wanting and sufficient funding proves to be elusive, then Africa

may take a far more unsustainable track that will see an erosion of its nature-based wealth and a slide into even deeper poverty," the study noted.

Beyond home-grown issues such as deforestation and water wastage, the report notes some imported challenges, ranging from genetically modified organisms and the cost of alien invasive species to a switch of chemical manufacturing from the developed to the developing world.

It also cites a wide range of international environment treaties to which many African countries are now parties as well as new cooperative agreements covering shared river basins and ecosystems such as the Limpopo and the Zambezi, and the Congo basin's globally important forests.

Initiatives such as the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) also promise to propel the continent onto a more prosperous path that balances economic, social and environmental concerns.

Tanzania outlaws plastic bags

THE UNITED Republic of Tanzania has banned plastic bags and containers and ordered people to stop farming and logging on Africa's highest mountain, among other environmental measures.

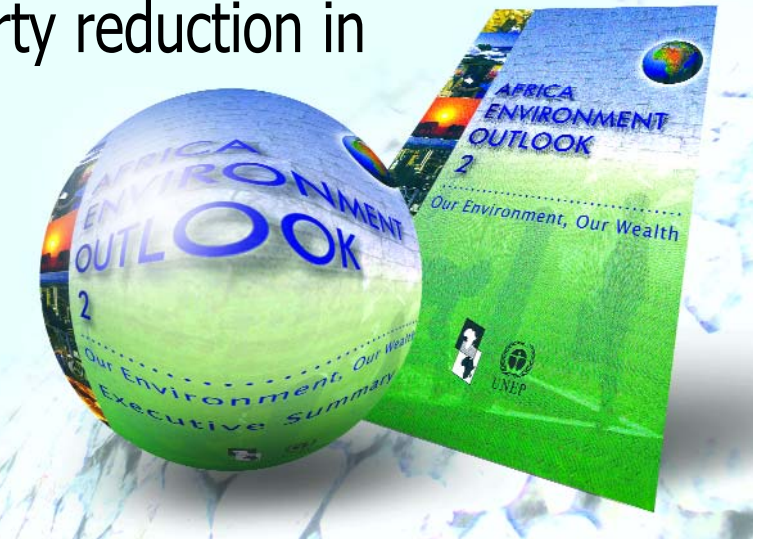
Manufacturers were given six months from 1 April to find alternative materials after the government outlawed the importation, manufacture and sale of plastic bags and plastic containers for drinks. From 1 October manufacturers and importers will be pe-

nalised for using plastic wrapping material.

The announcement by Tanzania marks the first time an African country has banned all plastic bags outright.

South Africa introduced laws in May 2003 forcing shopkeepers to hand out thicker, stronger plastic bags that are more easily re-used or face a R100,000 fine or 10 years in jail.

The Tanzanian government also ordered farmers and people logging trees on Mount Kilimanjaro to leave the mountain by June.



Several African countries, such as the Gambia and Zambia, are mainstreaming the environment in their Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and other countries are starting to use taxation and other market mechanisms to conserve ecosystems including forests.

"I am convinced that we are fast reaching a watershed in Africa's response and that the pieces of a sustainable jigsaw puzzle are being steadily put into place," Steiner said.

He noted that African governments are showing an increased willingness to cooperate and engage over a wide range of pressing regional and global issues.

"The economic importance of the environment is increasingly recognized by Africa's leaders as an instrument for development, for livelihoods, for peace and for stability. I sincerely believe we have a real opportunity to take this impetus a long way," he concluded.

Among the sources of possible wealth the report cites the "huge but relatively untapped" potential for tourism based around nature and cultural sites; suitable land to feed its people; abundant but little used water resources for irrigation, drinking water and power generation; and Africa's status as "a mining giant", producing nearly 80 percent of the world's plat-

inum, more than 40 percent of the globe's diamonds and more than a fifth of its gold and cobalt.

The report calls for a transition for Africa from being a major exporter of primary resources to being one with a vibrant industrial and manufacturing base.

The report warns against the pitfalls in development, noting, for example, that pure market forces alone in food production could lead to greater land degradation, and industrial expansion could deprive the general public of water.

AEO 2 was produced through a participatory and collaborative process involving many African experts and government officials. Overall coordination was provided by UNEP, while sub-regional coordination was provided by a network of six collaborating centres.

The six collaborating centres are the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC); National Environment Management Authority (NEMA); Indian Ocean Commission (IOC); Centre for Environment and Development in the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE); Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa (NESDA); and Agence Internationale pour le Développement de l'Information Environnementale (ADIE).



2010 World Cup a unifying event for SADC

by Patson Phiri

SOUTH AFRICA has stepped up preparations for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, the biggest single-event sporting activity in the world, which is set to be a major unifying occasion for the country and the entire SADC region.

The whole of South Africa - from the business community and soccer administrators to the media and fans - responded enthusiastically to the call by President Thabo Mbeki to show the world that the 2010 soccer showpiece will be the "most successful World Cup ever."

Unveiling the 2010 World Cup logo in Berlin, Germany, in July, President Mbeki promised to make the tournament a unique event that celebrates Africa "in all its magnificent splendour, its vibrancy and its diversity."

He dismissed sceptics who doubted South Africa's ability to stage the tournament, which has been held alternately in Europe and the Americas since it started in 1930.

The only other time that pattern was broken was in 2002 when it was hosted jointly by Japan and South Korea.

President Mbeki's pledge and the coming down of the cur-

tain on the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany in July have triggered a lot of interest within South Africa and neighbouring countries.

Soccer administrators have started preparations to ensure all the necessary facilities will be in place by 2010.

About R8.5 billion (US\$1 is approx. R7) has been budgeted for infrastructure development, with five existing stadiums earmarked for renovations while another five new stadiums will be built ahead of the tournament.

"Other costs will go towards the upgrading of infrastructure," said Danny Jordaan, chief executive of South Africa's 2010 World Cup Local Organising Committee.

South Africa's hosting of the tournament will create an opportunity for soccer lovers to experience tourism in the southern African region.

From the beautiful stadiums of Germany, soccer lovers will have a chance to sample African cultural tourism.

The hosting of the World Cup is set to increase pre-tournament activities throughout southern Africa to ensure increased direct and spillover benefits in the region.

Southern Africa has developed a joint strategy to improve infrastructure ahead of the soccer World Cup.

The strategy, known as the Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas 2010 Soccer World Cup Strategy, will be used to develop and market various trans-frontier parks and trans-frontier conservation areas in southern Africa as premier tourist destinations for the region.

Together with SADC neighbours, South Africa boasts of a range

of landscapes and a teeming cast of free-range animals, giving the World Cup lovers a double treat never experienced in any of the developed countries that have hosted the trophy before.

South Africa's World Cup ambassador and retired Ghanaian football star, Abedi Pele, said "Africa will do it the African style," brushing aside thoughts that South Africa should adjust to the Western standards.

The country has previously successfully hosted big events such as the Rugby World Cup finals in 1995, the African Cup of Nations in 1996 and Cricket World Cup finals in 2003, which it co-hosted with Zimbabwe and Kenya.

A 23-year-old soccer fan, Lebo Mashile, summed up the mood among supporters when she talked about how valuable the tournament was to the region.

She said, "Yes, we are rough around the edges but our core is tremendously valuable. What hosting the World Cup means is that our generation can dream as big as they want to dream. And it gives South Africans and all Africans the chance to show they can do anything and excel at anything by world-class standards."

André Pruis of the South African Police Services and chairperson of the joint operations and intelligence structure for the 2010 World Cup has promised tight security for all the visitors in 2010.

The government is also developing a "transport master plan" that will improve South Africa's public transport system ahead of 2010.

The plan proposes the development of new routes for formal public transport to conform to the growing population and urban expansion.

SABC gets broadcasting rights for 2010, 2014 finals

SOUTH AFRICAN Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) has won broadcasting rights for the 2010 and 2014 FIFA World Cup finals.

SABC was also awarded the broadcasting rights for all FIFA competitions between 2007 and 2014, which include the two FIFA World Cup final competitions and two FIFA Confederations Cups due to take place during this period.

The agreement consists of all audiovisual rights for both free and pay TV as well as radio. It is expected to create opportunities for other players in the communication industry within South Africa and in the SADC region.

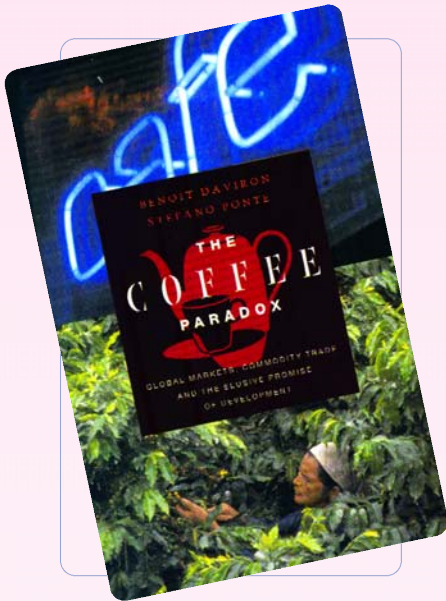
SABC has already committed to ensuring wide access for the entire South African media industry, including potential sublicensees.

The South African broadcaster will also benefit from the fund that has been set aside to upgrade infrastructure ahead of 2010.

"The SABC ... will move from analogue to high-definition digital," said Danny Jordaan, chief executive of South Africa's 2010 World Cup Local Organising Committee, explaining how the fund will be used.

SABC also hosts the Southern African Broadcasting Association (SABA), an association of national broadcasters in the region.





The limits to free trade in agricultural products

CAN DEVELOPING countries trade their way out of poverty?

International trade has grown dramatically in the last two decades in the global economy, and trade is an important source of revenue in developing countries. Yet, many low-income countries are still poor.

This book recasts the so-called Coffee Paradox - the coexistence of a "coffee boom" in consuming countries and of a "coffee crisis" in producing countries.

While coffee bar chains have expanded rapidly in consuming countries, international coffee prices have fallen dramatically and producers received the lowest prices in decades.

The paradox exists because what farmers sell and what consumers buy are increasingly "different" coffees.

Reviewers describe this book as, "A masterful job showing the limits to 'free' trade in agricultural products as well as providing some concrete proposals as to what must be done to promote greater equity."

Published in 2005 by Zed Books in London, it is distributed in southern Africa by David Philip, an imprint of New Africa Books, Cape Town, 99 Garfield Road, Claremont 7700, PO Box 46962, Glosderry 7702, South Africa.

The Coffee Paradox: Global Markets, Commodity Trade and the Elusive Promise of Development, by Benoit Daviron and Stefano Ponte. 295pp.

The New Conditionality – The Politics of Poverty Reduction Strategies

POVERTY REDUCTION Strategies (PRSs) are the new buzzwords in development aid.

This book presents detailed, field-level research on the application of PRSs in three countries: United Republic of Tanzania, Vietnam and Honduras.

It describes the changing relations between the governments of these countries, donor agencies and civic organisations that have taken part in formulating the new generation of PRSs.

Poverty Reduction Strategies run up against a central paradox: in giving decisive policy-making powers to external agencies, the very process of drawing up development strategies to prioritise reducing poverty can gravely undermine the consolidation of democratic forces, structures and ideas in developing countries. Edited by Jeremy Gould. 180pp.

Available from Zed Books, c/o David Philip, Cape Town.

E-mail info@newafricanbooks.co.za

Website www.zedbooks.co.uk

PUBLICATIONS

The Millennium Development Goals - Raising the Resources to Tackle World Poverty

Edited by Fantu Cheru and Colin Bradford
South Africa, Cape Town, Zed Books in association with Helsinki Process, 2005
238pp.

This is an up-to-date and detailed analysis of the diversity of new proposals and mechanisms currently being discussed in order to raise the necessary financial resources to achieve the MDGs by 2015. Some key issues examined include official development assistance, foreign direct investment, remittances by migrants, commodity export prices, and new ideas to secure sustainable debt relief, including special drawing rights, debt cancellation, revaluation of International Monetary Fund gold reserves, debt arbitration and other proposals.

Available from Zed Books, c/o David Philip, Cape Town, 99 Garfield Road, Claremont 7700, PO Box 46962, Glosderry 7702.

E-mail info@newafricanbooks.co.za

Website www.zedbooks.co.uk

Status of Food Security and Prospects for Agricultural Development in Africa

Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, African Union, 2006
26pp.

This review of the agriculture sector and its contribution to GDP, export earnings and employment reveals the unchallenged prominence of the sector in the economies of most African countries. For the continent as a whole, the agriculture sector accounts for approximately 60 percent of total employment, 20 percent of total exports and 15 percent of GDP.

Available from African Union, PO Box 3243, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

E-mail webmaster@africa-union.org

Website www.africa-union.org

The New Partnership for Africa's Development Progress Report - Environmental Assessment and Reporting in Africa: Knowledge Base 2005

South Africa, Green Point, Empowerment for African Sustainable Democracy EASD/UNEP, 2005
This compact disk (CD) contains a knowledge base of documents on state of the environment reporting in Africa. It includes city, provincial, national, sub-

regional and regional state of the environment reports as well as resources such as training manuals and publications on environmental indicators.

Available in CD format from EASD, P.O. Box 165, Green Point, South Africa.

E-mail info@easd.org.za

Website <http://easd.org.za>

The WTO Agreement on Agriculture Impact on Farmers

by Agnes Chaonwa
Zimbabwe, Harare, Trades Centre, 2005
14pp

The booklet highlights the primary objective of the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Agriculture, which aims to reform the principles and disciplines on agricultural policy as well as to reduce distortions in agricultural trade caused by agricultural protectionism and domestic support, among others.

Available from Trades Centre, Harare.

E-mail trades@tradescentre.co.zw

Website www.tradescentre.org.zw

Understanding the WTO Dispute Settlement System

by Felix Maonera
Zimbabwe, Harare, Trades Centre, 2005
32pp

Dispute settlement is explained as the central pillar of the multilateral trading system, making the trading system more secure and predictable. Without a means of settling disputes, there would be no way of enforcing the rules.

Available from Trades Centre, Harare.

E-mail trades@tradescentre.co.zw

Website www.tradescentre.org.zw

Mainstreaming ICTs: Africa lives the information Society

by Spurr, Nicola
South Africa, Johannesburg, WOMEN'SNET, 2005
114pp.

Ten case studies are highlighted reflecting on the innovative and creative ways in which Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) have been used to promote people-centred development in various sub-Saharan African countries.

Available from WOMEN'SNET, 31 Quinn Street, Newton, Johannesburg 2001, South Africa.

Website www.womensnet.org.za



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SADC TODAY is published six times a year by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) for the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana, as a reliable, knowledge source on the Southern African Development Community. The contents consider the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as integral to the region's development.

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SADC TODAY welcomes contributions from individuals and organisations within the SADC region in the form of articles, photographs, news items and comments, and also relevant articles from outside the region. A standard fee is paid for articles, photos and illustrations used in the publication. The publishers reserve the right to select or reject items, and to edit to fit the space available. The contents do not necessarily reflect the official positions or opinions of SADC or SARDC.

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SADC TODAY is published in English and Portuguese and is available electronically in English, Portuguese and French at www.sadc.int www.sardc.net.

DESIGN & LAYOUT

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PHOTOS & ILLUSTRATIONS

p4, NIFTY Corporation; 5, South African Tourism; 6, Juakali Kambale;
7, SADC Secretariat, Government of Lesotho, KIT Tropenmuseum;
8, 11, CFM; 9, Eskom; 9, Illustrative Options;
8,11, Government of Mozambique/ National Institute of Statistics/ United Nations
Agencies; 16, SARDC

ORIGINATION & PRINT

DS Print Media, Johannesburg

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SADC TODAY is supported by the Belgian government under the SADC Information 21 project, whose aim is to strengthen regional integration through information and knowledge-sharing, based on the longstanding historical, social and cultural affinities and links among the peoples of the region, and to advance SADC's agenda into the 21st century.

Thanks to the following airlines for assisting with distribution of SADC Today:
Air Botswana, Linhas Aeresde Moçambique, Air Namibia, South African Airways,
Air Mauritius, TAAG Angolan Airlines, Zambian Airways and Air Zimbabwe

EVENTS DIARY 2006

August

11-14 Lesotho

Standing Committee of Senior Officials of SADC

The technical advisory committee to Council of Ministers meets in advance of Council and is chaired by the country chairing SADC, as are the Council and Summit. Current SADC chair is Botswana.

15-16 Lesotho

SADC Council of Ministers

The Council is responsible for supervising and monitoring the functions and development of SADC and ensuring that policies are properly implemented. Council comprises ministers of foreign affairs, international cooperation, economic development or planning and finance from each Member State. Council precedes the Summit and prepares policy recommendations for adoption by the leaders.

17-18 Lesotho

SADC Summit

The Summit of Heads of State and Government is the ultimate policy-making institution of SADC. The Maseru Summit will witness the official handover of the rotating SADC Chair from President Festus Mogae of Botswana to Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili of Lesotho.

13-18 Canada

International AIDS Conference 2006

Organised by the International AIDS Society, the theme of the 16th International AIDS Conference will be "Time to Deliver". Participants will share the latest evidence, ideas and lessons learned in HIV and AIDS research, policies and programmes. The conference will focus on the shared prevention, treatment and care obligations of those engaged to respond to the pandemic.

20-26 Sweden

World Water Week

The World Water Week in Stockholm is the leading annual global meeting place for capacity-building, partnership-building and follow-up on the implementation of international processes and programmes in water and development.

September

11-15 South Africa

Highway Africa @ 10 Conference

More than 500 journalists from 40 African countries are expected to attend the tenth anniversary of the Highway Africa conference. The conference will assess the state of Africa's media and focus on the role that it plays in democracy and development.

26-29 Germany

Africa Business Summit

The summit aims to increase European investment in Africa by raising private sector awareness of the many commercial opportunities in Africa. Organised by NEPAD, the summit will also address specific policy issues that confront the European private sector in the African market place and to develop partnerships among African and European businesses.

October

3-6 Namibia

Tourism 2006

This is the third in a series of investment promotion meetings held under the auspices of the EU-SADC Investment Promotion Programme (ESIPP). Tourism 2006 is a unique forum aimed at encouraging SADC countries to engage in international, financial, technical and commercial collaboration for development of tourism and hospitality in the region.

25-27 Italy

World Congress on Communication for Development (WCCD)

The WCCD aims to analyse and evaluate new developments in the field of communication. The congress will focus on the importance of communication to development and come up with recommendations on how to apply it in developmental policies.

Remembering heroes Solidarity shaped liberation struggles

"THE BLOOD of all these sons and daughters of Namibia watered the tree of our liberty and will always be remembered by present and future generations of the Republic of Namibia."

These words taken from *Where Others Wavered, Autobiography of Sam Nujoma* aptly portray the story of the liberation struggle for not only Namibia but most of southern Africa.

A striking common factor in all the liberation struggles was the importance attached to regionalism. Regional solidarity played a key role in shaping the future of an independent southern Africa.

As a result, the heroes in the liberation of Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe were not limited to those countries' sons and daughters but include the citizens of other countries in the region.

Mozambique this year commemorates the 32nd anniversary of victory in the war against colonialism. It was in Lusaka on 7 September 1974 that the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO) and the Portuguese government signed an agreement ending the war and paving the way for full independence nine months later.

The day is celebrated as Victory Day and is a public holiday. In remembrance of its heroes, Mozambique also commemorates Armed Forces Day on 25 September each year to mark the anniversary of the start of the armed struggle for national liberation.

Angola's independence in 1975 had geo-strategic implications for southern Africa as the country became a battleground of ideologies, the African nerve-centre of the Cold War between the former Soviet Union and the United States.

Angola's foreign policy at the time of its independence was motivated by a desire by the country's first post-independence president, Agostinho Neto, and his government to fend off attacks from internal and external forces.

Neto saw the struggles for independence in the rest of Africa as directly connected to his own government's long-term survival.

Neto died on 17 September 1979 before seeing his dream of creating a peaceful neighbourhood. A holiday, Founder of Nation and National Heroes' Day on 17 September, was set aside in his honour in Angola.

Heroes Day in Zimbabwe is commemorated on 14 August but the story of the country's struggle is incomplete without mention of thousands of people in neighbouring countries who stood by their Zimbabwean brothers and sisters. Thousands of Mozambicans and Zambians supported the struggle to liberate their neighbour, and monuments have been established in those countries for remembrance.

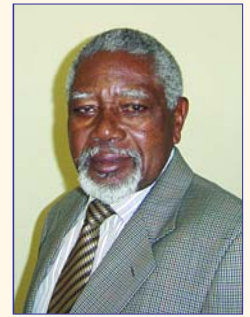
Heroes day is marked as a public holiday, following by acknowledgement of the essential role of the Defence Forces on their day, 15 August.

The same can be said of Namibia's struggle for independence which produced many heroes within and outside the country's borders, and strengthened regional solidarity despite the loss of lives and destruction of property due to destabilization by the apartheid South African regime. Namibia remembers its Heroes on 26 August each year.

SADC documents history of liberation

SADC IS set to embark on a project to collect the history of the liberation struggle in the region, through the SADC History Project, whose patron is Ambassador Hashim Mbita.

Mbita was Executive Secretary of the Liberation Committee of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) for more than 20 years, until his mission was accomplished with the democratic elections in South Africa in 1994.



Hashim Mbita

The Liberation Committee was wound up on 15 August 1994 with a special ceremony hosted by *Mwalimu* Julius Nyerere in Arusha, attended by 10 heads of state and government, two vice-presidents and nine foreign ministers. The ceremony paid tribute to the courage of the freedom fighters who fought and won independence.

SADC has now taken up the task of documenting that history. An office has been established in Dar es Salaam under the leadership of Professor A. Temu, and preliminary preparations have been done.

Focal points who are the lead researchers have been identified for all eight countries, and contracts have been issued. Milestones have been established for the two-year project, and now that resources have been sourced, the main challenge is to ensure the cooperation of those people who have stories to tell.

The project is operational in Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In an inspirational address to the researchers last year, Mbita stressed the need to "record the inspiration, commitment, determination, sacrifices, means, strategies and experiences gained at different stages."

He said the "decolonisation struggle which engulfed the African continent during the last 60 years was basically one, though fought in various parts and against different colonizing powers.

"History should be reflected in proper perspective through the African eye because many a time it has been written from outside the continent," Mbita said.

The project was approved by the Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government when they met in Botswana in August 2005 to mark the Silver Jubilee of the regional community. The project is funded entirely by SADC governments.

Public holidays in SADC August – October 2006

1 August	Parents' Day	DRC
7 August	Farmers' Day	Zambia
8 August	Peasants' Day	Tanzania
9 August	National Women's Day	South Africa
14 August	Heroes' Day	Zimbabwe
15 August	Assumption Day	Madagascar
15 August	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Mauritius
15 August	Defence Forces Day	Zimbabwe
26 August	Heroes' Day	Namibia
29 August	Ganesh Chaturthi	Mauritius
6 September	Somhlolo Day	Swaziland
7 September	Victory Day	Mozambique
17 September	Founder of Nation and National Heroes' Day	Angola
24 September	Heritage Day	South Africa
25 September	Armed Forces Day	Mozambique
30 September	Botswana Day	Botswana
1 October	Public Holiday	Botswana
2 October	Public Holiday	Botswana
4 October	Independence Day	Lesotho
4 October	Reconciliation Day/Peace Day	Mozambique
9 October	Mother's Day	Malawi
14 October	Mwalimu Nyerere Day and Climax of "The Uhuru Torch Race"	Tanzania
21 October	Divali	Mauritius
24 October*	Eid ul Fitr	Mauritius, Tanzania
24 October	Independence Day	Zambia

* Depends on visibility of the moon