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COP17

Towards agreement on climate change

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THE CLIMATE change conference set for Durban, South Africa in December provides an opportunity for the global community to reach a binding agreement towards the common goal of rescuing the planet, but deep divisions remain on the way forward.

The 17th Conference of Parties (COP 17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will continue negotiations toward a global consensus on a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol which expires in 2012.

Comparable emission reductions for industrialized non-Kyoto Parties will be central to the outcome of the Durban conference.

“Climate change is threatening to our future and that of our planet, and we must act

now if we are to save tomorrow,” the incoming COP17 ministerial chairperson, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane of South Africa said, adding that “no single country, no matter its size or power, can take on this challenge on its own.”

“We can only succeed when we work together as the international community, reading from the same page, and acting in concert for a common goal. It is therefore, our wish that this conference will become a platform for the world to take a significant step towards a future climate change regime.”

Nkoana-Mashabane, who is the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, said on-going talks are encouraging and the global community should build on this to make COP17 a success.

At the last summit, a draft agreement was reached, representing a small step towards a global deal. However, the progress was far from satisfactory, particularly for developing countries as it did not address their position on a number of issues including carbon emissions levels, as well as increased finance, technology and capacity for adaptation and risk management.

As a result of this, there is scepticism about the magnitude of the figures and the conditions to access funds under the proposed Green Climate Fund, which expects to raise and disburse about US\$100 billion a year by 2020, starting with US\$30 billion in 2012 to support mitigation and adaptation actions in developing countries.

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Towards agreement on climate change

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Africa also argues that global temperature rises should be kept below 1.5 degrees instead of the proposed target of below 2 degrees.

At their annual meeting held in Namibia, SADC ministers responsible for environment and natural resources management re-affirmed their desire to use the forthcoming climate change conference to press for an outcome that reflects the African priorities, which centre on adaptation, increased finance, technology transfer and capacity building.

The ministers urged all Member States to work together and speak with one voice in order to influence the outcome of the conference, adding that adaptation remains a top priority for the region.

The Africa Group of Negotiators on Climate Change (AGN), which met in Durban in August, re-affirmed the need to prioritize climate adaptation to benefit the continent.

"Durban is expected to finalize an ambitious Adaptation Framework, develop guidelines and support for our National Adaptation Plans and build momentum towards a mechanism to compensate for climate-related losses and damage," said the AGN.

SADC ministers responsible for gender have also emphasized the importance of integrating a gender perspective into climate change policies and adaptation strategies, as women are the worst affected by climate change.

In line with the SADC ministers view, the AGN agreed to press for a second legally binding commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol to ensure that there is no gap

between the first and second commitment periods.

The Kyoto Protocol, the only global agreement on climate change to date, sets the targets for industrialized

countries to reduce their emissions to an average of five per cent below 1990 levels between 2008 and 2012.

COP17 is scheduled for 28 November to 9 December in

Durban. This is the third time that an African country is hosting the climate change conference, following Morocco in 2001 (COP7) and Kenya in 2006 (COP13). □

Africa's climate position

THE AFRICAN Group of Negotiators on Climate Change (AGN) is a structure of all African Union member states' senior officials, experts and negotiators in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations, with the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment providing political oversight on the group. The group is chaired by Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

At its meeting in Durban, South Africa, in August, the group (AGN) came up with the "African Climate Platform for Durban", which is the African position for COP17.

The position paper was to be presented to the meeting of African Ministers of the Environment (AMCEN) for adoption at the Bamako Conference in October.

Key elements of the position paper include:

- Ensuring the full, effective and sustained implementation of the UNFCCC through the multilateral process that guarantees progress on the unresolved issues agreed to in Bali in 2007 while ensuring that the

decisions made in Cancun are operationalised;

- Securing the second Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol, as well as comparable emission reductions for non-Kyoto Parties, is central to the outcome of the Durban Conference;
- Developed countries are called upon to undertake ambitious mitigation commitments from 2013 to 2017 of at least 40 percent and to reduce their emissions by at least 95 percent by 2050, compared to 1990 levels;
- Adaptation should be at the centre of the deal by ensuring a process for concrete implementation of adaptation activities, and recognizing that adaptation needs and financing depend on emission reduction ambition of all Parties; and
- Technology should be addressed through operationalization of the technology mechanism agreed in Cancun to enable enhanced action on technology development and transfer to support developing countries to adapt and mitigate climate change. □

Funding vital to tackle climate change

THE GLOBAL phenomenon of climate change cannot be tackled without an agreement that includes finance, technology and capacity building, South African President Jacob Zuma has said.

"An agreement that does not address the necessary means of implementation – finance, technology and capacity building – will not be equitable," he said ahead of COP17 set for Durban in November-December.

Zuma urged the global community to honour international commitments made at previous summits, saying

that shying away from them would not help in the fight against climate change.

He said there is need to operationalize some of the agreements, particularly those made at Cancun, Mexico. These agreements include the setting up of a Green Climate Fund, which aims to raise and disburse about US\$100 billion a year by 2020, starting with US\$30 billion in 2012 to support mitigation and adaptation actions in developing countries.

"It has become equally important to seriously address the scaling up of the delivery of climate finance between

2013 and 2020, and initiate a formal process that will assess the sources and scale of long-term finance and to ensure the capitalization of the Green Climate Fund."

He said a less ambitious outcome that would not address the urgent needs of those who were seriously affected by climate change would not be acceptable.

"The Durban conference is taking place on the African continent, which is particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change. In this context, the low level of ambition is a serious concern." *BuaNews* □

Regional development blueprint to be reviewed

SUMMIT HAS directed the Ministerial Taskforce on Regional Economic Integration to review SADC's Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) to identify priorities and reorient the region's integration agenda.

The RISDP review is expected to result in the development of a focussed work programme that would result in the implementation of high-impact programmes to enhance developmental regional integration.

The review would also help to prioritize SADC's work programme to achieve optimum impact from limited resources.

The RISDP is SADC's 15-year blueprint for integrated regional development and poverty eradication that was launched in March 2003.

It contains time-bound targets that are considered as beacons leading toward continental and international goals, in particular the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The overriding target is to attain annual economic growth rates of at least seven percent, necessary to halve the proportion of people living in poverty by 2015.

The proposed review of the RISDP and reorientation of SADC's priorities come in the wake of current Tripartite negotiations between SADC, the East African Community and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

Leaders of the three Regional Economic Communities (RECs) launched negotiations for the establish-

ment of an integrated market of 26 countries comprising a combined population of almost 600 million people, a total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of about US\$1 trillion, and half of the African Union (AU) in terms of membership.

The negotiations are expected to result in the establishment of the Tripartite Free Trade Area that is expected to bolster intra-regional trade by creating a wider market, increased investment flows, enhanced competitiveness and the development of cross-regional infrastructure.

The Legal and Institutional Framework has been agreed through a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding on Inter-Regional Cooperation and Integration signed by COMESA, EAC and SADC, on 19 January 2011.

In addition to launching the negotiations for establishing the Tripartite FTA, the leaders of COMESA, EAC and SADC adopted a roadmap as well as the negotiating principles, processes and institutional framework. They have also directed that a programme of work and a roadmap be developed for the industrialization pillar.

This has meant that SADC's integration agenda can no longer be discussed in isolation from the Tripartite. The RISDP review thus has to consider implications of the Tripartite process for the SADC integration agenda.

With the Tripartite initiative's three pillars agreed, it becomes necessary to consider which aspects of regional integration can be implemented and from which platform – SADC or Tripartite.

The outcome of the review would therefore, include rec-

ommendations on which matters can be handled within SADC versus those that can best be pushed at the Tripartite level, as well as how to achieve synchronization of the two processes.

According to a report of the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration presented at the Luanda Summit, SADC's three medium-term priorities for economic integration are the consolidation of the SADC Free Trade Area, deepening of economic integration in the region, and broadening integration through the Tripartite FTA.

Two Member States, Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo, are not members of the SADC FTA.

As currently formulated and based on the SADC Vision, Mission, Common Agenda and Principles, the RISDP is intended to guide Member States, SADC Institutions, regional stakeholders, and International Cooperating Partners in the process of deepening integration to turn the Community's Vision into a reality.

Besides their contribution to achieving SADC's overall goals, the main current intervention areas were selected according to their potential contribution to poverty eradication; regional development integration; regionally balanced and equitable development; integration into the continental and global economies; sustainable development; and gender equality.

The main intervention areas of the RISDP are divided into two groups namely, cross-sectoral intervention areas and sectoral intervention areas. Each intervention area is pre-

sented with the overall goal, areas of focus, key strategies and broad targets.

The current targets take into account the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally agreed parameters.

Cross-sectoral intervention areas include poverty eradication; combating HIV and AIDS pandemic; gender equality and development; science and technology; information and communications technology; environment and sustainable development; private sector development; and statistics.

Sectoral cooperation and integration intervention areas are trade/economic liberalization and development; infrastructure support for regional integration and sustainable food security, and human and social development. □

31st Summit of Heads of State and Government

"...SUMMIT REVIEWED the socio-economic situation in the region and noted improvements in the macro-economic performance indicators, such as growth in real average Gross Domestic Product which stood at 4.9 percent compared to 2.4 percent in 2009, investments which improved from 22 percent of the GDP 2009 to 24.9 of GDP in 2010 as well as a decline in inflation from 12.4 percent in 2009 to 7.5 percent in 2010.

"Summit, however, noted that the region should remain alert to the risks posed by financial and economic volatilities in the developed economies. ..." □

SADC to review ICP framework

SADC PLANS to undertake a review of the agreement signed six years ago with International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) as part of efforts to strengthen SADC-ICP cooperation and facilitate the effective functioning of the partnership structures.

SADC Executive Secretary, Tomaz Augusto Salomão said the review of the Windhoek Declaration on a New SADC-ICP Partnership would, among others, aim to bring non-state actors into the mainstream of regional integration.

"The journey towards regional integration will not be possible without the participation of this crucial constituency," Salomão said during a recent midterm review workshop of the SADC-European Development Fund (EDF) regional strategy held in Botswana.

The Windhoek Declaration on a New SADC-ICP Partnership, adopted at the SADC Consultative Conference in Namibia in 2006, has guided cooperation between SADC and the ICPs by establishing an institutional structure for dialogue on political, policy and technical issues, and improved coordination of efforts between the two parties to ensure more effective development cooperation.

It has also ensured alignment, harmonization and streamlining of operational procedures, rules and other practices in the delivery of development assistance to SADC, as well as facilitating synergies and complementarity of support provided at national and regional levels.

The Windhoek Declaration on a New SADC-ICP Partnership has sought to create an environment for more and better aid for greater



SADC Secretary Tomaz Salomão (second left) with SADC leaders

development impact in the SADC region.

The ICPs pledged their continued support for southern Africa and noted that the challenges for SADC were to ensure provision of "renewed leadership" and to assume greater ownership of regional programmes and projects.

The partnership framework was necessitated by a shift in the European Union's development policy. The EU has since 2005 had a new development policy, the European Consensus on Development, which defines the values, objectives, principles and modalities of EU development aid.

Under the new policy, EU member states have resolved to increase national aid budgets to at least 0.7 percent of Gross National Incomes (GNIs) of the respective countries by 2015. The intermediate target is to have aid budgets accounting for 0.56 percent of national GNIs by 2010.

SADC and the ICPs have made various commitments in terms of implementation of southern Africa's Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation (SIPO).

The RISDP and SIPO are SADC's 15-year development blueprints outlining regional priorities in the area of trade

and economic liberalisation; infrastructure development; food security; human and social development; conflict prevention; and stability, peace and security.

Key areas of cooperation agreed included assistance with the establishment of the SADC Free Trade Area that was launched in 2008 as well as support in infrastructure development in the transport, energy, water and communications sectors; food security; HIV and AIDS; human resources development; and peace, political stability and security in the region.

Salomão said there is need for SADC and the ICPs "to raise the bar at all levels for us to demonstrate visible results".

"We, therefore, want to continue to rally further support in this huge undertaking and, indeed, an ambitious journey towards deeper regional integration," Salomão said.

The joint SADC-EU Regional Workshop was convened to consider a joint progress report for the midterm review of the SADC 10th EDF Regional Strategy Paper and Regional indicative Programme.

EU policies for the SADC region are outlined in the EDF10 Regional Indicative Programme (RIP) for the period 2008-2013, which addresses two focal areas of co-opera-

tion: regional economic integration and regional political cooperation, both of which are firmly linked to the RISDP and SIPO in addressing their objectives and priorities.

Salomão reiterated the SADC Secretariat's commitment to supporting the Member States as they implement the priorities for regional integration through the EU's cooperation and support.

"The continued cooperation under the 10th EDF will continue to promote and enhance deeper regional integration in SADC," he said.

He announced that SADC had established an Institutional Reforms Coordinating Committee at the Secretariat to facilitate the implementation of reforms proposed following an assessment of regional programmes proposed after the signing of the SADC 10th EDF Regional Strategy Paper in 2008.

"We are already testing the new policies, systems and processes for accounting and audit, human resources, procurement, as well as planning, budgeting and monitoring," he said.

With the expectation that the Secretariat would pass the institutional assessment and qualify for contribution agreement, Salomão announced that SADC had forged ahead with the formulation of projects under the focal areas of regional economic integration and regional political cooperation, with 80 percent of the RIP or about €92.8 million allocated to regional economic integration.

Another 15 percent of the RIP equivalent to about €17.4 million has been allocated to regional political cooperation while five percent, or €5 million, has been earmarked for non-focal sectors. □

Food security to benefit from regional agricultural research centre

THE LAUNCH of a regional agricultural research centre has demonstrated SADC's commitment to improving food security in the region.

Located in Gaborone, Botswana, the Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development in Southern Africa (CCARDESA) aims to coordinate and stimulate agricultural growth through research, technology development and dissemination of research information to farmers.

Access to information is critical for planning purposes, particularly when farmers want to diversify into new crops or livestock.

Coordination in regional agricultural research and development helps to strengthen partnerships between public and private organizations, thus allowing for technology transfer to respond to the needs and demands of the agricultural sector.

Speaking at the launch ceremony held at the SADC meeting of ministers responsible for agriculture, the Vice President of Botswana, Mompoti Merafhe said advances in agricultural research and technology are critical to boosting food security in the region.

He said SADC was fast expanding, thus the need to keep pace with demand and ensure that the region is self-sufficient in food.

"The challenge of feeding more than 250 million people in the SADC Member States is enormous, and the launching of this centre could not have come at a more appropriate time," he said.

"To keep pace with population growth and other life demands, research and technology development must remain focused and ahead of time," he added, saying that SADC should clearly position itself to compete with other regions on the global food market.

Merafhe said southern Africa should continue to trust its own scientists who have a rich traditional knowledge base, to exchange their discoveries and inventions to make agriculture competitive.

He urged CCARDESA to live up to the expectations of the region by putting both regional and international resources to good use, and ensure that the research is demand driven and not necessarily to fill a professional gap for self recognition.

The centre should generate useful technologies to support the interest of both smallholders and commercial farming. Such technologies could include improving storage facilities for farmers to allow them to store their produce for a longer time

and gain more from their yields.

A recent study by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that most countries in southern Africa lose up to 40 per cent of their produce after harvest because of poor storage facilities.

The launch of CCARDESA is therefore, expected to revitalize agricultural research and development in the region to allow SADC Member States to address their challenges.

CCARDESA would also coordinate the implementation of the SADC Multi-country Agricultural Productivity Programme (SADC-MAPP), whose main aim is to promote agricultural development in southern Africa.

CCARDESA was established in 2010 following its approval by the SADC Council of Ministers. It replaces the Southern African Centre for Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Training (SACCAR) which was established in 1982. SADC's Director of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR), Margaret Nyirenda has been appointed to head the Board of Directors.

The SADC meeting of Ministers responsible for agriculture was held in July in Botswana under the theme "Research and Development: Key to Food Security".

Agriculture is the backbone of most economies in southern Africa, and SADC has identified the sector as a priority for development. sardc.net □



SADC to establish world's largest transfrontier park

THE ESTABLISHMENT of the world's largest transfrontier park moved another step closer to becoming a reality when five southern African countries signed a treaty to formally launch the park.

Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe signed the treaty to establish the Kavango-Zambezi Trans Frontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) at the recent SADC Summit held in Luanda, Angola.

Situated in the Okavango and Zambezi River basins where the borders of five countries converge, the KAZA TFCA covers an area of about 444,000 square kilometres.

It would include 36 national parks, game reserves, community conservancies and game management areas.

The conservation area boasts of numerous tourist attractions such as the Victoria Falls between Zambia and Zimbabwe, San Rock paintings in Botswana and the absorbing wildlife population in the region.

This high concentration of attractions is expected to create an entirely new assortment of tourism opportunities in southern Africa, presenting a new dawn for socio-economic development in the SADC region, resulting in deeper integration among Member States.

It would also allow the region to jointly market their

attractions, which makes a far more attractive option to prospective tourists looking for a wide range of opportunities and experiences.

A recent study by the Peace Parks Foundation and the Southern African Development Bank predicts that the conservation area could attract as many as eight million tourists to the region annually as well as creating employment for thousands of people.

By signing the treaty, the five SADC countries have demonstrated their commitment to sustainably manage their resources and encourage socio-economic development in the region.

As a result of this firm commitment shown by the five countries, the KAZA TFCA Secretariat has been estab-



lished to ensure that this ambitious plan is fully implemented.

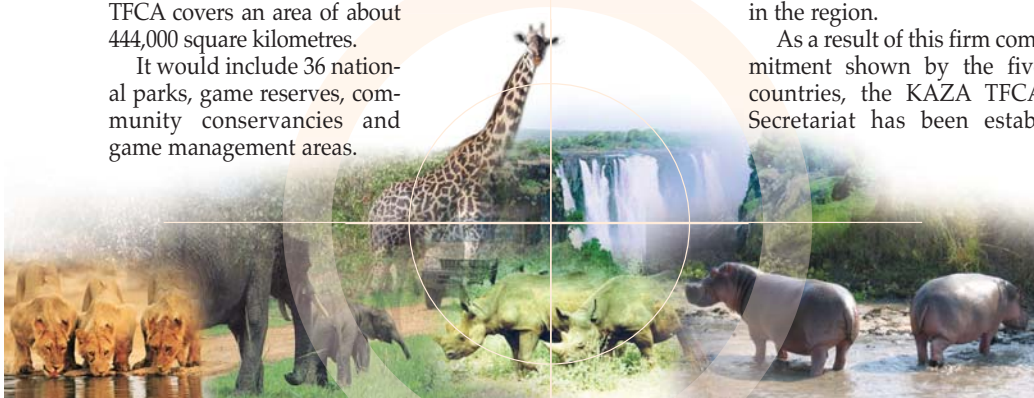
The offices for the KAZA TFCA Secretariat are located in Kasane, Botswana and were officially launched in August at a ceremony attended by the SADC Executive Secretary Tomaz Salomão, tourism ministers from the five countries as well as other relevant stakeholders.

Botswana Minister of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism, Kitso Mokaila said the transfrontier park "will promote investment and infrastructure development to support both conservation and tourism in the region".

The establishment of the KAZA TFCA is founded on the SADC ideals articulated in the Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement of 1999, which commits Member States to "promote the conservation of shared wildlife resources through the establishment of transfrontier conservation areas."

The establishment of the KAZA TFCA is expected to be a new benchmark for southern Africa to strengthen regional projects and promote more transfrontier parks in the region.

Such parks already established include the Greater Limpopo Trans Frontier Conservation Area which straddles Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe, Maiombe Forest TFCA that involves Angola, Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Liuwa Plain/Mussumu, which includes Angola and Zambia. sardc.net



Five SADC nations to share wildlife resources through the creation of the World's largest transfrontier park.

Zambia, Zimbabwe to host world tourism conference

ZAMBIA AND Zimbabwe have won the bid to co-host the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) general assembly scheduled for 2013.

The two countries will host the meeting in the resort towns of Livingstone (Zambia) and Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe), close to the mighty Victoria Falls (Musi oa Tunya, the smoke that thunders) on the Zambezi River which is a shared heritage.

Both tourism ministers, Walter Mzembe of Zimbabwe and his Zambian counterpart, Given Lubinda, said preparations are already underway to ensure the event is a success.

"We take this opportunity to invite the UNWTO secretariat, member states and affiliate members and others with experience in hosting the UNWTO General assembly and other similar events to provide technical and other assistance to our two govern-

ments and to our joint planning teams preparing for the 20th UNWTO General Assembly," the ministers said in a joint statement.

The UNWTO general assembly meets every two years to discuss and give direction to global tourism. The 2013 conference will be the second time Africa has hosted the general assembly. Senegal was the first African country to host the conference in 2005. □

Good rainfall season expected in southern Africa

SOUTHERN AFRICAN climate experts have forecast good rainfall in most parts of the region during the 2011/12 season.

The rainfall outlook was prepared by climate scientists from national meteorological and hydrological services within the SADC region as well as the SADC Climate Services Centre.

The 15th Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF 15), which met in Namibia at the end of August, divided the rainfall season into two parts, October-December 2011 and January-March 2012 (see maps).

The Forum has forecast normal to below-normal rainfall for most parts of southern Africa for the first half of the season, covering the period from October to December 2011.

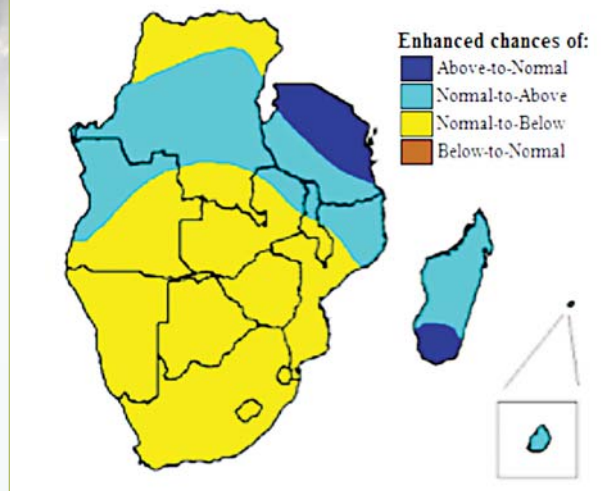
This covers the extreme north of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the eastern half of Angola and much of Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

However, northern parts of the United Republic of Tanzania and southern Madagascar have an increased chance of receiving normal to above-normal rainfall between October and December.

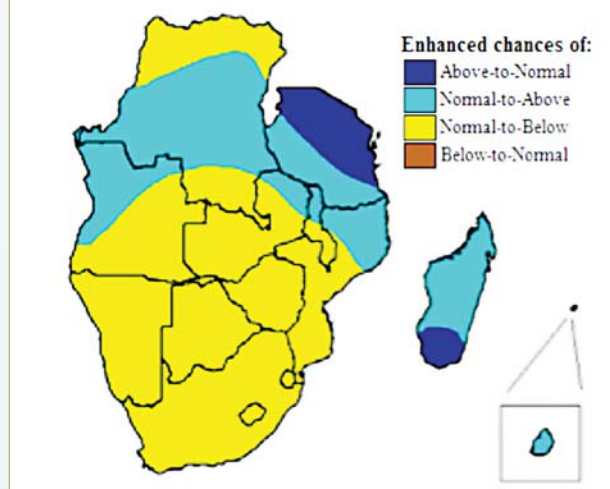
In the second half of the season, January to March 2012, most of inland SADC countries and Mauritius are expected to receive normal to above-normal rainfall.

However, the southeastern continental SADC as well as the northern parts of Tanzania and Madagascar are expected to receive above-normal rainfall.

Rainfall forecast October-December 2011



Rainfall forecast January-March 2012



This covers northern Tanzania, southern Zambia, southern Malawi, northern Lesotho, north-eastern South Africa, eastern Botswana and the bulk of Madagascar, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

Most parts of the DRC and northern Angola have a high likelihood of receiving nor-

mal to below-normal rainfall during the same period.

The western flank of SADC, covering the extreme western parts of Angola, Namibia and South Africa, is expected to receive below normal rainfall.

In developing the outlook, the scientists took into account principal factors such

as the sea-surface temperatures in the Indian, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

They noted that the current state of the equatorial Pacific Ocean is a neutral state and projections point towards the likelihood of neutral El Niño-Southern Oscillation conditions during the next couple of months.

The SARCOF process starts with the pre-SARCOF capacity-building training workshop lasting for six weeks, followed by the SARCOF meeting itself and then the SARCOF mid-season correction meeting.

These activities are carried out at the SADC regional level. In addition, workshops are held by national meteorological and hydrological services at country level. The pre-SARCOF capacity-building workshop is intended to strengthen the technical ability of forecasters in seasonal weather forecasting.

The SARCOF forecasts are based on a combination of statistical methods, numerical weather prediction models and expert judgment. The seasonal forecasts generated through the SARCOF process have become an important planning tool for many communities across southern Africa.

Based on the forecasts, decisions are made in user sectors as how to plan activities and practices as well as allocate resources for the coming rainy season. □

1.0 Introduction

The development of a vibrant energy sector able to ensure self-sufficiency is a high priority in the SADC region. Given a rapidly expanding economy, the region has since 1999 aimed for the provision of reliable and affordable energy services. Besides funding constraints, one of the challenges to realizing some of the energy goals is meeting project schedules, and engineering and design. A lack of technical capacity at a regional level has been cited as a major factor affecting SADC's ability to attain energy self-sufficiency.

The capacity deficit is manifest at different institutional levels ranging from the SADC Secretariat and the subsidiary organizations such as the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) and the Regional Electricity Regulators Association of Southern Africa (RERA), to the utilities and line ministries. Among the competencies in short supply in the region are general planning, engineering, project packaging and financing, and project management while technologies that are lagging behind are those in electric energy and power systems, and energy in general.

SAPP member utilities have identified a number of priority projects for commissioning over the next few years to address the crippling energy situation in the region. According to SAPP, member utilities plan to commission projects between 2009 and 2013 that would add about 8,800 megawatts (MW) of electricity to the regional grid. This would allow the region to match supply and demand.

Such a scenario would only happen if all generation and rehabilitation projects materialise within foreseen commissioning dates. Experience to date shows that the completion and commissioning of the projects in the region has actually been slower than this optimistic scenario.

2.0 Challenges

The SADC energy sector lacks the capacity to carry out proper planning due to a skills shortage. Most of the SAPP member utilities have lost a number of senior staff over the past few years through migration and resignations. This trend needs to be addressed through appropriate policy incentives.

A RERA survey done in 2008 with support from the USAID Trade Hub to review current status of the electricity supply industry (ESI) revealed that although most countries have energy policies, these need to be reviewed and updated in line with best practices. Capacity to implement policies is inadequate in some of the countries while ESI reforms are, in most cases, incomplete and need to be finalised in line with adopted policies.

Another challenge is that many of the proposed regional energy projects are poorly



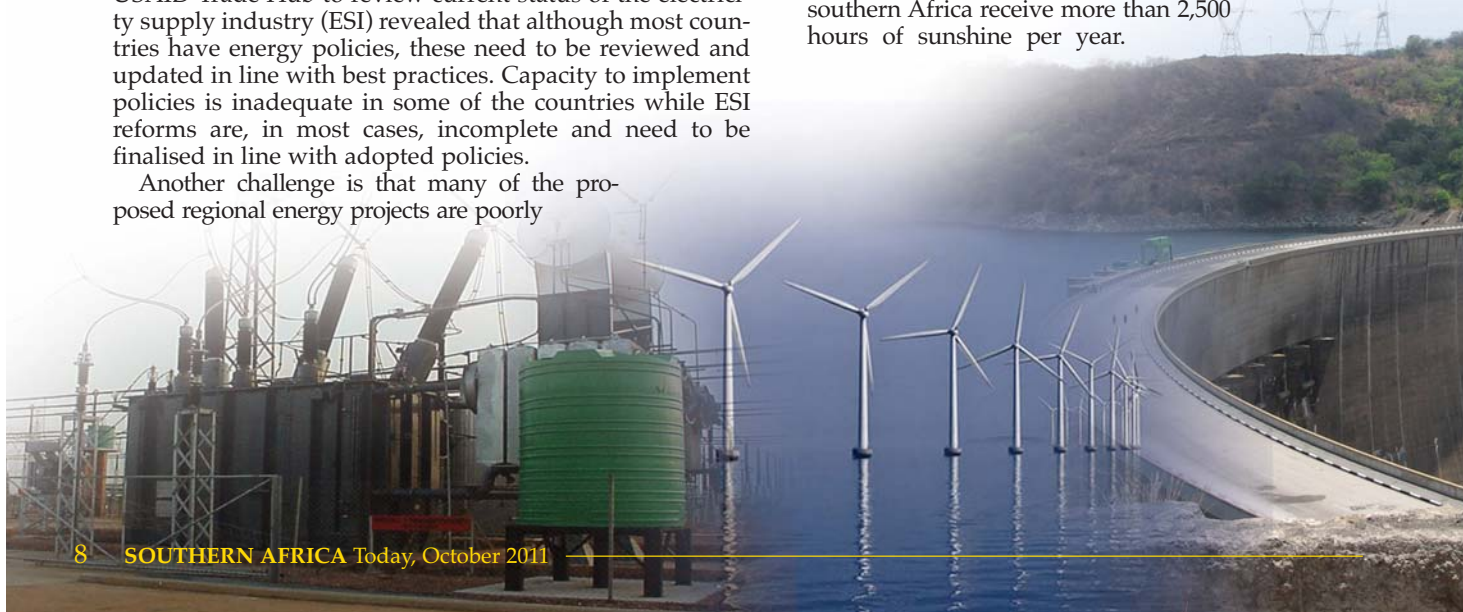
CAPACITY CONSTRAINTS

Meeting Energy Capacity Needs in

structured and packaged, and therefore fail to attract investment. A number of long-planned projects have failed to take off as the private sector has been reluctant to engage in partnerships with the public sector, mainly due to inappropriate financing formulas. Most SADC Member States have been slow in putting in place mechanisms that promote private sector participation in the energy sector and improve the attractiveness of the industry for investors.

The policy environment in most SADC countries does not encourage private sector participation in the energy sector. With the exception of a few countries such as Zambia, the majority of SADC Member States are yet to fully embrace the concept of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), despite being party to SAPP Inter-Utility Memorandum of Understanding that formally allows private players to get involved in the region's energy sector. Zambia has established a public institution that facilitates and promotes the implementation of PPPs.

The capacity constraints have seen most SADC Member States failing to fully embrace the renewable energy technologies such as solar and wind power. Solar thermal-electric systems, for example, have the long-term potential to provide a significant fraction of SADC's electricity and energy needs. Research has shown that most countries in southern Africa receive more than 2,500 hours of sunshine per year.





Southern Africa

Knowledge on solar energy technology is widespread in the SADC region but its use is limited partly due to the prohibitive initial set-up costs involved and capacity constraints.

3.0 Regional Initiatives

The region has embarked on a number of initiatives to overcome some of the capacity challenges it faces in the energy sector. These include a World Bank-funded project to improve Member States' capacity to develop bankable infrastructure projects, including those in the energy sector. Under this project, capacity would be provided by the SADC Secretariat at Member States level for project planning, preparation and development for all infrastructure projects.

To improve capacity among regional utilities, the SAPP Coordination Centre based in Harare, Zimbabwe, has regularly conducted structured training courses covering issues such as information exchange and energy trading. The SAPP Coordination Centre successfully conducted a Day Ahead Market (DAM) certification training course to Electricidade de Mozambique (EDM) and Hidroelectrica de Cahora Bassa (HCB) in April 2009 in Maputo, Mozambique as well as to Zambia in August 2009, Botswana Power Company in October 2009, and a utility-targeted training for the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply

Authority in February 2010. A refresher course for all SAPP members was held in December 2009 in Harare.

4.0 Role of ICPs

International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) have played a significant role in bridging the capacity gap in the SADC energy sector. Norway and Sweden have been instrumental in providing assistance to build capacity of regional power utilities. The SAPP has undertaken several exchange visits during the past few years to the Nordic market to learn from experiences gained from a developed market that has similar characteristics as the DAM.

A capacity-building workshop was conducted for SAPP members in Johannesburg in March 2010 by a French consultancy, to familiarise the officials with the best European practices on cross-border trading, trading organization, price regulation, functioning of the European internal market and tariff-setting methodology for cross-border trade in electricity. This was funded by the European Union. The World Bank has supported the commercialisation and operational assessment of selected SAPP Power Utility Members.

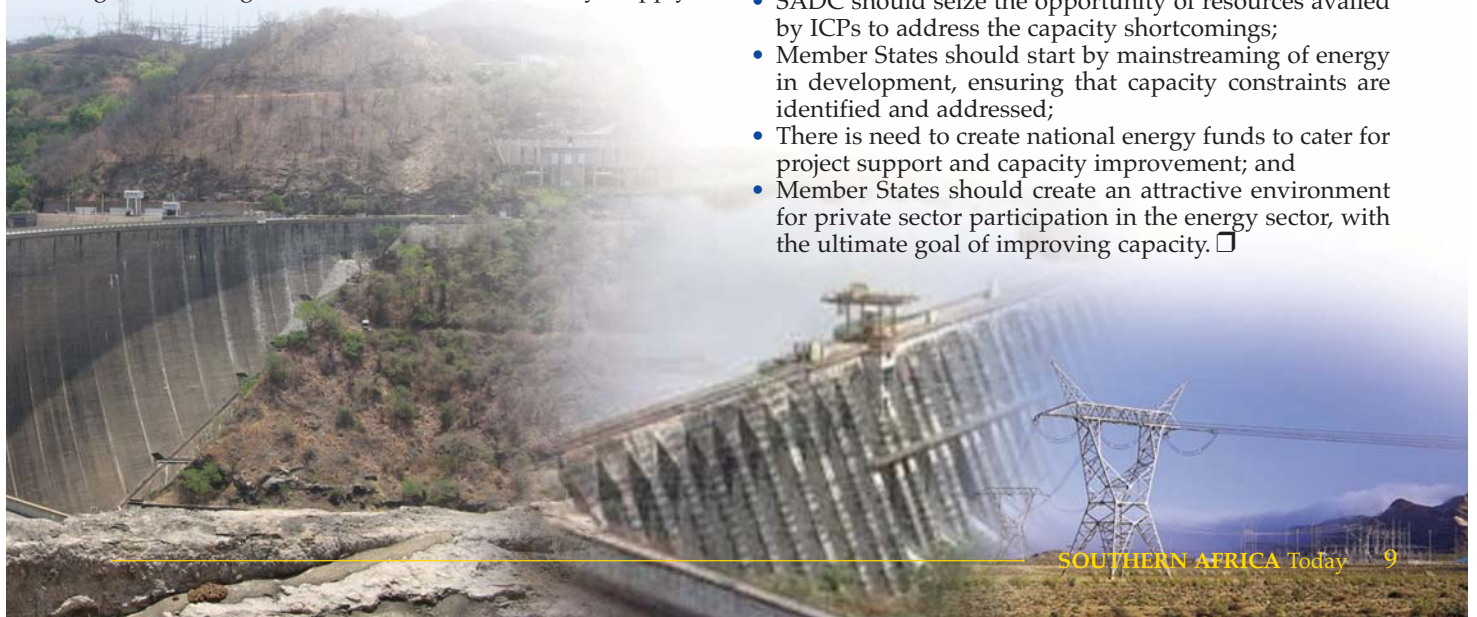
5.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

Training and capacity building have been identified as important prerequisites for any organisation (regional and national) to succeed in achieving its mission. The high priority attached to human resource development derives from a realisation and conviction that the effectiveness and capacity of organisations in the energy sector need to be significantly enhanced for SADC to meet the current challenges.

The Energy Co-operation Policy and Strategy Document (1996) states that SADC needs well trained human resources to realise its objectives and to implement strategies for energy development. On this basis, the document proposes "... that a strategically based training programme with a long-term perspective should be included as a critical part of the overall SADC Energy Policy and Strategy."

Such a programme targets key aspects of organisational capacity that SADC recognises as vital to the development of the energy sector and to successful co-operation between and among Member States:

- SADC should seize the opportunity of resources available by ICPs to address the capacity shortcomings;
- Member States should start by mainstreaming of energy in development, ensuring that capacity constraints are identified and addressed;
- There is need to create national energy funds to cater for project support and capacity improvement; and
- Member States should create an attractive environment for private sector participation in the energy sector, with the ultimate goal of improving capacity. □



ZiZaBoNa project to boost regional power trade

SOUTHERN AFRICA is intensifying efforts to raise resources for the construction of a power transmission line that would link four countries in the region.

Initiated in 2008, the ZiZaBoNa transmission line is expected to link Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia, the four countries from which it derives its name. Its development is expected to increase electricity trading among the power utilities of the participating countries.

The power transmission line is to provide an alternative route in the SADC region and decongest the existing central power transmission corridor that currently passes through Zimbabwe.

Meeting in Windhoek, Namibia recently, the ZiZaBoNa management and steering committee agreed to organize an investors' round-

table where investment opportunities for the project would be discussed.

The investors' roundtable, which is expected to bring together potential investors with regional utilities and other relevant stakeholders such as the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), is scheduled for November in South Africa.

The four countries also agreed to pursue the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) route for the project. A SPV or special purpose entity is a company that is created solely for a particular financial transaction or series of transactions. SPVs are often used to make a transaction tax efficient by choosing the most favourable tax residence for the vehicle.

The ZiZaBoNa project is expected to be implemented in two phases. The first phase of the project includes the

construction of a 120-km 330 kilovolt (kV) line from Hwange Power Station to Victoria Falls where a switching station will be built on the Zimbabwe side. The line will extend to a substation at Livingstone in Zambia.

The second phase involves the construction of a 300-km 330kV line from Livingstone to Katima Mulilo in Namibia, through Pandamatenga in Botswana.

The Zimbabwe-Zambia interconnector will be built as

a high voltage line with a transmission capacity of 430kV. However, it will operate as a 330kV line during the first phase.

Once completed, the ZiZaBoNa project would, for example, make it possible for Namibia's power utility, Nam-Power to import electricity directly from Hwange Power Station in Zimbabwe. Currently electricity from the Hwange station is being routed to Namibia through South Africa. □

Regional energy trading system active

THE COMPETITIVE regional power-trading system aimed at boosting the pooling of electricity across southern Africa is making gradual progress since its launch in December 2009.

The Day Ahead Market was established to promote power trading among SADC countries.

Latest figures from the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) indicate that trading was generally subdued during the month of July 2011, with only 115 megawatts per

hour (MWh) traded and a total of US\$4,570 being exchanged in the auction market.

"Comparatively, June 2011 saw 5,195MWh at a total cost of US\$276,773 being traded in the market," SAPP said in its monthly report.

While the decrease in trading volumes can be attributed to the transmission constraints on the SAPP grid central corridor, it has also been noted that there is a general mismatch between buyers bid and sellers offer prices. □

Additional transmission lines needed for smooth regional trading

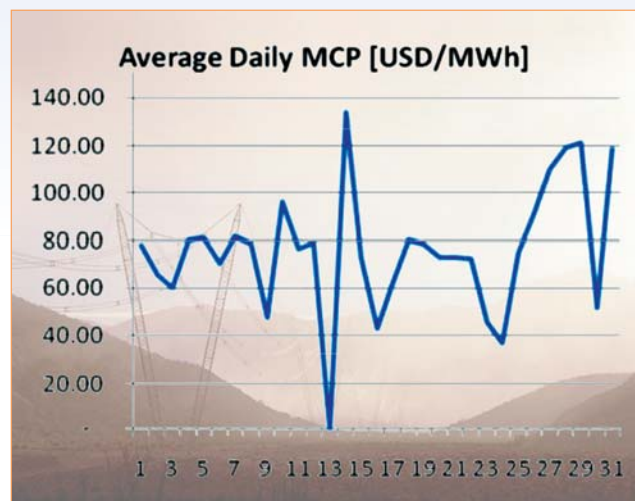
CONSTRUCTION OF transmission lines in the SADC region is critical towards addressing the crippling energy situation in the region, as interconnections enable member states to benefit from any new generation capacity installed in other regional countries.

A number of transmission interconnector projects have been identified and are expected to be commissioned in the next few years to enable

the smooth trading of additional generating capacity.

These interconnectors include the Zambia-Namibia power line and the recently launched Caprivi Link interconnector. The Caprivi Link power line ensures reliable transfer between east and western members of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).

The Caprivi Link Interconnector Project involves the construction of two convertor stations, one at the Zambezi sub-station and another one at Gerus sub-station near Otjiwarongo in the Otjozondjupa region in □.



Botswana in diamond deal

BOTSWANA HAS reached a 10-year agreement with the De Beers Group under which the company will transfer its London-based rough diamond sorting, valuation and sales activities to Gaborone.

Under the new agreement, De Beers is to move its sorting

and trading of the gems to Gaborone by the end of 2013, thus ending an arrangement dating back to the time of founder Cecil Rhodes for such sales to take place in London.



From its new base in Botswana, De Beers' Diamond Trading Company (DTC) will aggregate production from the company's mines and its joint venture operations worldwide and sell to international buyers.

The Minister of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources of Botswana, Ponatshego Kedikilwe said the agreement was a major step in securing the future of Botswana's economy.

He said that the days when De Beers determined the direction of prices by stockpiling production were over and the state wanted to

have its own understanding of market conditions.

"This agreement, and the tangible outcomes it will deliver, will enable Botswana to achieve its aspiration to be a major diamond centre engaged in all aspects of the diamond business," Kedikilwe said.

Diamond sales account for about 33 percent of Botswana's total Gross Domestic Product and is the main foreign currency earner for the country. □

Malawi to host COMESA Summit

MALAWI HOSTS the 15th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) on 14-15 October.

The summit is expected to discuss trade and investment in eastern and southern Africa as well as plans to launch a Tripartite Free Trade Area encompassing 26 countries in Africa.

At the summit, Malawian President Bingu wa Mutharika is to assume the COMESA chair from King Mswati of Swaziland, who hosted the last summit in 2010. The COMESA chair rotates among member states.

Prior to the leaders' summit, the COMESA Business Forum is expected to meet to discuss intra-regional trade.

"The business forum will explore how to exploit business opportunities available within the region, influence the environment for doing business within and provide one-to-one meetings between

business people from the region and beyond," said Chancellor Kaferapanjira, Chief Executive Officer of the Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The forum is expected to attract 500 businesspeople from the COMESA region as well as potential investors from China, Europe, India, United Arab Emirates and United States. □

Travel facility for cross-border traders launched in Zimbabwe

THE CROSS BORDER Traders Association of Zimbabwe (CBTAZ) has partnered with a local bank to launch a travel facility aimed at promoting the smooth movement of cross-border traders to and from the country.

The Fly-Now-Pay-Later facility will see a local bank facility to pay in advance for travel fares ranging from US\$500 to US\$3,000, depending on destination, with beneficiaries repaying over two months after selling their wares.

CBTAZ president Killer Zivhu said the facility would help traders venture into markets that had remained unex-

plored due to limitations in raising air fares.

"Some of our members have not been able to go to countries beyond the region because they could not afford the airfares, after raising funds to purchase their goods," he said.

The bank's general manager responsible for microfinance, Patrick Mugwendeza said, "We want to ensure the majority of our people are economically empowered."

Despite the lack of data, some estimates say that cross-border trading contributes between 30 to 40 percent of intra-SADC trade. □

New global body for farmers launched

FARMERS HAVE formed a new global body to represent their interests, to be known as the World Farmers Organization (WFO).

The WFO was launched in September at a ceremony in Stellenbosch, South Africa. Agriculture South Africa was one of the participants instrumental in the establishment of the organisation.

WFO replaces the International Federation for Agricultural Producers (IFAP), which previously looked after the interests of producers globally but had to be disbanded last year due to financial problems.

WFO is based in Rome, Italy, and its main objectives are to look after the interests of producers with regard to policy matters in the agricultural sector.

The board of the WFO comprises the president, Robert Carlson of the United States, and six board members, one representing each of the world's six continents.

The president of the Zambia National Farmers Union, Jervis Zimba, is Africa's representative on the board. *New Era* □

Sata wins Zambian elections

FORMER ZAMBIAN opposition leader Michael Sata of the Patriotic Front (PF) was elected Zambia's new president in September after defeating the incumbent, Rupiah Banda as the leader of Africa's biggest copper producer.

Sata polled 1,170,966 votes or 41.98 percent of the total number of votes cast against 987,866 for Banda of the Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) who got 35.42 percent of the total ballots cast, according to the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ).

Hakainde Hichilema of the United Party for National Development (UPND) came third, with 18.17 percent of the vote while Charles Milupi of the Alliance for Democracy and Development (ADD) was a distant fourth after drawing only 0.94 percent of the votes in the elections held on 20 September.

Edith Nawakwi of the Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD) was the only woman candidate among the 10 presidential hopefuls who took part in the election, and she gained only 0.24 percent of the votes.

Voter turnout was about 54 percent of registered voters, according to the ECZ.

In the last presidential election in 2006, Banda won more than 40 percent of the valid votes cast against about 38 percent for Sata and 19 percent for Hichilema.

Sata was sworn in on 23 September by Chief Justice Ernest Sakala.

The PF also became the largest party in Parliament after winning 60 seats in parliamentary elections held on the same day against 45 for the MMD and 28 for the UPND.

Sata's party was dominant in the Copperbelt, Luapula and Lusaka provinces while the MMD took most of the seats in Eastern and Central provinces, and the UPND swept to victory in Southern province, where its candidates won 17 of the 19 constituencies.

In the 2006 elections, the MMD won 73 of the elected seats, which was 49 percent of the elected seats in parliament, while the PF got 43 seats, with the United Democratic Alliance getting 26 seats, the United Liberal Party two seats, and the National Democratic Focus, one. The remaining



seats went to independent candidates.

A total of 768 parliamentary candidates contested for 150 seats in the National Assembly, with 113 or 14.7 percent of the candidates being women.

Ninety women were nominated by the various political parties while the other 23 stood as independents. In the previous parliamentary elections in 2006, there were 706 candidates, of whom 103 were women.

This time, only 17 women (11.5 percent) made it to the National Assembly after the elections.

The Zambian parliament is made up of 160 seats, including the 150 members who are elected plus eight nominated by the President. The other two members are the President and the Speaker of the National Assembly.

The polls were described as reflective of the will of people by regional and international organisations, including SADC and the African Union.

The tripartite elections were the sixth polls to take place in Zambia since the introduction of multi-party politics in 1991 when the country's liberation party, the United National Independence Party (UNIP) lost power to the MMD.

This was the second time that the ECZ was using a computerised voter registration system introduced in 2006. All voters' details, including fingerprints, are available electronically, which quickens the verification process. □



Michael Sata (left) took the oath of office as President of Zambia in September.

DRC polls set for 28 November

PRESIDENT JOSEPH Kabila has set 28 November 2011 as the date for general elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Kabila will be running for a second five-year term in a presidential race that includes main opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi. The 78-year-old

Tshisekedi boycotted the 2006 elections.

The 40-year-old Kabila formally filed his candidacy on 11 September in Kinshasa.

Kabila first took office in 2001 after his father, then-president Laurent Kabila, was assassinated. The younger Kabila was later voted into office during elections in 2006.

Kabila's strongest opposition in the 2006 race, Jean-Pierre Bemba, is not running this year as he awaits trial at the International Criminal Court on war crimes charges.

The Independent National Electoral Commission conducted voter registration between April and July. □

Zambia cabinet falls short of SADC gender threshold

THE NEW Zambian cabinet announced by President Michael Sata fails to address the gender gap in terms of women's participation in positions of authority.

Only two women have been appointed ministers in the trimmed 19-member Cabinet, representing just 10.5 percent of the Cabinet positions.

These are Nkandu Luo, who is the Minister of Local Government, Housing, Early Education and Environmental Protection, and Inonge Wina, who is the Minister for Chiefs and Traditional Affairs.

Only four women have been appointed deputy ministers. Two of these are Esther Banda and Belinda Kawandami, who are deputies to Luo and Wina, respectively.

The other deputies are Jean Kapata (Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health) and Alfreda Kansembe (Ministry of Finance). Of the nine appointed provincial ministers, only one is a woman – Josephine Limata (North Western Province).

In the last cabinet announced after the presidential by-election held in 2008 following the death of President Levy Mwanawasa, Zambia had three women ministers in a 22-member Cabinet, representing about 13.6 percent.

In the 2006 election, Zambia had a total of five women in a 21-member Cabinet, representing about 23.8 percent.

The latest figure falls short of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) target of 50 percent women in decision-making positions in the public and private sector by 2015 set by the SADC Summit in line with the decision of the African Union (AU), and so falls short of the previous target of 30 percent by 2005.

Zambia is a signatory to the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, which is not yet ratified by two-thirds of member states needed to enter into force. Mauritius and Botswana are the only two SADC Member States that have not signed the Protocol.

Regional legislation is a three-stage process involving initial signature of a protocol to indicate acceptance, followed by a longer process of ratification usually through the national parliament, and then the biggest challenge is to domesticate the clauses into national law and ensure implementation.

The objectives of the Protocol are to provide for the empowerment of women, eliminate discrimination, and achieve gender quality and equity through gender-responsive legislation, policies, programmes and projects.

Seven signatories to the Protocol – Angola, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe – have already deposited instruments of ratification with the SADC Secretariat, meaning ratification by another three would make the Protocol “enter into force”.

Gender representation in the 20 September general elections won by the Patriotic Front led by Sata also fell short of the regional target. Of the 113 women parliamentary candidates that contested in the 148 constituencies, only 17 were elected.

The Zambian parliament is made up of 160 seats, including the 150 members who are elected plus eight nominated by the President, as well as the President and the Speaker of the National Assembly.

A total of 148 seats were contested in the 20 September election, meaning that two by-elections are scheduled anytime this year.

In the last Zambian Parliament, there were 21 women in parliament (14 percent), a proportion that is higher than the current 11.5 percent.

In the SADC region, only four member states have reached the original target of 30 percent representation of women in Parliament (by 2005) and none has reached the 50 percent threshold.

South Africa has the highest representation of women in parliament at 45 percent, followed by Mozambique at 39.2 percent, and Angola and Tanzania with 38.6 percent and 36 percent, respectively.

These countries have electoral systems or balancing mechanisms that encourage participation by women, and the minimum 30 percent representation is a constitutional requirement in Tanzania.

Before the setbacks in some countries, the SADC region had reached the third highest percentage of women in politics in the world, at parliamentary level, with 20 percent, a figure surpassed only by the Nordic countries with 41 percent and the Americas at 21 percent, according to a recent global survey.

SADC's average percentage of women in parliament was higher than the world average of 18.5 percent, the Sub-Saharan average of 18.6 percent, Asia average at 18.4 percent, the Pacific average at 15.2 percent, and that of the Arab States (9.1 percent) which is the lowest. sardc.net □



THE SADC Protocol on Gender and Development was signed by SADC Heads of State and Government, except Botswana and Mauritius, on 17 August 2008, and ratified by nine of the 13 signatories by October 2011. The objectives of the Protocol are to:

- Provide for the emancipation of women, to eliminate discrimination and to achieve gender equality and equity through the development and implementation of gender responsive legislation, policies, programmes and projects,
- Harmonize the implementation of the various instruments to which member states have subscribed to at regional, continental and international levels on gender equality,
- Address emerging gender issues and concerns,
- Set realistic, measurable targets, timeframes and indicators for achieving gender equality and equity
- Strengthen, monitor and evaluate the progress made by member states towards reaching the targets and goals set in this protocol, and
- Deepen regional integration, sustainable development and community building. □

Madagascar – Political stakeholders sign the roadmap

POLITICAL PARTIES in Madagascar have signed an agreement that allows the return of exiled leader Marc Ravalomanana and paves the way for elections to be held within a year to re-establish democratic governance on the Indian Ocean island.

Ten of the 11 political stakeholders in Madagascar signed a roadmap in September that seeks to restore constitutional normalcy in the country.

The roadmap allows for the unconditional return from exile of Ravalomanana, the former president, and for the establishment of transitional institutions ahead of elections.

Ravalomanana was ousted by Andry Rajoelina in March 2009 in an army-backed coup and his attempts to return to the country have been blocked by Rajoelina. Madagascar is currently suspended from SADC.

The roadmap deal was brokered by SADC following a mission to Madagascar by the Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO) from 11-17 September. This mission was mandated by the SADC Summit held in Angola in August.

The Troika delegation was led by the Deputy Foreign Minister of South Africa, Marius Fransman and included representatives of the other members of the SADC Troika, currently Zambia and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Its mandate was to engage political stakeholders in Madagascar to fully implement the roadmap as amended by the decisions taken by

the SADC Extraordinary Summit in June 2011 and subsequently reiterated by the Luanda Summit.

The MCO mission was supported by the SADC mediation team led by former Mozambican President Joachim Chissano and SADC executive secretary Tomaz Salomao.

The ministerial committee held consultations with key Malagasy stakeholders including former presidents Didier Ratsiraka and Albert Zafy, as well as Rajoelina, who heads the High Authority of Transition. They also met civil society organisations and heads of the armed forces.

During the consultations with the political stakeholders, it emerged that the major dispute was over paragraph 20 of the roadmap as amended by the Sandton Summit and reaffirmed by the Luanda Summit.

The major dispute among the parties emanated from a letter by Salomao addressed to the Malagasy political stakeholders, dated 17 June 2011.

There was a general feeling by some of the Malagasy political stakeholders that the amendment contained in that letter did not correctly reflect the spirit and letter of both the Sandton Summit and the Luanda Summit.

The decision of Luanda Summit was as follows: (a) "Summit also urged the High Transition Authority to allow Malagasy people in exile for political reasons, to be allowed to return to the country unconditionally including Mr Marc Ravalomanana."



(b) "Summit further urged the High Transition Authority to urgently develop and enact all outstanding legal instruments to ensure the political freedom of all Malagasy in the inclusive process leading to free, fair and credible elections."

In light of the perceived misinterpretations, the Troika mission decided to provide clarity and correct misconceptions and other aspects of the roadmap.

The Troika emphasized that there was a clear distinction between the content and scope of the roadmap and its modalities for implementation. It decided that the implementation modalities will be elaborated after the signing of the roadmap.

The Troika redrafted paragraph 20 as follows: "The High Transition Authorities (HTA) shall allow all Malagasy citizens in exile for political reasons to return to the country unconditionally, including Mr. Marc Ravalomanana. The HTA shall provide security and safety to all Malagasy returnees. The HTA shall urgently develop and enact the necessary legal instruments, including an amnesty law, to ensure the political freedom of all Malagasy citizens in the inclusive process of the transition, towards free, fair and credible elections". □

Summit endorses secondment of officials to Zimbabwe's JOMIC

SOUTHERN AFRICAN leaders have directed the Troika of the Organ to draft terms of reference for a group of regional officials to join the South African-led facilitation team assisting Zimbabwe to implement a 2008 power-sharing agreement.

SADC leaders resolved during the recent 31st Summit of Heads of State and Government in Angola that the Organ Troika should appoint a team of three officials to join the facilitation team and work with the Joint Monitoring and

Implementation Committee (JOMIC) to ensure monitoring, evaluation and implementation of the Global Political Agreement (GPA).

JOMIC's main functions are to ensure implementation of the GPA, to receive reports and complaints in respect of any issue related to the implementation, enforcement and execution of the agreement as well as to serve as catalyst in creating and promoting an atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding among the parties. □



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E V E N T S

EVENTS DIARY October-December 2011

October 20, South Africa	China-Africa Business Forum China is Africa's largest trading partner, and the forum seeks to strengthen relations. It follows another forum on Investment in Africa held in China in September.
24-28 October, South Africa	Regional Conference on Gender and Development SADC conference of national gender machineries, partners and other stakeholders to develop a regional action plan for implementation of the Protocol on Gender and Development after ratification.
26-28, Mozambique	12th WaterNet/WARFSA/GWP-SA Symposium The conference will provide a forum to discuss and disseminate research findings, debate on water policy and address challenges affecting the water sector in southern Africa.
26-28, Ethiopia	African Economic Conference The conference will provide a platform to reflect on new directions for growth policy and determine the best approaches to attain the Millennium Development Goals, achieve the objectives of NEPAD and accelerate Africa's sustainable development.
27-29, China	China-Africa Think Tank Forum The CATT, made up of think tanks and policy institutions from both places, was launched in Hangzhou, China as a forum to strengthen dialogue and exchanges through joint research and policy analysis. The theme of the launch seminar was "Sino-African relations in the second decade of the new century".
November 3-4, South Africa	Infrastructure Summit Africa The summit seeks to promote and facilitate infrastructure investment in Africa in various sectors such as transport, energy, telecommunications and mining.
15-16, London	Climate Finance 2011 A host of new approaches are being developed to channel public and private capital to promote low-carbon development. The conference will examine the potential of these new tools to deliver successful, cost-effective climate change mitigation and adaptation.
TBA, South Africa	ZiZaBoNa Investors Roundtable The meeting aims to present investment opportunities for the ZiZaBoNa project. The ZiZaBoNa transmission line links four SADC countries -- Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia.
21-25, Rwanda	AU Ministerial conference on Rural Infrastructure The conference seeks to find ways of improving rural infrastructure to raise competitiveness of Africa's agricultural sector and to develop regional markets.
29 Nov-9 Dec, South Africa	COP17 Summit on Climate Change The 17th United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP17) convenes in Durban, South Africa to discuss solutions to the rise in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising sea levels due to increased emissions of green-house gases.



25 Years
19 October 1986

Samora Machel remembered



SOUTHERN AFRICA this October commemorates the 25th anniversary of the death of Mozambique's first president Samora Moises Machel who died in a plane crash in 1986.

Machel and 34 others, including some of his closest aides and advisors, died when the presidential plane, returning from a summit in Zambia, crashed at Mbuzini in South Africa on 19 October 1986.

The cause of the crash has not been officially determined, although circumstantial evidence points to a false navigational beacon placed by the former apartheid regime in South Africa to draw the plane off course, away from the Maputo flight path and toward the hills at Mbuzini.

Born on 29 September 1933 in the southern Mozambican village of Chilembene, in what is now Chokwe district of Gaza province, Machel was hailed for his charismatic and strong leadership in the face of settler and colonial domination and oppression across southern Africa.

After taking up the leadership of the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (Frelimo) from its first president, Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane, who was assassinated by Portuguese security agents in 1969, and leading the liberation struggle from the battlefield against Portuguese colonialism, Machel became the first President of Mozambique at independence on 25 June 1975.

A few months later, in March 1976, he closed Mozambique's 1200-km border with the then Southern Rhodesia, in line with United Nations sanctions, and cut off the lucrative transport of goods from the interior to his country's railways and ports.

Frelimo was already accommodating liberation fighters from Zimbabwe in its bases in the liberated zones of Mozambique since 1972, especially in Tete province where they had ready access to the border crossing.

The firm and active support from Machel, Frelimo and Mozambique continued until Zimbabwe won its independence on 18 April 1980.

When the war in Rhodesia escalated to the extent of several rounds of negotiations, Mozambican officials were present on the sidelines. At the Lancaster House talks in London in 1979, Mozambique played an active role in encouraging a settlement.

Renamo, formed and trained at Odzi in Rhodesia, near the Mozambique border, was moved, complete with weapons, supplies and training officers, to South Africa during the transition to Zimbabwe's independence and continued its activities from new bases at Phalaborwa.

Machel was eloquent and outspoken on the subject of liberation in southern Africa and especially against apartheid in South Africa. Having won Mozambique, he believed that anything was possible, including a victory over apartheid in South Africa.

His high profile stance against colonialism and white minority rule, however, made him a threat to those in power in South Africa at the time.

October 1986 was at the height of new activity by the African National Congress (ANC) in the townships of South Africa, with cadres moving in and out of Mozambique; and at the height of the Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo) activities in Mozambique, moving in from South Africa and from Kamuzu Banda's Malawi.

This came less than three years after the high-profile signing of the Nkomati Accord by Machel and apartheid South Africa's P.W. Botha in March 1984, when Mozambique's survival depended on a non-aggression pact with South Africa. In practice, both sides continued with their objectives, and this had again reached a crescendo with a series of related events in October 1986.



African history project launched

"REAL HISTORY belongs to a people in struggle and not to the interpreters of history. The people themselves are the makers of history and therefore the real historians. The interpreters are mere raconteurs of history and not the actual history-makers as is often wrongly implied."

These are the words of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe during the launch in Harare of the UNESCO Pedagogical History of Africa Project.

Noting that non-African historians have often painted a wrong picture of Africa, Mugabe said the continent's history must be written by African scholars and academics rather than by passive on-lookers who are often non-African outsiders.

The project, which began in 2009 and is the second phase of the General History of Africa programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), focuses on the elaboration of history curricula and pedagogical materials for primary and secondary schools written by African historians.

The first phase produced the UNESCO General History of Africa in eight volumes, including ancient and pre-colonial history and civilizations. The current initiative aims to promote the use and harmonization of the teaching of this collection in higher education institutions throughout the continent.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

October-December 2011

1 October	Public Holiday	Botswana
4 October	Independence Day	Lesotho
4 October	Peace and Reconciliation Day	Mozambique
14 October	Mwalimu Nyerere Day	Tanzania
15 October	Mother's Day	Malawi
24 October	Independence Day	Zambia
26 October	Divali	Mauritius
1 November	All Saints Day	Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Angola, Tanzania
2 November	All Saints Day	Angola, Tanzania
6-7 November	Eid El-Hajj*	
11 November	National Independence Day	Angola
12 November	Public Holiday	Angola
8 December	Immaculate Conception	Seychelles
9 December	Independence Day	Tanzania
16 December	Day of Reconciliation	South Africa
22 December	Unity Day	Zimbabwe
25 December	Christmas Day	SADC
26 December	Family Day	Namibia
	Day of Goodwill	South Africa
	Boxing Day	Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zimbabwe

*Depends on the sighting of the moon

A shared future within a regional community