THE ZAMBEZI

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SADC CASTS NET WIDER IN MANAGEMENT OF ZAMBEZI RIVER BASIN

Participation in decision-making in the management of the Zambezi river basin is set to include all the eight riparian states following the launch of phase two of a SADC Water Sector Coordinating Unit programme. The programme seeks to set up a water resources information system that will provide information on activities on the basin.

The Zambezi Action Programme (ZACPRO 6), will cover the entire basin and end the monopoly Zambia and Zimbabwe have had in the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA), an implementing agency of the water sector, through a project called Development of an Integrated Water Resources Management Strategy for the Zambezi river basin.

The project will demonstrate that what happens in Luena, Angola should be of interest to decision-makers as far down the Zambezi as Chinde in Mozambique.

The Zambezi river basin spans eight countries in southern Africa plus a very small section of 1 000 sq km in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). And yet when people talk about management of the Zambezi, they usually focus their discussion around issues closer to home, not realising the ripple effects the use of the water resource has on others, particularly those downstream.

Inside...

SOE Zambezi/CEP

The Zambezi river coils its way through some Southern African countries

To end this narrow focus on management of the basin, the project will seek to involve more people from all the eight countries of Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe in the implementation of sustainable projects in the Zambezi river basin.

"Management of the Zambezi basin should extend beyond just the river and its immediate environs. Cooperation should not only be restricted to the immediate mandate of institutions such as the Zambezi River Authority, but others even if they may be about 400 kilometres away from Kariba," says SADC in its State of the Zambezi Basin 2000 Report.

This view is supported by the New

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EDITORIAL

As the second phase of the State of Enviroment reporting programe for the Zambezi basin (SOE Zambezi) gains steam, it is useful to note the many achievements that have been made due to the successful basin partnership.

The partnership of the Southern African Development Community 's Enviroment and Land Management Sector (SADC-ELMS), the SADC Water Sector, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA) and SARDC, brings a range of strengths to the projet.

This partnership goes way back to the early 1990s when the Communicating the Enviroment Programme (CEP) was launched.

The cooperation between SADC an inter-governmental body, IUCN an international organization and SARDC a regional information resource centre strengthens the project impact and adds regional and international flavour by drawing on the partners' wide knowledge of the region.

SOE Zambezi is further strengthened by a network of NCCs in each of the basin states.

The partnership aims to create awareness about enviromental issues in the Zambezi basin through the provision of information. This fulfills one of the objectives of the SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses of exchanging information and data relevant to the integrated development of the resources within the shared watercourse systems.

The SADC protocol on shared watercourses points to the desire to develop "close cooperation for judicious and coordinated utilisation of the resources in the SADC region". SADC is convinced that there is need for coordinated and environmentally sound development of the shared wetlands in the SADC region to support sustainable socio-economic development.

Using the protocol as a guide, the partnership on the SOE reporting project on the Zambezi basin, hopes to increase general networking among the organizations involved and build capacity in the process as cross-fertilization of ideas, skills and knowledge takes place. The partnership is also important in that it will ensure continuity and sustainability of the project. Apart from that, the partnership and its outputs ensure a sense of ownership by the wider group of stakeholders of the project and more importantly, of the resources of the basin.

The SADC protocol on shared watercourses alludes to partnerships when it talks of the establishment of close cooperation with regard to the study and execution of all projects likely to have an effect on the regime of the watercourse system and this is what the SOE Zambezi has given birth to.

In this issue, various subjects of interest to the residents of the Zambezi basin are presented and these illustrate the usefulness of the partnership SADC is engaged in.

Bearing in mind the target audience which includes, decision and policy makers at national, regional and sectoral levels, legislators, the media, civil society organizations working in the basin, schools, academic institutions and the public, SADC recognises that reaching all these is a challenge.

What the SOE Zambezi project achieved during phase 1, bears testimony to what a regional partnership can attain. The partners took part in the production and distribution of various information materials including fact sheets, posters and this newsletter. The State of Enviroment Zambezi 2000 was launched by the partners at the regional level and on the eve of a SADC summit. A Portuguese edition of the book was launched recently in Maputo.

The partners in CEP expect that the spirit of working together will continue during the second phase of the Zambezi SOE project and in other regional projects.

IUCN-ROSA to launch phase II of the Zambezi Basin wetlands project

By Ierka Thamae

The World Conservation Union's Regional Office for Southern Africa (IUCN-ROSA) will soon embark on the second phase of the Zambezi Basin Wetlands Conservation and Resource Utilisation Project (ZBWCRUP). The five-year project will see the development of several initiatives aimed at encouraging sustainable, profitable and equitable utilisation and management of the basin's natural resources.

The Zambezi delta in Mozambique and the Barotse floodplain in western Zambia have been chosen as the sites for project implementation. At least 10 components have been identified and are expected to demonstrate that natural resources can be utilised sustainably and profitably as well as managed equitably.

The ZBWCRUP II follows the successful completion of the first phase implemented between 1995 and 1999 during which a basin-wide assessment of wetlands biodiversity was carried out together with a basin-wide economic valuation of wetlands resources and services. Community experiences in enhancement of human well-being and the sustainable management of wetlands resources were also documented.

These studies were carried out in the Barotse floodplains, the Zambezi delta in Mozambique, the Chobe-Caprivi area in Namibia, and the Lower Shire wetlands in Malawi.

Drawing on these experiences, phase II is expected to come up with models of sustainable and profitable use of wetlands with specific resource management and conservation guidelines for application throughout the Zambezi basin and the entire region.

In a paper presented at the Parliamentary Dialogue on Partnerships for Sustainable Development, held in Windhoek, Namibia, IUCN-ROSA's Ecosystems Programme Coordinator Francis Mkanda said extensive consultation with key stakeholders in government agencies, district authorities, traditional leadership and communities were held to seek consensus on the approach towards the ZBWCRUP.

Work on the project is expected to start as soon as funding is released, most likely this year. The Canadian government, through its International Development Agency (CIDA) has, in principle, approved the second phase of the ZBWCRUP, expected to cost about US$3 million. CIDA also funded the first phase.

Mkanda said the project was designed by a group of specialists in ecology, economics, sociology, gender, health and business development. These experts, built on the experiences gained, and information gathered during the first phase to develop and finalise models of best wetlands conservation and resource utilisation practises.

"Drawing on these models, the ultimate purpose of the second phase is to influence national policies and regional protocols that maintain the ecological integrity of wetlands ecosystems, while simultaneously improving the well-being of the Zambezi Basin wetlands communities," Mkanda pointed out.

IUCN-ROSA is expected to implement the project through a project office and site officers with national governments, local agencies, communities and IUCN-ROSA's network of members are expected to play various roles in the implementation process.

The components of the project include development of models in:

- Forestry management;
- landscape level biodiversity;
- co-operative fisheries and aquatic plants – papyrus;
- agriculture;
- community empowerment; and
- policy development, advocacy, and project management.

The ZBWCRUP is IUCN-ROSA's response to its members' request way back in the early 1990s that the organisation should get involved in addressing environmental problems in the basin. Of particular concern to the members was the little attention that the wetland ecosystems of the Zambezi basin was getting despite the fact that the Southern African Development Community (SADC) had established the Zambezi River Basin Action Plan (ZACPLAN).

A regional workshop held in Kasane, Botswana in 1993 and hosted by IUCN-ROSA in collaboration with the SADC Environmental and Land Management Sector (SADC-ELMS) gave birth to the project idea. This was followed by signing of an agreement between IUCN and CIDA who have funded the project since 1995. ❑

Some Wetlands Publications From IUCN ROSA

Turpie J., Smith B., Emerton L. and J. Barnes. *Economic Value of the Zambezi Basin Wetlands*, IUCN-ROSA, Harare, 1999.

Breen C.M., Quinn N.W., and J.J. Mander, (Eds). *Wetlands Conservation And Management In Southern Africa: Challenges And Opportunities*, IUCN-ROSA, Harare, 1997.

Masundire H.M. and J.Z.Z. Matowanyika. *Biological Diversity In Southern Africa, The Path Ahead*, IUCN-ROSA, Harare, 1995.

Matiza Chiuta T., *Wetlands of Malawi*, IUCN-ROSA, Harare, 1992.

Matiza Chiuta T., *Wetlands of Zambia*, IUCN-ROSA, Harare, 1992.

Global ecosystem assessment launched in southern Africa

An ecosystems assessment is underway in southern Africa as part of an ambitious United Nations-sponsored global ecosystems evaluation that will give indications as to how much longer the human race can sustain itself on current practices. The assessment is expected to give a preliminary "big picture" of how healthy the planet is.

The Zambezi is one of three major southern African river basins that have been included in the initial studies of the four-year US$21 million global assessment. The other two are the Orange, which stretches across South Africa, Lesotho and Namibia and the Okavango in Botswana, Namibia and Angola.

The Zambezi spans most of the subcontinent covering at least eight SADC member states of Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It also covers 1000 sq km in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which joined SADC more recently.

River basins are considered important because they include a variety of habitats, including forests and woodlands, mountains, grasslands, shrub lands and dry lands. They also offer natural ecological boundaries, and are highly important in terms of utilisation by humans.

Different methodologies of study will be used in each basin, but in all three, substantial efforts will be made to include and empower local communities as well as national and regional decision-makers.

Academic and research institutions from all over the region will be involved in the assessments and dozens of the region's best scientists will take part in what has been dubbed "the most ambitious global ecosystem survey ever undertaken."

Initiated by the United Nations and involving all its agencies and more than 1 500 environmental experts, theMillennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) will be studying habitats in all land sectors of the planet, focusing on the ability of the environment to continue supplying a range of key human needs including essentials such as food, water and energy.

This is the most extensive and holistic study of the world's ecosystems ever carried out.

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SADC casts net wider in management of Zambezi River Basin

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Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad) that has emphasised the need for cooperation among African states in managing shared water resources.

One of the aims of Zacpro-6 is to establish the necessary enabling environment for integrated water resources management at the regional and national levels through the Zambezi River Basin Commission (ZAMCOM) and other legal and institutional structures.

Another goal is the establishment of a fully operational, water resources information system which is a prerequisite to the development and operation of water resources planning and management tools or models.

An operational water resources information system that interfaces with water resources planning models and geographical information systems to support decision-making in the eight riparian countries wiil be set up.

Stakeholder participation will be ensured through a project steering committee and national steering committees. These will co-ordinate implementation of the project, disseminate information about the objectives, outputs, activities and progress reports to stakeholder institutions and interest groups. They will also provide an avenue for riparian countries to collect and transmit data that will be required by the project.

ZACPRO is a product of SADC's Zambezi River Action Plan (ZACPLAN), which was adopted in 1987. ZACPLAN consists of 19 projects, of which ZACPRO-6 whose full title "Development of an Integrated Water Management Plan for the Zambezi River Basin" is the core project.

The launch of ZACPLAN followed the realisation that as demand for the basin's water resources increases in the riparian states, so will competition to utilize the basin profitably and also the possibility of conflicts.

The first phase of ZACPRO-6

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Global ecosystem assessment launched in southern Africa

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Pilot studies conducted by the World Resources Institute (WRI) based in Washington DC, indicate that in many regions of the world, the capacity of ecosystems to meet human needs for food and clean water is diminishing. There are growing threats to biodiversity and human health due to environmental disasters such as floods and landslides, often caused by human activities.

The MA is an international scientific mechanism, similar to the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, providing policy-makers with "state of the art" scientific information on current conditions, future scenarios and response options related to the goods and services provided by the world's ecosystems.

The initial studies will take place over a four-year period, with Southern Africa being the first. The Southern African Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (SAfMA) will last 20 months. The regional assessment started in April 2002 and is expected to end in December 2003.

Areas of focus for the study in southern Africa are agro ecosystems, forests and woodlands, inland waters, mountains, grasslands, shrub lands and dry lands.

Depending on international financial support, these global assessments may be complemented by ongoing studies. Scientists are actually aware that these first surveys are far from being comprehensive.

The studies will be multi-scale, simultaneously studying local (community-based), national, regional and ultimately, global integrated ecosystems with the aim of meeting the needs of decision-makers at the scale at which the assessment is conducted. It is hoped that products, tailor made to decision-makers will be produced.

The assessments will make a situational analysis of the ecosystems by considering the current status, trends and driving forces behind the developments. The products should address questions such as, "if water use in a certain area is doubled, what will happen to the land cover?"

In other words, as Dr Bob Scholes of CSIR Environmentek, South Africa points out: "We should be able to see a big picture, but also the small detail within that picture."

SOE Zambezi/CEP

People depend on the ecosystems for their livelihood

Ecosystem assessments involve analysis of the capacity of an ecosystem to meet the needs of human beings through provision of goods and services. Ecosystem goods include products such as food, timber, genetic resources and medicines while services encompass water purification, flood control, coastline stabilization, carbon sequestration, waste treatment, biodiversity conservation, soil generation, disease regulation, pollination, maintenance of air quality, and the provision of aesthetic and cultural benefits.

The global MA is being undertaken after the realization that policymakers do not have information on the condition of ecosystems in their various localities.

Four expert working groups, focused on conditions, scenarios, response options, and sub-global assessments (under which the southern African study falls), are undertaking the MA. Each working group is co-chaired by leading natural and social scientists from developed and developing countries.

In southern Africa, a nine-member technical steering committee has been set up with a regional ten-member advisory committee tasked with monitoring the allocation of funds and representing the interests of various sectors of society.

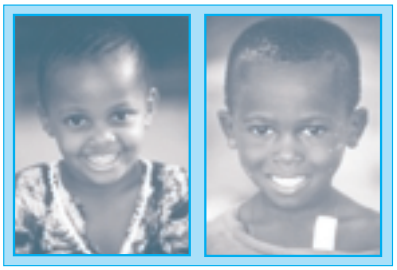
Six different institutions are providing core administrative, logistical, and technical support to the working groups that are undertaking the assessment. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) administers the majority of the core financial support and has employed the Director, who is based at the World Fish Centre, in Malaysia. The coordinator of the Sub-Global working group is also based at the World Fish Centre. The Institute for Economic Growth in Delhi supports Working Group 4 (Response Options) while the World Resources Institute (WRI) in Washington DC, in partnership with the Meridian Institute supports the outreach and engagement activities.

All UN conventions related to ecosystem management have endorsed the establishment of the MA, as a joint assessment process to meet some of the information needs of the conventions. The conventions include the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification, and the Convention on Wetlands. (WildNet Africa/SARDC) ❑

Engendering sustainable development projects a challenge

By Alice Kwaramba

At the core of the sustainable development equation, lies an urgent need to creatively protect and preserve natural resources in a participatory and inclusive manner. Environmental programmes and projects in southern Africa currently aimed at strategically advancing this agenda will not bear much success, if a gender perspective is not adopted at both regional and national levels.



SOE Zambezi/CEP

Boys and girls of southern Africa present our future.

Although SADC is endowed with rich natural resources, which can easily sustain populations and contribute to poverty eradication, not enough creativity and innovation has been developed in the policies managing these region's resources, which has been one of the primary contributing factors towards keeping the region's people amongst the poorest on the continent.

A gender perspective needs to be emphasized more, to allow for a deeper insight into how men, women, boys and girls all relate with, and are affected by, the natural environment in order to aid policy guides in determining which projects or programmes would benefit each group most.

Poverty still remains the greatest challenge facing most of the riparian states, with *The State of the Environment Zambezi Basin 2000* report finding that: "Millions of people, in both urban and rural areas of the Zambezi Basin are living in poverty with no hope of their situation getting better. The costs have also been felt in terms of ecological welfare with many areas of the basin experiencing land degradation, habitat conversion and loss of biodiversity.

"This trend in the Zambezi Basin states shows worsening poverty with millions of rural people in the basin eking a living from subsistence agriculture, which is dependent on rainfall, a resource that is fast becoming scarce in the basin."

While this remains true for everyone within the basin, it is crucial to note the differences between how both men and women are equally affected.

Over the past few decades the basin has witnessed an increase in the number of regional and community based organizations exploring methods to promote the sustainable use and management of the Zambezi Basin natural resources through poverty alleviation and development promotion.

However, development planners and project implementers have taken far too long in recognizing how gender analysis is key to the success of such programmes and projects within the region. Efforts to broaden participation in the effective utilization and management of the environment in SADC have often been impeded by a general lack of appreciation of gender-differentiated roles and needs, in the utilization and management of environmental resources.

As a result, many regional and community based organizations have run programmes and projects seeking to raise awareness on the importance of sustainable use and management of environmental resources for human well being. These projects and programmes have varied from disseminating information on the environment to focussing on its actual rehabilitation.

Projects of a gender sensitive nature could further aid in the development of increasing quality of life by empowering communities to make appropriate and sound decisions. This could lead to effective integrated resource management which could help curb poverty. Care must, however be taken to remove all discriminatory practices during the implementation, monitoring and evaluation stages of such project cycles.

These gender sensitive plans, development objectives, responsive activities, monitoring and evaluation tools and indicators will go a long way towards painting a clearer picture of how women, men, boys and girls all utilize and manage environmental resources within the basin, bringing out their own specific needs and problems.

Most importantly, it will help the communities themselves to identify where gaps may lie, on which the success of each project will then depend.

Legal and institutional frameworks, instruments and tools are all readily available at both regional and international levels to guide the engendering of environmental projects and programmes for effective development processes. For example, in the SADC Declaration on Gender and

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Hydro-electric power station on cards for Mozambique

By Bonifacio Antonio

Mozambique plans to build another dam and a hydroelectric power station on the Zambezi river. Construction of the US$2.4 billion dam and power station in the Mepanda Uncua region in the district of Cahora Bassa in Tete province, is scheduled to begin in the year 2004.

The government is in the process of soliciting funding from potential investors. The government recently held an investors' conference in Maputo with the hope of attracting financiers for the hydropower project.

Apart from the reduction in carbon emissions from the use of coal and natural gas in generating electricity, the project is set to boost agricultural activity. In addition, the new road and bridge over the Zambezi will reduce rural isolation and improve local people's access to markets.

It is also expected that the two projects will signal the beginning of an end to Eskom's monopoly in the provision of hydroelectric power generated from Cahora Bassa.

South Africa's Eskom enjoys a dominating position in Mozambique because it buys virtually all the power generated by Cahora Bassa at a low price and re-sells it to Maputo.

The proposed dam is to be built, about 70kms downstream of the Cahora Bassa dam where the power station will be put up.

Local people, some of whom will be displaced have given the project thumbs up after the Mozambican government, through the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy consulted them and presented the impact assessment study to them.

The Mepanda Uncua dam will be relatively small covering about 100 sq km as compared to the 2,675 sq km of the Cahora Bassa lake or the 5,577 sq km drowned by Lake Kariba.

SOE Zambezi/CEP

Dams have multiple uses including hydro-electric power generation.

At least 260 families (about 1,400 people) and a school will be displaced during construction of the dam and are expected to be resettled in villages to be built near the dam.

According to the impact assessment study the local people have stated that they would like to be adequately compensated and they would like to be given priority when employment opportunities come up at the dam and hydro-electric station.

It is expected that about 3,000 temporary jobs will be created for the local population during dam construction. When the dam is complete at least 80 workers will be employed. Activities such as fishing are expected to create employment for more people.

The dam is also expected to boost agricultural activities, using irrigation, in the Zambezi valley where over 5.5 million hectares of the land is arable (about 50 percent of total arable land of the country).

The Cahora Bassa dam was built by Portugal before Mozambique's independence in 1975. Portugal owns 82 per cent of HCB (Hydroelectric of Cahora Bassa), a company that operates the dam, while the Mozambican government owns the remaining 18 percent.

There are plans to change the shareholding structure to allow the Mozambican government to have the majority shareholding. However, Portugal has insisted that work begin on the power station before it hands over its stake in Cahora Bassa to Mozambique.

Experts have warned that Mozambique should not rush into taking over Cahora Bassa as this could mean inheriting a debt. Portugal is still paying for the construction of Cahora Bassa.

A preliminary study funded by France and Germany and conducted by Mozambique's Hydroelectric Project Technical Unit has called for the construction of two transmission lines linking the proposed Mepanda dam to Maputo and to Beira.

They have suggested that the lines could be interconnected with three other networks in the country: the centre-north line starting from Cahora Bassa; the central line linked to the Revue dam; and the southern line which connects Cahora Bassa to South Africa. ❑

Zambian village explores cultural tourism in the Zambezi Basin

By Tinashe Madava and Tafadzwa Sekeso

A village in south-western Zambia is set to become a major tourist destination following the launch of a unique tourism venture that aims at conserving the environment in the Zambezi basin as well as preserve their cultural heritage and promote economic development.

Situated near the Victoria Falls and within easy reach by tourists to both Zambia and Zimbabwe, the lucrative cultural tourism venture in Mukuni Village will celebrate the community's culture and pre-colonial history, while providing better opportunities and income for villagers.

Led by a vibrant Chief whose love for his people and the environment is reflected in his enthusiasm to see the project succeed and in his utterances about them, the people of Mukuni village near Livingstone, Zambia have formed an organisation called Mukuni Environmental, Cultural and Economic Development Trust.

Chief Mukuni describes the village as the "only authentic existing African village". Its culture is alive and the people have tried to preserve the environment in the Zambezi basin as best as they could through some cultural practices.

Realising they could get more out of their practices, they set up the Trust whose major aim is to educate tourists on the people's pre-colonial history and way of life. This is aimed at enlightening tourists about the richness of the African culture. The project also plans to promote conservation of biodiversity, through sustainable community based natural resource management and to continuously carry out community based environmental education programmes.

Mukuni village is located in one of Zambia's dry areas that receive little rain and have infertile soils. These factors have made the people of Mukuni and their chief realise they cannot depend on agriculture for their livelihood.

"It is difficult to grow anything because of low rainfall and sandy soils, but we have found a new crop which is tourism," Senior Chief Mukuni said in an interview in Harare where he was attending an inception stakeholders'

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Engendering sustainable development projects: challenges of planning and practice

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Development, Heads of State have committed themselves to promoting women's full access to and control over productive resources, including such environmental resources as land in order to reduce the level of poverty felt amongst women.

The Beijing Platform for Action, (the global framework for gender equality), has now clearly identified gender inequalities in the management of natural resources and in the safeguarding of the environment, as in need of being addressed at regional and national levels.

Though most gender policies at national and regional levels in SADC now acknowledge the need for gender equality in environmental resource utilization and management, the fact still remains that the environmental sectors have not heavily imbedded gender into a lot of their policies.

Although SADC has a regional environment policy (SADC Policy and Strategy for Environment and Sustainable Development) which alludes to the need for greater economic equity to deal with problems of poverty, population growth and environmental degradation; there are no specific recognitions nor policy commitments to gender equity in the utilization and management of its resources.

As such, one challenge that most environmental programmes and projects have faced, has been to bridge the gap at the policy level to enhance its regional impact. This means that successful projects such as the State of the Environment Reporting Project in the Zambezi Basin (SOEPROZ), which have changed the face of the environmental information scene in the region, need to adequately mainstream gender during all stages of their project cycles.

There is a direct need for strategic linkages between environmental and women's NGOs to influence the face of policy and properly utilize the strong gender networks already existent within the region. Organizations such as the National Collaborating Centres (NCCs) to the State of Environment Reporting Zambezi Project could then network with and tap into these bodies in order to help mainstream gender skills. This is a very important linkage as NCCs have in the past been identified as primary networking agents on environmental issues, on both a local and national level. ❑

Zambian village explores cultural tourism in Zambezi Basin

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workshop for the Zambezi SOE project hosted by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC).

Chief Mukuni, the nineteenth to head the Mukuni tribe, gives a fascinating narration of how the colonialists brought about gender inequality to the disadvantage of women by destroying structures that gave women more power.

His chiefdom, he said, had two rulers, a man and a woman with equal powers. The man was responsible for administration and political issues while the woman, called *Mukalya* was in charge of land distribution and the holding of rituals including rainmaking ceremonies.

However, colonialism, he said, put a knife through their traditions when it introduced 'guards' and a salary for the male leader following the registration of the Chiefs Act. The female ruler was ignored. As if that was not enough, the British South Africa (BSC) Company, he said, built a bridge and a hydroelectric plant where ritual shrines were situated. This led to the decline in the influence of the woman ruler. As a result, the chief started to dictate to the woman.

The history of the Mukuni people and their respect for women is reflected in the project's coat of arms, which depicts the equal status of women and men, a situation that existed over 100 years ago.

It is the Mukuni people's wish to reinstate the woman's role of leading within the tourism venture. The role of women is acknowledged and recognized within the project and they are expected to participate actively. However, the chief noted that the women's lower educational levels disadvantaged them. This might prevent women from occupying some decision-making positions in the tourism venture.

Measures are being taken to help women reach high levels of education in the area. The Mukuni people have had one school upgraded from a basic to a full secondary school. In Zambia, basic schools only offer secondary education up to form two. Those that wish to continue have to find places in other schools. However, in the case of the Mukuni people, these other schools are far and this made it difficult for girl children, who apart from going to school, have to attend to domestic chores.

Tourism is one of the fastest growing industries in the Zambezi basin and Mukuni village with other surrounding villages will be a rich cultural tourism destination as it offers a diverse history of different ethnic groups. These include the Lenje of Mukuni, the Soli of Nkomeshya, the Chewa of Nyanje, the Valley Tonga of Chipepo and Mwemba and the Leya of Bedyango and Sekute.

The indigenous community at Victoria Falls has for many years been admired by tourists who appreciate their culture, and in addition, the Zambian side of the Victoria Falls area is destined to become a tourism Mecca with the arrival of Sun International.

Chief Mukuni is aware that the village cannot go it alone. They plan to establish partnerships with the local community and with commercial tourism operators who have for a long time benefited from the village's existence.

They will also work with the Zambian government, which already recognizes the power and influence of traditional leaders and consults them on development projects. The partnership is structured in such a way that the local communities will have a say in the project but not total control over planning and managing of the tours. They will get technical advice on this.

In southern Africa, arrangements such as these are not new. Many rural communities have benefited from partnerships such as Zimbabwe's Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) and the Administrative Management Design for Game Management Areas (ADMADE) in Zambia. These are community based development programmes based on tourism. Their focus is sustainable utilisation of natural resources.

The cultural tourism concept is not new to southern Africa as more villages are going for it after realizing the benefits of promoting culture. The Tonga in Zimbabwe's Binga area in the Zambezi basin, and the San in the Kalahari desert of Botswana are some of the examples. ❑

Mozambique and Namibia Sign Fisheries Deal

Mozambique and Namibia recently signed an agreement that paves the way for sustainable management of their fishing industries. The agreement also allows for more fish imports into Mozambique from Namibia.

The agreement is set to benefit government owned companies who may now set up joint ventures as well as operate from either of the two countries, according to Alfredo Massinga, Mozambique's deputy minister of fisheries.

Namibia is already the main fish exporter to Mozambique and the agreement opens up the possibility of more fish exports.

Namibia's deputy fisheries minister Alpheus Naruseb noted that both Mozambique and Namibia currently "enjoy excellent co-operation relations in the political sphere, and the challenge now is to extend these to the economic level and consolidate increasingly the ties that unite our two countries."

Namibia is SADC's Fisheries Sector co-ordinator. The sector is designed to contribute to food security within the region through ensuring proper administration, licensing, and monitoring of fish stocks in the region.

The agreement, which will be reviewed every three years, lays down a platform for joint fishery studies, and for the exchange of information on fisheries technology and management. The two governments have already set up a technical committee, which will meet once a year to analyse the implementation of the agreement. (*AIM*) ❑

Women's participation in water issues crucial, GWP-SA says

By Catherine Mutanbirwa

The Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWP SA), a network of organisations that promote collaboration and sustainable utilisation and management of water resources in the region, has been urged to include more women in all their activities.

Tabeth Matiza-Chiuta, GWP SA Executive Secretary made the call when she addressed the network's second Annual Consulting Partners Meeting in Pretoria, South Africa recently.

Emphasising that increased women's participation is part of the GWP SA's work programme, Matiza-Chiuta noted that this was not reflected during meetings.

"The experience of the secretariat during the reporting period is that invitations are sent to member institutions and very often males are selected. This has resulted in the continued low participation of women in our activities," she said, adding, "What is not clear is whether these selections are made with a conscious mind of increasing women's participation."

SOE Zambezi/CEP

Women play a significant role in bringing water to the home

She appealed to GWP SA members to seriously consider the inclusion of women "when you next select representatives to participate in GWP SA events".

The theme for the two-day meeting was "Consolidation of Integrated Water Resources Management at Various Levels in Southern Africa."

Issues relating to partnerships were discussed as a number of reports were presented. Major discussion points were water resources governance and water and poverty.

Another issue of great concern to the GWP SA secretariat was low member participation in programme implementation despite the fact that the organisation had registered an increase in the number of members over the year.

"The success of the GWP SA network … depends on the activeness of its members. With the current programme delivery mechanism that we adopted, there is no way that the programme can be effectively delivered when the members are inactive," Matiza-Chiuta said.

One barrier she noted was that membership was vested in individuals and not institutions resulting in communication of GWP issues not being shared.

The low member participation had partly contributed to lack of progress in some programmes such as the Country Water Partnerships (CWP).

Matiza-Chiuta called on members to recommit to the GWP SA partnership programme and to be pro-active at country level.

She outlined some of the challenges for the future as:

- partnership, governance and financing;
- need to focus on a few key priority areas;
- activating the network;
- considering opportunities in other partnerships and initiatives such as the New Partnership for Africa Development (Nepad), the Africa Water Initiative, the World Summit on Sustainable Develop-ment (WSSD) and the third World Water Forum.

The meeting was officially opened by a representative from South Africa's Department of Water Affairs Derek Weston, who spoke on the importance of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and its contribution to poverty alleviation and the challenge of communicating with communities.

Apart from presentations from the GWP Southern African Steering Committee Chair and the GWP SA Executive Secretary, country progress reports were also presented by the country water partnerships namely South Africa, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe as well as GWP experiences in West Africa.

Parallel sessions held covered the following topics:

- IWRM and poverty
- Shared river basin management
- Water resources governance
- World Commission on Dams report
- GWP-SA governance issues
- Southern Africa Youth Water Action Team (SAYWAT) meeting ❑

Botswana basket-weaving tree faces extinction

Mokolwane, a multi-functional tree from which the acclaimed Okavango basket is woven, faces extinction unless measures are taken to conserve it. This could affect hundreds of people who make a living from making baskets in Shakawe.

The tree is used to weave baskets and other unique ornaments, which are sold widely through Botswana craft shops and safari camps by the Okavango and Shakawe people. The baskets and ornaments are also used locally at household level in the area.

The tree also produces an edible fruit while its leaves are used to make chairs, table and floor mats. Wine is also produced from the tree. The wine, called *mocheme,* is extracted after burning the tree. This is one of the practices that could accelerate the extinction of the Mokolwane.

In an effort to save the tree, the Conservation International Okavango Programme established the Motsaudi Mokolwane plantation in 1999. However, it will be sometime before results are seen as indigenous trees are known to take time before maturing. The Mokolwane fruit for example, takes two years to ripen and the seed takes about five years to grow. (*Botswana Gazette*). ❑

SOE Zambezi/CEP

At the root of the Okavango basket-weaving trade.

ZACPRO-6

Continued from page 4

involved the collection of information on water quality and quantity. This was based on the understanding that the basis for planning is information. Strategies had to be developed to ensure that reliable information and data were provided in a format and in sufficient detail to be suitable for the management systems developed. This project led to the establishment of the Zambezi River Basin Information System and Database (ZACBASE).

The first phase studies identified and assessed the sectors that use or have impact on the water resources. The outcome provides the initial foundation for the development of an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) strategy for the Zambezi River Basin, in order to address the issues and challenges identified in the sector studies.

The second phase of ZACPRO-6, which started in October 2001, involves the development of an IWRM strategy for the Zambezi River Basin and to provide hardware and software management tools. These tools will be utilized periodically and routinely to generate and disseminate results to riparian countries for their use in water resources management.

It is hoped that such a move will establish regional commitment among the riparian countries to co-operate in the co-ordinated management of the basin's water resources. ❑

Environmental opportunities in Nepad

Despite the controversies surrounding the New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad), there are a lot of opportunities for the environment sector.

The initiative, expected to be the continent's blueprint for development, recognizes that its success hinges on having a "healthy and productive environment".

Adopted in draft form during the last OAU summit in Zambia in 2001, and to be finalized at the first meeting of the AU in South Africa in July, Nepad has environment as one of its components targeting eight sub-themes including:

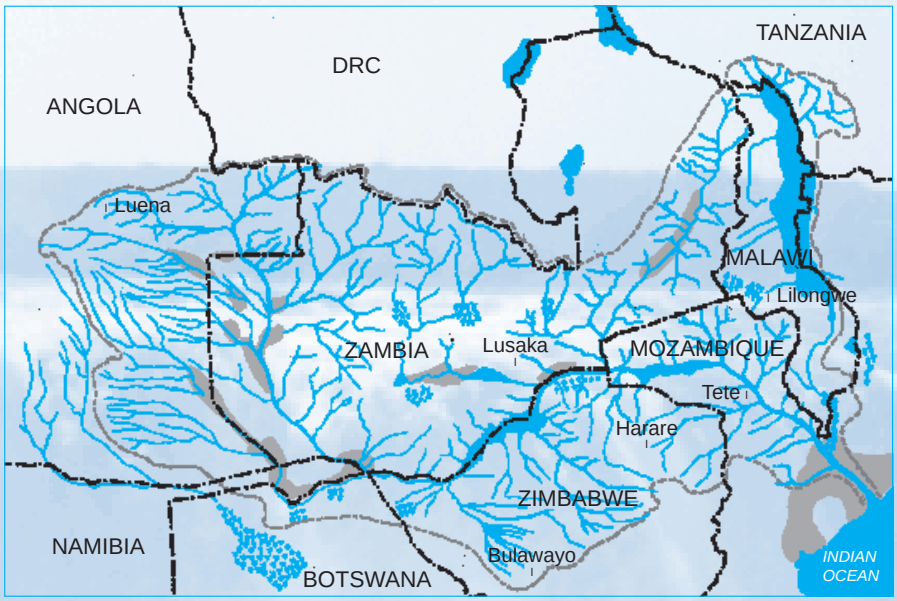
- combating desertification through rehabilitating degraded land and addressing factors leading to land degradation;
- conserving wetlands;
- controlling and preventing invasive foreign species;
- coastal management;
- monitoring and regulating the impact of global warming initiation and maintenance of cross border conservation areas to boost conservation and tourism while also creating new jobs;
- environmental governance which will "secure institutional, legal, planning, training and capacity building requirements"; and
- implementing a fair and structured system for financing

Nepad calls for a focus on regional integration in all essential public goods and services such as transport, energy, water, information and communication technology, disease eradication, environmental preservation and regional research capacity.

Presidents Thabo Mbeki of South Africa and Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, the architects of Nepad presented the new blueprint for Africa's development to the G8 Summit in Canada in June. They appealed for part of the required US$64 billion for the initiative in time for the AU launch in July in South Africa.

Nepad notes that to promote intra-African trade and investment, there should be a focus on regional integration in all essential public goods and services such as transport, energy, water, information and communication technology, diseases eradication, environmental preservation and provisions made for regional research capacity.

THE ZAMBEZI



THE ZAMBEZI BASIN AT A GLANCE

- The Zambezi is the largest shared river basin by eight of the twelve mainland SADC states of Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- The basin has its source in Luena, Angola and ends in Mozambique where it has an outlet into the Indian Ocean.
- The basin takes up approximately 26 percent of the total geographic area of the riparian countries, estimated at 5.08 m sq kms.
- At least 38.4 million of SADC's estimated 200 million people live within the basin.
- Some of the major urban areas where the people live are: Luena in Angola; Kasane in Botswana; all urban centres in Malawi; Tete in Mozambique; Katima Mulilo in Namibia; virtually all urban areas in Zambia including the capital Lusaka, and most of the cities in Zimbabwe, including Harare.
- Victoria Falls, popularly referred to as one of the seven natural wonders of the world, along with lakes such as Kariba and Cahora Bassa, (which supply electricity to some of the countries in the region), are all located on the Zambezi river.
- Lake Malawi, Africa's third largest fresh water lake and ninth in the world in terms of total area (about 28,800 sq km) and is the fifth largest in volume (8,400 cu m), drains into the Zambezi river through the Shire river.
- Major economic activities including agriculture, mining, tourism, industry, timber production and fishing, take place along the basin.

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