

## FOUR NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEES FOR ZACPRO 6 II

By Temissh Mnjoma

**F**our southern African countries have launched National Steering Committees (NSCs) under the Zambezi River Basin Action Plan Project 6, Phase II (ZACPRO6 II). The committees are expected to facilitate the coordination of activities in the river basin.

Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe launched the committees between March and May this year.

The setting up of NSCs in all eight Zambezi basin states is one of ZACPRO6 II project objectives. Plans are underway to set up committees in the remaining four basin states of Angola, Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia.

The project aims at achieving equitable and sustainable utilisation of water for social and environmental justice, regional integration and economic benefit for present and future generations in southern Africa.

The NSCs are expected, among other responsibilities, to provide national input on decisions and issues dealt with by the project and to be an avenue for disseminating ideas, activities and outputs of the project to stake-

holder institutions and interest groups in the home country.

The US\$3.6 million ZACPRO6 II is the brainchild of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Water Division. Three Nordic countries, Denmark, Norway and Sweden through their development agencies DANIDA, NORAD and Sida respectively fund the project.

Its major objective is to improve water availability and protection

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against floods, droughts, pollution and environmental degradation in the Zambezi river basin, through the development of an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

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## Zambezi river floods drown parts of caprivi region

By Daisy Neta

**N**o rain fell but the area was submerged in water. More than 8,000 Namibians from the Caprivi region were left stranded after floods ravaged their homes, schools, crops and livestock when the Zambezi river burst its banks mid-May. Two people reportedly died, prompting the Namibian government to commit N\$5 million to help those affected.

The financial commitment followed a visit to the region by President Sam Nujoma when he held meetings with various government agencies and assessed the situation.

While some villagers moved to higher and safer places leaving their property, others hesitated and remained stranded as the river continued to swell. The few crops that had survived the drought, some of which had been harvested, were completely destroyed. Livestock including cattle died as most drowned.

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People whose homes were submerged in floodwater had to be taken to safety in dug-out canoes.

## The Zambezi

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## EDITORIAL

The launch of National Steering Committees (NSCs) in four Zambezi basin states under the Zambezi Action Programme 6 phase II (ZACRO6 II) should be commended. ZACRO6 is one of 19 projects designed to implement activities within the basin with the aim of achieving integrated watercourse management. ZACRO6 was set up to help with the development of an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plan for the Zambezi river basin.

The 19 ZACROs emanate from the Southern African Development Community (SADC)'s Zambezi River Basin Action Plan (ZACHAN), one of the successful initiatives worldwide that have demonstrated the importance of integrated action in the management of international watercourses.

The NSCs will make it possible for southern Africa to make meaningful contribution to the achievement of some of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The ZACHAN objective is to promote development and implementation of environmentally sound water resources management for the entire Zambezi river system.

The Zambezi is one of more than 200 river basins worldwide that are shared by two or more countries. These basins account for about 60 percent of the earth's land area.

ZACHAN has its roots in the 1985 African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCE), in Cairo. The conference designated the 'study and implementation of an integrated multi-purpose development plan for the basin of the Zambezi river (irrigation, navigation and energy) in order to use its waters rationally, combat desertification, promote food production and open up land-locked areas' as one of the priority sub-regional activities.

Before that, cooperation among the basin countries of the Zambezi river in the field of water resources management, was of a sectoral nature, mainly related to economic development, hydropower production based on existing intergovernmental agreements and transport and communication.

Realising the need to deal with water and environmental management problems in a comprehensive and coordinated manner to avoid conflicts between socio-economic development and ecological interests among all the riparian states, the leaders of Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe requested the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to assist in the development of international cooperation in this field.

ZACHAN was thus developed as the pioneering UNEP enterprise in the field of managing international water bodies.

Sustainable water resources management is closely linked to the achievement of all the MDGs. Once water resources are managed in an integrated manner, eradication of poverty and hunger would be possible as environmental sustainability and improvement of people's health will be ensured.

The Zambezi river flows south and east for about 3,000 km from its source on the Central African Plateau in Zambia, to the Indian Ocean. The Zambezi river system encompasses part of the territories of eight countries and for some of them it is the principal water resource.

It is for this reason that projects such as ZACRO6 II are critical to ensure that each riparian state benefits from the water resources in the Zambezi basin. The efforts being made to establish National Steering Committees in each of the basin countries should be encouraged. It is expected that with the assistance of these NSCs, the eight countries will be able to manage the Zambezi river basin sustainably.

The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) confirmed the importance of water and its critical relationship to all other development issues and reinforced the importance of achieving the MDGs. As regards water resource management, there was, in particular one important target agreed at the Conference, to halve the number of people without access to safe water and sanitation by 2015.

ZACHAN has ensured that all major completed and planned water resources development projects in the basin have been identified and documented. The ZACHAN, is still one of the two main water related activities being powered by SADC, and it has led to outcomes which may not have been achieved without collaboration of basin countries.

The efforts to coordinate work in the Zambezi basin is seen as one of the successful ones bearing in mind that more than 300 treaties have been signed by countries to deal with specific concerns about international water resources and more than 2,000 treaties have provisions related to water.

# African ministers approve Environmental Initiative Action Plan

By Bonifácio António

A special session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) approved an Environment Initiative Action Plan to be submitted to the second AU summit in July in the Mozambican capital, Maputo.

The Action Plan, approved during a two-day meeting held in Maputo recently, comprises 260 environmental projects to be implemented on the continent.

Discussion on the initiative, containing guidelines on environment activities in the context of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), gained new impetus during the World Summit on Sustainable Development, that took place in South Africa in September 2002.

The plan is for the adoption of activities at national level and integrate them in regional programmes with the aim of achieving sustainable management of each country's natural resources.

Addressing the conference, the Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano warned that, since the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, there had been "a lack of political will to make available the resources

necessary for the balanced and harmonious development of the planet".

Chissano stressed that, despite all the commitment expressed verbally at Rio, "we are still witnessing a pattern of development that steps up the unsustainable use of natural resources". This was characterised by rising levels of atmospheric pollution, which speeded up global warming, and the degradation of ecosystems and the world environment.

The Mozambican president indicated that, despite its natural wealth, Africa remains the poorest continent on the planet, with over 40 per cent of its population living below the poverty line.

"Even decades after independence, we remain mostly restricted to the role of exporters of raw materials, which are exchanged under extremely unfavourable conditions, for finished goods," he said.

Chissano said the distorted international trading system reinforces Africa's poverty, and stimulates the flight of trained African staff away from the continent.

Chissano said he regards Nepad as Africa's response to such challenges.

"The strength of Nepad is the fact that it is an indigenous process, designed and directed by the African leadership to confront the problems of the region, and promote the sustainable development and well-being of African peoples."

President Chissano called on the environment ministers to debate the Nepad Environmental Initiative Action Plan.

He listed conservation of natural resources, combating soil erosion and degradation, drought and desertification, and preserving wetlands as key environmental issues facing Africa.

The Nepad Environmental Initiative, according to Chissano, "stresses the interaction between environmental and health matters, as well as the transfer of environmentally sustainable technologies, and the management of natural disasters based on risk assessment, early warning, and timely acts of prevention and response." □

## Four National Steering Committees for ZACPRO 6 II

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strategy and the establishment of a river basin institution involving all the riparian countries.

The Zambezi River Authority (ZRA) is assisting in implementing ZACPRO6 II. The Zambezi River Authority (ZRA) Act (1987) passed simultaneously in Zambia and Zimbabwe and operationalised in October 1987 in both countries set the basis for the utilisation of the water resources of the Zambezi river as it passes through Zambia and Zimbabwe. The ZRA's main role is that of operation, maintenance and monitoring of the

Kariba dam and collection and processing of hydrological and environmental data in liaison with other national utilities. It is the subject of an Agreement between Zambia and Zimbabwe, signed between the two states in July 1987.

Recognising the ever-increasing demands on the water resources of the basin, the need to be prepared for hydrological extreme events and to protect the water resources integrity, the eight riparian countries, through SADC approached the Nordic countries for support to develop a water resources

management strategy for the basin so as to address the issues that would address water security within the basin. This will be realised through the development of a water resources management strategy for the basin and the establishment of a river basin commission.

The areas of focus include water allocation, flood and drought management, water quality management, water demand management, stakeholder participation, institutional and legal reforms and gender mainstreaming.

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## Zambezi river floods parts of Caprivi region

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Namibia has rarely been flooded. In fact, this is the first time the country has experienced floods in more than 20 years. The floods are a result of heavy rains in western Zambia that resulted in high waters along the Zambezi river and its tributaries.

Namibia is one of six southern African countries that suffered a severe drought this year and the little that was salvaged from the dry spells has been swept away by the floods throwing the country into a deeper crisis as it faces food deficits.

Mozambique and Zimbabwe experienced floods in February when tropical cyclone Japhet made a destructive landfall. Both countries have also been severely affected by drought-related food shortages.

The floods demonstrate the vulnerability of southern African countries to natural disasters and point to the need for collaborative efforts in the management of natural resources including big rivers such as the Zambezi.

Countries that are downstream are usually the worst affected, as has been the case with Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

The floods in Namibia have affected areas stretching from Katima Mulilo to Ngoma in the eastern part. Some schools and villages were completely submerged. Villagers had to seek shelter in trees and in some cases on top of their grass thatched houses before being rescued.

The Namibian Newspaper reports that "the whole eastern Caprivi was under water. Villagers have been unable to drive their livestock to drier, upper areas because of the floods. Crops that survived the recent drought have been destroyed by torrents of flood water while some lodges are surrounded by water".



*People travel through homesteads in canoes as they are ferried to drier land.*

Southern Africa has become prone to droughts and floods over the past decade. Most of the countries are still recovering from last year's drought, which left about 14 million people from Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe in need of food aid. A massive international appeal was launched and resulted in millions of tonnes of food, mainly maize, being distributed in the affected countries.

On a positive note, cereal production estimates just released by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation point to an improvement in the food security situation in several countries in comparison to the same time last year.

The SADC Regional Early Warning Unit estimates that total cereal production in the region will be around 22.6

million metric tonnes, a six percent improvement over last year and three percent above the past five-year average. Notable production increases are expected in Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

This is significant, as these countries accounted for over-two thirds of food aid requirements in 2002/03 in southern Africa (excluding Angola). Sizable increases in harvest are also expected in Angola, Lesotho and Namibia.

In contrast, production in Mozambique is forecast to drop slightly compared to last year and Swaziland is expected to have another below average year. South African production is expected to be the same as last year and seven percent above the five-year average. This is good news for food security at the regional level as South Africa typically accounts for nearly 50 percent of regional cereal production. □

# Strategic Plan to Restore the Chambo in Malawi

By Charles Mkoka

**Y**ou have not been to Malawi if you visit that country and leave without tasting the Chambo. This is what most visitors to Malawi are told.

Chambo is a fish that graces most of the restaurant tables in this southern African country known for its vast inland Lake Malawi.

It is this popularity that has led to the depletion of the Chambo stocks, forcing the Malawi government to embark on a 10-year restocking exercise. It is hoped that by 2010 fish stocks will be restored to 1990 levels on Malawi's rivers and lakes.

There are three Chambo species prevalent in Malawi. These are the *Oreochromis lidole*, *O. squamipinnis* and *O. karongae*.

The restoration of the Chambo is one way in which the Malawi government hopes to contribute towards meeting some of the goals set at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

As part of the campaign, the Malawi government has been looking at alternative ways to meet both economic and protein needs for communities that depend on fishing for their livelihood. This involves consulting the communities themselves to ensure they participate in defining a long-term solution.

"The strategy is to change the fisheries management system from top-down control to participatory collaborative management, where the fishing communities are empowered and supported to manage their fish resources in a sustainable manner," reads part of the strategy.

Several factors have led to the depletion of the Chambo stocks in Malawi waters. These include over fishing due to demand for fish and the economic situation that forces most



The Chambo fish stocks are to be restored to 1990 levels.

people to resort to selling fish for a living. The kind of fishing gear used has also contributed to the stocks running low. Those fishing sometimes use illegal equipment, such as small-meshed and beach seine nets that catch juvenile and immature fish.

The destruction of aquatic vegetation beds and breeding ground, which exposes juvenile Chambo to predation and to being netted, is also another concern. The fishing industry has also experienced violation of the closed breeding season of the Chambo. There has been illegal fishing during the breeding season, resulting in loss of eggs and young fish, says the Department of Fisheries.

Fish in Malawi has traditionally played a very important role as a source of food, income and employment. Over 300,000 people are employed in the fisheries sector. Statistics indicates that 14 percent of the lakeshore communities depend on fishing, fish processing, marketing, boat gear manufacturing and other allied industries.

About 70 percent of animal protein in Malawi comes from fish. Fish con-

tributes four percent to Gross National Product (GNP) according to the Fisheries Department and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs 2002, State of the Environment Report to Malawi's parliament.

The report indicates that fish landings peaked in the mid-1970's and started dwindling in the 1990's. The Chambo has had the most significant decline.

Malawi is a signatory to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) protocol on fisheries. Parties to the protocol commit to maintain a proper balance between resource development for a higher standard of living for their people, and conservation and enhancement of the environment to promote sustainable development. The countries are also expected to take measures to regulate the use of aquatic resources and protect them against over exploitation, whilst creating an enabling environment and building capacity for sustainable utilisation of fisheries resources.

The Malawi 10-year strategic plan is supported by Malawi Vision 2020, the Fisheries Policy, the Fisheries Act, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Affairs (MONREA) and the Department of Fisheries Strategic Plan (2002-2006), including the National Strategy for Sustainable Development.

Malawi's Fisheries Director, Sloans Chimatiro, said in an interview: "The plan has been hatched after years of investigative research and the department shall employ adaptive management, recommending what should be implemented in order to successfully achieve the desired results," he said. □

*Charles Mkoka is an environment journalist working in Malawi*



## CHIEF MUKUNI BUNGI

By Leoniss

**W**hen Senior Chief Mukuni was asked to go bungi jumping on the Zambezi river by the female ruler, the Bedyango, he obliged not because of his love for adventure, but because he was sure it was a way of getting rid of him.

In the Toka-Leya tradition in Zambia, a stubborn chief's death is induced through poisoning. However, the Chief thought his people were not courageous enough to poison him, instead they wanted him to plunge to his death!

He took the jump and survived. Such is the power of the female ruler in this southern Zambian resort town of Livingstone.

Explaining his reason for agreeing to take the bungi jump, the Chief told a group of environmentalists from six southern African countries that he did it to promote tourism, to demonstrate he was not afraid and that he was the real lion of Africa.

While elsewhere, women are fighting for their rights, the women in Chief Mukuni area are in control. Through the female ruler, the Bedyango, the women are in charge of

land allocation both for construction and agricultural purposes. And they decide on who should be part of the ruling council through their vote. A case in point is when the general council was choosing the current prime minister (Mwendambeli). The men and women disagreed on the person and so a vote was called for. The women being in the majority voted for one person and their choice carried the day.

Apart from presiding over land issues including rituals, the Bedyango chairs the meeting that chooses a chief and her decision is final. She also carries out the inducement of the chief's death.

The people of Mukuni, where the Victoria Falls on the Zambezi river borders Zambia and Zimbabwe are diverse. They are gender sensitive, environmentally aware, they respect

tradition and at the same time recognise the need to stay in touch with a globalising world.

They demonstrated their knowledge of the environment and their desire for environmental management when they met this group of visitors from six southern African countries attending a State of the Environment in

the Zambezi Basin (SoE Zambezi) project meeting in Livingstone.

Using drama and discussion, the people of Mukuni pointed out issues around environmental management in their area. They highlighted the fact that wood carving is their mainstay and this has resulted in dependence on trees. They are aware that this is a major contributor to deforestation in the area.

However, much as they can control their use of trees, they feel they cannot control the "big guns" who come in from the city to poach wood at night.

"We know we should conserve our trees because we depend on them. But our concern is that while we are doing that, there are people who come from cities as far away as Lusaka to load lorries in the night. These are the people responsible for mass destruction of our wood resources," said one villager during discussion after the group, Chiwocho's performance of "Caring into the future" play.

The villagers asked the visitors for advice on how they could go about protecting their natural resources in the face of an increasing population and invasions. They expressed concern at the commercialisation of wildlife and the Victoria Falls saying the benefits did not accrue to them.

Realising the need to find practical solutions to these problems and that sustainable development can only be people-driven by building "social capital in the people" through giving them a voice, opportunities and security within their communities, the people of Mukuni formed the Mukuni Development Trust (MDT).



Senior Chief Mukuni (left), the Bedyango on the right



SoE Zambezi

The Royal welcome dance. When visitors have the privilege of seeing these women dance, they should consider themselves Royal.

## JUMPS FOR TOURISM

h. Murgona

Registered in 2002, the Trust draws its membership from each of the villages in the Mukuni Chiefdom where two people, a man and a woman, represent each village. Other members are from sponsored associations, some elected members and associates.

The Trust is guided by a board, which comprises the chairperson and deputy, the secretary and deputy, treasurer and deputy. Six directorates have been set

up to explore issues related to the environment, culture, social, education and skills training, agriculture and commerce.

Some of the major projects being implemented include the Mukuni Royal Sun Lodges, a Day Visit Centre, and the Lumpasa and Nanjila palaces.

Seven upmarket lodges will be constructed following an agreement reached between the MDT, the Africa Wildlife Fund (AWF) and the Sun Hotels. Under the agreement, the AWF will provide funding for the construction of the lodges while the Sun Hotels will assist in the management. The income will be shared between the MDT and the Sun Hotels. The MDT plans to plough back the money into other community development projects.

The Day Visit Centre caters for visitors to the area. The history of the Mukuni people is chronicled to tourists who are then exposed to the Mukuni people's way of life.

There are a number of programmes being planned, all with the aim of looking at enabling the Trust to diversify the area's economic base so as to reduce dependence on trees. This is particularly so in relation to the

curio carving business that is the major income-earning venture for most of the people in the Mukuni area.

The visitors were participants to a SoE Zambezi project meeting of the National Collaborating Centres (NCCs) held earlier.

The participants went to Chief Mukuni area to assess impact of the SoE

Zambezi project information materials distributed during a case study conducted by one of the NCCs, the Environment Council of Zambia (ECZ).

The NCCs comprise nine organisations based in each of the eight Zambezi basin states in southern Africa. The NCCs are listed on page two of this publication. □



and the African Queen  
ht.

SoE Zambezi

## Four National Steering Committees for ZACPRO 6 II

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Speaking at a meeting of National Collaborating Centres (NCCs) for the State of the Environment in the Zambezi Basin (SoE Zambezi) project, Jeffer Sakupwanya, Water Resources Expert for ZACPRO 6 II outlined the specific project objectives as:

- setting up a regional and national enabling environment necessary for strategic and integrated water resources management among and for the stakeholder institutions and interest groups;
- establishment of water resources management systems including models, tools and agreed guidelines for joint planning and management in the Zambezi river basin; and
- development of an IWRM strategy.

Sakupwanya pointed out that awareness is a major component of sustaining the programme and as such, they are looking for synergies with already existing projects.

"We do not believe in reinventing the wheel. Stakeholder participation is very important as it brings about a sense of ownership. If someone is already carrying out certain activities, the project would want to see how these can input into ZACPRO 6 phase II. We believe that this will benefit the people being served better."

He said the project's approach is driven by the riparian states. For

example, membership for the NSCs was left to the countries to decide. The departments responsible for water in each of these countries is used as the contact point and it is expected that representatives from major stakeholder groups are part of the NSCs.

Awareness raising among stakeholders and partners is one of ZACPRO 6 II activities. The target for this activity has been diplomats, particularly those from basin states based in Lusaka, Zambia.

A number of seminars have been held periodically for diplomats to update them about the project. The message being put across is that "only the integrated basin management of the Zambezi and its major tributaries, based on a regional cooperation approach and with the broad endorsement of the people and the governments of the basin states, can bring about a peaceful and sustainable solution to the problem of equitable allocation of the shared water resources."

ZACPRO6 II recognises that all the riparian countries should enjoy the immense benefits from cooperation in the integrated management of the water resources of the Zambezi river basin. But for these benefits to translate into reality it is important that the basin states continue to show total commitment to the process. □

## Humanitarian aid for returning Angolans

Angolans returning home after decades of civil war in that country are to be assisted to resettle using humanitarian aid. Some of the aid is from the European Union (EU) and other international organizations. At least five million euros have been made available.

This aid will support humanitarian programmes in the fields of health, nutrition, water and sanitation, emergency relief items and clothing, protection and legal support, agricultural inputs, logistical support to returnees, mine awareness and demarcation, HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention, and care and maintenance of refugees.

The key objectives are aimed at establishing the minimum conditions for resettlement in Angola, for which four million euros are earmarked, and supporting the care and maintenance of refugees and their host communities in neighbouring countries to the tune of 800,000 euros. The remaining 200,000 euros will be a reserve for later use in the initiative.

The April 2002 ceasefire, after 27 years of civil war, between the Angolan government and former rebels, the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), laid the building blocks for lasting peace in Angola, and triggered movements, on an unprecedented scale, of the most vulnerable population groups, internally displaced people (IDPs) and spontaneously returning refugees.

It is estimated that 70 percent of the up to 1.9 million people who have returned to Angola so far have done so without any assistance, and to areas where the minimum conditions for resettlement are not in place. Many thousands more of the remaining 1.9 million IDPs were on the move just after the rainy season, whilst the first organised repatriations of some of the 440,000 refugees still remaining in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia, the Republic of Congo and Zambia were due to begin in June 2003. □



Using GIS to visualise the ecosystem as a complete unit (see story on page 9)

## New director for IUCN southern Africa

IUCN - The World Conservation Union has appointed James Murombedzi as Director for its Regional Office for Southern Africa with effect from June 2003.

He replaces Yemi Katerere who left IUCN ROSA in March to join the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) as Assistant Director General.

Murombedzi joins IUCN from the Ford Foundation where he was Programme Officer for Southern Africa (Environment and Development) responsible for developing and implementing the Foundation's initiative on securing land and resources rights for marginalised constituencies in southern Africa.

Murombedzi brings to IUCN more than 15 years of experience as an academic, researcher, administrator and manager in the field of environment and development. He has served on international environment and natural resources management boards, including the Conservation and Development Forum (CDF) and the International Association for the Study of Common Property (IASCP), and has also served as an advisor to the Biodiversity Support Programme.

## UNDP gender and water resource guide on the Web

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has developed a *Gender and Water Resource Guide: Mainstreaming Gender in Water Management*. The Resource Guide has been developed in collaboration with the Gender Water Alliance (GWA) and the Swedish International Development cooperation Agency (Sida).

The guide has been developed to assist development practitioners in mainstreaming gender within the context of integrated water resources management (IWRM). The mainstreaming of gender is critical to reach the UN millennium Development

Goals as well as the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation reached during the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD). The resource guide consolidates available materials and gives a quick guide to accessing existing information.

The WSSD in Johannesburg, 2002, agreed to: "Develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005..." Gender mainstreaming is one important component of IWRM and the gender resource guide serves as a practical tool to facilitate the mainstreaming of gender in water management. □



## GIS project for SADC countries to contribute towards sustainable development

By Stanley Mubako

A project that hopes to provide social and economic statistics that can be spatially exhibited at sub-national levels is being implemented through collaboration by SADC with the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) and Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) of South Africa.

The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) project for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries is funded by the South African Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology (DACST). This three-year project will see the creation or strengthening of a development GIS at district level for all SADC member states through the collection and integration of socio-economic and development statistics which include population, employment, health, education, water and sanitation, and access to infrastructure.

The project further hopes to explore the possibility of integrating into GIS, past censuses conducted in SADC countries through the implementation of a pilot study in Zimbabwe, and then repeating the exercise with partners in

other SADC countries, subject to the availability of funds. In addition to use for

regular State of the Environment (SoE) reports, the GIS Project for SADC countries will allow different stakeholders to readily collate and analyse information.

Consequently, data within a single database will be easily mapped, modelled, queried or analysed for policy and decision-making purposes. This project is an addition to activities being carried out by organisations such as EIS-Africa and the African Association of Remote Sensing for the Environment, who are supporting the development and use of GIS and providing platforms for Africans to gather and share ideas, information and technologies.

Information and knowledge has long been recognised as a tool for sustainable development, hence the argument that information is the foundation of sustainable development. There is growing evidence elsewhere in Africa that policymakers are beginning to use geospatial information more and more to improve the quality of their public decision-making processes and in turn to make this information available to the public.

The last decade has seen significant efforts in developing information systems for reporting on sustainable development on the African continent. The list includes initiatives such as the Global Environment Outlook (GEO), implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Africa Environment Outlook (AEO) developed by UNEP under the African Ministerial Conference on Environment

(AMCEN) mandate, and the State of the Environment reporting compiled by SADC, IUCN and SARDC.

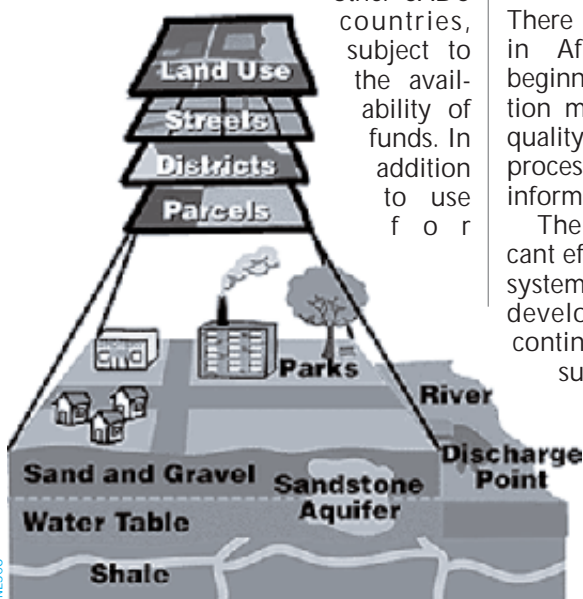
Although these initiatives have contributed towards the provision of information in addressing sustainable development issues in Africa, it has been argued that gaps still exist, especially in the production of reports on environmental, economic and social issues such as poverty, which are important in implementing and monitoring sustainable development. This led to the development of two more initiatives: Africa Environment Information Network (AEIN), established by UNEP and driven by AMCEN, and the GIS project for SADC countries.

While the AEIN initiative is designed as a capacity-building programme, it also aims to harness and enhance access to information and knowledge to support the management of Africa's environmental resources, which are crucial for the continent's sustainable development.

The formation and implementation of sustainable policies within the region and beyond depends on information that is useful, timely and accurate. Additional contributions towards sustainable development by the GIS project for SADC countries include making better decisions about investments in public services infrastructure, enhancing the provision of water and sanitation services and optimising capital investments while protecting the environment resources base.

So far, steering and technical committees for the project have been set up and National Collaborating Partners (NCPs) in all SADC countries identified. The NCPs are in the process of collecting development GIS information and undertaking feasibility studies of census databases in their respective SADC countries, before detailed case studies are carried out. □

*Stanley Mubako is manager for SARDC's GIS and Indicators projects*



Portraying the real world through map overlays

# Cheias do Rio Zambeze 'afundam' a região Namibiana de Caprivi

Por Daisy Neta

**N**ão caiu chuva, mas a área ficou submergida em águas profundas. Mais de 8.000 Namibianos da região de Caprivi caíram na desgraça depois das cheias que destruíram as suas casas, escolas, culturas e gado quando nos meados de Maio deste ano o Rio Zambeze saiu do seu leito. Pelo menos duas pessoas morreram, forçando o Governo Namibiano a disponibilizar imediatamente Cinco milhões de dólares namibianos para assistir as pessoas afectadas.

O disponibilização da verba seguiu-se a uma visita efectuada pelo Presidente Sam Nujoma a região, onde avaliou a situação e manteve encontros como várias agencias governamentais.

Enquanto alguns habitantes conseguiram fugir para as zonas altas e mais seguras, outros hesitaram e continuaram a passar por imensas dificuldades uma vez que o rio continuou a dilatar. A pouca produção agrícola que sobreviveu a seca, parte da qual tinha já sido colhida, foi completamente destruída. O gado, particularmente bovino, foi seriamente afectado.

A Namíbia raramente tem sido atingida por cheias. Esta foi a primeira vez que o país enfrentou cheias em 20 anos. Estas cheias resultaram das intensas chuvas registadas na África central causando a subida do caudal do Rio Zambeze e seus afluentes.

A Namíbia é um dos seis países da África Austral severamente atingidos pela seca este ano e o pouco que se tinha conseguido salvar foi devastado pelas cheias atirando o país para uma crise profunda, já que este país enfrenta um grande défice alimentar.

Moçambique e Zimbabwe foram afectados por cheias em Fevereiro quando o ciclone tropical "Japhet" fez a sua passagem destrutiva. Os dois países também tem sido afectados por cíclicas crises alimentares ligados a seca.

As cheias demonstram a fragilidade dos países da África Austral perante os desastres naturais e apontam para a necessidade de esforços conjuntos na gestão dos recursos naturais incluindo os grandes rios como o Zambeze.

Geralmente, os países a jusante são os mais afectados, como tem sido o caso do Malawi, Moçambique e Zimbabwe. O Rio Zambeze passa por oito países da África Austral, designadamente Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Moçambique, Namíbia, Tanzânia, Zâmbia e Zimbabwe antes de desaguar no Oceano Índico.

As cheias na Namíbia afectaram toda a região que vai de Katima Mulilo a Ngoma, na parte oriental. Algumas escolas e vilas ficaram completamente submersas. Os habitantes tiveram que procurar abrigo em árvores e, em alguns casos, no tecto das suas casas antes de serem socorridas.

O jornal "The Namíbia" noticiou que "todo o oriente de Caprivi ficou debaixo da água. Os habitantes não conseguiram conduzir o seu gado para os locais secos, nas zonas altas, por causa das cheias. A produção agrícola que tinha sobrevivido a seca foi destruída pelas torrentes de água enquanto algumas casas estão cercadas pela água".

A África Austral tem sido vulnerável a secas e cheias nas últimas décadas. Muitos países estão ainda a recuperar da seca do ano passado, que deixou cerca de 14 milhões de pessoas dependentes da ajuda alimentar no Lesotho, Malawi, Swazilandia, Zâmbia e Zimbabwe. Um grande apelo internacional foi lançado e resultou na atribuição de milhões de toneladas de alimentos, principalmente milho, que foi distribuído nos países afectados.

Numa nota positiva, a estimativa de produção de cereais divulgada pela Comunidade para o Desenvolvimento da África Austral (SADC) e pela

Organização das Nações Unidas para a Agricultura e Alimentação (FAO) aponta para uma melhoria da situação de segurança alimentar em vários países em comparação com igual período do ano passado.

Contudo, a situação no Zimbabwe e Botswana continua a constituir foco de preocupação devido a previsão de fracas colheitas. A Unidade de Aviso Prévio da SADC estima que a produção total de cereais será de cerca de 22.6 milhões de toneladas métricas, uma melhoria de cerca de seis por cento relativamente ao ano passado e de cerca de três por cento relativamente a média dos últimos cinco anos. Os países que esperam aumentos significativos de produção são o Malawi, a Zâmbia e o Zimbabwe.

Esta situação é significativa, já que estes países detiveram mais de dois terços das necessidades de ajuda alimentar em 2002/2003 na África Austral (excluindo Angola). Aumentos consideráveis de produção de cereais estão igualmente previstos para Angola, Lesotho e Namíbia.

Em contraste, prevê-se que a produção de cereais em Moçambique registe um ligeiro declínio comparativamente ao ano passado. A Swazilândia também vai obter uma produção de cereais a baixo da média anual. A produção da África do Sul será idêntica a do ano passado e sete por cento a cima da média dos últimos cinco anos. Esta é uma boa notícia para a segurança alimentar a nível regional já que a África do Sul detém cerca de 50 por cento da produção cerealífera regional. □

# Criados quatro Grupos Consultivos Nacionais para a Bacia do Zambeze

Por Leonissah Muzjora

**Q**uatro países da África Austral criaram Grupos Consultivos Nacionais (NSCs) no âmbito da segunda fase do Projecto 6 do Plano de Acção do Rio Zambeze, com o objectivo de facilitar a coordenação das actividades desenvolvidas na Bacia do Zambeze. Estes grupos foram criados entre Março e Maio deste ano no Botswana, Moçambique, Namíbia e Zimbabwe.

A criação dos Grupos Consultivos Nacionais (NSCs) nos oito países da bacia do Zambeze é um dos objectivos da segunda fase do Projecto 6 do Plano de Acção do Rio Zambeze (ZACPRO6 II). Estão em curso planos para a criação de outros grupos consultivos nacionais nos restantes quatro países da bacia, nomeadamente Angola, Malawi, Tanzânia e Zâmbia. Está previsto que o Grupo Consultivo da Zâmbia seja criado em Junho.

O projecto tem como objectivo atingir um uso equitativo e sustentável da água com um justo benefício social e ambiental, estimular a integração regional e económica para o benefício da actual e das gerações vindouras na África Austral.

Espera-se que os grupos consultivos, entre outras responsabilidades, dêem um contributo nacional na tomada de decisões e nos assuntos que dizem respeito ao projecto e que sejam um veículo de disseminação de ideias e das actividades do projecto para as instituições envolvidas e para os grupos interessados em cada um dos países.

O ZACPRO6 II é um dos componentes principais do Sector de Águas da Comunidade para o Desenvolvimento da África Austral SADC (SADC WSCU) e é financiado por três países nórdicos, a Dinamarca, a Noruega e a Suécia, através das suas agências de desenvolvimento DANIDA, NORAD e ASDI, respectivamente, com uma verba global de 3.6 milhões de dólares norte-americanos.

O seu principal objectivo é melhorar a disponibilidade de água e a protecção contra as cheias, seca, poluição e degradação ambiental na Bacia do Zambeze, através do desenvolvimento de uma estratégia de Gestão Integrada dos Recursos Hídricos (IWRM) e criação de uma Instituição da Bacia do Rio Zambeze envolvendo todos os países ribeirinhos.

A Bacia do Rio Zambeze cobre oito países da África Austral, nomeadamente Angola, Botswana, Namíbia, Malawi, Moçambique, Tanzânia, Zâmbia e Zimbabwe.

A Autoridade do Rio Zambeze (ZRA) apoia a implementação do ZACPRO6 II. O dispositivo legal que, em 1987, criou a

Autoridade do Rio Zambeze foi aprovado simultaneamente pela Zâmbia e pelo Zimbabwe e começou a vigorar em Outubro de 1987 nos dois países, criando as bases para a utilização equilibrada dos recursos hídricos do Rio Zambeze que faz fronteira entre a Zâmbia e Zimbabwe. A principal função da ZRA é garantir a operacionalidade, manutenção e fiscalização da barragem de Kariba e recolha e processamento de dados hídricos e ambientais em conexão com outras utilidades nacionais. A ZRA foi objecto de um acordo assinado em Julho de 1987 entre a Zâmbia e Zimbabwe.

Reconhecendo a crescente procura de recursos hídricos na Bacia, a necessidade de estar preparado para extremos eventos hidrológicos e protecção da integridade dos recursos hídricos, os oito países ribeirinhos, através do Sector de Águas da SADC, contactou os países nórdicos para apoiarem o desenvolvimento de uma estratégia de gestão dos recursos hídricos para a bacia destinada a lidar com aspectos ligados a segurança da água no seio da bacia. Isto será posto em prática através do desenvolvimento de uma estratégia de gestão sustentável dos recursos hídricos da bacia e pela criação de uma comissão da Bacia do rio Zambeze.

As áreas de destaque incluem alocação da água, gestão das secas e cheias, gestão da qualidade da água, gestão da procura de água, participação das comunidades, reformas legal e institucional e consideração do género.

Falando num seminário dos Centro Nacionais de Colaboração (NCCs) do Projecto Estado do Ambiente na Bacia do Zambeze (SoE), Jeffer Sakupwanya, Perito em Recursos Hídricos, no ZACPRO 6 II, destacou os objectivos específicos do projecto como sendo:

- Criação de um ambiente nacional e regional necessário para a uma gestão estratégica e integrada dos recursos hídricos;
- Criação de sistemas de gestão de recursos hídricos incluindo modelos, instrumentos e directrizes para um planeamento e gestão conjunta da bacia do Rio Zambeze; e

- Desenvolvimento de uma estratégia de Gestão Integrada de Recursos Hídricos.

Sakupwanya destacou que a consciencialização é uma componente importante para sustentar o programa e, como tal, está-se a procura de sinergias com os projectos já existentes.

"Nós não estamos reinventar a roda. A participação de todos é muito importante porque confere um sentido de propriedade. Se alguém já está a efectuar determinadas actividades, o projecto quer ver como é que essas actividades podem contribuir para a II fase do ZACPRO 6. Acreditamos que isto vai beneficiar as pessoas servindo-as melhor."

Afirmou que a abordagem do projecto é conduzida pelos países ribeirinhos. A filiação nos NCCs, por exemplo, foi deixada ao critério de cada país. Os departamentos ligados a área de água nesses países são usados como pontos de contacto e espera-se que representantes das principais entidades integrem os Grupos Consultivos Nacionais.

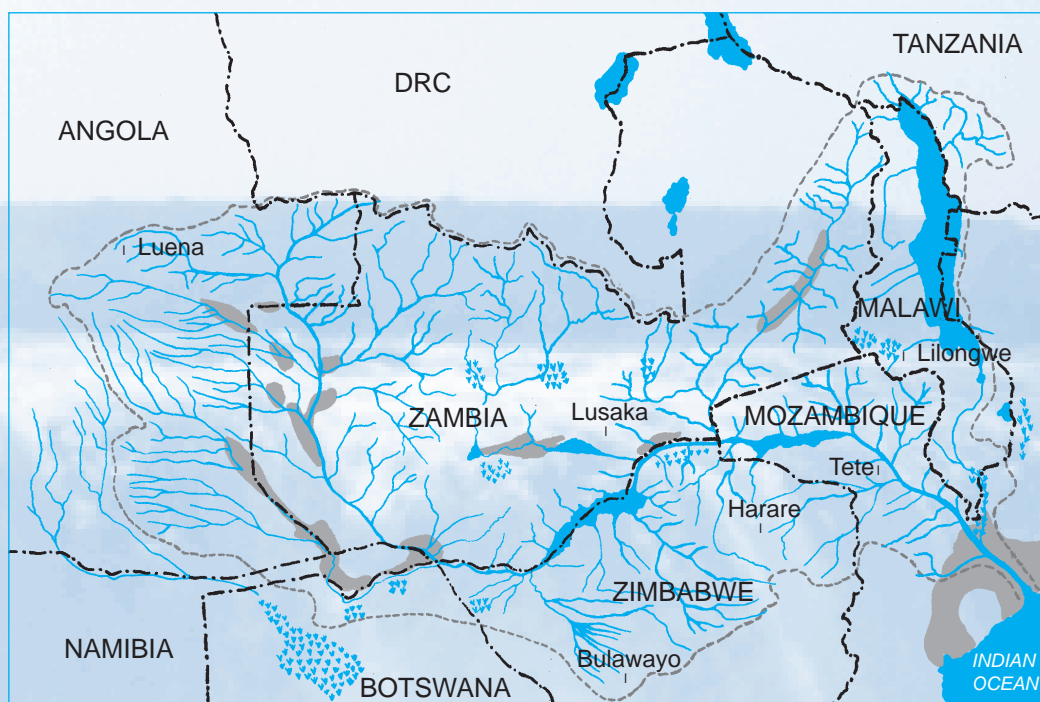
Aumento da consciencialização no seio dos participantes e parceiros é uma das actividades da II fase do ZACPRO 6. Os alvos desta actividade tem sido diplomatas, particularmente os dos estados da Bacia baseados em Lusaka, Zâmbia.

Vários seminários tem sido realizados regularmente para diplomatas para actualizá-los sobre o projecto. A mensagem que se transmite é a de que "somente um gestão integrada do rio Zambeze e seus afluentes, baseada numa abordagem de cooperação regional com o aval da população e dos governos dos países da bacia, pode trazer uma solução pacífica e sustentável para o problema de alocação equitativa dos recursos de água partilhados".

A II fase do ZACPRO6 reconhece que todos os países ribeirinhos devem beneficiar-se grandemente da cooperação na gestão integrada dos recursos hídricos da Bacia do Rio Zambeze. Contudo, para transformar esses benefícios em realidade é importante que os países da bacia continuem a mostrar um cometimento total ao processo. □



# THE ZAMBEZI



## THE ZAMBEZI BASIN AT A GLANCE

- The Zambezi basin is the most shared in southern Africa and third largest in Africa after the Congo and the Nile.
- The Zambezi drains a total area of almost 1.4 million sq km, stretching across eight countries - Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- The Zambezi river rises on the Central African Plateau in the Kalene Hills in north-western Zambia to its delta in Mozambique before flowing into the Indian Ocean.
- The basin takes up approximately 25 percent of the total geographic area of the riparian countries, estimated at 5.6 million sq km.
- At least 40 million of SADC's estimated 200 million people live within the basin.
- Some of the major urban areas in the basin include 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.
- The largest natural freshwater lake in the basin is Lake Malawi/Nyasa/Niassa that covers 28,000 sq km and is Africa's third largest freshwater lake after Lakes Victoria and Tanganyika.

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