

# Strengthening Transboundary Water Governance

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# Southern African Development Coordination Conference

- Initiated by FLS's to forge regional security and reduce dependence on apartheid S.A.
- Despite charges of institutional inefficiencies of its decentralized structure:
- SADCC achieved high visibility within member states and strong sense of belonging,
- Broadened notion of collective security beyond military to include economic, environmental and livelihood security
- Spawned SADC in 1992 with mission of regional economic integration

# Transition to SADC

- Change in RSA brought sense of renewal and hope for the region's future,
- Regional attention focused on mobilizing towards regional integration,
- There was early recognition of critical role of water in integration process and as driver of economic development,
- Major sector challenges included forging common approach to governance of the region's water resources in the face of uneven distribution of rainfall in time and space;
- Inadequate access to safe drinking water for majority of region's population,
- Governance over 15 variously developed trans-boundary rivers
- Cyclical occurrence of floods and drought

# Birth of SADC Water Sector

- Regional Water Sector established in 1996 against this backdrop;
- The integrationist SADC RISDP became the master-plan against which the Regional Water Policy and Strategy were crafted, envisaging harmonised legislation and policies;
- Negotiations got underway to craft a regional Protocol to domesticate the international water law principles of the UN Shared Water Courses Convention;
- Meanwhile, LHWP at once drew fascination and fueled regional pride;
- Yet also the object of close scrutiny as the Large Dam discourse and WCD were anchored in the region;

# Birth of SADC Water Sector contnd

- GWP saw the formation of its very first regional branch with the formation of Southern African Regional Technical Advisory Committee (SARTAC) which later became GWP SA,
- SARTAC mobilized civil society and government officials in regional consultations to formulate “The Africa Water Vision 2025”, presented at WWF at The Hague in 2000,
- The “Vision” later adopted by African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW) in time for World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in August-September 2002

# African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)

- AMCOW established in APRIL 2002 to address the Continent's "Crisis of Water Governance";
- Main purpose to provide political and strategic guidance in water governance;
- Driven by conviction that **water was to play a critical role** in pursuit of MDG's;
- Trans-boundary water resources management a key concern given preponderance of shared water courses in Africa;
- Need for continent –wide common approach recognised;
- Water supply and Sanitation also prioritized.

# African Ministers' Council on Water contnd

- Attracted wide ranging support internationally from multi-lateral, regional and national bodies;
- Moved quickly to engage African civil society, later recognizing and partnering with African Civil Society Network on Water (ANEW),
- Consistent with adoption of IWRM in African Water Vision, GWP also recognized as partner;
- Established relations with other African Ministerial bodies:-
- (Energy, Environment and Science and Technology)
- Decided to establish the Groundwater Commission to develop coherent governance approach, including institutional aspects.



# AMCOW Cont...

- Recognised the African Network of River and Lake Basin Organisations (ANBO) as its technical arm in matters relating to trans-boundary water resources management;
- ANBO features prominently on implementation strategy of the AMCOW Work Plan at continental, regional and national levels,
- This alongside partners of AMCOW, such as ANEW, GWP etc.
- NEPAD Water Centres of Excellence established, opening the way for knowledge development through research with a developmental focus
- Developed AMCOW Gender policy



# AMCOW Workplan

AMCOW Work Plan is the outcome of 4 key documents, namely:

- The Africa Water Vision 2025; The eThekweni Declaration; The Tunis Declaration; and The Sharm el Sheikh Declaration.

Broken down into 7 thematic areas namely:

- Water Infrastructure and Economic Growth
- Managing Water Resources
- Meeting the Sanitation, Hygiene and Water MDG Targets
- Global Changes and Risk Management: Climate Variability and Change
- Governance and Management
- Financing
- Education, Knowledge and Capacity Development

An important element of the Work Plan is the reporting requirement set by the African Union Summit

# Rollout of AMCOW Workplan

- Role out of the work plan will take place at the regional level, ( trans-boundary, national and basin) under the guidance of the Regional Economic Communities;
- RECs Expected to take an inclusive posture that draws in regional capacity and builds on existing partnership arrangements and networks such as GWP, ANEW, ANBO, AfWA etc., UN Agencies active in the sector, as well as the donor community;
- Strategy lays **strong emphasis on** drawing on local knowledge and experience through **public participation**
- Priority attention to be given to Climate Change adaptation preparedness .

# SADC Vulnerability/Susceptibility to CC

- Climate change to have major yet diverse impacts on Southern Africa with generally hotter and more humid conditions;
- Changes in rainfall timing bring seasonal changes with major implications for regional agriculture and rural livelihoods
- More regular occurrence of increasingly severe drought , floods and stormy conditions
- Severe damage to already limited and often weak regional infrastructure
- Spread of vector borne and other human and animal diseases
- Sea-level rise with high risk of salt water contamination

# SADC Vulnerability/Susceptibility to CC contnd

- Largely poor rural population most susceptible to climate change impacts
- Estimated that inadequate water supply and sanitation services cost between 3.26% and 5% of regional GDP, exceeding total flows of aid and debt relief
- SADC estimates that low coverage costs \$11.5 billion or 3.5% GDP, while others estimate that poor sanitation alone may cost sub-Saharan Africa up to 5% of GDP, exceeding annual aid flows and debt relief.

# SADC Vulnerability/Susceptibility to CC contnd

- Agriculture contributes 35% of regional economy,
- food Security one of the most off track MDG's requiring annual increase of at least 33% to be met
- Only 1.7% of agricultural land is irrigated in the region
- Sub-Sahara countries store only 4% of annual renewable flows
- Example, Mozambique floods in 2000, destroyed 250,000 homes, 140,000 hectares of agricultural land and the livelihoods of 113,000 small holding families

# Develop More Knowledge and Use What We Know

- Setting up of NEPAD Water Centres of Excellence clear signal from AMCOW of its embrace of science and research;
- Broad policy framework is in place at continental and SADC levels for development of new knowledge;
- Crucial that researchers work within that policy space for relevance and ease of uptake,
- Knowledge gaps and entry points exist at regional, trans-boundary, national and local levels

# Local Projects with regional benefits in SADC


Encouraging signs already in evidence in this regard:

- Creation of National Stakeholder Committees under ZAMCOM – empowerment of stakeholders at local level and introduce IWRM;
- SASOL-GIZ-ORASECOM partnership with eMfuleni Municipality on water demand management – involvement of private sector;
- 6 local level projects : 3 implemented by ORASECOM (Lesotho, Namibia and SA) : 3 implemented by LIMCOM (Botswana, Mozambique and Zimbabwe;
- Excellent potential for replication and up-scaling.



# Time to Act on Existing Knowledge

- Enough knowledge exists on immediately replicable and scalable women-led adaptation projects on the continent and beyond.
- These showcase the role women play as guardians of household assets and sources of livelihoods;
- Women widely regarded by financiers as dependable borrowers who tend to reliably service their loans;
- Tend to play the lead role in land use management and local agricultural production;
- Calls for land reforms in most African societies.

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- How ready are **we as a region** to take the necessary and often tough decisions or collective steps required to respond to the immediate and immanent challenges posed by climate change?
  - Do we still share the vision that inspired the creation of the SADC water sector or indeed the founding fathers of SADCC and SADC?
  - Might it be time for us to re-examine the advisory mandates of our river basin organisations?
  - Are they adequately capacitated?
  - What can we learn from other models?
  - Are we perhaps constrained by the notion of sovereignty ?