



Transboundary Water Management in the Southern African Development Community (SADC)

Project Partner:	SADC Secretariat
Project Region:	Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia
Project Term:	overall: 2005 – 2015 current phase: 2011 – 2015
Project Budget:	total: EUR 54.8 million current phase: EUR 38.5 million

Context

Given the fact that southern Africa's water resources are unevenly distributed over time and space, and that socio-economic development has varied markedly among SADC member states, it is no wonder that transboundary water management in the region presents a unique challenge.

Shared water resources in the region are under tremendous strain due to ever-rising demand and increasing water pollution. This is particularly true for transboundary water basins, especially considering that the management of water resources has not always been well coordinated. Infrastructural development meant to safeguard water supplies is skewed across the region. Situational factors include: South Africa approaching the limits of its storage capacity; the tremendous amount of still untapped hydropower potential in the DR Congo; Namibia's turn to recycling and desalination; and the steady expansion of agricultural lands in various head-waters in Angola – set to affect downstream water availability in the medium to long term. What's more, the quality of and capacity to deliver domestic, industrial and agricultural water varies greatly.

Project

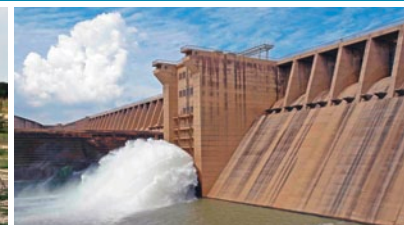
Programme Objective

The overall programme objective of technical assistance in the SADC water sector is the strengthening of human, institutional and organisational capacities. The programme is supported by the German government – in delegated cooperation with the Australian and the UK governments – and is being carried out by GIZ. Cooperation is focussed at developing basin-wide management (IWRM) plans, developing regional water infrastructures, tailor-made training programmes as well as information and knowledge management systems, including awareness-raising.

Approach

The tripartite partnership utilises a multi-dimensional support approach, operating on three levels of intervention: the whole SADC region; transboundary river basins and their organisations; and local municipalities and water utilities. GIZ advises and assists its partners on all three intervention levels in three strategic focus areas: water governance, water management and infrastructure development. Human, institutional and organisational capacity development is carried out in all three areas and on all three geographical levels. Furthermore, the German government has been entrusted with the role of assisting the SADC Secretariat in the coordination of support provided by other international cooperating partners involved in the SADC water sector.

All in all, this well-structured, multidimensional approach sets the interconnected and focused foundation for reliable and successful contributions to sustainable and equitable utilisation of shared water resources in the SADC region. Concurrently, conflicts are prevented and



peace dividends achieved through the active promotion of transparency and trust within transboundary cooperation. This, in turn, establishes a basis for successfully dealing with the impacts of climate change and the looming challenges of water scarcity.

Human, institutional and organisational resources are being strengthened by way of tailor-made, joint training measures, the promotion of legislative processes and cross-border parliamentary dialogues. Additionally, GIZ advises the SADC Secretariat in regards to the development and application of knowledge and information-management systems as well as in awareness-raising measures. Promotion and implementation of development partnerships with the private sector and civil society round off this structured and holistic approach.

Impact

Assistance thus far provided by the Federal Republic of Germany has been pivotal in institutionally strengthening the SADC Water Division, part of the SADC Directorate of Infrastructure and Services (I&S). The German government has also put into practice requirements for an international harmonisation agenda through delegated cooperation with the British Department for International Development (DFID) and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

A great deal of progress has been made with regard to the establishment and reinforcement of river-basin organisations (RBO) in the SADC region. Support through GIZ has been essential in strengthening the Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM) and the Limpopo Watercourse Commission (LIMCOM). As an example, the Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM) has established a special committee that aims to streamline assistance from various international cooperating

partners. This achievement was initiated and continues to be supported by GIZ.

The approach championed by GIZ is crucial in ensuring coordinated and joint management of the entire basin. On the local intervention level, GIZ engages in development partnerships (DPP): one such partnership with SABMiller seeks to safeguard water supply chains and improve water quality, while another with Sasol New Energy deals with water conservation and water-demand management. Additional DPPs are currently in the pipeline.

The German government, by way of the KfW Entwicklungsbank and GIZ, is also assisting SADC in the implementation of its role-model infrastructure project between Angola and Namibia, titled the 'Kunene Transboundary Water Supply Project.' This pilot project aims at the implementation of a cross-border water-supply scheme. While paving the way for future developments, the project likewise tests bilateral and multilateral rules and guidelines for facilitating cooperation. The German government, in association with its Australian and the UK partners, also actively assists in the creation of independent river-basin organisations in the Kunene and Cuvelai river basins. These RBOs will also be in accordance with the provisions set out by the 'Revised SADC Protocol on Shared Waters' and will be agreed upon by the respective ministers in Angola and Namibia.

In 2011, GIZ assisted the SADC Secretariat and the SADC member states in identifying regional investment opportunities related to water infrastructure, with a number of implementation schemes planned for 2012. Furthermore, GIZ successfully advised the SADC Secretariat in the development of the third Regional Strategic Action Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management (RSAP-IWRM) as well as in the development of a regional strategy for adaptation to climate change in the water sector in 2011.

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