

ZAMBEZI WATERCOURSE COMMISSION



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ANNOUNCEMENT

3rd ZAMBEZI BASIN STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM

“Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus for Socio-economic Benefits in the Zambezi River Basin”

8 – 9 October, 2018

Lilongwe, Malawi

In Partnership with



INTRODUCTION

The Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) in collaboration with its partners, will this year hold the annual Zambezi Basin-wide Stakeholders Forum from 8-9 October in Lilongwe, Malawi.

The Basin-wide Stakeholders Forum brings together those with an interest in the Zambezi River Basin to share information and experiences around a selected theme.

BACKGROUND

The Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) is one of the major river basin organisations in Africa. It was established in 2014 as an intergovernmental organisation that brings together eight Riparian States. The Riparian States are **Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania; Zambia and Zimbabwe**. The basis for the cooperation in the Basin is the Agreement on the Establishment of the Zambezi Watercourse Commission which was signed in 2004 and came into force in 2011. The Commission is headquartered in Harare, Zimbabwe.

ZAMCOM's vision and mission draw from regional aspirations, the Integrated Water Resources Management Strategy and Implementation Plan for the Zambezi River Basin; and the ZAMCOM Agreement. The vision envisages a future characterised by equitable and sustainable utilisation of water for social and environmental justice, regional integration and economic benefit for present and future generations. In pursuit of that future, ZAMCOM strives to promote the equitable and reasonable utilisation of the water resources of the Zambezi Watercourse as well as the efficient management and sustainable development thereof.

In the Agreement, stakeholder participation is provided for as one of the ZAMCOM's key principles for enhanced cooperation. In order to legitimise and have inclusive custodianship, ownership and inclusive planning for products, outcomes and outputs, stakeholder participation is critical in ZAMCOM. For this reason, ZAMCOM processes are based on a sound, consultative approach that continuously builds trust and confidence among stakeholders and addresses stakeholder and Riparian State expectations. Consultation with and participation of governmental, non-governmental and civil society organisations linked to the management and development of water and related resources in the Zambezi Basin are at the heart of the overall approach.

Among the Commission's instruments for stakeholder involvement and engagement are the National Stakeholder Coordination Committees (NASC) and the Basin-wide Stakeholder Coordination Committee (BASC). The Basin-wide Stakeholders Forum provides a wider platform – beyond the national committees – for basin-wide stakeholders' interaction. The Forum welcomes all stakeholders including those organisations and institutions that have an interest in working with Riparian States in the basin.

THE BASIN-WIDE STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Forum is to bring together representatives of stakeholders with interests in the management and development of water and related resources in the basin to share knowledge and experiences; and provide advice and inputs that contribute to ZAMCOM initiatives, and Zambezi Basin developments.

The focus this year will be on the ***Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus for Socio-economic Benefits in the Zambezi River Basin***.

With a changing climate, increased population and demand on depleting natural resources – coordinated planning and implementation of development initiatives is increasingly becoming important. The recent droughts in the region had a huge impact on the energy and food security in the region which depend on water and ecosystem services – clearly showing us the need to coordinate how we address challenges across sectors.

At the regional level the SADC Regional Strategic Action Plan for IWRM IV (SADC RSAP IV) recognises the WEF nexus a key approach to achieving the water, energy and food security. Several partners in the Zambezi River Basin have also started looking at the nexus approach in the context of the basin. The nexus approach promotes maximising interdependencies and synergies between the three sectors in order to increase efficiencies, viability of projects and ensure sustainability.

This 3rd Zambezi Basin Wide Stakeholder Forum is therefore organised to build on the regional processes and basin activities in order to identify opportunities of a nexus approach to address poverty, social inclusion, gender equity and economic development in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Zambezi River Basin.

Forum Objectives

The overall objective of the 3rd Forum is to interrogate the WEF Nexus approach with a view to accelerate the realisation of economic benefits in the Zambezi River Basin.

Specific objectives are:

- To raise awareness and enhance knowledge on how the WEF Nexus approach can address development challenges in the basin and support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Zambezi River Basin
- To share experiences and opportunities of the WEF Nexus approach in shared river basins
- To identify gaps, challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the WEF Nexus approach
- To develop strategies and actions that will facilitate the practical application of the NEXUS approach by Zambezi River Basin (ZRB) stakeholders
- To initiate a process of identifying nexus investments in order to contribute to the ZAMCOM vision

3rd Forum Outcomes

The main outcomes of the 3rd Forum are:

- An increased and clear understanding and appreciation of the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus concept
- Enhanced knowledge of the added value of the nexus approach, in sustainable development (social, economic & environment) and in addressing the challenges in the Basin
- Understanding of the role and the inter-dependencies of WEF sectors in multi-stakeholder processes including Planning, the private sector and civil society organisations, amongst other stakeholders (women and youth) in the implementation of the nexus approach
- Identified strategic interventions, opportunities and socio-economic benefits in the implementation of the WEF Nexus approach
- Identification of nexus investments and list of potential bankable projects to operationalise the nexus approach

THE BASIN-WIDE STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM PROGRAMME

The programme will include the following sub-themes:

- Decision support mechanisms for WEFE security
- Nexus Opportunities and Investments
- Ecosystem management for Water, Energy and Food Security
- Nexus Governance

A detailed programme for the stakeholders' forum will be sent to all registered participants.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

- National Stakeholders Coordination Committees (NASCs) Representatives;
- ZAMCOM Partners and their constituents;
- Regional and International Cooperating Partners; and,
- Cross-sectoral Stakeholders including the Gender Machinery.

WHEN AND WHERE?

- **Monday and Tuesday, 8 – 9 October, 2018**, Lilongwe, MALAWI. Actual venue to be communicated in due course.

COST OF PARTICIPATION

ZAMCOM will support two participants nominated by each Riparian States through National Stakeholders' Coordination Committees (NASCs). Partners and their constituents, as well as stakeholders other than those whose participation is supported by ZAMCOM are expected to cover their own costs (accommodation, subsistence and airfares). No registration fee is required.

REGISTRATION AND DEADLINES

Those interested in participating in the Forum are requested to express their interest by contacting the following:

1. Ms. Leonissah Munjoma - leonissah@zambezicommission.org;
2. Ms. Majohn Hambira - Majohn@zambezicommission.org;
3. Ms. Thembie Dube - Thembie@zambezicommission.org; zamcom@zambezicommission.org;
4. Ms. Chipso Zimbawah – Chipso@zambezicommission.org.

Please fill in the provided form indicating: Name, Organisation, Physical address, Email address and Telephone number. Confirmation of participation should be sent by **Friday 31st August 2018**. Since places are limited, registration will be on a *first-come- first -served* basis.

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

ZAMCOM will make travel and accommodation reservations for supported participants.

Travel and accommodation reservations for self-funded participants shall be their responsibility. However, ZAMCOM will be available to assist with information as appropriate. Contact details of the actual venue will be provided in due course. When these details are made available, self-funded participants may contact them directly by indicating that they will be attending the Zambezi Basin-wide Stakeholders' Forum to be able to get a negotiated rate.