



CONCEPT NOTE

9th SADC River Basin Organisations / Shared Watercourse Institutions (RBOs/SWIs) Virtual Workshop

Promoting Inclusive and Collaborative Transboundary Water
Financing for Sustainable Industrial Development


22-23 SEPTEMBER 2021





INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region is home to some 340 million people relying on water for their livelihoods (water supply for domestic, industrial, and agricultural requirements). Poverty eradication is at the top of the SADC agenda. Poverty remains one of the greatest challenges in the SADC region, with approximately half of the population living on less than \$1 a day, according to the International Council on Social Welfare. Hunger, malnutrition, gender inequalities, exploitation, marginalisation, high morbidity, HIV and AIDS, climate change and variability extremes such as floods and droughts, and the current Covid Pandemic waves are a few of the complex challenges that contribute to poverty in the SADC region.



Southern Africa's water resources are unevenly distributed over time and space and socioeconomic development has varied markedly among SADC member states. Over 70% of the region's freshwater resources are shared between two or more member states therefore 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. 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 headwaters in Angola – set to affect downstream water availability in the medium to long term. Furthermore, the quality of and capacity to deliver domestic, industrial and agricultural water varies greatly¹".

Recognising the need for management of shared water resources, a series of regional instruments to support the joint management and development of shared watercourses have been developed and adopted. The Revised SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses (2000), the Regional Water Policy (2005) and the Regional Water

Strategy (2006) are the instruments of cooperation, which guide joint development, and management of the resources. Over the years, SADC has driven the implementation of these key instruments through the five-year rolling Regional Strategic Action Plans (RSAP) on IWRM. One of the key achievements has been the establishment of Shared Watercourse Institutions (SWIs) to play a critical role in the management of shared water resources.

It is increasingly recognised that collaboration to manage transboundary resources is key to building resilience, promoting sustainable development and tackling issues of peace, sovereignty and security. Water management is however facing tremendous investment needs worldwide. These investments are required for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – especially, but not exclusively, SDG 6 on water and sanitation – as well as for meeting a number of other international development and natural resources management commitments, especially in the fields of agriculture/food security (including fisheries and aquaculture), energy security, but also environmental protection and ecosystems. The role of SWIs like River Basin Organizations (RBOs) is therefore, increasingly coming under the spotlight as to how they can directly support the region in responding to these challenges.

¹SIWI, 2019, Water Infrastructure Finance Constraints: Shared lessons from Africa and Europe, African EU Water Partnership Project

Overview of the SADC River Basin Organisations/Shared Watercourse Institutions (RBOs/SWIs) Workshop

The SADC River Basin Organisations/Shared Watercourse Institutions (RBOs/SWIs) Workshop is a biennial platform, which is organised with the aim of engaging RBOs as a vehicle for strengthening regional integration and cooperation. The workshop further provides a platform for RBOs/SWIs to share experiences and learn from each other to build consensus on SADC's strategic approach to support the efforts of Member States with regards to the establishment, institutional development, and strengthening of shared watercourse institutions as well as other transboundary water resources development and management mechanisms in the region.

The first six SADC RBOs/SWIs Workshops, were successfully convened by the SADC Water Division during a period when most of the shared watercourse institutions were being established. With the establishment of shared transboundary organisations in the region and their subsequent strengthening, the SADC Water Resources Technical Committee (WRTC) recommended that future RBOs/SWIs Workshops be hosted by a Member State in the watercourse and convened by the respective RBO/SWI in collaboration with SADC Water Division and other cooperating

partners thereby increasing ownership of the Workshops by the watercourse organisations. Based on this recommendation the subsequent RBOs were convened as follows:

- the 7th SADC RBOs/SWIs Workshop was organised by the Orange-Senqu River Basin Commission (ORASECOM) in collaboration with SADC and Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA), and hosted by the Government of the Republic of South Africa;
- the 8th SADC RBOs/SWIs Workshop was convened by the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM) in collaboration with the SADC Water Division and GWPSA and hosted by the Government of Namibia.

The convening of the RBOs/SWIs Workshops by transboundary watercourse organizations has resulted in these Workshops becoming more relevant and responsive to emerging issues and priorities as shown in Table 1. The RBO/SWI Workshop thus remains a relevant platform for all the shared watercourse institutions in the SADC Region and from beyond to convene and engage.



TABLE 1: SADC RBOS WORKSHOPS

EVENT	DATE	VENUE	THEME
1st	April 2006	Gaborone, Botswana	The Role of River Basin Organisations in the SADC Agenda.
2nd	April 2007	Gaborone, Botswana	Strengthening River Basin Organisations
3rd	April 2008	Gaborone, Botswana	Guidelines for Strengthening River Basin Organisations
4th	April 2010	Gaborone, Botswana	Benefits sharing in Transboundary Water Resources Management in SADC
5th	June 2012	Harare, Zimbabwe	Monitoring the Implementation of the Protocol on Shared Watercourses
6th	October 2014	Boksburg, South Africa	Strengthening regional Cooperation and Resilience in Water Related Disasters
7th	May 2017	Johannesburg, South Africa	Enhancing regional Integration through Improved River Health and Nexus Approaches
8th	May 2018	Windhoek, Namibia	Securing Strategic Investments to realise the benefits of transboundary water cooperation

The SADC RBOs/SWIs Workshops are implemented within the framework of the RSAP on IWRM, which drives the implementation of the regional water programme with the aim of unlocking the potential of water to be a catalyst and engine for regional economic growth through cooperation and water resources development and management. In implementing this Plan, SADC employs the principle of subsidiarity i.e., to work with institutions with comparative advantage for implementing specific interventions. In this regard, SADC Water Division has once again tasked GWPSA, as an implementing partner of SADC, to support the coordination of convening the SADC RBOs/SWIs Workshop.

The 9th SADC RBOs/SWIs Workshop, originally scheduled for September 2020 to be hosted by the Republic of Zambia but postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19 challenges, will be convened by the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) in collaboration with SADC and GWPSA. The theme for the 9th RBO/SWIs will be in-line with the SADC Heads of Summit Theme for 2019/20 - A Conducive Environment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial development, Increased Intra-Regional Trade and Job Creation, as well subsequent Summit themes. At the August 2019 Summit held in Tanzania the Heads of State noted the decline in food production in the Region and urged Member States to implement comprehensive multi-year response plans to tackle the recurrent droughts and food insecurity to boost agricultural production. The August 2020 Summit emphasised the need for review of achievements of SADC since its 40 years of establishment under the theme "SADC: 40 Years Building Peace and Security, and Promoting Development and Resilience in the Face of Global Challenges." The forward thrust of this topical theme, suggests the need to enhance socio-economic development in an environment

of peace and stability, even as adversities caused by climate change and other global challenges persist. In the same August 2020 Summit, the Heads of States also approved the RISDP 2020-2030 and SADC Vision 2050, which continue to promote the regional development pillars: (a) Industrial Development and Market Integration; (b) Infrastructure Development in support of Regional Integration; and (c) Human and Social Capital Development.

In 2021-2022, SADC is focussing on the theme "Bolstering Productive Capacities in the Face of COVID-19 Pandemic for Inclusive, Sustainable, Economic and Industrial Transformation". The theme aims to accelerate implementation of the Vision 2050 aspirations and the RISDP (2020-2030), in particular, the Industrialisation and Market Integration, and the Infrastructure in Support of Regional Integration pillars. Water is catalytic in supporting the regional value chains towards enhancing industrialisation and food security in the regionally integrating SADC community.

The region's RBOs/SWIs are quite instrumental as agents of peace-building, conflict-resolution and coordinated effort in the development and management of shared water resources, through ensuring equitable and reasonable utilisation of shared waters. SADC has a lot to celebrate in achievements in the area of water cooperation in the region through these institutions. The challenge going forward remains that of the need for increased development, effective and sustainable water financing, and the identification of opportunities for joint effort among RBOs/SWIs. In this, the new and Fifth Regional Strategic Action Plan (RSAP V) has emphasised the dimensions of integrated planning in the delivery of regional water development undertakings.

Theme, Objectives and Expected Outcomes

Following consultations with RBOs/SWIs in the SADC region, the theme, objectives and expected outcomes of the 9th SADC RBO/SWI Workshop are as follows:

Overall Theme:

Promoting Inclusive and Collaborative Transboundary Water Financing for Sustainable Industrial Development

Sub-Themes:

- 1 Enhancing transboundary groundwater investments for resilient water services and livelihoods
- 2 Watering priority regional value chains for accelerated industrial development
- 3 Collaborative planning for joint financing of sustainable transboundary development in RBOs/SWIs
- 4 Inclusive and integrated infrastructure development through Water-Health-Energy-Food (WHEF) nexus approaches
- 5 Multi-Sectoral Stakeholder Consultative Inclusiveness

Workshop Objective

To share information and experiences on inclusive transboundary water financing and collaborative development, in order to realise the benefits of transboundary water cooperation and achieve sustainable industrial development.

Expected Outcomes

The workshop outcomes expected are as follows:

- 1 Increased understanding of the sources and availability of finance for transboundary water financing
- 2 Experience sharing on successful basin-wide investment planning and financing (resource mobilisation) for transboundary water projects
- 3 Information sharing, tools and approaches to ensure inclusive and collaborative transboundary water investments
- 4 Increased collaboration between RBOs/SWIs for better sharing of experiences and water development through joint effort

Proposed Dates and Venue of the 9th RBO Workshop

The 9th SADC RBOs/SWIs Workshop is scheduled for 22-23 September 2021, and will be held virtually. The Workshop will be convened under the auspices of the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) in collaboration with the SADC Water Division and Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA). The base funding of the SADC RBOs/SWIs Workshop will be provided by the USAID Resilient Waters Programme, and the Transboundary Water Management in the SADC region (TWM) Programme.

Proposed Workshop Format

The workshop will be formatted into several main sessions, consisting of different styles, and designed along the lines of the sub-themes. The nature of the sessions will include:

- 1 Plenary Sessions;
- 2 Panel Discussion (reflections on paper presented);
- 3 Parallel Sessions; and
- 4 Interactions with funders.



Expected Participants

The event is expected to bring together RBO/SWI representatives, SADC Member States, regional institutions, funders (DFIs, international financiers, climate funds, ODA funders, private financiers etc.) and other key SADC sectors (energy, food security, trade etc.)