

THE WATER CONVENTION PERSPECTIVES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Relationship between the Convention and Transboundary Basin Governance Arrangements

“ZAMCOM Agreement and Related Activities”

BOTSWANA Accession to the Water Convention Workshop 25-25
October 2023

Executive Secretary - ZAMCOM



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1. ZAMCOM AS AN ORGANISATION



- Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) - Intergovernmental Organisation that brings together eight riparian states: **Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.**
- The Basis of Cooperation is the **ZAMCOM Agreement (2004)** – through SADC Negotiations on implementation of the Revised SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses (2000).
- **ZAMCOM Objective:** *“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”.*

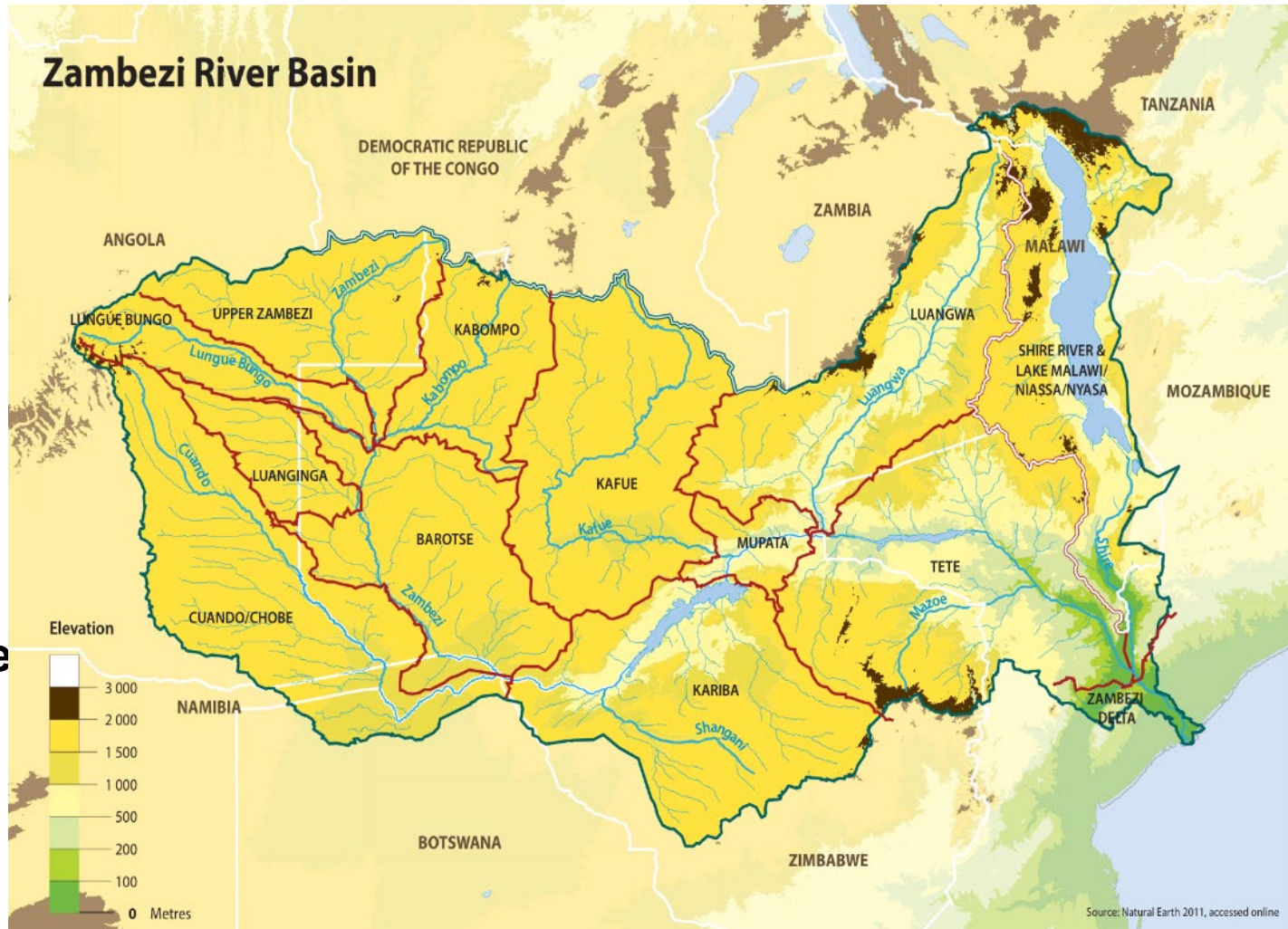


2. KEY FEATURES OF THE WATERCOURSE



8 Countries:

- Angola
 - Botswana
 - Malawi
 - Mozambique
 - Namibia
 - Tanzania
 - Zambia
 - Zimbabwe
- **Africa's 4th large river** (after Nile, Congo & Niger)
- **13 sub-basins**
- **Area: 1.37mil SQ. KM**



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3. INSTRUMENTS FOR COOPERATION

- **The Principles of International Water Law** are:
 - (i) Equitable and reasonable utilisation of water resources.
 - (ii) Obligation not to cause significant harm.
 - (iii) Notification, consultation and negotiation.
 - (iv) Cooperation and information exchange.
- In order to strengthen cooperation and actualise the principles, ZAMCOM has developed **instruments**, including:
 - (i) the Strategic Plan for the Zambezi Watercourse (ZSP);
 - (ii) Procedures for Notification of Planned Measures; and
 - (iii) Procedures for Data and Information Sharing.



4. KEY CHALLENGES–ZAMBEZI WATERCOURS



Persistent Poverty

64.8% subsistent rain dependent farmers.
44% below poverty line

Infrastructure Deficit

Deficit across basin.
Weak resilience to climate change



Competing Uses

Balance development; equity, benefit sharing and trade offs.

Disaster Risk

Floods and droughts leads to increase in poverty

Environmental Degradation

51% is moderately degraded and 14% highly degraded.



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5. ZAMBEZI STRATEGIC PLAN (ZSP 2040)



Pillar 1 – Infrastructure Investment.

Hydropower generation, agricultural, water supply, catchment, natural asset management.

Pillar 2 – Livelihoods Support. - address socio-economic, environmental and climatic challenges ability of communities to adapt or respond to shocks.

Pillar 3 – Environmental Resources Protection and Utilization. - address degradation: poor land use, deforestation, erosion, loss of soil fertility, overgrazing, etc.,

Pillar 4 – Water Resources Management. ensure sound water resources management and development.



6. PERCEIVED BENEFITS - BOTSWANA



6.1 Mapping of Regional Hotspots – to Focus Livelihood Solutions

Identified **16 Hotspots**: –socio-economic, environmental, climatic challenges impact ability of communities to adapt and survive “shocks” due to extreme events. Botswana: Zambezi Region (**Caprivi Strip**).

Hotspot	Issues	Proposed Intervention
Zambezi Region - Extending across the borders of Botswana, Namibia, Angola, and Zambia (Hotspot 10 and 11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low service delivery levels.• Populations are very vulnerable to the annual floods, wildfires and human-wildlife conflict.• As a result, infrastructure development is very limited,• And waterborne disease incidence is relatively high.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flood mitigation and adaptation,• Investments in water infrastructure,• Increased agriculture for income generation• Reforestation.

6. TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION – BENEFITS TO BOTSWANA



6.2 Development of Regional Solutions / Programmes – to Address Regional Challenges

- ZAMCOM has developed a 5-year Programme for Integrated Development and Adaptation to Climate Change (**PIDACC Zambezi**)
- Aim to increase climate-smart resilience through addressing challenges that impact livelihoods and development in the Zambezi Watercourse.
- Botswana will benefit from **regional financial resources** being mobilised from partners such as AfDB; Climate Investment Fund (CIF); Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Green Climate Fund (GCF).



6. TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION – BENEFITS TO BOTSWANA



6.3 A summary of benefits of transboundary water cooperation are:

- a) Coordinated river basin management; planning; sharing of information/data; knowledge; and prevention and resolution of disputes.
- b) Regional development and integration through joint infrastructure and other interventions.
- c) Resource mobilization for regional challenges – e.g. climate change interventions
- d) Sharing of expertise on water management including climate change mitigation and adaptation measures
- e) Ecosystem integrity conservation by Riparian States.



6. TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION – BENEFITS TO BOTSWANA



6.3 A summary of benefits of transboundary water cooperation are:

- f) Peace and security benefits arising out of better diplomatic relations and improved trust through working together and reducing the risk of conflicts.
- g) Economic benefits resulting from economies of scale, increased economic resilience, and expanded activity in critical sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, tourism, mining, and energy.
- h) The region can cope with the impacts of floods and droughts through better information, coordination, and planning.



7. CONCLUDING REMARKS - BENEFITS TO BOTSWANA



- The Water Convention would be useful for Botswana to cooperate and collaborate more with the regions as it provides the framework for day to day transboundary cooperation: e.g. exchange of information and data; consultations; **early warning systems**; mutual assistance.
- We believe that “**Accession to the Water Convention**” can enable experience-sharing with basins and countries worldwide, **facilitate access to financing and raise the country profile (and the Zambezi Region)** at the international level.



Thank You Kea Leboga Obligado



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