



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

MINISTRY OF LANDS AND WATER AFFAIRS

WHAT IS A ROAD MAP TO ACCESSION AND WHY IS IT OF VALUE

PRESENTATION BY

BOGADI T MATHANGWANE

DIRECTOR OF WATER AND SANITATION

25TH 26TH OCTOBER 2022



WATER
CONVENTION



UNECE



PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- INTRODUCTION
- COMMITTEE TASK
- STEPS TO ACCESSIONS
- WHAT NEXT ?

The Water Convention

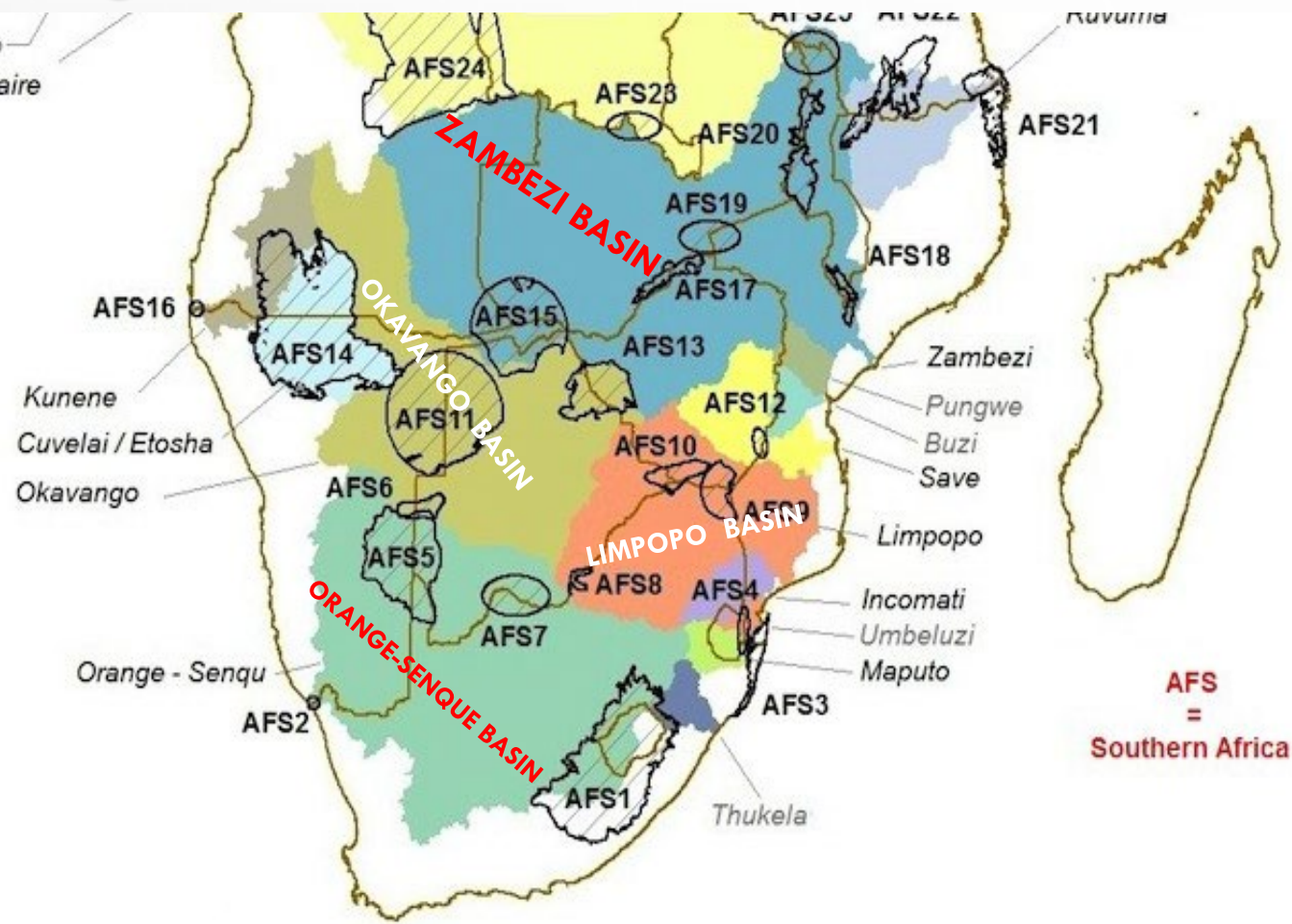


UNITED NATIONS

INTRODUCTION

- Republic of Botswana has noted that in march 2016, The UN Water Convention became a global multilateral and intergovernmental legal framework for transboundary water cooperation, and has opened for accession to all United Nations member states,
- Therefore Botswana saw this as a great opportunity to be part of this global framework.
- Botswana's water security relies on good neighbourliness and cooperation of riparian states on transboundary water resources.
- Becoming a party to the UN Water Convention boost sense of security, peace, stability in the region.
- The water convention is centred around principles that are basis of all our RBOs Agreements and SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourse.

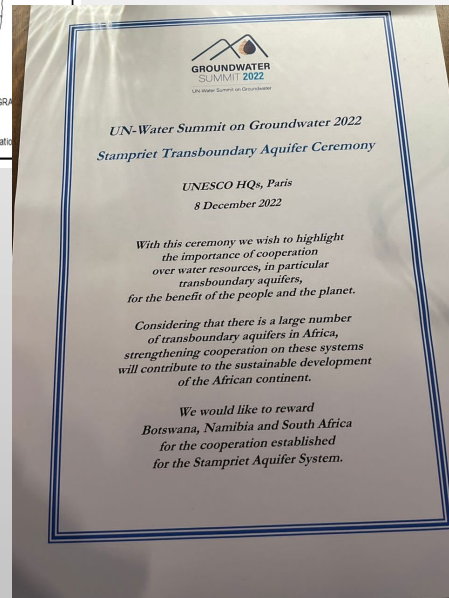
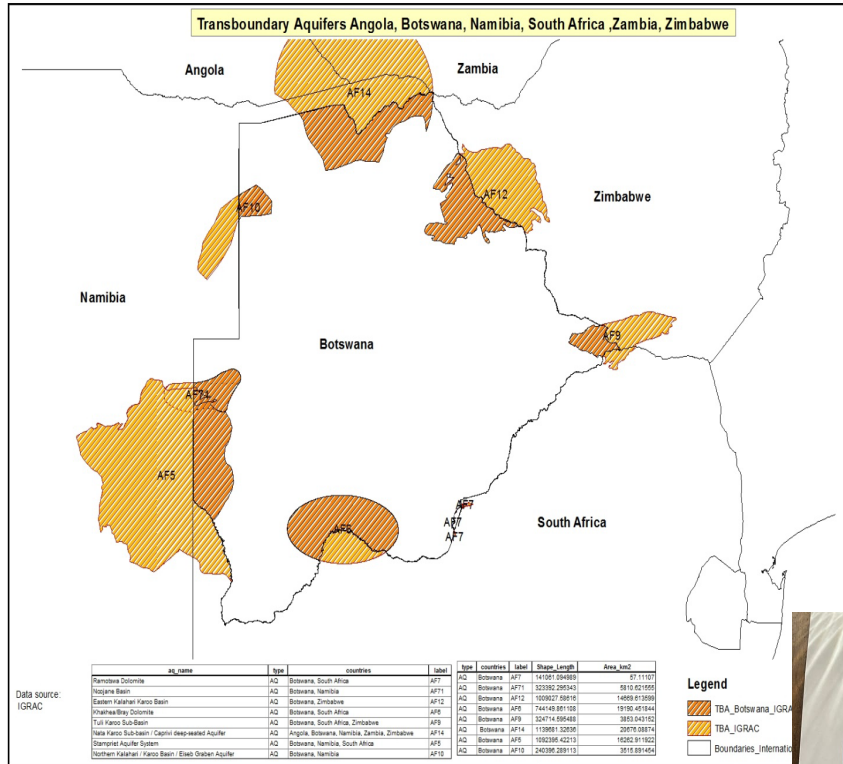
AT REGIONAL LEVEL: BOTSWANA'S WATER RESOURCES IN A TRANSBOUNDARY SPACE



<i>Name of transboundary basin</i>	<i>Countries sharing the basin</i>
The Permanent Okavango Basin Water Commission (OKACOM)	Angola Botswana Namibia
Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM)	Namibia Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa
LIMPOPO WATER COMMISSION (LIMCOM)	Botswana, South Africa Zimbabwe, Mozambique
Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM)	Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

TRANSBOUNDARY AQUIFERS

- THERE ARE 7 TRANSBOUNDARY AQUIFERS ARE SHARED WITH OUR NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES
- TRANSBOUNDARY AQUIFERS ARE ALSO COVERED BY THE RBOS AGREEMENTS AND HENCE MANAGED SUSTAINABLY
- BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA RECENTLY RECEIVED A RECOGNITION AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND EQUITABLE UTILIZATION OF THE STAMPRIET AQUIFER AT UN-WATER SUMMIT ON GROUNDWATER IN DEC 2022



Name of the transboundary aquifer	Countries sharing the aquifer	Surface area of the aquifer (in km ²) within the territory of the country
Stampriet aquifer – ORASECOM	Namibia Botswana, South Africa	17200
Khakhea/Bray Dolomite-ORASECOM	Botswana, South Africa	20 000
Ncojane Basin-ORASECOM	Botswana, Namibia	5400
Ramotswa aquifer-LIMCOM	Botswana, South Africa	94
Tuli Karoo Sub-Basin-LIMCOM	Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe	5 000
Eastern Kalahari Karoo Basin-OKACOM	Botswana, Zimbabwe	16,000
Northern Kalahari / Karoo Basin / Eiseb Graben Aquifer-OKACOM	Botswana, Namibia	4 000

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF BENEFITS OF ACCESSION TO THE UN WATER CONVENTION

- **Enhance access to International financiers:** that will promote practical water management, handle transboundary water cooperation and attract funders from both local and international
- **Botswana has made a decision to develop major strategic transboundary water projects through PPP** and Accession to The UN Water Convention will enhance investor's confidence in water resources development related investment in Botswana.
- **Botswana will stand a good chance of regional infrastructure development;** There UN Water Convention promotes development of infrastructure on the shared water resource hence deepens relations and strengthen trust.
- **Botswana will gain leverage in terms of negotiating legally binding instruments** such as protocols or any other amendments to the water convention.
- **improve the quality and quantity of water in the country** as accession to the water convention will promote sustainable use of water from shared water sources.



The background is a light blue gradient. In the top-left and bottom-right corners, there are several realistic-looking water droplets of various sizes, some overlapping. The text is centered in the upper half of the page.

ACCESSION PROCESS STEPS

APPROACH TO KICK START THE PROCESS

- FIRST STEP WAS TO ESTABLISH THE INTER MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE IN OCTOBER 2022.
- THE MAIN COMMITTEE'S TASK IS TO FACILITATE THE ACCESSION PROCESS
- THE COMMITTEE IS FORMED BY KEY STAKEHOLDERS FROM VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS THAT HAVE INFLUENCE AND INTEREST ON THE WATER SECTOR GOVERNANCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

	Key Stakeholder –Government Institutions / Non-Government Institutions	
1, 2	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Botswana Tourism Organisation
3, 4	Department of Environmental Affairs	Botswana Geoscience Institute
5, 6	Attorney General's Chamber (Commercial and Drafting Department)	Water Corporation Utilities
7, 8	Department of Mines	Department of Water and Sanitation
9	Ministry of Agriculture (Crop Production Department)	

INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT

The Task of the Inter-Ministerial committee is to facilitate the accession process as follows:

- **Assess The UN Water Convention** in relation to relevant RBOs Agreements and protocols Botswana has entered into and relevant national laws (constitution, water act and its related legislation) and conduct a SWOT analysis to assess any risks, contradictions and or benefits
- **Generate key messages and ratification arguments** for use in awareness raising
- **Undertake comprehensive stakeholder identification and analysis** to identify key stakeholders to include in consultations
- **Develop a strategy for reaching various stakeholders** with key messages on the accession process, and rationale and benefits of Botswana's accession to the water conventions
- Prepare a cabinet memorandum on the convention with justification for accession by Botswana
- Support deposition of the ratification instruments for acceding to the water convention with the United Nations Secretariat in New York (treaty section)

APPROACH: STEP-BY-STEP COUNTRY PROCESS

ASSESSMENT OF LEGAL ENVIRONMENT



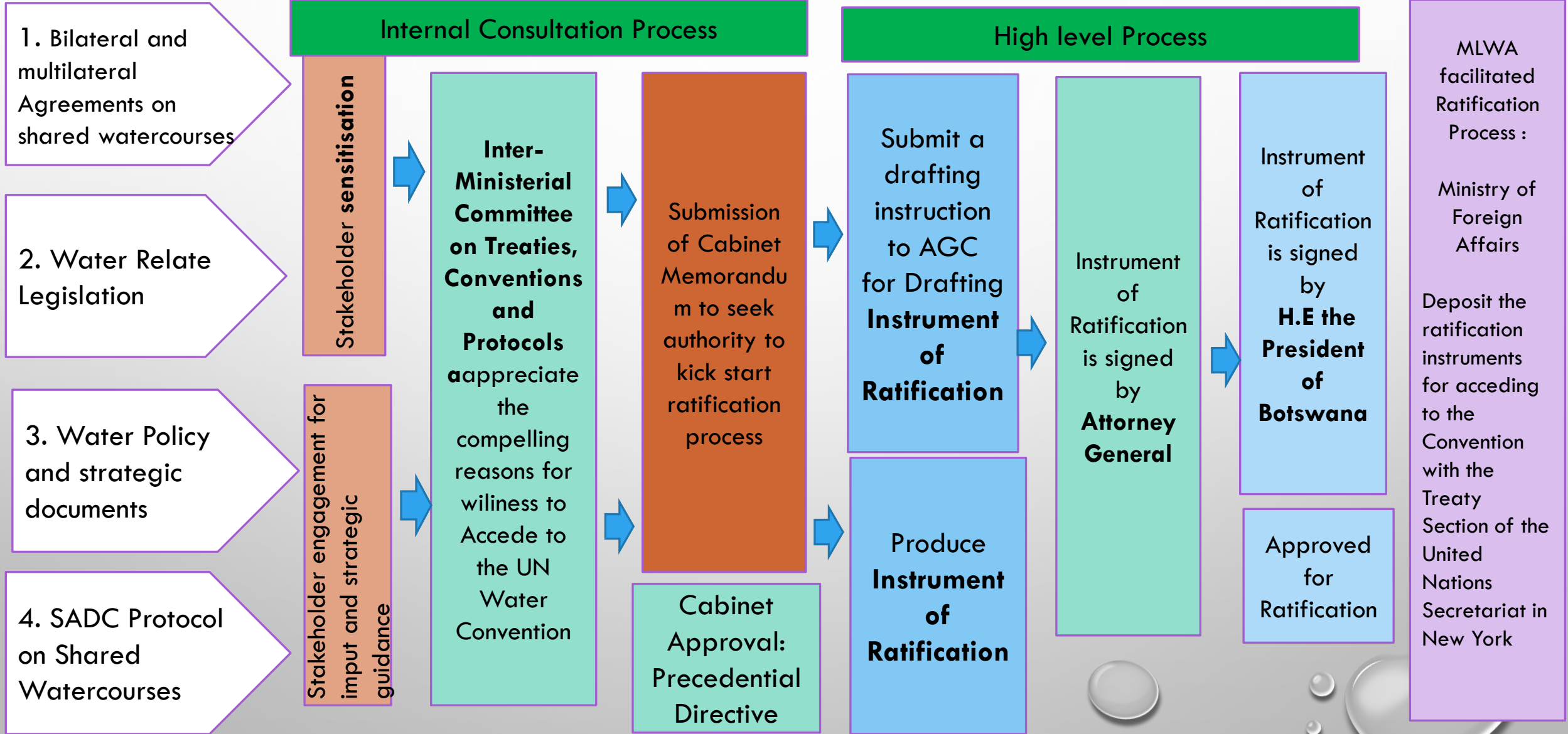
CONSULTATION



APPROVAL OF INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION



DEPOSITING INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION



ACTIVITIES UNDER TAKEN SO FAR

Legal environment assessment

of Transboundary Water treaties, Botswana signed, SADC protocol on shared watercourse along with the 1992 Water Convention

Due date: 15th January 2023

Expression of Interest

- (MLWA submitted a letter expressing the country's interest).
- submitted to UNECE Secretariat on 10th March 2023

Stakeholder Sensitisation Workshop

(Presentation on the Convention and discussion among relevant stakeholders) Postponed to 22-23 May 2023

Date : 22th May 2023

Botswana's National Consultation Workshop

(Presentation on the Convention and discussion among relevant stakeholders)

Date : 25th-26th October 2023

Establishing an Interministerial Committee: September 2022

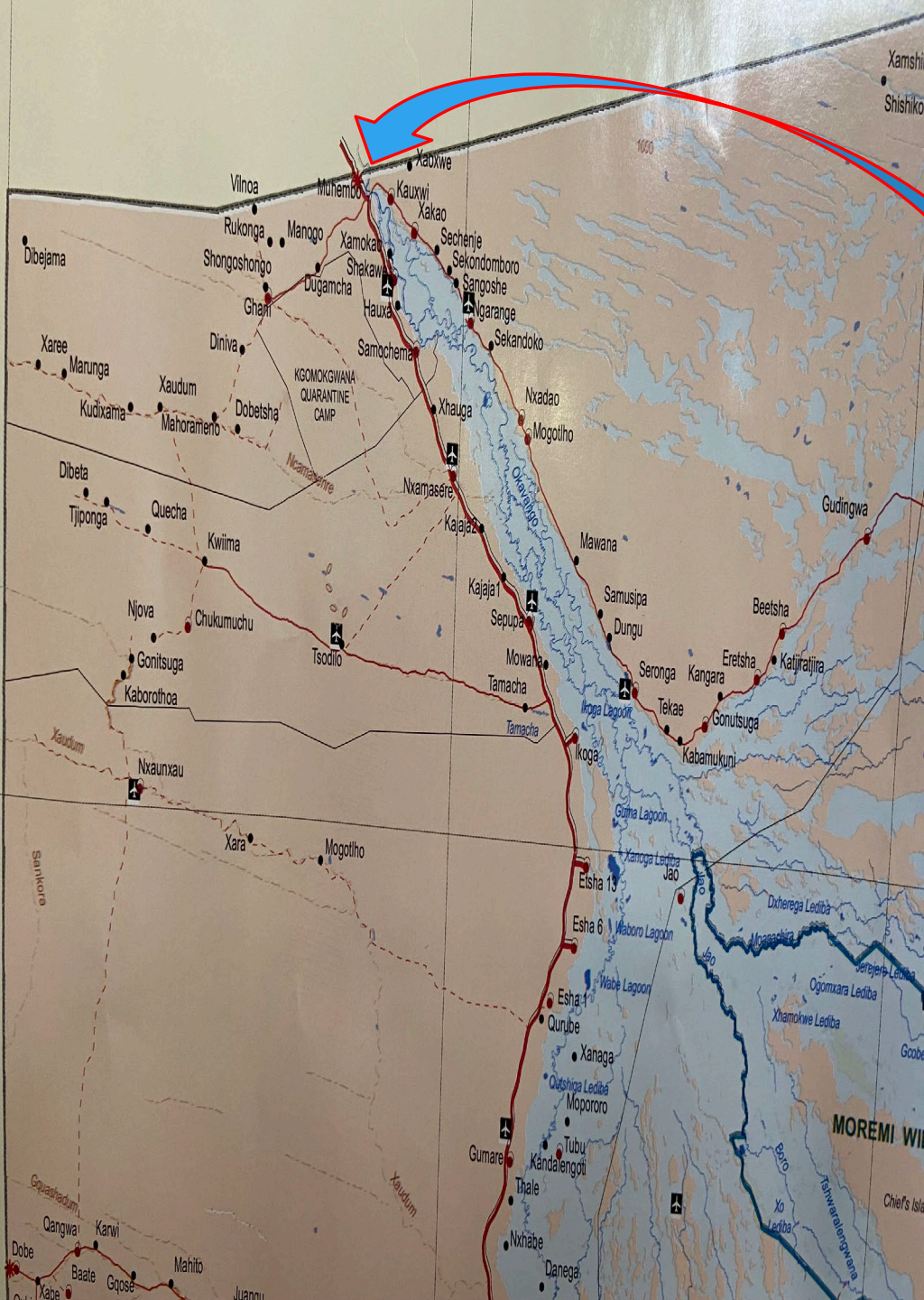
- to facilitate accession process.
- **Sensitisation Workshop** for Interministerial Committee (Discussion on the Convention, article by article, by the technical and legal services in order to establish its compliance with commitments); Workshop held on the **19th November 2022**



WHAT NEXT ?

- TO FACILITATE MINISTER TO APPRISE CABINET AND SEEK APPROVAL FOR DRAFTING RATIFICATION INSTRUMENT
- ENGAGE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS TO DRAFT RATIFICATION INSTRUMENT
- GET INTO A TWINNING PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE WITH ONE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UN WATER CONVENTION TO HANDHOLD BOTSWANA THROUGH THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING OF THE UN WATER CONVENTION
- ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE UN WATER CONVENTION SECRETARIAT INITIATIVES
- ADVOCATE FOR ACCESSION TO THE UN WATER CONVENTION BY THE REGIONAL BLOCK.





Thank You!

