



United Nations Environment Programme DAMS AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Information Sheet No. 5

Promoting Dialogue

Southern African Development Community (SADC) Consultative Process on Dams and Development

The World Commission on Dams (WCD) Report was considered at the 10th Meeting of the SADC Water Resource Technical Committee (WRTC) Meeting on 8 May 2001 in Mbabane, Swaziland. The meeting brought together 30 high level government water resources experts from various SADC member states. SADC requested its member states to consider formulating national positions on the WCD report.

SADC delegates were briefed on the UNEP – Dams and Development Project's (DDP) activities at the 12th WRTC Meeting on 8-9 May 2002 in Quatre Bornes, Mauritius. The briefing highlighted the national initiatives emerging as a result of the WCD recommendations. Discussion focused on follow-up in individual SADC member states.

Based on the outcome of the WRTC meeting the SADC Ministerial Meeting held in July 2002 in Luanda, made the development of a regional position on the WCD Report a priority. Member countries were encouraged to hold national consultations and formulate national positions on the WCD recommendations. SADC Water Directorate hosted a meeting with the German agency GTZ and DDP, on 3-4 December 2002, to discuss support for the development of national and regional positions on the WCD Report, which has led to a three-phase programme.



What is SADC?

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) was established in August 1992, through adoption of a Treaty and Declaration in Windhoek, to build a region in which there will be a high degree of harmonisation and rationalisation to enable the pooling of resources to achieve collective self-reliance in order to improve the living standards of the people of the region.



SADC member states are: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

(For more information please visit: <http://www.sadc.int/>)

The SADC Water Directorate

Water is seen as one of major areas of cooperation and integration in the SADC region. In recognition of this imperative SADC established a dedicated Water Directorate in August 1996. The SADC vision for water is, "to attain the sustainable, integrated planning, development, utilisation and management of water resources that contribute to the attainment of SADC's overall objectives of an integrated regional economy on the basis of balance, equity and mutual benefit for all member States".

In pursuit of the implementation of the vision, the SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems was agreed upon as a basis for water related developments and management. Signed in August 1995, the Protocol came into force in 1998. A revised SADC Protocol was signed in 2000 and will be effective after ratification by member states. In 1997, the Water Directorate embarked on the development of a five year Regional Strategic Action Plan (RSAP) on Integrated Water Resources Development and Management.

(see box overleaf)

- **Phase 1** started in December 2002 involving a team of three short-term specialists - regional water development, dams planning and design, and environment/social issues. A concept note on the process and framework for initiating SADC national initiatives and a background paper covering key issues on dams and development in the region (and framework for regional process) has been completed. Exploratory discussions investigating the progress of national processes on the WCD report were held in six countries that included - South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. Country reports have been elaborated. GTZ is providing financial support to Phase 1.



• **Phase 2** of the consultative process led, on the basis of the outcomes of Phase 1, to the development of a draft SADC Regional Policy on Dams and Development and a draft SADC position on the WCD Report. These two draft documents have so far been discussed with the SADC Water Directorate and other related SADC sectors.

• **Phase 3** has been reformulated to take into account the decision to incorporate the salient cross-cutting policies associated with dams and development into the Regional Water Policy (RWP) within the context of Integrated Water Resources Management framework in relation with other water infrastructure. It is also anticipated that this process will include widespread stakeholder consultations in early 2004. A multi-stakeholder regional workshop is planned by mid 2004 to discuss and review the Regional Water Policy. The re-drafting of the SADC position on the WCD report taking into account recent developments is currently ongoing and a draft is expected to be circulated to Member States for input and comments. Following the Regional Water Policy workshop, a second multi-stakeholder workshop to consider the SADC position paper on WCD is envisaged to take place during the annual WRTC meeting later this year.

Consideration of WCD Follow up Process in SADC

- Region is prone to droughts and floods
- Priority is attached to poverty alleviation and economic integration
- Approximately 70 per cent of all watercourses are transboundary
- Potential for future dam projects to be multinational in character
- Dams are considered to be an integral aspect of water resources management
- WCD process to assist in identifying gaps/strengths in dam development practice

DDP is being consulted by SADC countries with regard to the convening of national consultative workshops. In this regard, DDP is able to provide limited financial support, resource people, guidance and dissemination information to the regional and national process where requested.

A sample of SADC Priority Projects relevant to the consultation process on Dams and Development



- PCN 1 Guidelines for Review and Formulation of National Water Legislation
- PCN 2 Regional Guidelines for Dam Safety Legislation and Procedures
- PCN 9 Guidelines for National Water Policy and Review in Member States
- PCN 11 Formulation of a Regional Water Sector Policy and Strategy
- PCN 14 Assessment of Surface Water Resources
- PCN 24 Promotion of Stakeholder Participation in Water Resources Management

South Africa

The South African multi-stakeholder process on the WCD started in July 2001 and a multistakeholder Coordinating Committee has taken the process forward by preparing a Scoping Paper that identifies the key issues in the South African context. For further information see Information Sheet 4.1 – South African Multistakeholder Initiative on the WCD Report or visit UNEP-DDP at http://www.unep-dams.org/document.php?doc_id=218#southafrica.

Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia have shown interest in initiating national multistakeholder follow-up processes on 'dams and development' and the DDP has been actively involved in providing advice and guidance with regard to the structure and outputs of the workshops being planned.



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