



STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE ZAMBEZI WATERCOURSE

The Zambezi Basin itself is home to over 40 million people and projected to be 51 million by 2025. Going forward, therefore, the mounting socio-economic pressures on the basin will require a better basin-wide understanding and agreement on the basin's opportunities and challenges; and the joint description of a sustainable development space for the basin that will meet national and basin-wide objectives without compromising ecosystems or indeed undermining the development aspirations of one state by another.

In the context of the of the ZAMCOM Agreement, the Strategic Plan for the Zambezi Watercourse is defined as a, “.....development plan comprising a general planning tool and process for the identification, categorization and prioritization of projects and programmes for the efficient management and sustainable development of the Zambezi Watercourse”

The Strategic Plan for the Zambezi Watercourse is expected to contribute to providing a basis for harmonized, basin-wide cooperation in the management and development of the water resources of the Zambezi watercourse.



Figure 1: The Zambezi River Basin and Riparian States

How will the Strategic Plan for the Zambezi Watercourse be developed? What will be the major steps?

The Strategic Plan for the Zambezi Watercourse will be developed in a cooperative and consultative manner based on generally accepted planning cycles and processes. Some of the major steps are expected to include conducting a situation analysis and developing strategic directions; consideration of national and basin level objectives,

What exactly is the Strategic Plan for the Zambezi Watercourse and why is it important?

River basin planning is crucial for successfully managing and developing shared water resources as it allows for the coordinated and integrated implementation of activities in the context of efficient management and sustainable development. River basin planning also allows for cooperation among riparian states and the identification and implementation of projects and programmes that provide sustainable benefits from a basin-wide perspective.



Win-win cooperation/ Cooperacao, ganhas tu, ganho eu

BACKGROUND

The objective of ZAMCOM is to promote the equitable and reasonable utilization of the water resources of the Zambezi Watercourse as well as the efficient management and sustainable development thereof. In that regard, some of the functions of the Commission include promoting, supporting, coordinating and harmonizing the management and development of the water resources of the Zambezi Watercourse; as well as advising Riparian States on the planning, management, utilization, development, protection and conservation of the Zambezi Watercourse.

sector development plans, infrastructure inventories; and basin development scenarios. The final stages of the process will include consideration of basin investment scenarios and preparation of the actual Strategic Plan for the Zambezi Watercourse as informed by the preceding stages.

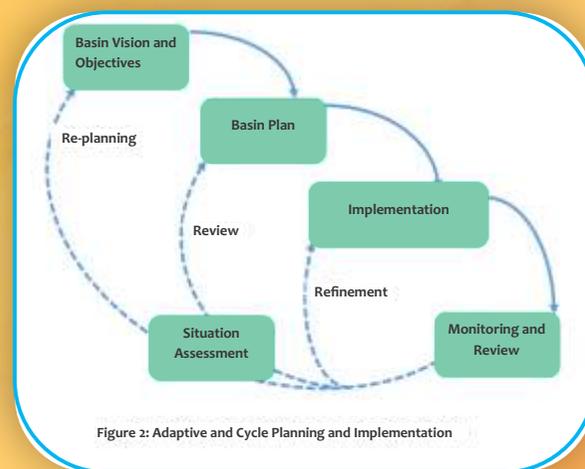
What is the status of development of the Strategic Plan for the Zambezi Watercourse and how long will it take to develop it?

The development of the Strategic Plan for the Zambezi Watercourse will commence in 2016 and end in 2018. The Strategic Plan will build on a substantial body of previous basin-wide studies, assessments and strategies including:

- The Zambezi Basin IWRM Strategy (2008),
- The Multi-Sector Investment Opportunities Analysis in the Zambezi River Basin (2010),
- The Dam Synchronisation and Flood Releases in the Zambezi River Basin Project (2011), The Dam Synchronisation and Flood Releases in the Zambezi River Basin Project (2011),
- The Zambezi Basin Atlas of a Changing Environment (2012), and
- The Zambezi Basin Environment Outlook (2015)

How is the Strategic Plan for the Zambezi Watercourse expected to be implemented?

The implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Zambezi Watercourse is expected to be done in a cyclic and adaptive manner as shown in Figure 2.



What will be the benefits to the Riparian States and the Southern African region?

The Zambezi Watercourse is one of the most diverse and valuable natural resources in Africa. Its waters are critical to sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction in the region. In addition to meeting the basic needs of more than 40 million people and sustaining a rich and diverse natural environment, the river plays a central role in the economies of not only the eight riparian countries but the region as a whole. It is an important water resources system in terms of energy generation, food production, ecosystems services, etc.

As demand for water, energy and food increases due to population growth and rising standards of living, so will the challenges and interconnectedness between and among the various sectors. Improved and better coordinated management and development of water resources will therefore become an imperative rather than an option. The plan will lay a firm foundation for more systematic, cooperative and tangible actions aimed at addressing the emerging socio-economic challenges in the basin and the region in an efficient and sustainable manner.

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