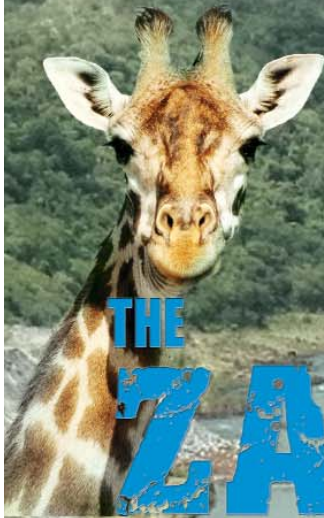




ZAMBEZI WATERCOURSE COMMISSION



THE ZAMBEZI

Vol 9 no 2 Jul-Dec 2014

COP 20 negotiations SADC discusses common position

by Eglina Tauya

CLIMATE EXPERTS from southern Africa have adopted a draft common regional position on the forthcoming climate change negotiations set for Lima, Peru in December.

Key elements of the draft regional position, which was developed by climate negotiators during a meeting in Namibia in September, included a demand by countries in the Zambezi Basin and the rest of southern Africa that developed nations should implement pledges made at previous sittings of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

According to the experts, the forthcoming UNFCCC negotiations, should ensure that past agreements on finance, adaptation, mitigation, technology and capacity building support are implemented, to build confidence in the UNFCCC system.

Developed nations committed themselves during the COP18 conference held in Doha, Qatar in 2012, to jointly mobilize US\$100 billion a year for climate change adaptation and mitigation in developing countries by 2020.

The SADC experts further asserted that finance should be based on the goal of keeping temperature increases below 2°C and called on developed countries "to communicate a pathway to the attainment of the US\$100 billion per year threshold as agreed in Doha".

According to the 5th Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report released in March 2014, land surface temperatures across the Zambezi basin and the rest of

southern Africa have increased by 0.5°C or more during the last 50-100 years, while the global sea level rose by 19 centimetres between 1901 and 2010.

The changes in temperature, rainfall and rise in sea level have played a role in increased incidence of malaria in parts of the basin, and have already driven a shift in farming practices, among other impacts.

Another resolution by the SADC negotiators was that the outcome of the forthcoming Lima conference should ensure that any COP20 agreement is informed by science and engenders environmental integrity in adaptation and mitigation actions.

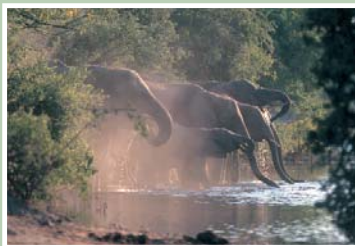
They also resolved that the COP20 outcome must be fair and equitable in accordance with the principles of equity and common, but differentiated, responsibility and respective capabilities.

Basin countries want developed countries to take full responsibility for their past emissions and assist developing countries in adapting to the impact of climate change.

The basin countries want the outcome of the negotiations to ensure the provision of the necessary means of implementation, including finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity building.

They argued that the outcome must ensure access to sustainable development for SADC countries, recognising that inclusive development is a priority to developing countries, and the poverty eradication and gender equality remain overriding principles. □





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The newsletter is published under the Zambezi Environment Outlook project with the aim of informing people about the state of the environment in the Zambezi River Basin and promoting good environmental stewardship in the SADC region.

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Contributions are welcome from individuals and organisations in and outside the Zambezi River Basin in the form of articles, news items and comments. The editorial team reserves the right to select or reject items and edit for available space.

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EDITORIAL

REGIONAL COOPERATION is critical to the success of the management of trans-boundary natural resources in the Zambezi River Basin.

Cooperation among Basin States depends on existence of institutional structures, sound policies, a legal framework, willingness, and awareness of the benefits of shared resources.

The recent completion of the process to establish the governance structures of the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) should, therefore, be received as positive news for the Zambezi basin as it marks a significant step forward in efforts by the region to manage its transboundary water resources.

The appointment of Dr Zebediah Phiri as the substantive ZAMCOM Executive Secretary in July marked the completion of the process of establishing the structures of the commission.

This means that all the three ZAMCOM organs are now in place – the Council of Ministers, the ZAMCOM Technical Committee (ZAMTEC) and the ZAMCOM Secretariat, although the latter is still in the process of recruiting staff.

The finalisation of the ZAMCOM structures will see the operationalization of a three-year work plan that will focus on strengthening the commission to better coordinate and discharge its responsibilities.

The work plan, which spans the period 2014-2017, was approved by ZAMTEC in July in Harare, Zimbabwe.

In the short term, the work plan seeks to ensure that ZAMCOM is established and operationalized, functioning as a river basin organisation providing efficient and timely support to the cooperation among the Riparian States and capable of planning and organising basin-wide activities.

In the long term, it will “ensure equitable and reasonable utilisation of the water resources of the Zambezi watercourse as well as the efficient management and sustainable development thereof”, as stipulated in the ZAMCOM Agreement which came into force in June 2011.

Now that the ZAMCOM Secretariat is in place, it is expected to provide efficient and timely support to Riparian States and be able to plan and organise basin-wide activities.

In addition, the plan will see implementation of a rolling river basin management process delivering a Zambezi River Basin Strategic Plan that will identify, categorise and prioritise investment projects and programmes for management and development of water and related resources in the basin.

Another expectation is that the ZAMCOM should be able to attract potential investors from international cooperating partners, multilateral financial institutions and the private sector to invest in sustainable water management and development programmes and projects.

The commission is also expected to, among other things, operationalize the key provisions of the ZAMCOM Agreement such as the rules of notification and prior consultation on planned measures or projects to be undertaken by member states.

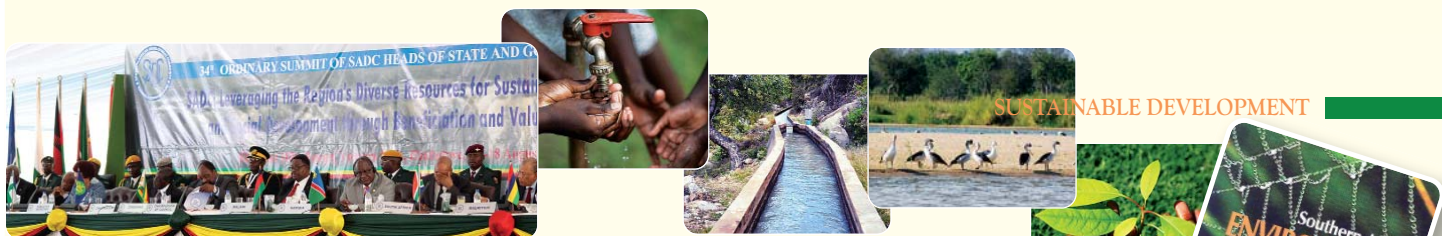
In addition, the commission is expected to further develop the Zambezi Water Information System initiated during the Zambezi Action Plan Project 6.2, in such a way that it includes aspects of flood forecasting and early warning.

The commission is expected to coordinate sharing of data, information and experiences among Riparian States including highlighting the contribution such cooperation could make towards peace and security in the basin.

The Zambezi / O Zambezi

Volume 9.2 for July-December 2014, produced in English and Portuguese, highlights key issues in the basin, noting opportunities and challenges to the environment and humanity.





SADC approves Protocol on Environmental Management for Sustainable Development

by Admire Ndhlovu

THE APPROVAL of the SADC Protocol on Environmental Management for Sustainable Development represents a major step towards the sustainable use and management of the environment in the Zambezi River Basin.

The Protocol was approved by the 34th Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government held in August in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, and aims to harmonize existing instruments that deal with environmental issues.

SADC has until now had several protocols dealing with various aspects of the environment. Most of these were sectoral in nature and did not take a holistic approach towards the sustainable use and management of the environment.

These include the Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement approved in 1999, the Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses (2000), the Protocol on Mining (1997), and the Protocol on Energy (1996).

Therefore, the adoption of the Protocol on Environmental Management for Sustainable Development is an important step in the process of harmonizing the laws that deal with environmental issues.

The objectives of the protocol are to enhance the protection of the environment in order to contribute to human health, wellbeing and poverty alleviation, and promote equitable and sustainable utilisation of natural and cultural resources for the benefit of the present and future generations.

In addition, it seeks to promote the shared management of transboundary environment and natural resources.

Another objective is to promote effective management and response to impacts of climate change and variability.

The objectives of the protocol are in line with the ZAMCOM Agreement, which seeks 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.

To meet the protocol objectives, State Parties are to cooperate by contributing towards sustainable development through the adoption of sound environmental management principles and procedures, facilitating value addition and beneficiation of the region's natural resources to maximise benefits, and promoting trade in environmental goods and services for the development of their economies.

Zambezi basin and other SADC member states are expected to harmonise their laws, policies, plans and programmes on environmental management.

There is also need for countries to harmonise standards, processes and procedures with particular reference to regional and transboundary environmental management.

The Protocol recognises the need to continuously keep under review the state of the region's environment.

Therefore, SADC Member States will contribute to the production of regular environmental outlook reports and develop appropriate environmental indicators for monitoring environmental trends in the region.

The most recent report on the environment in southern Africa, the *Southern Africa Environment Outlook*, was launched in 2009, and co-published by SADC, the UN Environment

Programme (UNEP) and the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC).

The first environmental assessment report of a single ecosystem in the region was at basin level – *State of the Environment Zambezi Basin 2000*.

An new edition entitled *Zambezi Environment Outlook* is due to be published in 2015 through an initiative by ZAMCOM and SADC, and implemented by SARDC's I. Musokotwane Environment Resource Centre for Southern Africa (IMERCSA), with support from the development agencies listed on page 8 of this publication.

The new Protocol includes measures to promote the management and control of the spread of invasive alien species, and transboundary management of wastes and hazardous substances.

Specific provisions to address issues pertaining to air quality; waste and pollution; chemicals management; biodiversity, natural and cultural heritage; sustainable land management; marine and inland water resources; and climate change are made.

According to the protocol, implementation will be mainly at national level. In the case of shared resources and issues of a regional nature, State Parties shall cooperate with one another to ensure "objectives of the protocol are achieved."

Institutions that will oversee implementation of the protocol are the Committee of Ministers Responsible for the Environment, Committee of Senior Officials Responsible for the Environment, and the Technical Committee on Environmental Management, as well as other Specialist Committees and Working Groups.

Efforts towards an environmental protocol in the SADC region can be traced back to the global environmental meeting of world leaders, the Earth Summit of 1992 held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Following that Summit, the SADC Ministers of Environment agreed to adopt a Protocol on Environment, and this was approved at their meeting in Cape Town in 1999.

They directed the then SADC Environment and Land Management Sector to develop a regional environmental protocol.

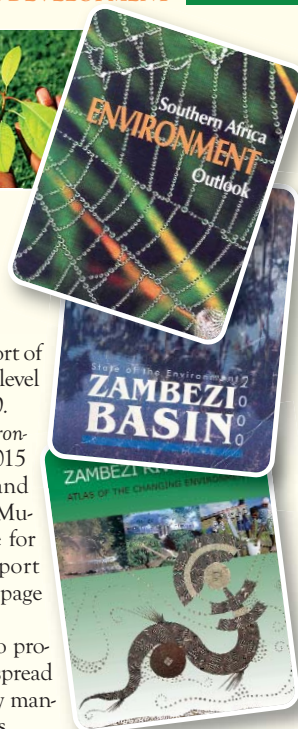
Most SADC Member States, including those in the Zambezi River Basin, rely heavily on the exploitation of natural resources and the environment for their economic development.

Thus, there was a need to put in place measures and strategies that promote sustainable management and exploitation of transboundary natural resources.

The Protocol is also critical in that it would help to integrate and mainstream environmental management into economic development.

Previously, instruments governing socio-economic development processes have tended to overlook environmental issues, resulting in lack of control mechanisms over degradation and pollution, as well as disruption of vital ecosystems such as wetlands.

The new Protocol aims to strengthen the protection of the environment while contributing to human health, wellbeing and poverty alleviation. □





THE SECRETARIAT for the Zambezi Watercourse Commission has commenced operations in Harare, Zimbabwe. This issue of *The Zambezi* carries an interview with Dr Zebediah Phiri, the first Executive Secretary of ZAMCOM.

Congratulations on your appointment as the first Executive Secretary of ZAMCOM. May you briefly tell us who is Dr Zebediah Phiri, and your involvement in water resources management in southern Africa?

Thank you for affording me this opportunity. I am a Zambian national. The members of my immediate family are my wife, Agnes; and a daughter, Mate. My wife works for the Energy Regulation Board in Zambia. Mate is currently studying at university.

I attended primary and secondary school in Zambia. After that, I obtained a BEng degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Zambia. I then went on to do an MSc degree in Environmental Engineering at University of Leeds in the UK; thereafter I did a PhD in Environmental and Water Resources Engineering at Kumamoto University in Japan; and finally, I did an MBA with Regent Business School in South Africa. In between I have obtained other professional qualifications, including membership of several professional bodies among them the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Engineering Institution of Zambia, the International Water Resources Association, and the International Water Association.

With regard to water resources management, I have literally spent my whole life in it. I have taught, conducted research and consultancy, and generally practised it over the years. Some of my significant involvements have included being Programme Manager of Zambia's Water Resources Action Programme which culminated in the development of a modern water resources management law that provided the basis for the subsequent setting up of Zambia's Water Resources Management Authority.

In the region, I have spent quite some time working on the Zambezi/ZAMCOM process. I was Project Manager of the Zambezi Action Plan Project 6.2 from 2005 to 2008. It was during that time that the Zambezi Water Information System (ZAMWIS) was developed. We developed the current Integrated Water Resources Management Strategy and Plan for the Zambezi River Basin as well as the Plan for the Operationalization of ZAMCOM, among other things.

In addition to that, I have served on the boards of many national, regional and international organisations including Global Water Partnership Southern Africa; Water Research Fund for Southern Africa; International Water

Association; International Water Resources Association; Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company, among others.

What are some of the major issues you consider as urgent, that you want to tackle in your first few months as Executive Secretary?

The region has waited for more than 30 years to have ZAMCOM, one of the institutions that has significant potential to advance the goals of SADC in a very real and important way. The SADC Treaty and Declaration, for example, is premised on achieving development and economic growth, alleviating poverty, and enhancing the quality of life of the people of southern Africa through regional integration.

The Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses, for its part, aims at fostering cooperation for the sustainable management and utilisation of shared water resources in the region and advances the SADC Agenda of regional integration and poverty alleviation.

And then the ZAMCOM Agreement fits very neatly into the pack by focusing on promoting the "equitable and reasonable utilisation of the Zambezi Watercourse as well as the efficient management and sustainable development thereof".

The Zambezi River Basin is the largest international basin falling entirely within the SADC region. The successful trans-boundary management of the Zambezi River Basin, therefore, presents a major test case or opportunity for cooperation in managing shared water resources for regional economic development and integration in southern Africa.

But then as ZAMCOM, where do we start? Of course, we first need to set ourselves up as an operational institution capable of providing efficient and timely support to the cooperation among the eight riparian countries; and capable of planning and organising basin-wide activities. That should take us the next three years or so to do. Then we need to begin to systematically "chase" – even as we are setting up – the long term objective mentioned earlier.

Obviously in the first few months, our focus will be on the physical establishment of offices; development of systems, procedures and guidelines for the secretariat; and recruitment of staff and their orientation. Thereafter, the more urgent, real work will begin in earnest.

That work will include operationalizing the key provisions of the ZAMCOM Agreement such as the rules of noti-



fication and prior consultation on planned measures/projects, as well as the collection and dissemination of information and data in support of improved planning and decision making for the sustainable management and development of the basin.

Another priority issue has to do with the further development of the Zambezi Water Information System in such a way that it includes aspects of flood forecasting and early warning, and decision support systems through user-friendly interfaces and links to Earth Observation systems. Some work on ZAMWIS is already going on even as we are settling down as a secretariat. It will be very important for the young ZAMCOM to resist over-ambitious programming.

Within the next three years or so, we also plan to develop a Zambezi Basin Strategic Plan. The plan will be used as a reliable and accepted basis for decision making on investments. The plan will basically identify, categorise and prioritise investment projects and programmes for management and development of water resources in the basin. The process of developing the plan will inevitably include an aspect of disclosure of national agendas. That disclosure is expected to help build the much needed confidence and trust; reach common understanding and achieve information symmetry.

Do you see challenges in implementing the ZAMCOM agreement and other regional and international agreements such as the Revised SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses and the UN Convention on the Non-Navigable Uses of International Watercourses? If so, how do you propose to overcome the challenges?

There will always be challenges. In fact the process of just having the ZAMCOM Agreement itself faced a lot of challenges over the years. It has taken over 30 years just to have ZAMCOM in place. But that is no different from the situation in many other basins such as the Nile, the Mekong, etc. Water is such a critical resource in the life and development of nations. The stakes are usually very high. But increasingly, countries are coming to the realisation that there is more to be gained than to be lost by working together over shared waters. That cooperation is an imperative rather than an option.

I hope we can ride on that tide and begin to immediately demonstrate the benefits by addressing the real, felt needs of the people of our region. That way any lingering doubts will be laid to rest. Experience from all over the world has shown that achieving international cooperation is always a long and



complex journey. The important thing is that a process of moving away from unilateral action – which can result in undermining the development and investment plans of one country by another – to coordination, collaboration and joint programming, has begun in earnest.

With regard to the Revised Protocol and the UN Convention, I think that as a region we have done very well. As you well know, the Revised Protocol was heavily influenced by the UN Convention, and the ZAM-

COM Agreement was based on the Revised Protocol. We are, in a way, very neatly in line with the current international consensus on norms and this makes moving forward much easier, based on the premise that the right to utilise the watercourse goes hand in hand with the duty to cooperate in its protection and development.

How closely do you work with other River Basin Organisations (RBOs) as well as development partners, civil society and youth groups?

We work very closely with SADC Water Division and River Basin Organisations (RBOs) in the region. In fact we meet quite regularly. As you know, there are now quite a number of RBOs in the region including LIMCOM for the Limpopo, OKACOM for the Okavango, ORASECOM for the Orange-Senqu, and a few more in the offing. Most of the RBOs are relatively young as organisations and we find it useful to share experiences as we grow and take up our rightful places in the management and development of shared water resources.

What do you see as the role of the ZAMCOM Secretariat in promoting regional integration and sustainable management of water resources in the region?

ZAMCOM's mandate is to promote and coordinate the cooperative management and development of water resources of the Zambezi watercourse in a sustainable manner. In that role, regional cooperation and integration for peace, prosperity and poverty alleviation are key outcomes.

As you know, water is key in agriculture, industrial development, environment and tourism, energy, domestic water supply, sanitation and health, etc. In other words, it is unthinkable to talk about development without talking about water. ZAMCOM therefore has an important role to play in the sustainable development of the region. □



Climate information and resilience development

SADC expected to receive good rainfall

THE ZAMBEZI Basin is expected to receive good rainfall for the 2014/15 agricultural season.

This forecast was made by the 18th Southern Africa Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-18) that met in Windhoek, Namibia in late August to present a consensus seasonal climate outlook for the 2014/2015 rainfall season in the region.

According to the forecast, most parts of southern Africa should receive favourable (*normal to above-normal*) rainfall.

This is sufficient for most crops to reach maturity stage by end of season, implying that SADC may again record a good harvest.

Above normal rainfall is defined as lying within the wettest third of average recorded rainfall amounts during the 30-year period between 1971 and 2000, while below normal is lying within the driest third of rainfall amounts, and normal is the middle third.

The climate experts divided the rainfall season into four overlapping three-month periods.

These are October-December 2014 (OND), November 2014-January 2015 (NDJ), December 2014-February 2015 (DJF), and January-March 2015 (JFM).

Areas with increased chances of receiving normal to above-normal rainfall in the OND period include Mozambique, south-western and north-eastern Tanzania, and most of Malawi. Other areas include the bulk of Angola, and most of Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

However, farmers in areas likely to receive good rains are still expected to balance crops between late maturing seed varieties and early maturing ones to cater for uncertainties in the weather patterns.

Planting of both early and late maturing varieties help farmers to achieve a fair harvest in the event of a deficit in the amount of rainfall.

Increased chances of heavy (*above-normal to normal*) rainfall are expected in the north-eastern half of Tanzania, extreme south-western Angola and western coastal areas of Namibia.

In the NDJ period, the bulk of the basin is likely to receive normal to above-normal rainfall, while the northern most parts of Angola are likely to receive inadequate (*normal to below-normal*) rainfall.

In such areas, early maturing seed varieties are the most ideal since the seeds usually take a shorter time period to mature.

Most parts of basin are likely to receive normal to above-normal rainfall during the DJF period.

For the period JFM, the bulk of SADC is expected to receive normal to above-normal rainfall.

However, the northern most part of Angola is likely to receive normal to below-normal rainfall.

Farmers and other users have been urged to continue getting support and updates from their agricultural extension officers on local conditions, and the national meteorological services.

In addition, farmers in areas likely to receive insufficient rains should practice conservation agriculture which involves minimal disturbance of the soil in order to keep the available moisture for a longer period of time.

SARCOF-18 also took into account El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), which

is currently in the neutral phase, and is projected to be fluctuating.

Conditions for El Niño develop as warm waters of the tropical Pacific spread eastwards in concert with shifting patterns of atmospheric pressure.

In previous years, El Niño events have been associated with drought conditions prevailing in most parts of the basin.

El Niño events are also known to cause either a delay in the onset or an abrupt end of the rainfall season resulting in wilting of crops before reaching maturity stage thereby significantly reducing crop yields.

SARCOF-18 noted the need for basin states and the region as a whole to improve access to accurate, relevant and reliable information on climate and weather as such data is critical for socio-economic development.

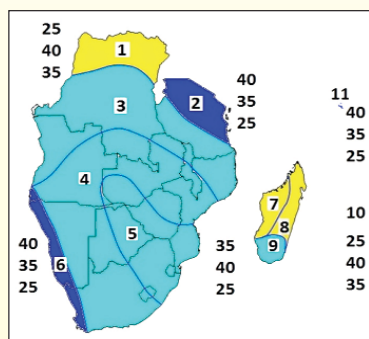
Experts also noted the need for the basin to boost its early warning systems to reduce the impact of adverse weather conditions on the economy.

Early detection of natural disasters, including floods and droughts, may provide adequate time for people to prepare and cope with such disasters.

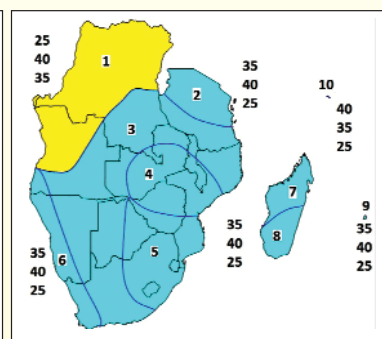
SARCOF-18 brought together various stakeholders including climate scientists, researchers, farmers, information users and decision-makers.

The theme for the forum held on 27-29 August 2014 was "Advancing Climate Information Services for Resilience Development in Southern Africa Region." □

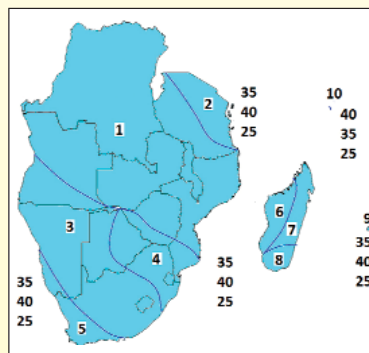
October-November-December 2014



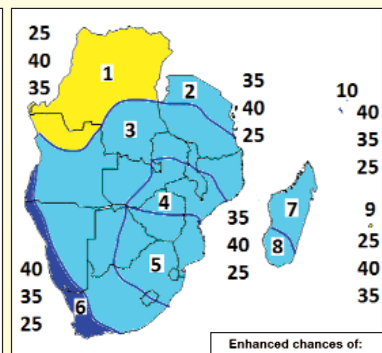
November-December 2014-January 2015



December 2014-January-February 2015



January-February-March 2015



Enhanced chances of:

- Above-normal to Normal
- Normal to Above-normal
- Normal to Below-normal
- Below-normal to Normal

The numbers for each zone indicate the probabilities of rainfall in each of the three categories, below-normal, normal and above-normal. The top number indicates the probability of rainfall occurring in the above-normal category, the middle number is for normal and the bottom number is for below-normal.



Tourism holds key to sustainable development in the Zambezi basin

by Danai Matowanyika

THE ZAMBEZI River is recognized as a globally important wilderness tourism destination, endowed with major attractions such as the Victoria Falls, the Batoka, Kariba, Mupata and Lupata gorges, and two artificial lakes as large as inland seas – Kariba and Cahora Bassa.

There is a combination of lowveld and rift/escarpment mountain habitats, with abundant wildlife and spectacularly beautiful scenery.

These magnificent attractions have potential to draw large numbers of visitors to the region each year, and this vast tourism potential can be leveraged and linked to ongoing efforts to attain sustainable development.

The river basin has several Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs), incorporating some of Africa's finest national parks and safari areas.

Tourism is one of the key economic and social-cultural activities that have an impact on the state of environment within the Zambezi basin.

Major TFCAs in the basin include the Kavango Zambezi TFCA, which crosses the borders of five countries – Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The KAZA TFCA is the world's largest conservation area.

Other TFCAs being developed are the ZIMOZA covering areas in Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Zambia; the Selous-Niassa covering parts of Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania; the Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools involving Zambia and Zimbabwe; and the Liuwa Plain-Kameia, which includes areas in Angola and Zambia.

The Zambezi provides opportunities for bird viewing, bungee jumping, white water rafting, canoe trips and river cruises, wildlife viewing, fishing and boating, as well as beautiful scenery and striking sunsets.

Domestic tourism is a crucial pillar for economic growth in many countries across the globe and could sustain the tourism sector in the Zambezi Basin.

The barometer report from Regional Tourism Organization of Southern Africa (RETOSA) notes that domestic travel within basin countries has been important for the continuity of business activities during periods when international visits were low.

Various programmes such as cultural exchanges through schools and other civil society organisations have spurred domestic tourism.

In Botswana, the launch of the "Explore Your Botswana Campaign" in 2012 has helped to spur domestic travel.

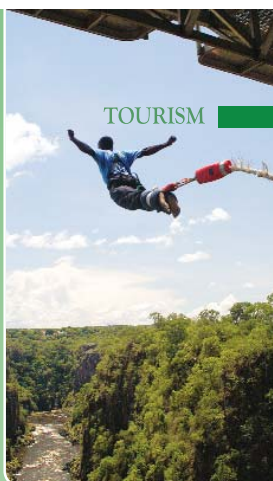
A similar campaign is being considered in Zimbabwe after it was awarded the 2014 Best Tourism Destination Award by the European Tourism and Trade Council.

Efforts in other countries such as Zambia have seen officials calling for the creation of attractive tourism packages for residents.

Such initiatives could be scaled up to the regional level to create a package for residents of Zambezi basin states.

Related developments such as the creation of the one-stop border post at Chirundu and the construction of the Kazungula Bridge will make the movement of people and goods easier to areas of interest. □

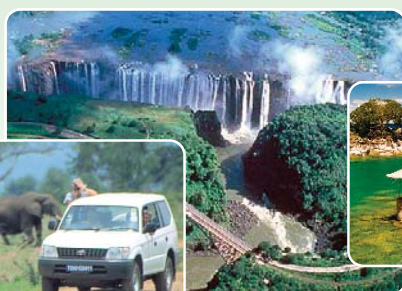
TOURISM



EVENTS

September - December 2014

September 16	<p>International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer</p> <p>The International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is celebrated each year on September 16, commemorating the date of the signing, in 1987, of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The theme for this year's celebration is "Ozone Layer Protection: The Mission Goes On".</p>
September 23	<p>UN Climate Summit</p> <p>Climate Summit 2014 provides a unique opportunity for leaders to champion an ambitious vision, anchored in action that will enable a meaningful global agreement in 2015. The summit, to be held in New York, will be attended by heads of state and government, business executives and representatives of civil society.</p>
Postponed TBA	<p>African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)</p> <p>The 15th session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) will be held this year (date to be advised). It will focus on harnessing Africa's natural capital, taking into consideration the region's diverse biodiversity and ecosystems, under theme "Managing Africa's Natural Capital for Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication".</p>
October 1-3	<p>African Regional Workshop on NAMAs</p> <p>The African Regional Workshop on Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) organised by UNFCCC is to be held in Windhoek, Namibia. It will facilitate the exchange of best practices and lessons learnt in preparation and implementation of NAMAs.</p>
October 15-17	<p>6th SADC RBOs Workshop</p> <p>The 6th SADC River Basin Organisation Workshop is to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa under the theme "Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Resilience in Water Related Disasters".</p>
December 1-12	<p>UNFCCC COP 20</p> <p>The 20th session of the Conference of the Parties and the 10th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol will be held from 1 to 12 December. COP 20/CMP 10 will be hosted by the Government of Peru, in Lima, Peru.</p>



- Is the longest river in southern Africa and fourth longest in Africa after the Nile, the Congo and the Niger.
- Rises on the Central African Plateau in the Kalene Hills in north-western Zambia and flows 3,000 km to its delta in Mozambique at the Indian Ocean.
- Drains an area of almost 1.4 million sq km, stretching across Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- Supports the Victoria Falls, popularly identified as one of the seven natural wonders of the world, as well as Kariba and Cahora Bassa hydro electric dams and their lakes.

- Is the largest and most shared river basin wholly within southern Africa.
- Covers about 25 percent of the total geographic area of the eight riparian states.
- Is home to more than 40 million people, projected to reach 51 million by 2025.
- Has many different ethnic groups and cultures with a proud history stretching back thousands of years.
- Hosts urban areas such as Luena in Angola, Kasane in Botswana, Tete in Mozambique, Katima Mulilo in Namibia and Mbeya in Tanzania, almost all urban centres in Zambia including the capital city of Lusaka, all urban areas in Malawi and most in Zimbabwe, including Harare.
- Contains Lake Malawi/Nyasa/Niassa covering 28,000 sq km, Africa's third largest freshwater lake after Lakes Victoria and Tanganyika, and the third deepest in the world.



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