



ZAMBEZI WATERCOURSE COMMISSION



THE ZAMBEZI

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Integrated planning needed for Water, Energy, Food Security

by Admire Ndhlovu

WATER, ENERGY and Food Security are closely interlinked and river basin organisations have an important role in facilitating an integrated approach to water resources management that supports development in the other sectors.

In the Zambezi River Basin, the demands on water, energy and food have become more pronounced during the past few years. With impressive socio-economic development in riparian states, the pressure on water, energy and food security resources has increased.

Challenges such as climate change consequences put additional pressure on the river and its resources.

These challenges have prompted calls from stakeholders for a greater role for river basin organisations such as the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) to enable them to drive the water-energy-food nexus approach.

This was the key message at the 6th SADC Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue organised to create awareness and understanding of the water-energy-food nexus.

The stakeholders said ZAMCOM is well-placed to drive the nexus approach, given its objective of promoting equitable utilisation of water resources in the Zambezi Basin as well as integrated management and sustainable development.

ZAMCOM also has strong representation at national level that can ensure buy-in of the nexus approach in basin countries to enable the basin's perspective and cooperation to be considered when planning in member states, and ZAMCOM could mainstream the nexus approach in the implementation of its strategic plan.

The nexus approach calls for close collaboration between the water, energy and food sectors as these are inextricably linked. Actions in one area impact on others.

Food production, for example, requires water and energy; while water extraction and distribution require energy; and energy production requires water.

The dialogue noted that while a number of policy instruments have been developed that take into cognizance the nexus approach, more needs to be done for sectors to promote integrated planning and implementation of water, energy and food security projects.

Phera Ramoeli, Senior Programme Officer at the SADC Water Division, told stakeholders that the nexus perspective can help southern Africa to apply the concept of Integrated Water Resources Management.

"Without energy and water we cannot satisfy basic human needs, produce food for a rapidly growing population and achieve economic growth," he said. □





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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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EDITORIAL

FOOD SECURITY remains critical to socio-economic development and achievement of environmental sustainability.

Giving priority to agriculture and food security has been emphasised and observed at national, regional and continental levels.

At national level, Zambezi River Basin states are making concerted efforts to maximise agricultural production and ensure food security, as are other member states of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), in line with the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy established in mid-2013.

The overall objective of the policy, whose implementation is planned to commence this year, is to contribute towards sustainable agricultural growth and socio-economic development.

With about 70 percent of the basin's population depending on agriculture for food, income and employment, it is necessary to give this sector high priority.

Supporting the need to prioritize agriculture and food security, the current SADC chairperson, President Joyce Banda of Malawi, promised to champion policies and programmes that improve agriculture and the rural sector during her tenure that ends in August this year.

She believes that stimulating this sector will transform the livelihoods of people and provide the foundation for sustainable development.

Prioritizing agriculture and food security has been echoed by African leaders who declared 2014 as the "Year of Agriculture and Food Security" at the 22nd African Union Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January.

The summit theme highlighted the commitment of African leaders to transform agriculture through harnessing opportunities for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

This commitment to agriculture is expected to benefit from the Zambezi Basin, which is endowed with abundant land and a wide range of related natural resources, including fisheries and forestry.

The Basin has capacity and great potential to be a leading agricultural player on the continental and global contexts, leveraging its rich natural and human resources.

In addition, the Zambezi Basin generally receives favourable rainfall that is essential for growing food. During the 2013/14 rainfall season the basin has received above-normal rains, with bumper harvests expected in most countries.

The great potential in agriculture has been emphasised by the chairperson of the AU Commission, Dr. Nkosana Dlamini-Zuma in her prediction for the future that she presented to the AU Summit as a letter written in 2063.

Within 50 years, the letter said, "Africa has indeed transformed herself from an exporter of raw materials with a declining manufacturing sector in 2013, to become a major food exporter, a global manufacturing hub, a knowledge centre, benefiting our natural resources and agricultural products as drivers to industrialization."

Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma reminds African leaders to recognise the indigenous knowledge possessed by women who are the main producers of food on the continent, and their ability to identify appropriate varieties and best ways to combat pests that threaten crops without undermining the delicate ecological systems.

The imaginary letter notes the need to recognise smallholders, mainly women, who make up the majority of farmers, and ensure that they have unlimited access to farming markets, financial resources and agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizers.

This has been acknowledged in the SADC Regional Policy on Agriculture which notes that women play a central role in producing, harvesting, processing, storage and marketing of food. Therefore there is need to guarantee effective access to productive resources, services and socio-economic opportunities to women, youth and other vulnerable groups.

Acknowledging the importance of smallholder farmers in boosting food security has been realised at global level by the United Nations who declared 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF).

The IYFF aims to promote new development policies at national and regional levels that will help smallholder and family farmers to eradicate hunger, reduce rural poverty and continue to play a major role in global food security through smallscale, sustainable agricultural production.

Agriculture

The foundation for economic development in the Zambezi River Basin

by Neto Nengomasha

AGRICULTURE IS the basis for most economies in the Zambezi River Basin and member states are taking steps to develop the sector to ensure sustainable food security and economic prosperity for the region.

Progress has been recorded in the implementation of various regional and continental policies aimed at improving food security.

These include the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) adopted in the Maputo Declaration of 2003, and the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security of 2004.

CAADP is an Africa-wide framework for revitalising agriculture, food security and nutrition, aimed at assisting African countries reach a higher path of economic growth through agriculture-led development.

The Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security is a SADC initiative to boost food production in the region in line with CAADP.

Under both initiatives, basin states undertook to allocate at least 10 percent of their national budgets to agriculture each year.

They also agreed to target average annual agricultural growth rates of six percent and improved rural infrastructure and agricultural research.

As noted during the recent Southern Africa Regional Dialogue on Agriculture, at least three basin states are among the 11 African countries that had managed by 2010 to meet the CAADP and Dar es Salaam targets to allocate at least 10 percent of their budgets towards agriculture.

The three are Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe was the top performer in this area, having progressively allocated significant resources towards agriculture to reach 30 percent of national budget by 2010, followed by Malawi at around 28 percent and Zambia at 10 percent during the same year.

The performance of the other five basin countries ranged from about two percent for Botswana and Namibia and seven percent for Tanzania.

With regard to achieving the six-percent average growth rate for agriculture between 2003 and 2010, two basin states (Angola and Mozambique) have surpassed the target, averaging 14 and seven percent growth, respectively.

Most countries in the basin have continued to record good harvests each year since the adoption of the Dar es Salaam Declaration.

According to the July 2013 SADC Food Security Update, regional cereal harvest in southern Africa increased by 0.2 percent from 35 million metric tonnes in 2012 to 35.1 million metric tonnes in 2013. This increase is five percent above the average production for the last five years.

For example, between 2008 and 2013 the cereal production increased from 738,000 to 940,000 tonnes in Angola; from 2.99 to 3.89 mil-

lion tonnes in Malawi; and from 1.64 to 2.89 million tonnes in Zambia.

The Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security contains commitments to, among other things, increase production of drought-tolerant crops, encourage value-addition to primary agricultural products, and develop appropriate preservation facilities at household, national and regional levels.

SADC also agreed to develop a regional food-reserve facility, improve infrastructure such as roads and rail to promote trade and open up the market, as well as construction of dams for irrigation purposes.

Plans are now underway to build a regional grain reserve with an estimated capacity of about 500,000 metric tonnes.

About 75 percent of the reserve will comprise of food in kind, while the remaining 25 percent will be in the form of cash to allow countries that do not have any surplus to contribute towards the grain reserve.

"The reserve, which will include a combination of cereals, will be kept in several selected countries to provide easy access around the region," said Margaret Nyirenda, head of the Directorate on Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources at the SADC Secretariat.

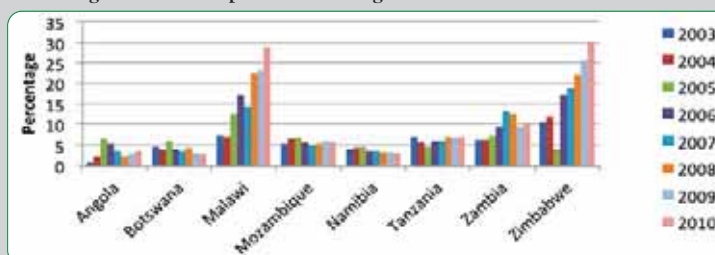
There is need to recognise the important role played by smallholders, mainly women, who make up the majority of farmers in the basin, and ensure that they have unlimited access to farming markets, financial resources and agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizers.

The SADC Regional Policy on Agriculture notes that women play a central role in producing, harvesting, processing, storage and marketing of food. Therefore there is need to guarantee effective access to productive resources, services and socio-economic opportunities to women, youth and other vulnerable groups.

Agriculture is the backbone of most economies in the Zambezi Basin, and riparian states have identified the sector as a priority for development.

At the African Union summit held in January, leaders from the continent declared 2014 as the "Year of Agriculture and Food Security in Africa" to provide an opportunity for African governments to renew and recommit their support towards agricultural development. □

Percentage of Public Expenditure on Agriculture for Zambezi Basin States



Source: Ripe For Change: The Promise of Africa's Agricultural Transformation launched at AU Summit 2014

Good rains brighten food prospects for Zambezi Basin

THE ZAMBEZI River Basin is set for a good harvest during the 2013/14 farming season amid indications that most riparian states have received adequate rainfall.

The SADC Agromet Update for the 2013/14 Agricultural Season released by the SADC Climate Services Centre said the eight riparian states were expected to receive normal to above-normal rainfall between February and April.

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 within the driest third of rainfall amounts, and normal is the middle third.

The latest forecast means that the Zambezi Basin should receive sufficient rains for most crops to reach maturity stage.

Enhanced probability of receiving normal to above-normal rainfall is expected in nearly all parts of the basin.

The update noted there were some delays in the start of the rainfall season in most parts of the region, which affected planting of crops.

Planting rains were only received in mid-December in central and southern Malawi, eastern Zambia, the central parts of Mozambique and northern Zimbabwe.

Southern Mozambique, parts of southern Zimbabwe and central Tanzania received the rains in late December.

The implication of the delay in rainfall is that there is a high possibility that crops may not reach maturity or perform well in some areas, unless the rains extend slightly longer than usual and are consistent throughout the remainder of the season.

The rainfall update noted that in some areas such as southern Malawi the maize crops are still expected to reach maturity due to the short-season varieties grown there.

The Vuli or short season rains in Tanzania continued to perform

poorly through to mid-January, with reports of wilting of late-planted crops in some areas.

It is reported that rains in December and early January were generally favourable in central/western parts of the region that have been experiencing long-term drought conditions for the last two seasons.

The northern half of Botswana, northern Namibia, south-eastern Angola, western Zambia and western Zimbabwe received above-normal rains for the period 1 December 2013 to 20 January 2014.

The rains helped to revive pastures and improve water supplies, enabling improvement in livestock conditions.

Widespread outbreak of armyworm was reported in several districts in the Southern Region of Malawi and localised areas of eastern Zambia.

Crop damage ranging from mild to severe was reported, and some areas required replanting. However, following control measures by farmers and Ministries of Agriculture, the situation is under control and impacts are likely to have been minimized.

The chances for above-normal rainfall observed in most parts of the region raise the likelihood of late-planted crops reaching maturity, especially if the higher rainfall is associated with a longer season extending well into April.

SADC CSC in conjunction with other partners continues to monitor the status of evolution of the El Niño phenomenon, and will issue updates from time to time. □



Late-planted crops are likely to reach maturity as higher rainfalls are observed.



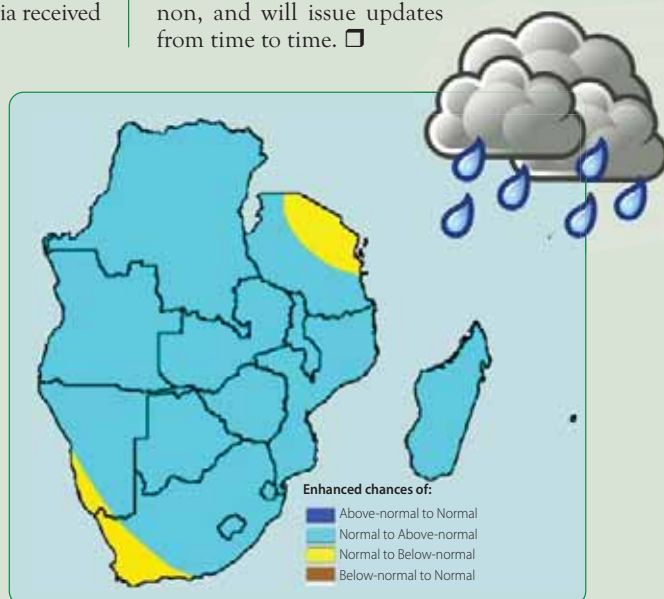
Favourable rains enabled improvement of livestock conditions in most parts of the region.



Some of the crops grown in the Basin



Outbreak of armyworm results in crop damage.





Increasing evidence of floods and droughts in the Zambezi River Basin

by Admire Ndhlovu and Danai Matowanyika

COMMUNITIES IN the Zambezi River Basin note that the frequency of floods and droughts is increasing and believe this is due to changing climatic conditions.

This was the main finding of a survey to assess the impact of climate change in the Zambezi River Basin, which includes part of the territory of eight riparian states and is home to more than 40 million people.

According to respondents interviewed in September 2013 for the Status Report on Floods and Droughts in the Zambezi Basin, there is an increasing trend towards longer dry spells during the rainy season.

Although cyclical droughts have been experienced in the basin for more than a century, the current decade has seen floods and droughts of unprecedented magnitude.

Respondents to the survey also cited the late onset and early conclusion of the rains as a major concern and a reason for the low yields experienced over the last decade.

They observed that the rainy season used to start in October but now can commence as late as December.

Scientists attribute the increase in frequency of extreme events to climate change.

Human activities such as emission of pollutants as well as changes to the land surface such as urbanisation and deforestation affect atmospheric temperature balance, leading to alteration of the climate system.

The Status Report survey involved discussion with local experts and communities in selected sites in the basin to capture local perspectives and knowledge that will improve existing efforts in flood and drought management.

The areas visited were Kazungula district in Zambia; Zambezi region (formerly Caprivi) in Namibia; and Muzarabani district in Zimbabwe.

Geospatial data was collected and land uses verified. Areas of interest related to floods and droughts as perceived by local communities were captured using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit.

In the Kasaya area of Kazungula district, water shortages have worsened over the years. At Kasaya Primary School, children and villagers depend on stagnant water which collects during the rainy season. There is salt water intrusion into boreholes leading to corrosion and collapse of pipes, rendering them dysfunctional.

In the Nakabolelwa area of Zambezi region in Namibia, communities are countering climate change through communal wildlife conservancies.

Nakabolelwa and surrounding communities face persistent threats of flooding due to their location on the banks of the Chobe River, which drains into the Zambezi River.

Respondents noted that longer dry spells as well as destruction of crops by elephants are threats to household food security.

As a coping mechanism, communities have set up communal wildlife conservancies, which allow members to protect their



resources sustainably, particularly the wildlife populations for game hunting and ecotourism revenues.

In addition, the Nakabolelwa Conservancy has several community-owned campsites that provide revenue for the communities that operate them.

This provides communities with livelihood options in the face of increasing threats of climate change.

In Muzarabani district, located in Mashonaland Central province of Zimbabwe along the Mozambique border, Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) play a major role as communities adapt to climate change.

The area is vulnerable to climate-related disasters such as floods, droughts and outbreaks of diseases such as cholera and malaria.

Due to its geographical position, Muzarabani is affected by backflows from Cahora Bassa Dam in Mozambique and Musengezi River in Zimbabwe as well as inflows from the Zambezi River when Kariba Dam floodgates are open.

Another study in 2009 by the National Disaster Management Institute of Mozambique found that, between 1960 and 2005, the temperatures increased by up to 1.6°C during winter in central Mozambique.

That study also noted an increase of 1.1°C between March/April and September/November over the same period.

This change has resulted in more rainfall or less rainfall, usually leading to floods or droughts.

Despite introduction of new strategies for early warning and disaster management, IKS still plays a significant role in forecasting and preparing for disasters.

Communities observe certain physical phenomena such as trees, grass, wind, sun, moon and lightning, as well as the behaviour of birds, frogs, animals and insects to make reasonable and often accurate weather forecasts.

The "Status Report on Floods and Droughts in the Zambezi Basin" is part of the Zambezi Environment Outlook project, an initiative by the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The project is implemented by the I Musokotwane Environment Resource Centre for Southern Africa, an institute of the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), with support from development agencies listed on page 8 of this publication. □





Water and sanitation targets achievable

by Neto Nengomasha

MOST ZAMBEZI Basin states are on course to meet the international targets on access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation although there is room for improvement.

In adopting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the basin states pledged to halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation between 1990 and 2015.

According to the *Zambezi River Basin Atlas of the Changing Environment* launched in 2013, Angola has made remarkable progress in expanding its drinking water coverage but still needs to raise the level.

In the period 1990 to 2008, access to safe drinking water increased from 36 to 50 percent of the total population in Angola, and the new Quilonga water treatment plant that will recycle waste water is expected to expand coverage.

Sanitation in Angola dropped from 61 to 50 percent in the same period, mainly resulting from urbanisation and the growth of slums.

Botswana is likely to meet the water and sanitation target well before the deadlines for MDGs and timelines for its own Vision 2016.

Access to safe drinking water increased from 77 percent of Botswana's population in 1990 to 94 percent in 2008, while improved sanitation rose from 38 percent to about 96 percent of the population over the same period.

This positive development has been attributed to the policy decisions and strategic action over a period of several years.

The major challenges for continued provision of reliable water supply for Botswana include protecting aquifers from pollution, and developing a better understanding of ground water recharge, among others.

According to the 2010 MDG report for Malawi, the country has made huge advances in access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation.

The national average population with access to safe drinking water increased from 40 percent in 1990 to 81 percent in 2010 while access to improved sanitation rose from 41 percent to 93 percent in the same period.

The 2010 MDG report from Mozambique notes that national coverage of safe water supply increased from 35 percent in 1990 to 56 percent of the total population in 2009, while sanitation increased from 20 percent in 1990 to 43 percent in 2009.

The 2008 MDG report for Namibia indicated that access by urban households to safe drinking water was nearly 100 percent, but decreasing, mainly due to increasing urban populations without expansion of social amenities.

Access of rural households to safe drinking water was 88 percent in 2008, up from 67 percent in 2000.

For Tanzania, the Zambezi atlas reports that the proportion of people in urban areas with access to safe drinking water increased from 68 percent in 1990 to 83 percent in 2008.

However the figure drops to just over one-third in rural areas, thus bringing down the national average to about half of the population with access to safe drinking water.

This means that the goal is likely to be met with respect to urban water supply if challenges of adequate resources are addressed, but less likely in rural areas of mainland Tanzania.

There has been a steady increase in improved sanitation facilities for both Zanzibar and mainland Tanzania.

For Zambia, the 2013 progress report reveals that the country has made progress in providing access to safe drinking water since 1990, but the rate is too slow to achieve the country's MDG target of 74.5 percent by 2015.

Access to safe drinking water increased from 49 percent in 1991 to 63.1 percent of the total population in 2010, while sanitation coverage worsened from 74 to 32.7 percent over the same period.

However, a significant part of this decline may be explained by the fact that the definition of improved sanitation changed in 2010 ~ from including to excluding pit latrines without a slab.

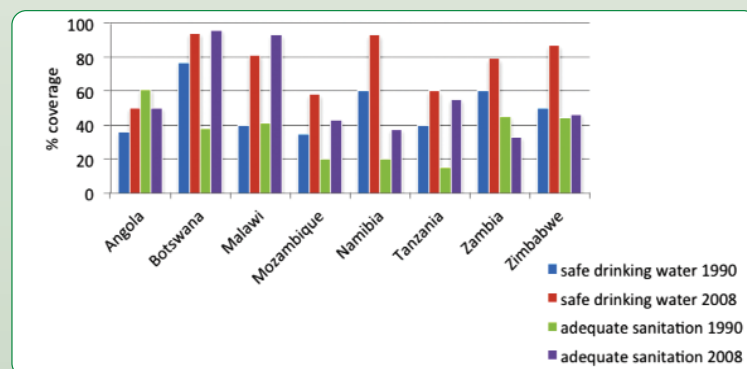
With respect to Zimbabwe, the 2012 report shows that the total population with improved drinking water has increased from 50 percent in 1990 to 76.7 percent in 2012.

The total population using an improved sanitation facility in 2012 was 49.8 percent in urban areas and 31.8 percent in rural areas.

The period between 2000 and 2008 saw a significant deterioration in the quality of water and sanitation facilities.

Thereafter, a lack of funds dedicated to maintenance and rehabilitation hindered meaningful improvements in waste management and water supply systems although gradual improvements can now be observed. □

Water and Sanitation Coverage in the Zambezi Basin States



Note that data for Malawi is 2010, Mozambique is 2009, Namibia is 2007, and Zambia is for 2008 and 2010
Source National MDG reports and Zambezi River Basin Atlas of the Changing Environment



KAZA TFCA initiatives supporting sustainable development

by Danai Matowanyika

THE KAVANGO-ZAMBEZI Transfrontier Conservation Area, the world's largest trans-boundary park, has potential to drive sustainable development within the Zambezi River Basin.

With an area of 444,000 square kilometres, the KAZA TFCA contains 36 protected areas and related opportunities for socio-economic development across five countries – Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The protected areas include national parks, game reserves, community conservancies and game management areas.

Considering the large number and variety of stakeholders involved, KAZA ministers have recognised the need to develop a stakeholder engagement strategy to ensure that all developments remain within the control of the five countries and ensure that key stakeholders are not left out.

Local communities are a key stakeholder group within the KAZA TFCA initiative as their livelihoods are inextricably connected to the natural resources within these conservation areas.

In this regard, the KAZA Secretariat held a meeting in January 2014 on developing a mechanism for transboundary community-based tourism and private sector investment to address gaps in community involvement in the tourism industry.

The idea of developing a mechanism is premised on introducing local communities as economic players and partnering them with the private sector to build local entrepreneurship capacity.

Tourist attractions within the TFCA that have historically supported communities, and continue to do so, include the Victoria Falls between Zambia and Zimbabwe, the Kasane Hot Springs in Botswana, and the large wildlife populations roaming across the five countries.

Studies carried out in the Eastern Caprivi wetlands of Namibia have shown that fisheries contribute greatly to meeting household nutritional needs.

A recent visit to Salambala Wilderness Conservancy as part of a study on floods and droughts in the Zambezi River Basin observed residents using their surrounding natural resources for household materials and food.

Adjacent wetlands, including the Chobe River, are used for fishing and the water reeds from these wetland areas are used for housing materials as well as for food supplement when food availability is low.

A majority of rural communities within the TFCA also practice subsistence farming and livestock rearing, both of which rely on the available water resources.

Initiatives, therefore, ought to ensure that residents continue to benefit from the water and natural resources in their environs.

A special motivation for the creation of this TFCA was that a large portion of the conservation area falls within the Miombo-Mopane eco-region, which is of great importance within southern Africa because of its much-valued ecosystem services that support livelihoods in different ways.

Considering the heavy rural dependence on the Miombo-Mopane forests for food such as *macimbi/madona* and for firewood, profits from non-consumptive use through tourism can support rural development by introducing alternative forms of energy and reducing reliance on forests for this purpose.

Ecosystem services within KAZA-TFCA encourage the high levels of biodiversity seen across large portions of the Zambezi River Basin, attracting tourists globally. □



National parks are one type of protected area within the KAZA TFCA initiative.

March 3-11

SADC Council of Ministers

The SADC Council of Ministers is responsible for supervising and monitoring the functions and development of SADC, and ensuring that policies are properly implemented to advance regional integration. The first meeting of 2014 will be hosted by Malawi, the current chairperson of SADC, including meetings of technical and senior officials, and ministers from SADC Member States.

March 10

UN Framework on Climate Change

This year's climate change negotiations begin on 10 March in Bonn, Germany, marking the start of an intense year of conferences and summits designed to lead to a meaningful, universal agreement in Paris in late 2015. The week-long meeting of the working group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action will include work towards the new global climate agreement to enter into force from 2020, and work to find ways to boost immediate, effective climate action. The 40th sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies to UNFCCC take place in June.

March 22

World Water Day

World Water Day is held annually on 22 March to focus attention on the importance of freshwater and the sustainable management of freshwater resources. The theme for 2014 is Water and Energy.

March – April

Kuomboka

This is an annual traditional ceremony of the Lozi people in the western province of Zambia that takes place at the end of March or early April. The ceremony marks the seasonal movement of the paramount Chief, the *Litunga*, from the floodplains to higher land. *Kuomboka* means "getting out of water".

April 1-3

Green Growth Knowledge Platform Regional Practitioners Workshop

This workshop titled "Pathways to Green Growth in Africa" aims to explore the rationale for green growth in an African context, facilitate policy dialogue and knowledge sharing, and discuss practical implementation issues. The workshop in DRC will focus on setting an African green growth vision through thematic sessions and exploring linkages among natural resources management, renewable energy and greening infrastructure.

April 2-3

4th Africa-EU Energy Partnership

The summit will provide an opportunity to review the strategic partnership between Africa and Europe, and seek ways to rebuild the nature, ambition and scope of relations.

June 5

World Environment Day

World Environment Day is celebrated to stimulate awareness of the environment and enhance political attention and public action.

June 17

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

The United Nations' World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed annually on June 17 to highlight the urgent need to curb the desertification process and to strengthen the visibility of drylands issues on the international environmental agenda.

The Zambezi River

- 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 northwestern 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 hydroelectric dams and their lakes.

The Zambezi Basin

- 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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