

SESSION 4 - Guidance on approaching the reporting, especially related to basin / arrangement level reporting

(Section II, questions 1 and 2 of the reporting template)

CASE of BOTSWANA

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River Basin Organisations

- Botswana is a member to four (4) River Basin Organisations
- **The four river basins commissions are:**
 - ✓ **Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM)**, has 8 riparian states
 - ✓ **Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM)** has 4 riparian states,
 - ✓ **Limpopo Watercourse Commission (LIMCOM)** has 4 riparian states.
 - ✓ **Okavango Watercourse Commission (OKACOM)** has 3 riparian states
- **Each river basin commission has independent Secretariat.**
- **River basin commissions are set based on the main shared watercourse;** therefore all sub basins that contribute to the watercourse are construed as a one wide –basin. The countries whose sub basin contributes to the main watercourse, automatically become members of the commission subject to signing of the commission agreement.



How Botswana reported its specific situation

- For each River basin commission we complete section II
- Upon Completion of the Template we shared the specific Section II of the Template with the concerned commission secretariat for validation.
- Also Botswana has multiple agreements at sub-basin, multilateral and bilateral levels with riparian states of which are either both members of 1 or 2 RBO(s)
- These bilateral/ multilateral agreement that are in regard to transboundary water are executed under the auspice of the commissions
- Therefore the commission agreements are the overarching agreements as are guided by the SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses

REPORTING CHALLENGES

If Botswana were to report at Sub-basin, Bilateral/ Multilateral agreements levels, it will be not so easy as there is overlaps on RBOs'

1. Under auspice of **ZAMCOM** Botswana-Zimbabwe has bilateral agreement and the two countries are members of **LIMCOM** as well.
2. Angola, Botswana and Namibia are the only member states of **OKACOM** and have agreement at Basin-wide level and at the same time the trio are members of **ZAMCOM**
1. Under auspice of **ORASECOM**; Botswana has multilateral agreement with Lesotho and **South Africa** (Lesotho-Botswana Water Transfer Agreement) , She also has bilateral agreement with Namibia under the auspice of **ORASCOM**
2. Under auspice of **LIMCOM**; Botswana has multilateral agreement with, **South Africa and Zimbabwe** (Conjunctive Surface-Groundwater Management in the Tuli-Karoo/Upper Limpopo System)

Therefore there would be a lot of repetition as bilateral/ multilateral make reference to the commissions' agreements

However reporting at basin-wide level does not indicate that Specific topics or subjects of cooperation are implemented at the Sub basin, Multilateral and Bilateral levels only.

Example: Joint Monitoring in Limpopo watercourse is implemented at bilateral level by Botswana and South Africa under the auspice of LIMCOM but is not implemented at basin-wide agreement level.

Why Chose reporting at basin-wide level

- Reporting only on the four (4) River basin Organisation agreements is representative of the progress on the cooperation as;
 - (i) the River Basin Organisation agreements are the overarching agreements
 - (ii) Agreements at the Sub basin, Multilateral and bilateral levels make reference to Basin-wide Agreements and are executed under the auspices of RBOs
- Reporting this way is very comprehensive and not complex as compared to reporting at the Sub basin, Multilateral and bilateral levels
 - i. Agreements at the Sub basin, Multilateral and bilateral levels does not extends to all topics or subjects of cooperation outlined in the Reporting Template
 - a) They are specific to the topic of cooperation as make reference that other topics are covered by the basin-wide agreements

LESSON LEARNED

We have noted that if we extend our reporting to Agreements at the Sub basin, Multilateral and bilateral levels;

- i. It can help in tracking progress on topics or subjects of cooperation which are not fully implemented or not included in the agreement or arrangement at basin-wide level
- ii. Distinguish topics or subjects of cooperation which are implemented at the Sub basin, Multilateral and bilateral levels from joint-body agreements levels

Thank you