



Transboundary Water Management and Cooperation in Namibia: agreements, institutions and activities

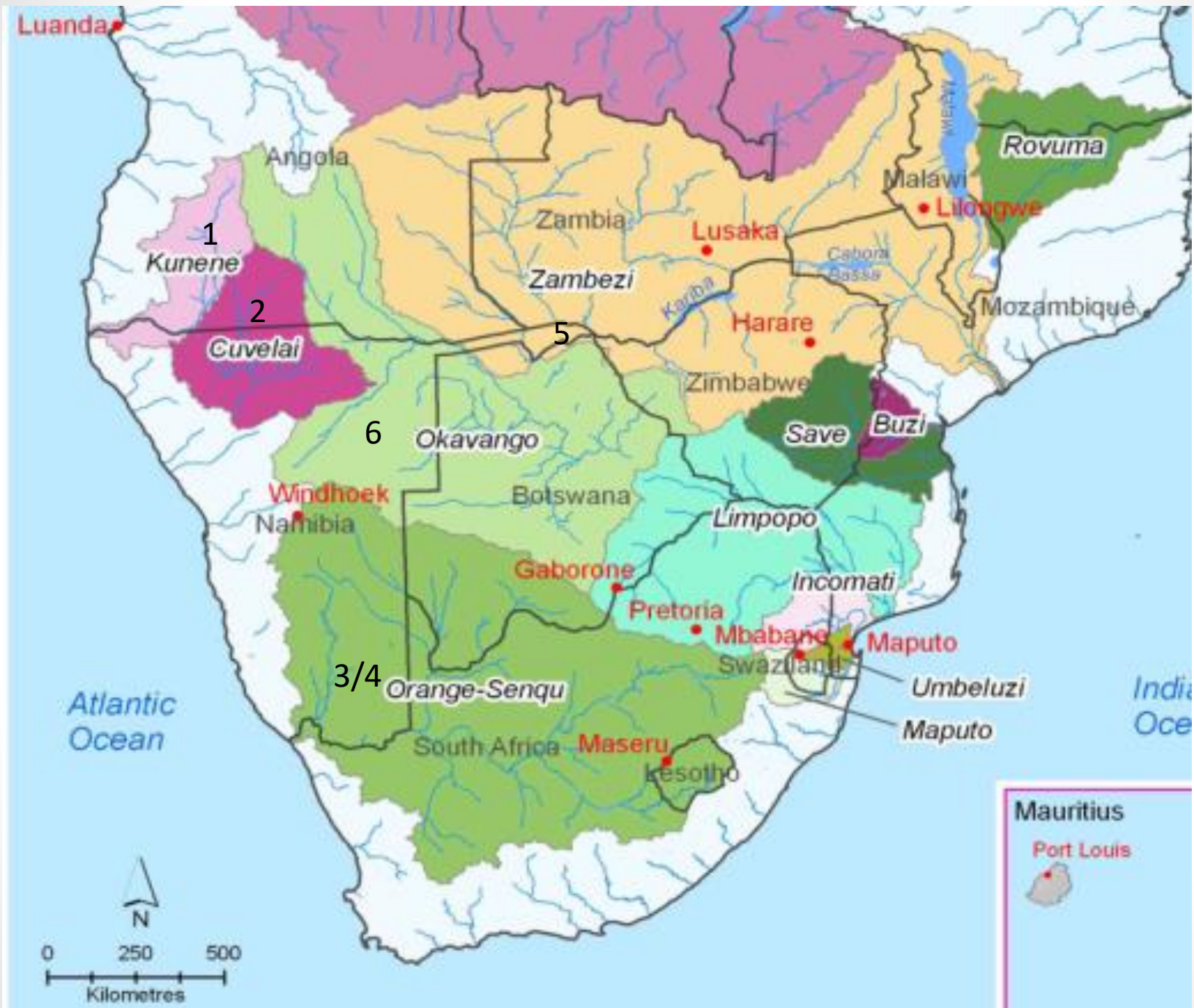
Stakeholders Meeting on accession to the UNECE Water Convention

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31 May 2022





Introduction

- Water is the most shared resource in Southern Africa and the globe
- Water occurs variable with abundance and scarcity at different time and space
- Namibia's perennial rivers are TB shared with neighbouring countries
- Bilateral, Multilateral, protocols, conventions used to jointly manage TB water resources
- IWRM approach is used at basin level for national and transboundary waters
- As a developing country:
 - Water security
 - Ensure equitable and reasonable utilisation/share

Transboundary water governance

- Shared watercourses are governed by various basins, regional and international instruments,
 - Helsinki Rules (1966)
 - UN Convention on the laws of non-navigational uses of international watercourses (1997, ratified)
 - **UNECE Convention on the protection and use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes (1992)**
 - Revised SADC protocol on shared watercourses (2000)
 - Basin/Watercourses Agreements - Namibia is party to six watercourse Agreements (1926 – 2014)
- Provide for rules and principles for governing international watercourses
- Determine a State's substantive and procedural rules to the benefits and use of an international watercourse
- Promote sustainable management of shared watercourses
- Fill in gaps where basin agreement does not exist/where not all states are parties to basin agreement/issues not properly addressed in basin agreements



OKACOM

The Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission
Comissão Permanente das Águas da Bacia Hidrográfica do Rio Okavango



ORASECOM



Watercourse Name	Member states	Date established
OKAVANGO RIVER – OKACOM (okacom.int)	Angola, Botswana and Namibia	Signed: 15 September 1994 Being revised
ORANGE RIVER - ORASECOM	Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa	Signed: 3 November 2000 Revised in December 2018
ORANGE RIVER - PWC	Namibia and South Africa	Signed: 14 September 1992
KUNENE RIVER - PJTC	Angola and Namibia	Five Water use agreements Signed: 1 Jul 1926, 13 Oct 1964, 21 Jan 1969, 18 September 1990, 24 Oct 1991 (only one with volumetric agreed allocation)
ZAMBEZI – ZAMCOM	Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe	Signed: 13 July 2004
CUVELAI - CUVECOM	Angola and Namibia	Signed 16 September 2014

**MAWLR –
coordinates of all
international water
management
issues, including
water commissions**

**Governments/
Ministers**

**Institutional
aspects**

**Commission/
Senior Officials**

Secretariat

**International
Authorities**

**(Multi-disciplinary)
Technical
Task Team**

**National
Basin Committees**

Operation
and
Maintenance
of
Insurance

Steering, Studies,
Investigations,
Measuring, Monitoring
and
Feasibility

Local
Community
and
Stakeholder
Participation

Role of Watercourse commissions

- Serve as technical advisor to the Parties on matters relating to the development, utilisation and conservation of the water resources in the watercourse
- Negotiate the reasonable and equitable access of Namibia to the waters of the perennial rivers
- Joint management and development of shared waters
- Made up of a multi-disciplinary team of experts



Transboundary water Cooperation

- Agree to cooperate in good faith
- Maintain dialogue to develop trust and understanding
- Do not get stuck on issues of conflict
- Discuss concerns and expectations
- Develop a shared vision and objectives
- Promote transparency and accountability
- Build capacity and confidence through training
- Develop management and negotiating skills
- Resolve conflicts in an amicable way
- Involve stakeholders and cooperating partners



Technical Cooperation

- Create awareness about the value of cooperation
- Hydrological gauging and assessment
- Control pollution and monitor water quality
- Assess environmental integrity
- Collect data and exchange information
- Allocate water for the most beneficial uses
- Plan joint studies, investigations and research
- Propose viable development projects
- Manage floods and droughts

- Develop legal, scientific and technical skills



Transboundary water projects

- **Okavango - OKACOM**

- Resilient Water's Program (RWP) – USAID funded five-year (2018-2023) program.
- Transboundary Water Management in the Cubango-Okavango River Basin - (EU) SAP implementation support at cost of EURO 6million.
- Development of the OKACOM Decision Support System (DSS)
- Strengthening Environmental Monitoring Framework
- The CORB Fund Company- (sinking and endowment vehicles)

- **Orange-Senqu - ORASECOM**

- Orange-Senqu Strategic Action Plan (SAP) implementation-UNDP-GEF (US\$10.8 Mio)
- Climate Resilient Investment Project –AfdB (Euro 3 Mio).
- Sustainable financing of the commission institution-GIZ (Euro 400 000)
- Stampriet Transboundary Aquifer System – SDA and UNESCO (USD 381,100)
- Feasibility Study and Construction of NVD

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- **Zambezi – ZAMCOM**

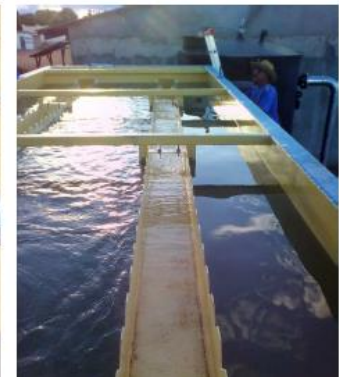
- ZAMCOM Institutional Development and Basin-wide Cooperation –
- Zambezi Water Resources Information Systems- (ZAMWIS) (Danida)
- Water Resources Strategic Planning (ZSP) (World Bank)

- **Kunene- PJTC**

- Kunene Transboundary Water Supply Project
- Calueque Dam rehabilitation
- Calueque-Oshakati Canal

- **Cuvelai – CUVECOM**

- A scoping study for the Enhancement of Transboundary Water Management: Rapid assessment on key water management issues and institutions done.
- Developed the Basin-wide Integrated Water Resources Management Plan and River Awareness Kit
- Enhanced water security and community resilience in the adjacent Cuvelai and Kunene transboundary river basins – UNDP GEF



Accession to UNECE Water Convention

- Namibia declared interest to accede to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) at the 9th session of the MOP
- Accession process is at advanced level
- Like the UN Watercourses Convention, the UNECE Water convention is based on customary international law
- Acceding to the UNECE Water Convention, will offer opportunities for enhanced transboundary cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa, conflict prevention and regional stability
- Obligations to the Water Convention are:
 - Prevent, control and reduce transboundary impacts
 - Ensure reasonable and equitable use
 - Cooperate through agreements and joint bodies



Conclusion

- Water remains key driver to social and economic develop – competition over the transboundary waters – the need to cooperate – water diplomacy.
- Unilateral development activities in competition for increasingly scarce water resources may lead to conflicts across borders.
- Namibia is on lookout as to how to determine its legal entitlement to, and respective obligations regarding the use of shared water
- Are the rights and obligations of Namibia different by being downstream, or wrt to shared groundwaters?
- How can these rights and obligations be operationalised at the national level –
- How can we be assured the right to use our shared waters in a way that is consistent with the requirements of international law?
- Opportunities in acceding to Water Convention - help guide and provide additional tools, guidelines and procedures



THANK YOU