

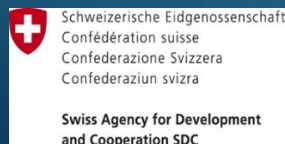
**Training workshop “From practitioner to practitioner:
how to use the two global Water Conventions to promote cooperation on the ground”**

**TRANSNATIONAL WATER COOPERATION
FINLAND – NAMIBIA TWINNING PROJECT**

NDINA NASHIPILI

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND LAND REFORM



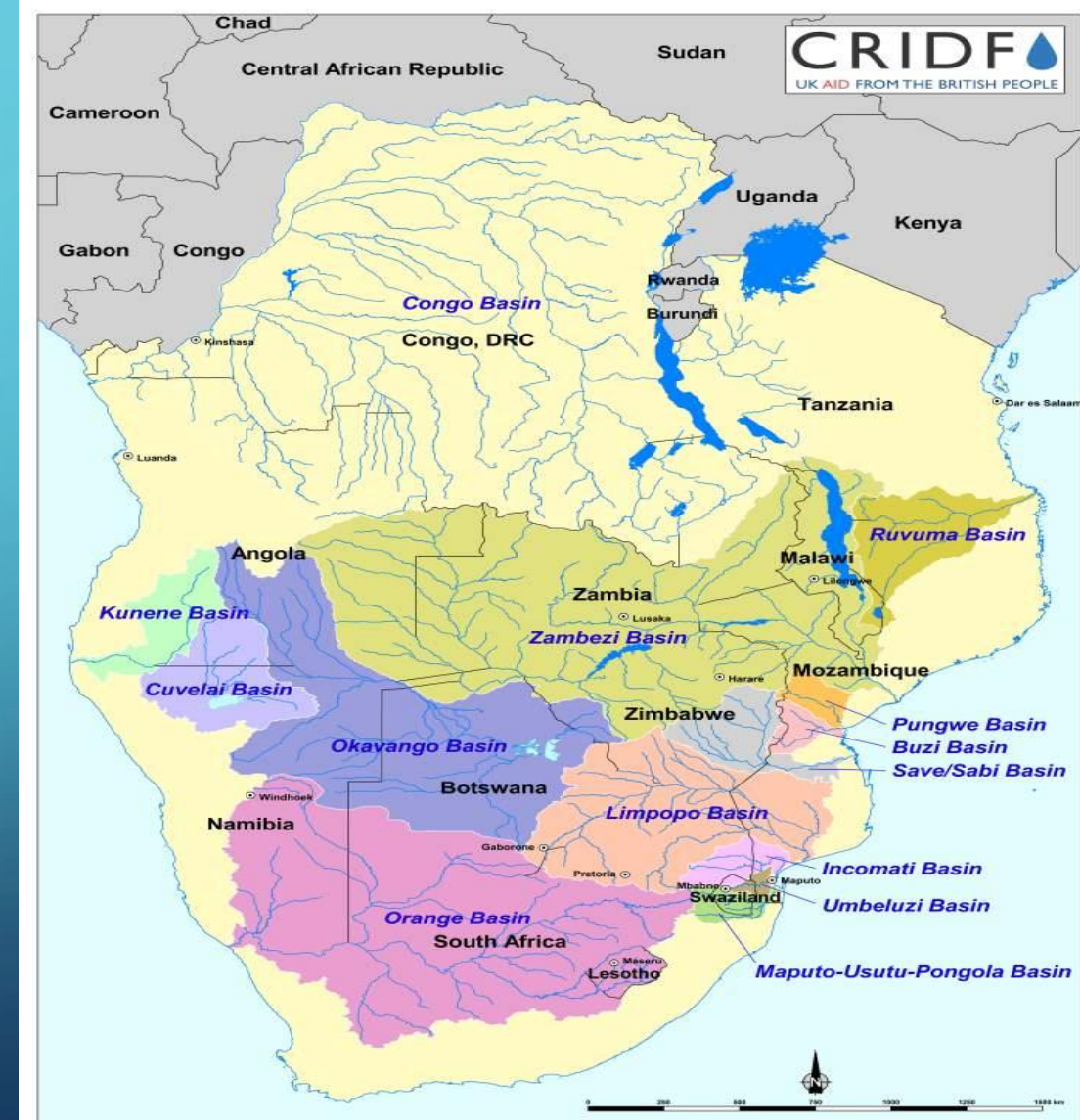
PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- **Transboundary cooperation in Namibia**
- **Accession to the Water Convention process and status**
- **Finland – Namibia Twinning Project**
- **Main components and activities**
- **Way forward**



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- The coat of arms of Namibia features a central shield with a blue upper half containing a white sun with rays, and a lower half divided diagonally into red and green sections. Above the shield is a crest consisting of a golden wreath and a golden eagle with spread wings. The shield is flanked by two antelope figures, likely oryx, facing outwards. Below the shield is a golden banner with the words "UNITY", "LIBERTY", and "JUSTICE" in black capital letters.



TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION

- Namibia Party to:
 - ✓ 1997 UN Convention on non-navigational uses of shared watercourses (Watercourse Convention)
 - ✓ Revised SADC Protocol on shared watercourses 2000
 - ✓ Six River Basin Organizations (1992 – 2015)
 - ✓ 1992 UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)



ACCESSION TO THE WATER CONVENTION PROCESS AND STATUS

- Namibia expressed her interests to accede to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) during the 9th session of the MOP held in September 2021
- National Stakeholders consultations were conducted in February and May 2022
- National Assembly approved Namibia's accession to the Water Convention on 28 February 2023
- Namibia acceded to the Water Convention family on 8 June 2023 (first in Southern Africa)



FINLAND – NAMIBIA TWINNING PROJECT

- Finland and Namibia share a long history of cooperation dating back to the 19th century
- Under Finland's Africa Strategy, and the International Water Strategy of Finland offered support Namibia's accession process through twinning project (as experienced Party and incoming Party).
- Finland is Party to Water Convention since 1996
- Finland also leads The Water Convention Programme Areas on Monitoring and Assessment, and the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus
- **The main project objectives are:**
 - ✓ Exchange of experience (experienced – new comer)
 - ✓ Develop capacity in implementation the Water Convention (presence here today)
 - ✓ Strengthen Namibia's international water relations and cooperation
 - ✓ Promote transboundary cooperation



MAIN COMPONENTS UNDER THE TWINNING PROJECT

- **Developing operational work plan (PoW) – Finalized, at the Kick –off in May 2023 Windhoek, Namibia**

1. Exploring the strategy for monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters

Activities

- ✓ transboundary monitoring exchange visits/study tours between the two Parties
- ✓ sharing of practical examples of the organization and activities of the transboundary Waters Commission

2. Exploring the Handbook on Water Allocation in transboundary river basins

- ✓ Building capacity on Practical application of water allocation in transboundary rivers, including legal aspects; tailored demonstrations of the tools and methodologies;



MAIN COMPONENTS UNDER THE TWINNING PROJECT

3. Capacity building on institutional mechanisms for transboundary water cooperation

- ✓ Support for strengthening capacity on cooperation on transboundary basins, including formulation of transboundary agreements;
- ✓ Assist with finalizing the Namibia's Draft National Water Negotiation Strategy

Joint project activities:

- ✓ Analysing legal basis for transboundary agreements and cooperation;
- ✓ Promotion of the concept of Water Diplomacy
- ✓ Support monitoring



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TWINNING PROJECT

Next steps:

- Capacity building workshop for Namibian experts in Finland (Aug/Sep, 2023)
- Potential regional workshop in Southern Africa, issues: Water allocation,(Apr/May 2024)
- Exchange of information along the way by e-meetings and e-mails
- Final workshop, summing up experiences, defining way forward (Aug/Sep 2024)

Twinning Agreement a mechanism towards the implementation of the Water Convention



The background is a blue gradient with decorative white circuit-like lines in the corners. These lines consist of straight segments and small circles, resembling a stylized electronic circuit or data paths.

THANK YOU