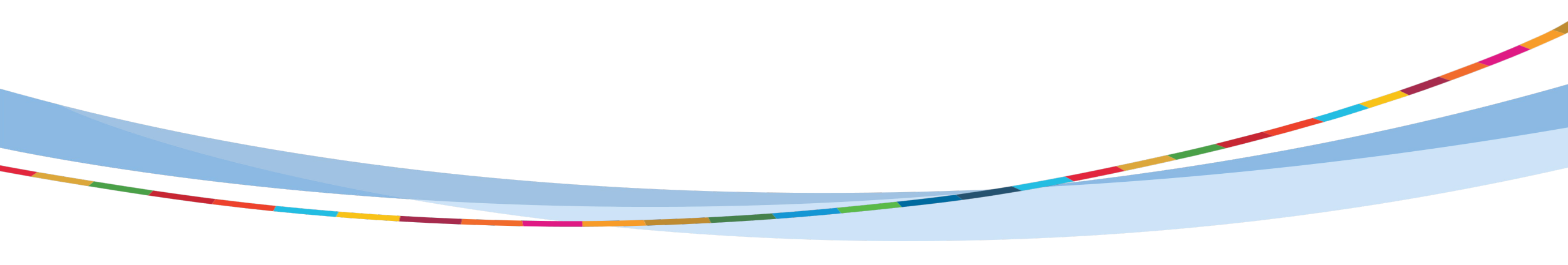


# Starting off cooperation between Mozambique and Zimbabwe to enhance water cooperation in the Buzi, Pungwe and Save Watercourses (BuPuSa)

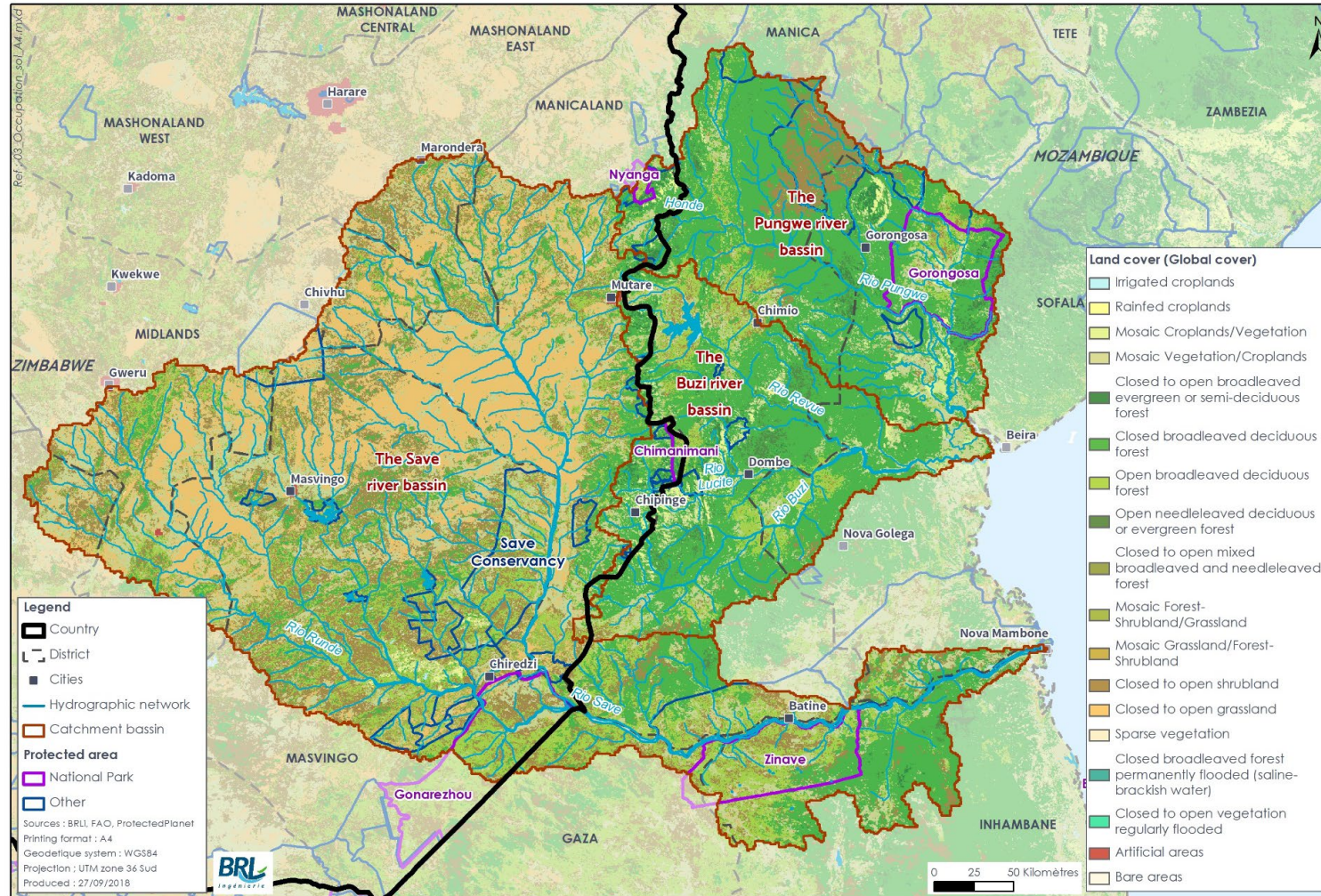
Mr. Norest Ndawana, Deputy Legal Advisor, Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development



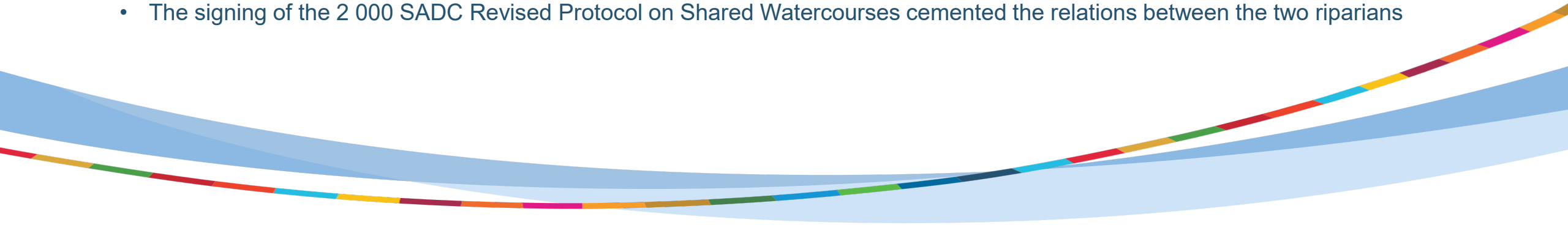
# Overview of the Presentation

- Historical Background
  - Triggers of Cooperation
  - The Negotiation Process
  - Challenges Faced
  - Main Elements of the BUPUSA Commission Agreement
  - Conclusion
- 

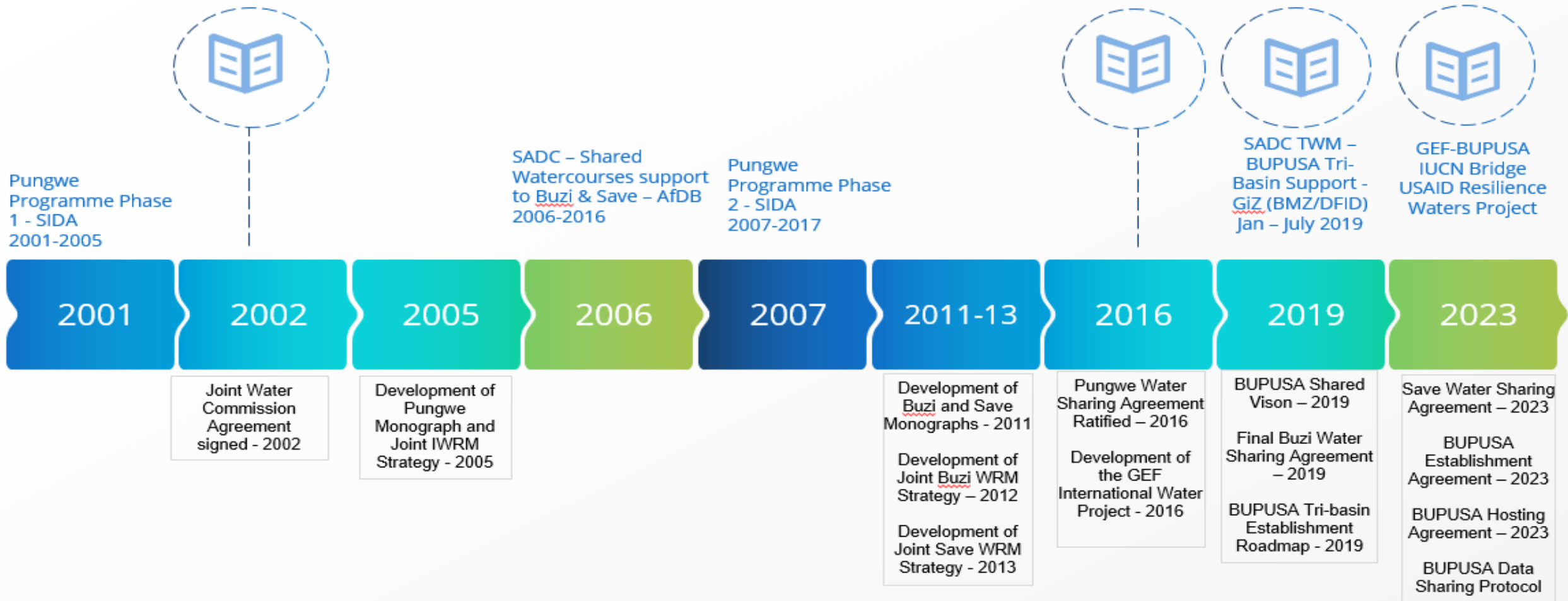
# Buzi, Pungwe and Save Basins



# Historical background

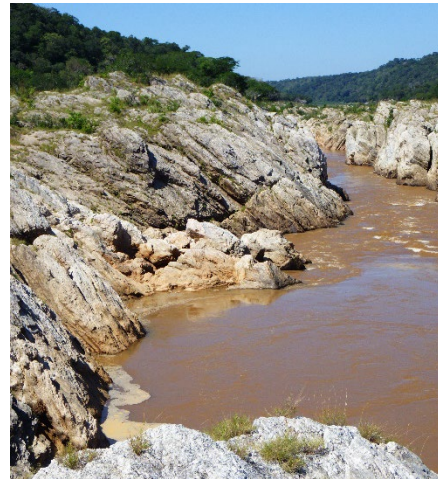
- Before 2 000, Mozambique and Zimbabwe had no formal framework for transboundary water resources cooperation
  - The two riparians cooperated in the exchange of information and data especially during drought and floods
  - In the 1990s, a series of droughts affected cities like Mutare (Zimbabwe) and Beira (Mozambique)
  - Suspicion grew in the lower riparian to the effect that the upper riparian was withholding information and abstracting water for its own use
  - The first formal meeting was held in 1996
  - The meeting did not yield results and this culminated in the delegations undertaking field visits to observe and verify flows on the Pungwe river
  - It was discovered that there was no flow from the Pungwe river
  - This engagement marked the genesis of cooperation in good faith between the two States- a series of monographs were developed
  - The signing of the 2 000 SADC Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses cemented the relations between the two riparians
- 

# Historical background (cont)



# Cooperation triggers

- Droughts
- Climate Change
- Climate change impacts on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus.
- Pollution and water quality concerns – gold panning along Pungwe and Buzi
- Saline intrusion-level of development upstream leads to reduced flows downstream resulting in salt water from the ocean moving upstream and compromising quality
- Deforestation and land degradation
- Groundwater vulnerability
- Coastal ecosystems degradation
- economic, political and Social Problems

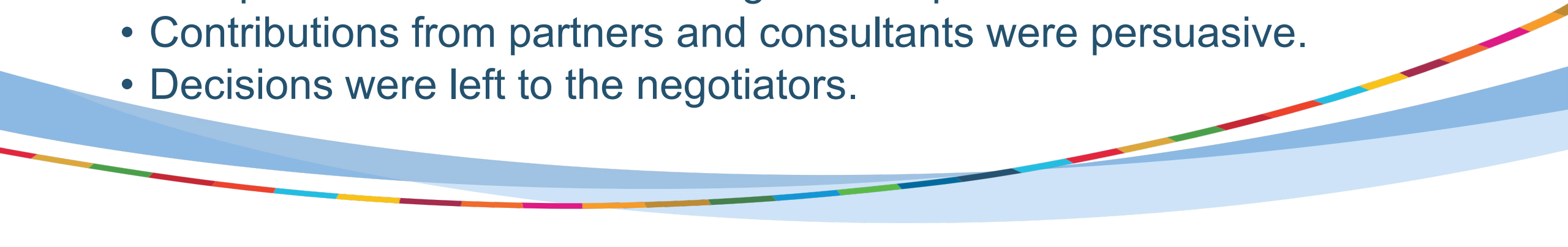


*Turbid water and foam at Pavua dam site (Mozambique)*

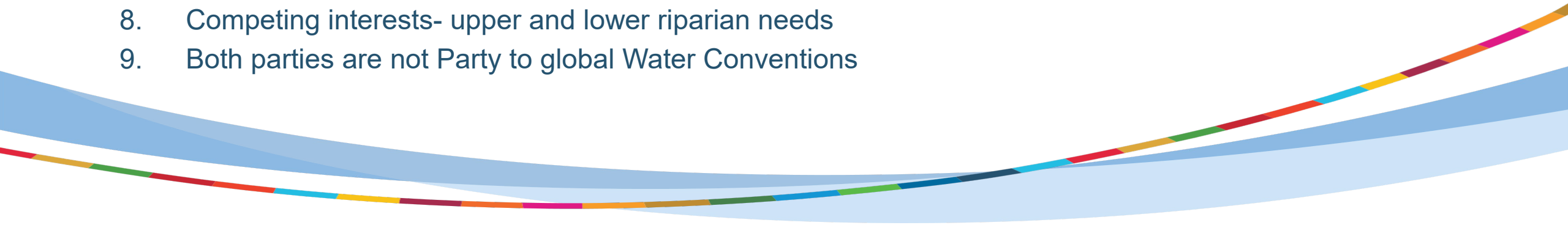


*Soil erosion in the Save basin's Veld*

# The negotiation process

- The negotiation lasted for about two years.
  - Technical Committees for each party were set up and the head of delegation for each meeting was announced before the meeting.
  - The venue and chairing of the negotiation meetings were alternated between the parties.
  - Contentious issues were parked and reverted to later after internal consultations- who would first host the Commission.
  - Negotiations in respect of the agreement was left to the two States. Compromises were made throughout the process.
  - Contributions from partners and consultants were persuasive.
  - Decisions were left to the negotiators.
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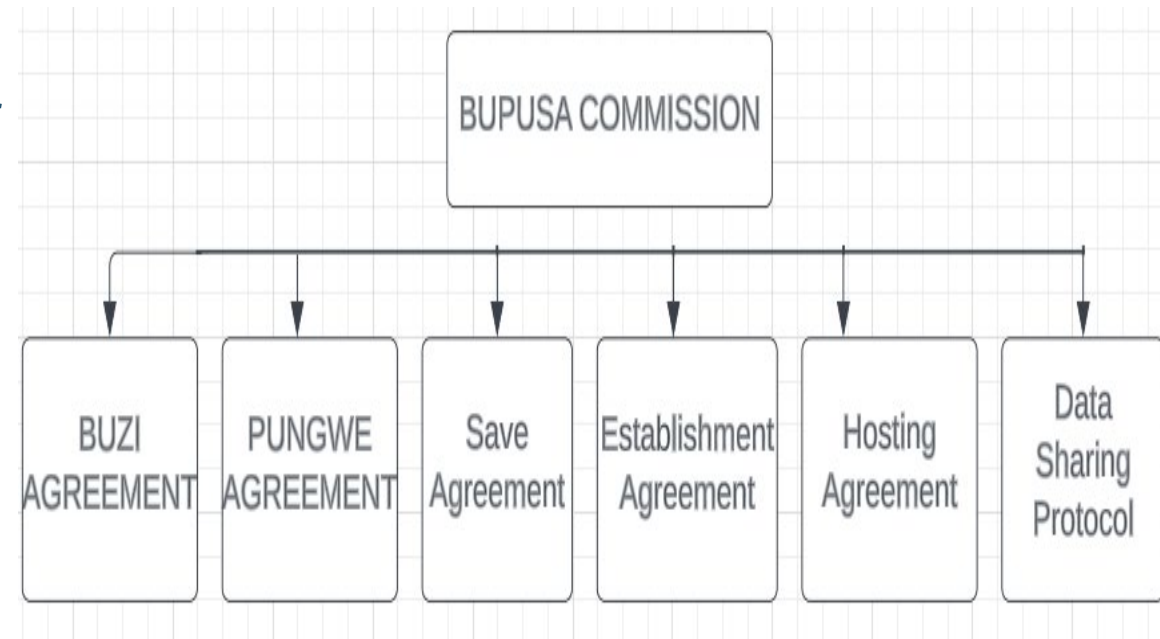
# Challenges faced throughout the process

1. The COVID pandemic. Negotiations are best held in person, having them virtually makes the whole process difficult.
  2. Resources constraints- Funding was a bit scarce so meetings were limited. Comprehensive water sector studies for the Save watercourse still outstanding- Agreement is silent on water allocation. Comprehensive environmental flows assessment for the Buzi and Save outstanding- current figures are based on desktop studies which do not consider aquatic ecosystem dynamics. Pungwe done. GEF project addressing this.
  3. Language-Zim official language is English whereas Mozambique is Portuguese.
  4. Shift of goalposts by authorities.
  5. The negotiators had limited powers to make decisions. Decisions were delayed as negotiators had to seek approvals from principals who were not part of the negotiating teams.
  6. Change of offices and office bearers
  7. Limited technical capacity- hiring of external experts
  8. Competing interests- upper and lower riparian needs
  9. Both parties are not Party to global Water Conventions
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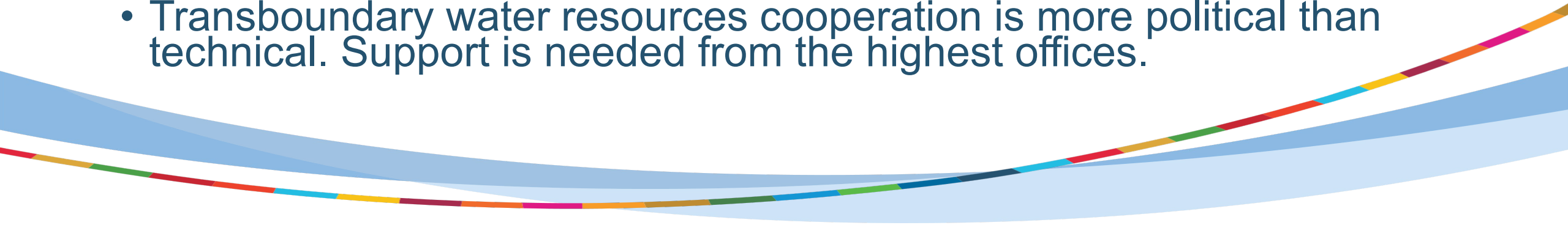


# Main Elements of the BUPUSA Commission Agreement

- The Commission conferred with an international organisation status with rotational hosting of the same.
- Organs of the Commission-Council of Ministers, Technical Committee and Secretariat.
- Financial arrangements- Annual financial contributions from the parties, donations, grants and loans, and monies raised internally.
- The entry into force, amendment, duration and termination of the agreement.
- Settlement of disputes-diplomatic means



# Conclusion

- Transboundary water cooperation can contribute to peace and sustainable utilisation of shared water resources between riparian States.
  - It is possible for riparian States to set up an institution to coordinate transboundary water cooperation for more than one watercourse. It saves resources.
  - Trust is a process not an event.
  - States and non state actors can work collaboratively on transboundary water resources cooperation.
  - Transboundary water resources cooperation is more political than technical. Support is needed from the highest offices.
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Thank you!

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