

BOTSWANA'S NATIONAL ACCESSION TO THE UN WATER CONVENTION

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IMPORTANCE OF HAVING TRANSBOUNDARY WATER SECRETARIAT AND ITS ROLE ON FACILITATING DIALOGUE AMONG RIPARIANS STATES

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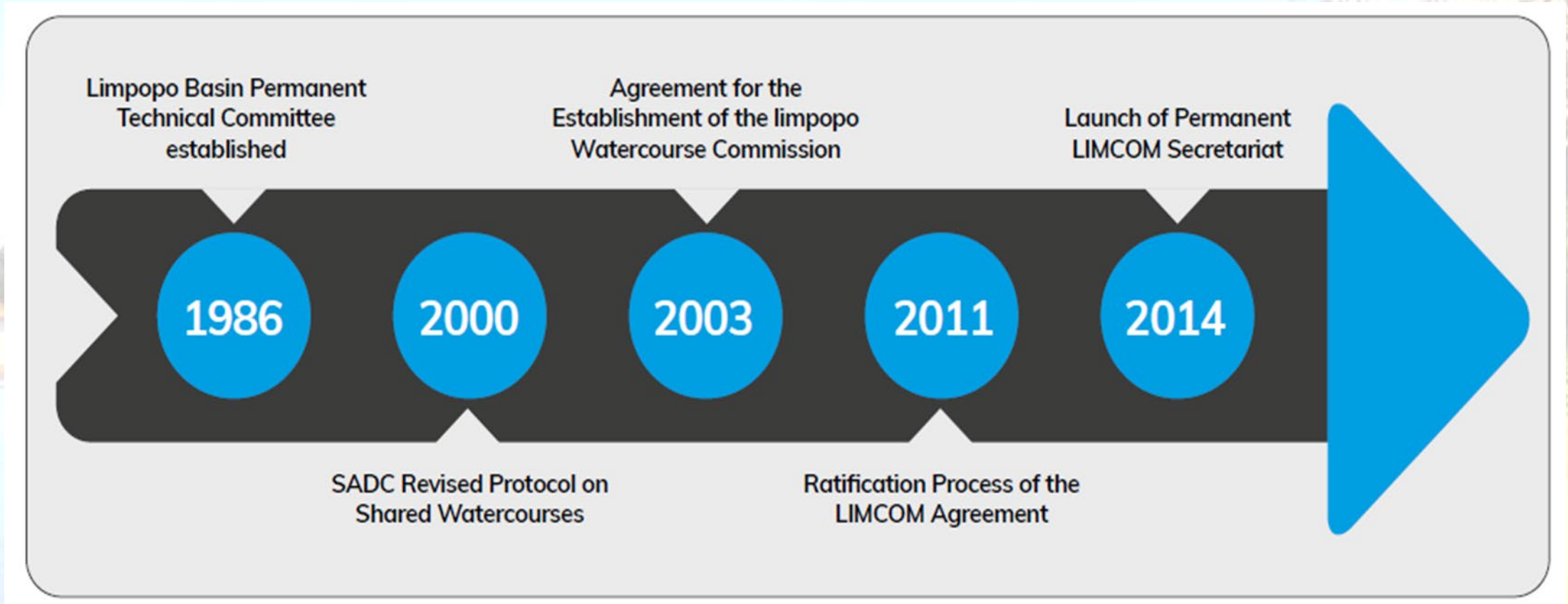
THE LIMPOPO RIVER BASIN



BACKGROUND

- The Limpopo River is one of the largest Rivers in the SADC Region, shared between Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe;
- The Total catchment area is approximately 408,000 Km²;
- Limpopo River is 1,770 Km long;
- Limpopo Basin is home to an estimated 18 million people
- The average rainfall of the basin is about 530 mm per annum;

COOPERATION IN THE LRB



COOPERATION IN THE LRB



LIMCOM MANDATE

- The main objective of LIMCOM as stipulated in Article 3.1 of the LIMCOM Agreement signed in November 2003 in Maputo, Mozambique, is “to advise the Contracting Parties and provide recommendations on the uses of the Limpopo, its tributaries and its waters for purpose and measures of protection, preservation and management of the Limpopo River.”

COOPERATION IN THE LRB- LIMCOM ROLE



- LIMCOM recognizes the role it plays in contributing to goals of the SADC Treaty – regional integration, poverty alleviation and economic development which will involve facilitating multilateral discussions and fostering alignment of sovereign development strategies toward improved regional integration;
- It is critical that this maturation be guided by a basin-wide shared strategic vision for the future state of the Limpopo River Basin (LRB) that is reflective of the development priorities, opportunities and ambitions at both national and regional levels

COOPERATION IN THE LRB- LIMCOM ROLE



- Cooperation between riparian states, requires coordinated efforts and cooperative action to develop clearly aligned strategies and plans and identify transboundary synergies and partnerships;
- LIMCOM is the appropriate vehicle to facilitate these processes, and the 2003 Agreement already accommodates for this evolving role. Specifically, LIMCOM's mandate to advise riparian states on a number of important issues as articulated in (Article 7).

Article 7: The Council shall advise the Contracting Parties on the following matters:

1. Measures and arrangements to determine the long-term safe yield of the water available from the Limpopo;
2. The equitable and reasonable utilisation of the Limpopo;
3. The extent to which the inhabitants in the territory of each of the Contracting Parties concerned shall participate in the planning, utilisation, sustainable development, protection and conservation of the Limpopo and the possible impact on social and cultural heritage matters;
4. Contingency plans and measures for preventing and responding to harmful whether conditions resulting from natural causes

Article 7: The Council shall advise the Contracting Parties on the following matters:

5. The investigations and studies, separately or jointly by the Contracting Parties with regard to the development of the Limpopo including the construction, operation or maintenance of any water works;
6. Measures with a view to arriving at settlement of a dispute;
7. Any other matters affecting the implementation of the Protocol.

COOPERATION IN THE LRB - LIMCOM ROLE



- To effectively deliver on its mandate, LIMCOM must operate according to a set of Corporate Values that stipulate how it carries out its functions – providing both the platform and the means for riparian states in the sustainable development, equitable use, protection and sharing of beneficial uses of the basin;
- In demonstrating these values consistently, LIMCOM provides a sense of trust and accountability amongst stakeholders – allowing for transparent debate and objective guidance.

COOPERATION IN THE LRB - LIMCOM ROLE



- These values are derived primarily from the LIMCOM 2003 Agreement's Preamble, and are considered core to LIMCOM and all of its organs in fulfilling its functions:
 - I. consolidate the existing tradition of good neighbourliness and close cooperation between riparian states by facilitating continued open and honest dialogue;
 - II. conduct all activities in a manner that seeks to provide equitable and reasonable utilisation of the Limpopo to ensure its sustainable development, with the longer-term objective of contributing toward mutual benefit, peace, security, welfare and prosperity of the basin population.

COOPERATION IN THE LRB - LIMCOM ROLE



- III. Promote resilient livelihoods through both assured access to sufficient water supply and reduced vulnerability to the impacts of severe flooding and extended drought periods;
- IV. Adopt best practice approaches and draw on robust scientific evidence to make informed decisions and formulate advice to riparian states and key stakeholders in the spirit of agreed national regional and international conventions;
- V. Always promote the concept of a basin-wide shared strategic vision and the principles and actions that underpin it.

LIMCOM VISION

“A dynamic, prosperous and sustainable river basin for all”

- The Vision is underpinned by a set of principles, which directly inform the development and implementation of agreed action;
- SADC’s Protocol’s General Principles on: **sustainable development, equity principle, prevention principle and transboundary impact assessment principle.**

COOPERATION IN THE LRB - LIMCOM ROLE

- key principles that directly support the Vision



The **resilience of the people** in the basin is a primary objective – with a specific emphasis on the need to foster inclusive growth and support the **welfare and livelihoods** of the **vulnerable groups**, including women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities or chronic illnesses, and the poor.



The principle of **sustainable development** shall apply, to ensure **fairness between different uses** for the benefit of the environment and longevity of the natural resource base for future generations.



The principle of **balancing sovereignty and subsidiarity with regional cooperation** shall apply, with the aim of maintaining **stability** at local, national and region levels.



The principle of **capacity building for all** through public participation shall apply, to ensure the people of the basin take ownership of the basin's well-being and are equipped with the knowledge and resources to effectively to participate in decision-making and management processes that affect the basin.



The principle of **innovation** shall apply, to ensure best practice, technologically / scientifically advanced approaches are employed to identify, analyse and respond to basin challenges in a manner that is robust, context-specific and fit-for-purpose.

THANK YOU

