National Workshop on Zimbabwe’s Accession to UN Global Water Conventions
17 - 18 June 2024 | Rainbow Towers | Harare

Transboundary water cooperation: The Zimbabwean Context

By: Eng. Gilbert Mawere
Director Water Resources Development and Utilization

Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development
Presentation Outline

1. General overview of Zimbabwe
2. Transboundary institutions & activities
3. Alignment with Global Water Conventions
1 | General overview of Zimbabwe
Zimbabwe General Information

- Land-locked country located in Southern Africa
- Population is 15.1 million (2022 Census)
- 4 neighboring countries namely Zambia, Botswana, South Africa and Mozambique
- Main economic activities are agriculture, mining, tourism
- Climate is semi arid and the rainy season is from November to March.
Main Acts


   Section 6 (1) (f)
   Mandates the Minister to give effect to any international agreement, to which Zimbabwe is a party, on shared watercourse systems in the spirit of mutual co-operation.


   Section 5 (1) (l)
   Mandates the National Water Authority to promote such mechanisms for the co-operative management of international water resources as the Minister may determine.
Key Institutions in the Zimbabwe Water Sector

GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE
Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development

Zimbabwe National Water Authority (Parastatal)

7 Catchment Councils (Stakeholders)

47 Sub-Catchment Councils (Stakeholders)

Transboundary institutions

River Basin Organizations (RBOs)
- Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM)
- Limpopo Watercourse Commission (LIMCOM)
- Buzi, Pungwe and Save Watercourses Commission (BUPUSA)
- Zambezi River Authority (ZRA)

Joint Water Commissions
- Zimbabwe and Mozambique
- Zimbabwe and South Africa
- Zimbabwe and Botswana
Majour rivers and catchments
Transboundary Institutions & activities
Limpopo Watercourse Commission (LIMCOM)

Limpopo Basin Context:
- Covers four riparian countries - Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe
- Catchment area of 408000 km²
- Estimated population is 18 million people
Limpopo Basin Context:
The whole of Mzingwane Catchment lies within the Limpopo basin.
EVOLUTION OF LIMCOM

- Limpopo Basin Permanent Technical Committee established (1986)
- Ratification Process of the LIMCOM Agreement (2011)
- Launch of Permanent LIMCOM Secretariat (2014)
LIMCOM CURRENT PROJECTS

Integrated Transboundary River Basin Management for the Sustainable Development of the Limpopo River Basin (4 ½ year project)

Project Components:

• **Component 1**: Capacity Building of LIMCOM and its Member States for joint planning and the basin-wide SAP and IWRM implementation

• **Component 2**: Filling critical knowledge gaps to support joint planning and future development scenario analysis

• **Component 3**: Informed Strategic Planning and Decision Making to implement the basin-wide IWRM (Science-to-Governance)

• **Component 4**: the IWRM Plan implementation pilots

• **Component 5**: Knowledge exchange and information sharing for replication and upscaling
ZAMBEZI WATERCOURSE COMMISSION (ZAMCOM)

Zambezi Basin Context:

- Eight riparian states share the Zambezi River basin and these are Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- The basin is 1.4 million km².
- Zimbabwe accounts for 15.6% of the basin surface area, which represents more than 45% of land area in Zimbabwe.
- Population - over 40 million.
- ZAMCOM Headquarters is in Harare, Zimbabwe.
ZAMCOM EVOLUTION

June 1999
ZAMCOM Agreement Negotiations Commence

ZAMCOM Agreement Signed and ZAMSTRAT Developed

June 2004
ZAMCOM Agreement Signed by 7 of 8 Riparian States

June 2011
Interim ZAMSEC Hosted by Botswana

ZAMCOM Agreement Effective Agreement binding on members.

May 2011
Inaugural CoM Council of Ministers met in Angola

May 2013
Permanent Host Zimbabwe assigned Permanent

May 2013
Completed ZSP and ZAMWIS-DSS were approved by Council of Ministers

Feb 2019
2015-2019 Strategic Plan (ZSP)
Legal Equivalence Study
Notification Procedures
Data Sharing Procedures
Gender Mainstreaming Strategy
A stakeholder driven process to develop strategic plan

2020-2021
Development of PIDACC Zambezi
Pre-feasibility Phase Completed

2022
PIDACC Zambezi Feasibility Phase activities in progress

ZAMCOM Agreement
Signed and ZAMSTRAT Developed

Negotiations Commence

ZAMCOM Agreement Enhanced by 7 of 8 Riparian States

Establishment of the Secretariat

Formulation of key ZAMCOM Instruments of Cooperation

ZAMCOM Agreement
Effective Agreement binding on members.

ZAMCOM Agreement
Signed by 7 of 8 Riparian States

Interim ZAMSEC Hosted by Botswana

ZAMCOM Agreement Effective Agreement binding on members.

Inaugural CoM Council of Ministers met in Angola

Permanent Host Zimbabwe assigned Permanent

Completed ZSP and ZAMWIS-DSS were approved by Council of Ministers

2015-2019 Strategic Plan (ZSP)
Legal Equivalence Study
Notification Procedures
Data Sharing Procedures
Gender Mainstreaming Strategy
A stakeholder driven process to develop strategic plan

Development of PIDACC Zambezi
Pre-feasibility Phase Completed

PIDACC Zambezi Feasibility Phase activities in progress

ZAMCOM Agreement
Signed and ZAMSTRAT Developed

Negotiations Commence

ZAMCOM Agreement Enhanced by 7 of 8 Riparian States

Establishment of the Secretariat

Formulation of key ZAMCOM Instruments of Cooperation

ZAMCOM Agreement
Effective Agreement binding on members.

ZAMCOM Agreement Signed by 7 of 8 Riparian States

Interim ZAMSEC Hosted by Botswana

ZAMCOM Agreement Effective Agreement binding on members.

Inaugural CoM Council of Ministers met in Angola

Permanent Host Zimbabwe assigned Permanent

Completed ZSP and ZAMWIS-DSS were approved by Council of Ministers

2015-2019 Strategic Plan (ZSP)
Legal Equivalence Study
Notification Procedures
Data Sharing Procedures
Gender Mainstreaming Strategy
A stakeholder driven process to develop strategic plan

Development of PIDACC Zambezi
Pre-feasibility Phase Completed

PIDACC Zambezi Feasibility Phase activities in progress
ZAMCOM CURRENT PROJECTS

Programme for Integrated Development and Adaptation to Climate Change (PIDACC) Zambezi

PIDACC Zambezi is an investment programme that contributes to the implementation of the Strategic Zambezi Plan:

Component 1: Strengthening Integrated Landscape Management
- 1.1 Integrated Landscape Management Approach
- 2.2 Integrated Water Resources Management

Component 2: Building Communities’ Resilience
- 2.1 Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development
- 2.2 Reinforcing Inclusive Climate Resilient Livelihoods

PIDACC Zambezi Objective
“build strong communities that are resilient to climatic & economic shocks in the Zambezi Watercourse, through promoting inclusive transformative investments, job-creation & ecosystem-based solutions”

Component 3: Supporting Adaptive Capacity & Institutional Skills Development
- 3.1 Strengthening Adaptive Capacity of Communities
- 3.2 Strengthening Institutional Foundation

Component 4: Coordination & Programme Management
- 4.1 M&E, Finance Management, Audits, Procurement, knowledge sharing
Buzi, Pungwe and Save (BUPUSA) Watercourses Commission

**BUPUSA Basin Context:**

- 3 basins are located along the Beira corridor
- The 3 transboundary basins extend over an area of almost 180,000 km²
- The population of the Buzi, Pungwe and Save is over 5.5 million.
Management of Competing Water Uses and Associated Ecosystems in Pungwe, Busi and Save Basins

- GEF-funded project being implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and executed by GWP-SA together with the GoM and GoZ

- The project’s main objective is to strengthen the management of transboundary water resources and connected ecosystems for sustained ecological benefits and improved resilience for the riparian communities.
Management of Competing Water Uses and Associated Ecosystems in Pungwe, Busi and Save Basins

Component 1: Contributes to strengthening water-related risk management through the reinforcement of monitoring systems, the development of real-time operational tools, and the empowerment of communities in their flood mitigation autonomy.

Component 2: Focuses on enhancing ecosystem services through quantitative water management, including operationalization of environmental flows (assessment and legal framework establishment), and through water quality improvement.

Component 3: National inter-ministry committees and technical advisory teams would contribute to the development of a regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and subsequently to the preparation of a Strategic Action Plan.
The Zambezi River Authority (ZRA)

Establishment
- Established in October, 1987 by Zambia and Zimbabwe for operation and maintenance of Kariba dam and related infrastructure.

Functions
- Dam Maintenance
- Dam Safety Monitoring
- Developmental Projects
- Water Resources and Environmental Monitoring
- Operational Hydrology
3 | Alignment with Global Water Conventions
Zimbabwe is a signatory to the 2000, SADC Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses

The Protocol recognizes all developments that have taken place in international water law such as: - the Helsinki rules, 1966 - the Dublin Principles, 1992 - Rio Earth Summit, Chapter 18, Agenda 21 - the UN Convention on the Law of the Non Navigational Use of International Watercourses, April 1997 among others.

It is the overarching instrument to fostering closer cooperation in the development, management, protection and utilization of shared water resources in the SADC Region.
Zimbabwe institutions alignment with Global Water Conventions

The Protocol has provisions aligned to the Global Water Conventions with respect to:

- Obligations to cooperate
- Prevention of significant harm to other watercourse
- Equitable and reasonable utilization
- Environmental protection and preservation
- Notification of planned measures
- Regular exchange of data and information
Thank you