Journey to the Accession the Water Convention 1992

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Presentation overview

Context

- Legal framework
- Why international water cooperation
- Benefits for acceding to the Water Convention 1992
Rainfall and impacts on water availability

Namibia is one of the driest countries in sub-Saharan Africa

- Average rainfall 250mm/annum,
- Evaporation rate vary between 3,800 mm per annum in the south to 2,600 mm per annum in the north.
- Rainfall pattern is highly variable and unevenly distributed
- Water Scarcity expected to worsen with predicted climate change impacts – water security
Context
Rational for international Water Cooperation

Namibia has a long history of transboundary water cooperation – 1926 Agreement

- Transboundary water management is rooted in semi-arid climatic conditions
- All Namibia's perennial rivers originates elsewhere and are shared with neighbouring countries.
Why Transboundary Water Cooperation?

- Equitable and Reasonable Allocation from shared Rivers-
- Joint planning, development and management
- Cause no significant harm
- Cooperation
- Promote water diplomacy, peace, security and regional integration

Namibia Foreign Policy:
- good neighbourliness,
- principle of territorial integrity and national sovereignty,
- promotion of regional integration,
- promotion of equality and mutual respect among riparian states
Transboundary cooperation

Namibia Party to:

- 1997 UN Convention on non-navigational uses of shared watercourses (Watercourse Convention)
- Revised SADC Protocol on shared watercourses 2000
- 1992 UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)
## Existing Instruments of International Water Cooperation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commission</th>
<th>River Basin</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Year Established</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM)</td>
<td>Okavango-Cubango</td>
<td>Angola, Botswana, Namibia</td>
<td>15 September 1994 (under revision)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuvelai Watercourse Commission (CUVECOM)</td>
<td>Cuvelai</td>
<td>Angola and Namibia</td>
<td>16 September 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kunene Permanent Joint Technical Commission (PJTC)</td>
<td>Cunene</td>
<td>Angola and Namibia</td>
<td>18 September 1994</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanent Water Commission (PWC)</td>
<td>Lower Orange River</td>
<td>Namibia and South Africa</td>
<td>14 September 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM)</td>
<td>Orange-Senqu</td>
<td>Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa</td>
<td>3 November 2000 (revised in December 2018)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM)</td>
<td>Zambezi</td>
<td>Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe</td>
<td>13 July 2001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Benefits for acceding to the two Conventions

- Enhanced transboundary cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa,
- Support conflict prevention,
- Contribute to regional peace and stability
- Reinforcing transboundary cooperative arrangements - supplement and (fill gaps in existing basin-specific arrangements )
- Realising the benefits of transboundary water cooperation
- A common platform to share experiences, enhance capacity and advance water diplomacy
- Strengthening water governance at both national and transboundary levels
- Increasing finance for transboundary basin development
- Increasing political support for transboundary cooperation at the global level
Added on benefits for acceding to the Water Convention

Acceding to the UNECE Water Convection, offer prospects for enhanced transboundary cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa, conflict prevention and regional stability.

✓ Twinning agreement between experienced and new-comer parties
Thank you!