



# MINISTRY OF WATER DEVELOPMENT AND SANITATION

## Sharing the Journey on Zambia's Accession to the UN Water Convention

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# PRESENTATION OUTLINE



**Overview of Zambia's Transboundary Waters**



**Existing Cooperation Frameworks for Transboundary Waters Management**



**Need for Zambia in becoming a party to the Water Conventions**



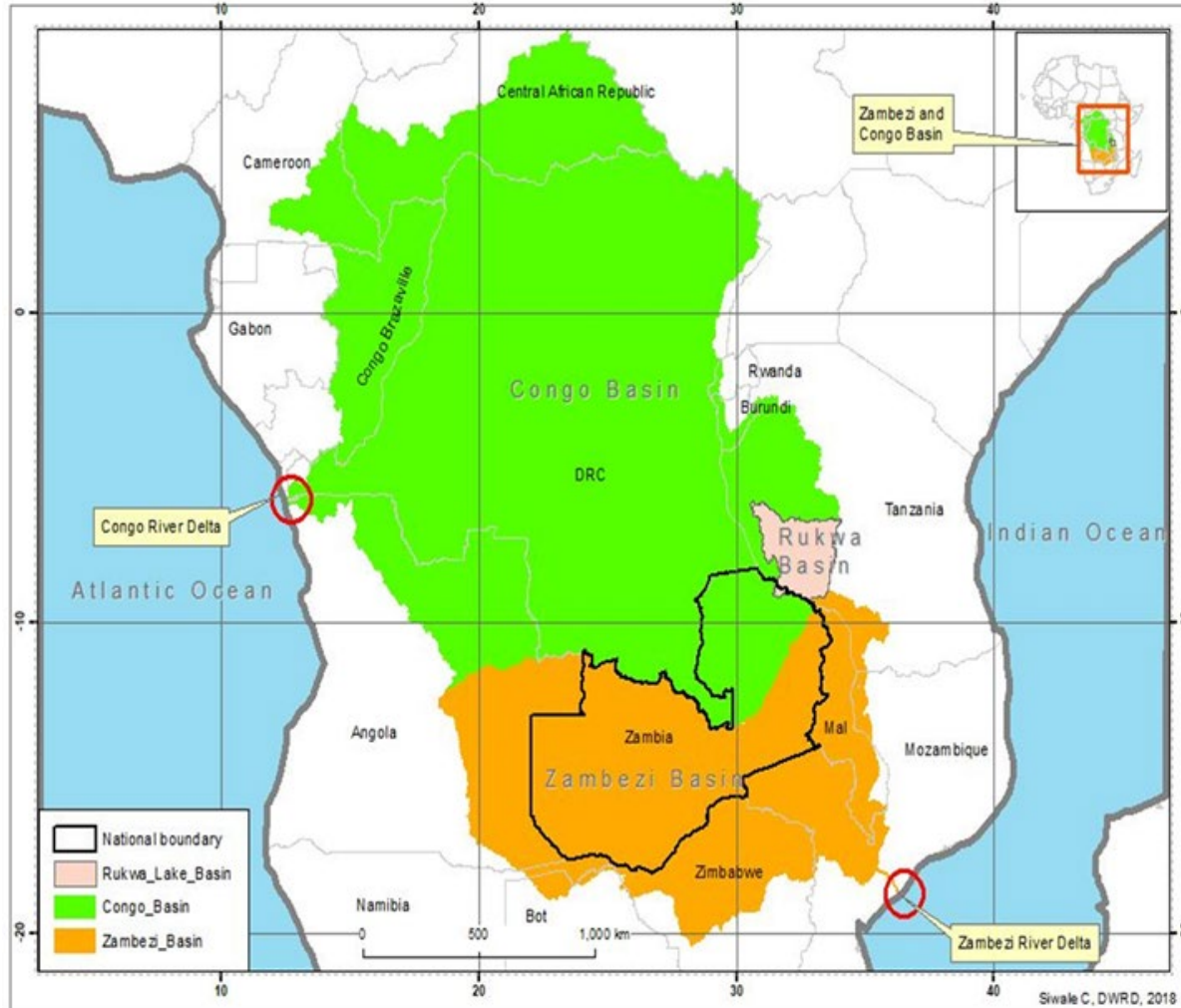
**Process/timelines, milestones in the accession process**



**Current activities and engagement with the Water Convention and future plans under the Programme of Work**



# Overview of Zambia's Transboundary Waters



- Zambia's Territory in 2 Internationally Shared Watercourses.
- TWR - fostering social economic transformation among riparian countries and communities
- Boosting regional economic integration
- Government has placed a high premium on the management of transboundary water resources



# Existing Cooperation Frameworks for Transboundary Waters Management

- ❑ Government has over the years taken steps to foster cooperation with neighboring states in the management and development of its shared waters in accordance with international Water law.
- ❑ Zambia WRM ACT 21 of 2011 (Sections 55-59)
- ❑ Currently, Zambia is a signatory to the basin accords which include:
  - ❖ The SADC Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses of 2000. This is a River Basin water instrument which established Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) with 8 riparian states namely: Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



# Existing Cooperation Frameworks for Transboundary Waters Management

- ❑ The Convention on the sustainable management of Lake Tanganyika. This is an international instrument which established the Lake Tanganyika Authority comprising of Zambia, Burundi, Tanzania and DR Congo.
- ❑ The Zambezi River Authority agreement is a bilateral instrument which established the Zambezi River Authority which is a jointly owned River Basin Organization by Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- ❑ Zambia is currently an observer member of the International Commission of Congo-Oubangui-Sangha (CICOS) Basin



# Need for Zambia in becoming a party to the Water Conventions

- ❑ Transboundary and International Water Cooperation is one of the key elements of Water Security which Zambia needs to effectively undertake at all appropriate levels, vis-a-vis transboundary, regional, continental and global, through domestication of international cooperation water instruments.
  
- ❑ Currently, the Country has only domesticated a few international water instruments such ;
  - ❑ 1. ZAMCOM Agreement (transboundary level)
  - 2. SADC Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses of 2000 (regional level).

Other international cooperative water instruments to which Zambia is a party include the Zambezi River Authority Agreement and the Lake Tanganyika Authority Agreement.



# Need for Zambia in becoming a party to the Water Conventions

- ❑ At International level Zambia is not party to any international water cooperation instruments.
- ❑ Consequently, Zambia has been forfeiting benefits that accrue as a result of water cooperation such as:
  1. enhanced access to technical and financial resources for water development;
  2. accelerating water investments aimed at alleviating poverty and attaining universal access to water for all; and
  3. fostering regional integration and economic diplomacy through shared water resources and international water initiatives.



# Need for Zambia in becoming a party to the Water Conventions

Hence, the need for Zambia to accede to the Water Convention in order to increase the benefits that can be derived from water cooperation for national socio-economic development.

- ❑ Zambia's commitment to international and transboundary water cooperation will be demonstrated to the international community, especially international financing institutions, bilateral partners, and intergovernmental organisation, via its ratification of the Water Convention.
- ❑ This in turn will make it easier for Zambia to access international water financing and technical resources for water security and sanitation interventions which are increasingly being tied to cooperative arrangements involving two or more countries or through shared watercourse institutions





# Process/timelines,milestones in the accession process

- ❑ Zambia participated virtually in the ninth Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention on 29 September – 1 October 2021 as a non-Party state.
- ❑ Preparations/Roadmap- Focal point appointed –MWDS/MoJ/MoFAIC

## HIGH LEVEL COMMITMENT

- ❑ In March 2022, the Minister sent a letter to the Secretariat of the Water Convention indicating Zambia's interest in becoming a Party to the Water Convention and requesting support from the Secretariat in conducting the accession process.

## OBTAINING CONSENSUS FOR ACCESSION

- ❑ In May 2022, a national workshop was undertaken in Lusaka aimed at increasing public awareness about the Water Convention, consulting stakeholders and creating a roadmap for accession.



# Process/timelines, milestones in the accession process

- ❑ An additional advisory mission by the Convention Secretariat to meet with the Minister was conducted in August 2022.
- ❑ Similar sub-national workshops were also undertaken in Livingstone (for stakeholders within the Zambezi Watercourse Basin) and in Mansa (for stakeholders within the Congo Watercourse Basin) in September 2022.
- ❑ The main outcome of these consultative workshops was the strong support and recommendations for Zambia to accede to the Water Convention because of the envisioned benefits.



# Process/timelines, milestones in the accession process

## □ NEXT STEPS

In line with Zambia's legislative provision and the roadmap on the accession to the UN Water Convention,

Cabinet memorandum was developed and submitted to Ministry of Justice for clearance.

Accession was approved by Cabinet of Ministers in February this year.

### The remaining milestones include:

- Approval of Proposal for ratification by National Assembly
- Depository of instruments of ratification
- Domestication of International Agreement
- We anticipate our accession well in time for the Convention's Meeting of the Parties in October 2024



## Current activities and engagement with the Water Convention and future plans under the Programme of Work

POW 2022-2024 (Increase awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefit of cooperation).

a) Training on the Water Convention's Practical Guide on Developing Agreements. April 2024.

b) 1<sup>st</sup> Round Technical Negotiation Meetings- generously supported  
Establishment of Luapula River and Lake Mweru Authority:

- Development of a draft bilateral agreement for the establishment of LRLMA with stakeholder participation using the Practical Guide for the Development of Agreements or Other Arrangements for Transboundary Water Cooperation from the UN Water Convention Secretariat.
- Parties Agreed (Legal Draft and translation into French)



## **Current activities and engagement with the Water Convention and future plans under the Programme of Work**

**POW 2022-2024 (Increase awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefit of cooperation)**

**December 2023, Zambia, Ghana, and Hungary began a Twinning Initiative facilitated by the Water Convention secretariat. Twinning Initiative aims to enable exchange of experience between countries in the process of accession with experienced Parties to benefit from good practices and lessons learned.**

**Transboundary water allocation and hydro-diplomacy among technical areas of cooperation.**

**On 17th of April, Twinning meetings were held to concretize on the initiatives previously started.**



## Current activities and engagement with the Water Convention and future plans under the Programme of Work

Reporting on sustainable development goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the convention

Technical support from the UN Water Convention Secretariat on the third national reporting on SDG Indicator 6.5.2.

Report submitted in June 2023.



**END**

**THANK YOU**