



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

MINISTRY OF LANDS AND WATER AFFAIRS

**A JOURNEY ON BOTSWANA'S ACCESSION TO THE UN
WATER CONVENTION:**

PRESENTATION BY

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17TH JUNE 2024

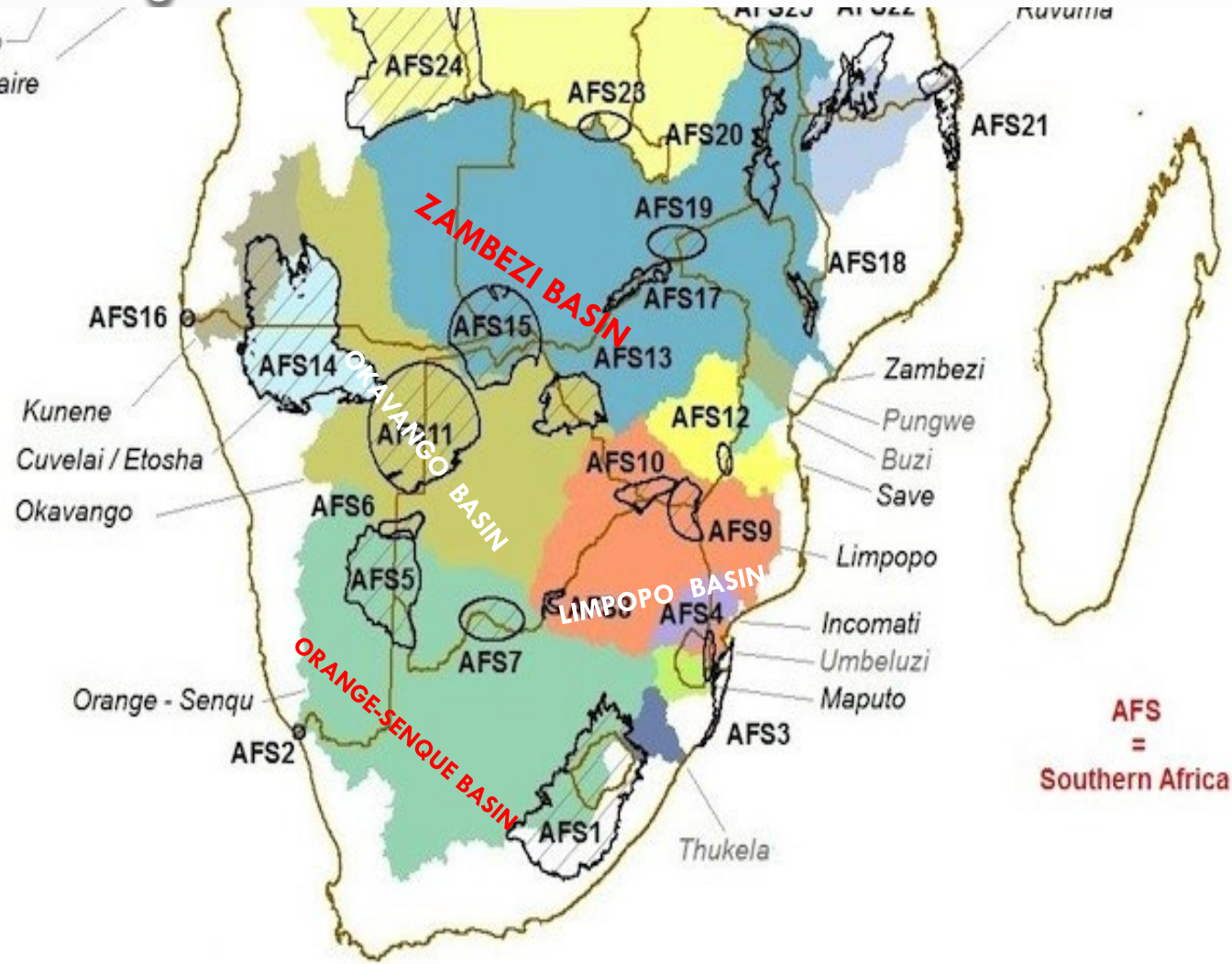
PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- OVERVIEW OF BOTSWANA'S TRANSBOUNDARY WATER SITUATION, CONCERNS AND EXISTING COOPERATION FRAMEWORKS
- MOTIVATION, BENEFITS AND TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION NEEDS FOR BOTSWANA IN BECOMING A PARTY TO THE WATER CONVENTIONS
- PROCESS/TIMELINES, MILESTONES, AND CHALLENGES IN THE ACCESSION PROCESS

BOTSWANA'S WATER RESOURCES IN A TRANSBOUNDARY SPACE

- Botswana is in a semi-arid region where water is a scarce commodity and hence heavily dependent on international waters.
- And Her water security relies on good neighbourliness and cooperation of riparian states on transboundary water resources
- MEMBER TO 4 RBOS (ZAMCOM, OKACOM, LIMCOM, ORASECOM)
- The water convention is centred around principles that are basis of all our RBOs Agreements and SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourse.

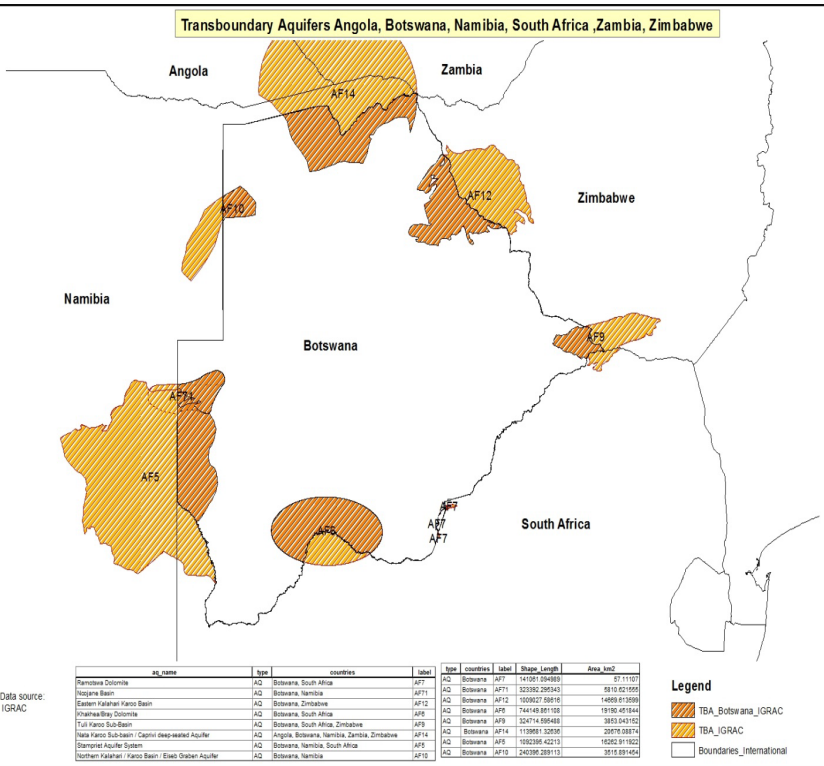
BOTSWANA'S WATER RESOURCES IN A TRANSBOUNDARY SPACE



<i>Name of transboundary basin</i>	<i>Countries sharing the basin</i>
The Permanent Okavango Basin Water Commission (OKACOM)	Angola Botswana Namibia
Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM)	Namibia Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa
LIMPOPO WATER COMMISSION (LIMCOM)	Botswana, South Africa Zimbabwe, Mozambique
Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM)	Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Malawi, Mozambique , Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

TRANSBOUNDARY AQUIFERS

- THERE ARE 7 TRANSBOUNDARY AQUIFERS SHARED WITH OUR NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES
- TRANSBOUNDARY AQUIFERS ARE ALSO COVERED BY THE RBOS AGREEMENTS AND HENCE MANAGED SUSTAINABLY
- BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA RECENTLY RECEIVED A RECOGNITION AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND EQUITABLE UTILIZATION OF THE STAMPRIET AQUIFER AT UN-WATER SUMMIT ON GROUNDWATER IN DEC 2022



Name of the transboundary aquifer	Countries sharing the aquifer	Surface area of the aquifer (in km ²) within the territory of the country
Stampriet aquifer – ORASECOM	Namibia Botswana, South Africa	17200
Khakhea/Bray Dolomite-ORASECOM	Botswana, South Africa	20 000
Ncojane Basin-ORASECOM	Botswana, Namibia	5400
Ramotswa aquifer-LIMCOM	Botswana, South Africa	94
Tuli Karoo Sub-Basin-LIMCOM	Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe	5 000
Eastern Kalahari Karoo Basin-OKACOM	Botswana, Zimbabwe	16,000
Northern Kalahari / Karoo Basin / Eiseb Graben Aquifer-OKACOM	Botswana, Namibia	4 000

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF BENEFITS OF ACCESSION TO THE UN WATER CONVENTION

- **Enhance access to International financiers:** that will promote practical water management, handle transboundary water cooperation and attract funders from both local and international
- **Botswana has made a decision to develop major strategic transboundary water projects through PPP** and Accession to The UN Water Convention will enhance investor's confidence in water resources development related investment in Botswana.
- **Botswana will stand a good chance of regional infrastructure development;** The UN Water Convention promotes development of infrastructure on the shared water resource hence deepens relations and strengthen trust.
- **Botswana will gain leverage in terms of negotiating legally binding instruments** such as protocols or any other amendments to the water convention.
- **improve the quality and quantity of water in the country** as accession to the water convention will promote sustainable use of water from shared water sources.



APPROACH TO KICK START THE PROCESS

- FIRST STEP WAS TO ESTABLISH THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP IN OCTOBER 2022.
- THE MAIN COMMITTEE'S TASK WAS TO FACILITATE THE ACCESSION PROCESS
- THE COMMITTEE IS FORMED BY KEY STAKEHOLDERS FROM VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS THAT HAVE INFLUENCE AND INTEREST ON THE WATER SECTOR GOVERNANCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Key Stakeholder –Government Institutions / Non-Government Institutions			
1	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Botswana Organisation	Tourism
2	Department of Environmental Affairs	Botswana Institute	Geoscience
3	Attorney General's Chamber (Commercial and Drafting Department)	Water Corporation	Utilities
4	Department of Mines	Department of Water and Sanitation	
5	Ministry of Agriculture (Crop Production Department)		

TWG ASSIGNMENT

The Task of the TWG is to facilitate the accession process as follows:

- Assess The UN Water Convention in relation to relevant RBOs Agreements and protocols Botswana has entered into and relevant national laws (constitution, water act and its related legislation) and conduct a SWOT analysis to assess any risks, contradictions and or benefits
- Generate key messages and ratification arguments for use in awareness raising
- Undertake comprehensive stakeholder identification and analysis to identify key stakeholders to include in consultations
- Develop a strategy for reaching various stakeholders with key messages on the accession process, and rationale and benefits of Botswana's accession to the water conventions
- Prepare a cabinet memorandum on the convention with justification for accession by Botswana
- Support deposition of the ratification instruments for acceding to the water convention with the United Nations Secretariat in New York (treaty section)

APPROACH: STEP-BY-STEP COUNTRY PROCESS

ASSESSMENT OF LEGAL ENVIRONMENT

CONSULTATION

APPROVAL OF INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION

DEPOSITING INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION

Internal Consultation Process

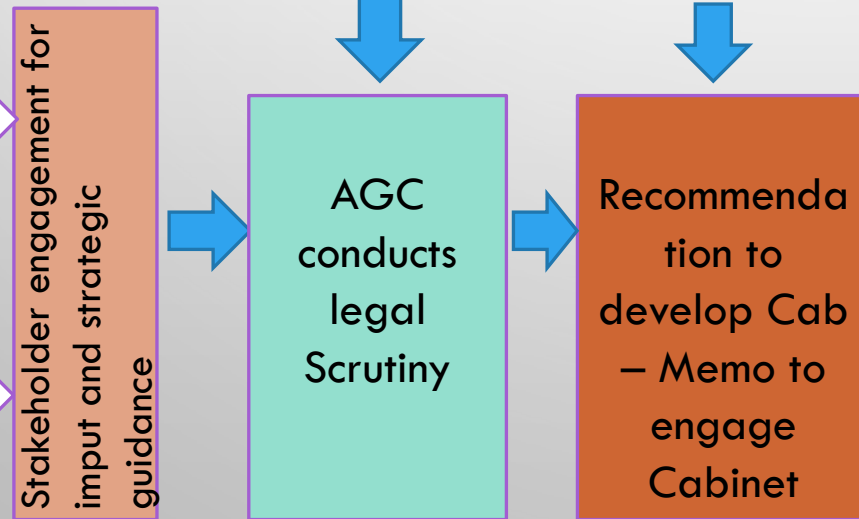
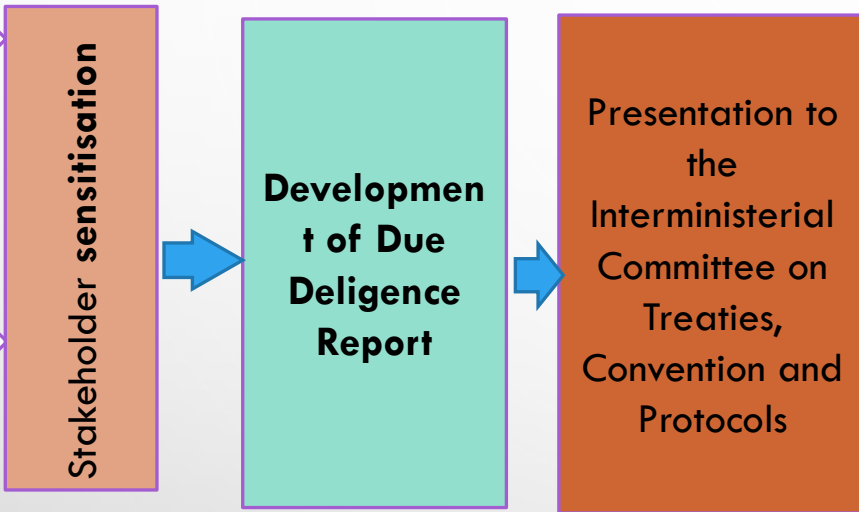
High level Process

1. Bilateral and multilateral Agreements on shared watercourses

2. Water Related Legislation

3. Water Policy and strategic documents

4. SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses



Cabinet Approval

Submit a drafting instruction to AGC for Drafting Instrument of Ratification

Produce Instrument of Ratification

Instrument of Ratification is signed by Attorney General

Instrument of Ratification is signed by H.E the President of Botswana

Approved for Ratification

MLWA facilitated Ratification Process :
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Deposit the ratification instruments for acceding to the Convention with the Treaty Section of the United Nations Secretariat in New York

ACTIVITIES UNDER TAKEN SO FAR

Legal environment assessment

of Transboundary Water treaties, Botswana signed, SADC protocol on shared watercourse along with the 1992 Water Convention

Due date: 15th January 2023

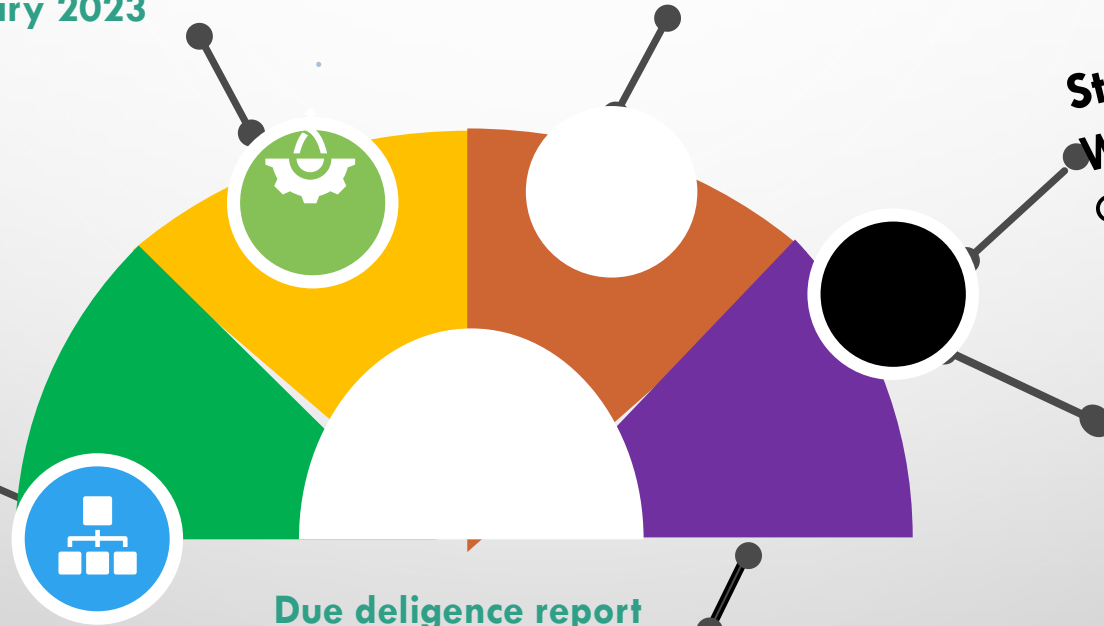
Expression of Interest

- (MLWA submitted a letter expressing the country's interest).
- submitted to UNECE Secretariat on 10th March 2023

Stakeholder Sensitisation Workshop (Presentation on the Convention and discussion among relevant stakeholders)
Date : 22th May 2023

Botswana's National Consultation Workshop (Presentation on the Convention and discussion among relevant stakeholders)
Date : 25th-26th October 2023
Output (accession roadmap)

Due diligence report submitted to AGC in February 2024 and Feedback received on the 24th May 2024



Establishing a Technical Working Group: September 2022

- to facilitate accession process.
- **Sensitisation Workshop** for Interministerial Committee (Discussion on the Convention, article by article, by the technical and legal services in order to establish its compliance with commitments); Workshop held on the **19th November 2022**

WHAT NEXT ?

- PRESENTATION OF PROPOSAL TO ACCEDE TO THE INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON TREATIES, CONVENTIONS, AND PROTOCOLS ACCORDING TO THE GUIDELINES
- TO FACILITATE MINISTER TO APPRISE CABINET AND SEEK APPROVAL FOR DRAFTING RATIFICATION INSTRUMENT
- ENGAGE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS TO DRAFT RATIFICATION INSTRUMENT
- GET INTO A TWINNING PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE WITH ONE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UN WATER CONVENTION TO HANDHOLD BOTSWANA THROUGH THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING OF THE UN WATER CONVENTION
- ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE UN WATER CONVENTION SECRETARIAT INITIATIVES
- ADVOCATE FOR ACCESSION TO THE UN WATER CONVENTION BY THE REGIONAL BLOCK.



CHALLENGES

THERE ARE NO MAJOR CHALLENGES IN THE PROCESS

- THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP COULDN'T MEET AS SCHEDULED TO COMPLETE THE DUE DILIGENCE REPORT AND HENCE IT WAS SUBMITTED TO ATTORNEY GENERALS CHAMBER (AGC) FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY
- THERE HAS BEEN TRANSFERS OF FOCAL POINTS ESPECIALLY IN THE AGC WHO WAS ASSIGNED THE DUE DILIGENCE REPORT. THIS HAS DELAYED THE PROCESS .



An aerial photograph of a modern cable-stayed bridge spanning a wide river. The bridge's design features a central pylon with multiple stay cables supporting the roadway. The river is a deep blue, and the surrounding landscape is green with some buildings in the distance. In the foreground, a sandy parking lot contains several cars and a large barge docked at the riverbank. The sky is clear and blue.

THANK YOU