

NAMIBIA'S JOURNEY TO THE ACCESSION TO THE WATER CONVENTION 1992, ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUCCESSES

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- **Transboundary cooperation in Namibia**
- **Accession to the Water Convention journey**
- **Achievements**
- **Finland – Namibia Twinning Project**
- **Main components and activities**
- **Challenges and advice**



TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION

- Namibia Party to:
 - ✓ 1997 UN Convention on non-navigational uses of shared watercourses (Watercourse Convention)
 - ✓ Revised SADC Protocol on shared watercourses 2000
 - ✓ Six River Basin Organizations (1994 – 2015)
 - ✓ 1992 UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)



PROCESS TO THE ACCESSION TO THE WATER CONVENTION

- In May 2021, Namibia received an invitation to attend the 9th MOP and suggestion that Namibia could become a party to the Water Convention.
- In August 2021 MAWLR sought Cabinet with proposal to accede to the Water Convention.
- In September 2021, Cabinet approval was received.
- Focal persons were nominated in October 2021
- Namibia expressed her interests to accede to the Water Convention during the 9th session of the MOP held in October 2021
- Internal consultation were held in January 2022



PROCESS TO THE ACCESSION TO THE WATER CONVENTION CONT.....

- Line ministries consultations were conducted in February 2022
- National Stakeholders workshop held in May 2022.
- Legal opinion to accede to the Water Convention was cleared by the Office of the Attorney General in September 2022.
- National Assembly approved Namibia's accession to the Water Convention on 28 February 2023.
- Accession Instruments were deposited in May 2023.
- Namibia acceded to the Water Convention family on 8 June 2023.




ACHIEVEMENTS

- Twinning project Finland-Namibia experience-new member support and capacity development –
kickoff workshop May 2023
- Namibia contributed to the publication on monitoring and assessment –
- Namibia contributed to the development of guidelines for the Source to Sea
- Regional Water Allocation workshop in Southern Africa, issues: Water allocation, (April 2024, Livingstone, Zambia)



FINLAND – NAMIBIA TWINNING PROJECT



- Finland and Namibia share a long history of cooperation dating back to the 19th century
- Under Finland's Africa Strategy, and the International Water Strategy of Finland offered support Namibia's accession process through twinning project (as experienced Party and incoming Party).
- Finland is Party to Water Convention since 1996
- Finland also leads The Water Convention Programme Areas on Monitoring and Assessment, and the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus
- **The main project objectives are:**
 - ✓ Exchange of experience (experienced  new comer)
 - ✓ Develop capacity in implementation the Water Convention
 - ✓ Strengthen Namibia's international water relations and cooperation – water allocation, monitoring, water diplomacy etc
 - ✓ Promote transboundary cooperation

MAIN COMPONENTS UNDER THE TWINNING PROJECT

- **Developing operational work plan (PoW) – Finalized, at the Kick –off in May 2023 Windhoek, Namibia**

1. Exploring the strategy for monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters

Activities

- ✓ transboundary monitoring exchange visits/study tours between the two Parties
- ✓ sharing of practical examples of the organization and activities of the transboundary Waters Commission

2. Exploring the Handbook on Water Allocation in transboundary river basins

- ✓ Building capacity on Practical application of water allocation in transboundary rivers, including legal aspects; tailored demonstrations of the tools and methodologies;

3. Capacity building on institutional mechanisms for transboundary water cooperation

- ✓ Support for strengthening capacity on cooperation on transboundary basins, including formulation of transboundary agreements;
- ✓ Assist with finalizing the Namibia's Draft National Water Negotiation Strategy



MAIN COMPONENTS UNDER THE TWINNING PROJECT

Joint project activities:

- ✓ Analysing legal basis for transboundary agreements and cooperation;
- ✓ Promotion of the concept of Water Diplomacy
- ✓ Support monitoring

4. Capacity building on institutional mechanisms for transboundary water cooperation

- ✓ Support for strengthening capacity on cooperation on transboundary basins, including formulation of transboundary agreements;
- ✓ Assist with finalizing the Namibia's Draft National Water Negotiation Strategy

Proposed joint project activities:

- ✓ Analysing legal basis for transboundary agreements and cooperation;
- ✓ Promotion of the concept of Water Diplomacy
- ✓ Support monitoring



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TWINNING PROJECT



Next steps:

- Exchange of information along the way by e-meetings and e-mails
- Experts exchange and learning tour to Finland (Sept 2024)
- Final workshop, summing up experiences, defining way forward (April 2024)

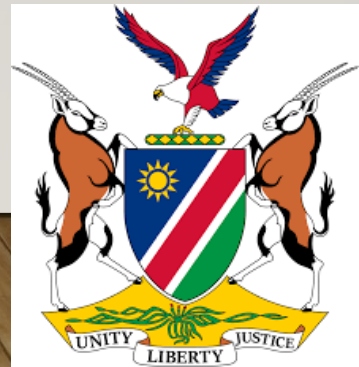
Twinning Agreement a mechanism towards the implementation of the Water Convention

Other opportunities

- Mobilise Financial and Technical support through Water Convention Secretariat - matchmaking side event during the MOP10 in October 2024 – water allocation
- Submitted expression of interest to co-lead the Water Convention Programme of Work (2025-2027) Sub-Programme Area 3.3 on "Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in a transboundary context"

CHALLENGES AND ADVICE

- **Seek legal opinion early in the process**
 - ✓ Due diligence
 - ✓ Identify possible conflicts with nation and international instruments acceded and ratified
 - ✓ Clears path to accession
- **Package benefits vs obligation carefully**
 - ✓ Stakeholders buy ins
 - ✓ Political will
 - ✓ Parliament or National Assembly clearance
- **Continuous engagement with the Water Convention Secretariat**
 - ✓ Technical support and guidance at every step of the process
 - ✓ Past experiences



THANK YOU

