## The Cubango-Okavango Basin-Wide Vision Development Process

Crafting Commonly Shared Value Principles for Unified Actions in the Face of the Challenges of Transboundary Water Governance

THE PERMANENT OKAVANGO RIVER BASIN WATER COMMISSION (OKACOM) WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE REPUBLICS OF ANGOLA, BOTSWANA AND NAMIBIA UNDER THE 1994 OKACOM AGREEMENT

IN LATE 2014, OKACOM initiated a process to develop a joint basin-wide shared vision. Through a visioning exercise, an agreed joint basin-wide Vision was developed by a multi-stakeholder consultation process in all Member States.

THE VISION provides a clear, stakeholder endorsed 'focal point' to guide the future development programmes of OKACOM Member States, OKACOM and their International Development Partners.

THE VISION is recognition that the goals and objectives of OKACOM as stipulate on its 1994 agreement voluntary signed by the respective the riparian States may hardly be achieved without a commonly accepted motivational value proposition that triggers them to work together.









OKACOM has invested a considerable amount of time and effort in developing a carefully structured programme to build solid foundations for the equitable and

sustainable planning and development of the basin.

Outputs of these processes include the Transboundary Diagnostic Assessment (TDA), the Strategic Action Programme (SAP), the three National Action Plans (NAPs) and a Basin 'sustainable and equitable investment programme'. OKACOM is also currently developing a Multisector Investment Options Analysis to assist

Member States in the selection and prioritisation of development options for optimum transboundary benefits.



OKACOM's agreed basin-wide shared Vision was finalised in 2015 through a process that spanned all three Member States and involved a wide range of multi-stakeholders.

### NATIONAL WORKSHOPS

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National Workshops in each Member State at the basin level were held to agree a vision and implementation framework for sustainable development and management of the Cubango-Okavango Basin to guide the implementation of the SAP and the MSIOA Studies.

### REGIONAL WORKSHOP

The outputs of national workshops were used as primary inputs to a regional workshop where representatives of key sectors participated (10 participants from each country). The participants were drawn from the basin as well as national level. Some of the sectors represented included irrigation, livestock farming, mining, tourism and resource users at local level.

# ECONOMICALLY PROSPEROUS, SOCIALLY JUST AND ENVIRONMENTALLY HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF THE CUBANGO-OKAVANGO RIVER BASIN

The OKACOM Member States collectively agreed that this vision encapsulates and expresses the following;

- Reduced poverty through investments with minimal or positive environmental impacts;
- Water, energy and food security in the face of an increasingly variable climate;
- Gender and social equity in all phases of the project cycle;
- Protection for vital ecosystem goods and services;
- Investments that create employment and wealth;
- Investments that support the equitable and reasonable development and use of the water resource at national and transboundary scales;
- Actions that avoid, minimise and mitigate impacts, especially where there
  may be a risk of transboundary adverse effects; and
- Climate resilient investments and projects.





• OKACOM is a transparent and accountable organisation, and all actions will be conducted in the spirit of good neighbourliness and close cooperation;

OKACOM will always provide advice to member states and key stakeholders in the spirit of agreed nation.

#### OKACOM GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- •The well-being of the people in the basin and in the basin states as a whole in economic, health, social and cultural terms and the improvements of their livelihoods
- Development and management of the basin through national as well as joint action shall take place in a spirit of basin-wide cooperation, within the frameworks set by existing national legislative and policy frameworks and guided by the new Basin vision;
- •The principle of sustainable development shall be applied in accordance with the SDG's such that there is a prudent and rational utilisation of living resources together with preservation of the rights of future generations to a viable environment;
- •Integrated water resources management and the underlying Dublin Principles shall be adopted;
- •The precautionary principle shall be applied, such that measures shall be taken when there are reasonable grounds for concern that any activity may increase the potential harm to the river ecosystems;
- The polluter-pays principle shall be applied;
- •The principle of anticipatory action shall be applied;
- The principle of preventative action shall be applied;
- The principle of accessibility of information shall be applied;
- •The principle of public participation and transparency shall be applied, so that all stakeholders, including communities, individuals and concerned organisations shall be given the opportunity to participate in decision-making and management pro-