

# OKAVANGO RIVER BASIN WATER COMMISSION

## Session 2 - The Visioning process

### Gaborone, Botswana

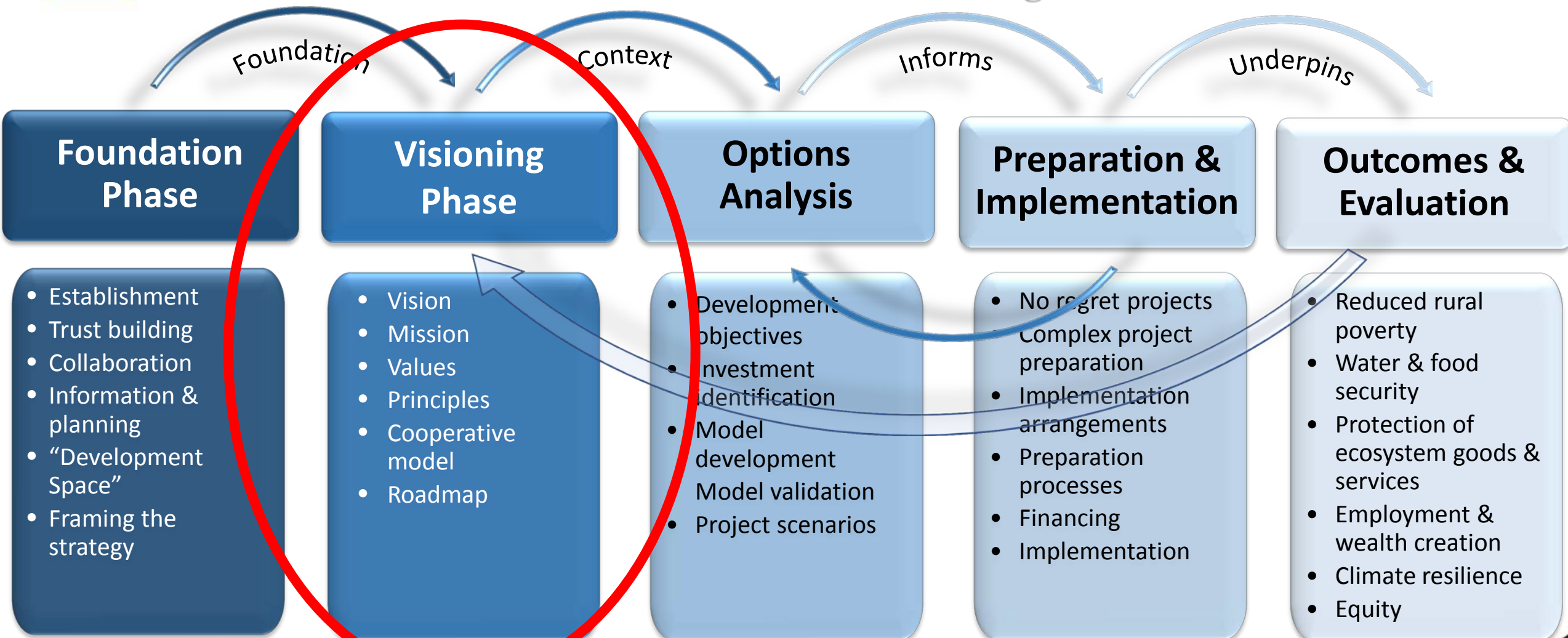
### 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015



## In this presentation:

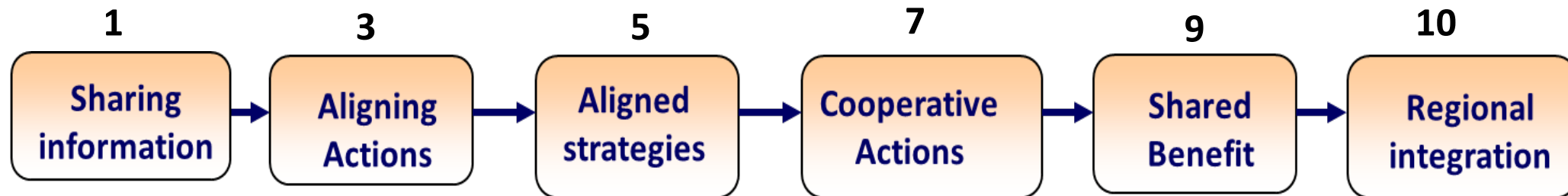
- Types of cooperation that OKACOM has agreed to pursue;
- The Basin Vision (where are we going?);
- The OKACOM Mission (what will we do in order to get there?);
- The OKACOM Values (how will we conduct ourselves in doing the things that are necessary to achieve the Vision?);
- The OKACOM Principles (what is the thinking behind actions to achieve the Vision?);
- What did we learn from the Visioning process?







# Types of Transboundary Cooperation

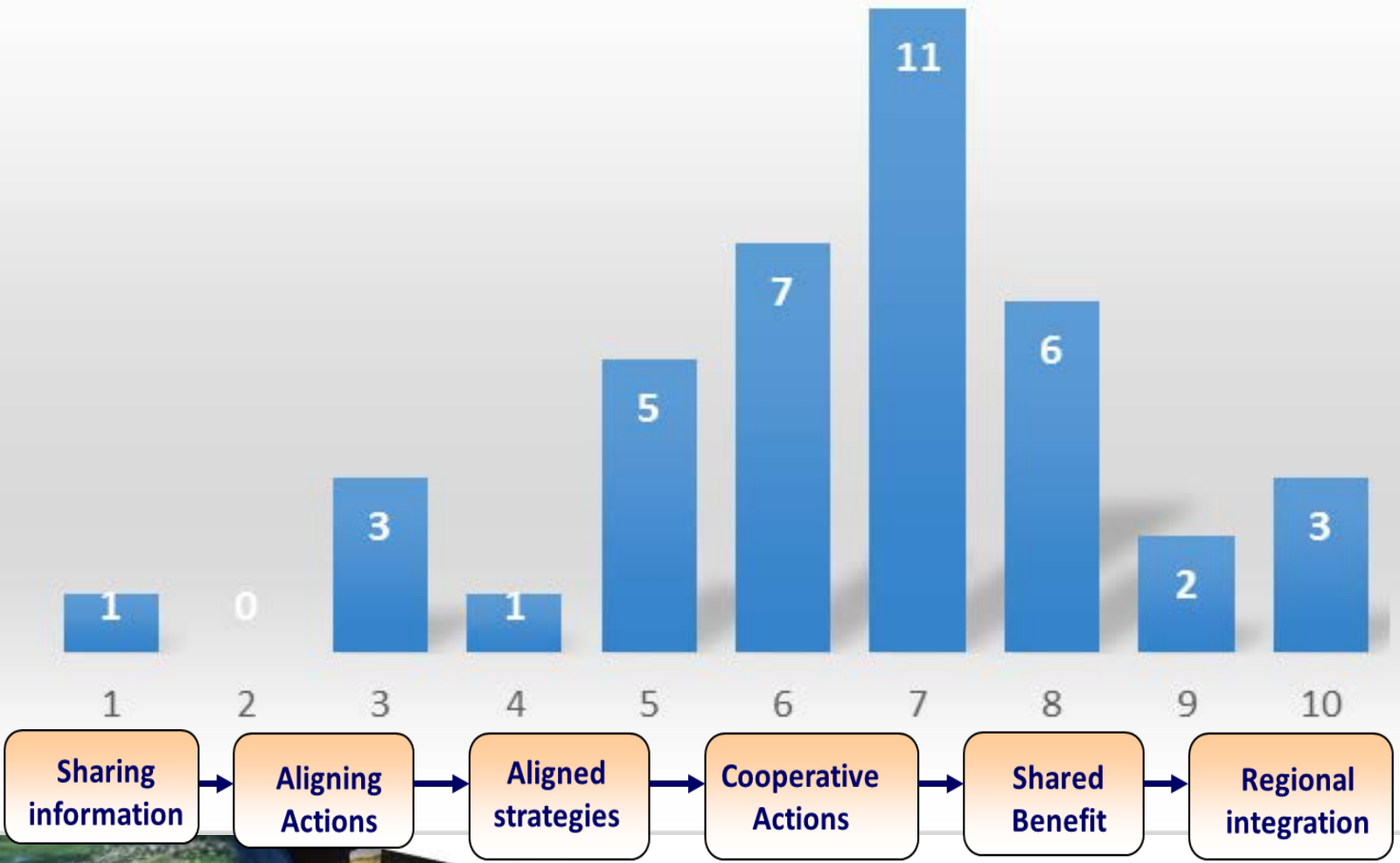


*“A major challenge in each basin is to identify the right type of cooperative effort – one in which the benefits of cooperation outweigh the costs.”*

*(Sadoff and Grey, 2002)*



# Total Opinions next 5-10 years



## Vision based on the agreed type of cooperation

- Agreed Basin Vision is the: **‘Economically prosperous, socially just and environmentally healthy development of the Cubango-Okavango River Basin.’**
- This was developed following a collaborative process in 2014/15, and includes principles and precedent of 21 years of OKACOM cooperation.
- Focussed on the prioritisation of issues of equity and social justice within a growth agenda, and a commitment to sustainable and environmentally sound principles.



## Mission Statement: what OKACOM does

- Identifying best practices that build water and food security for poverty reduction and growth, which have minimal transboundary or environmental impacts, and to develop options to finance the implementation of these practices;
- Developing Rules of procedure for effective implementation of the 'notification principle of planned measures' under the Revised SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses;
- Recommending the establishment of harmonised environmental policies and approaches;





## Mission Statement: what OKACOM does (cont)

- Working with the Member States to identify investments that align with both the basin vision and the national development trajectories to create employment opportunities and support growing economies, and advise them on measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate potential transboundary impacts;
- Work towards agreement on the establishment and monitoring of indicators of progress toward the vision;
- Develop a gender equity strategy that actively involves women and men in both the Commission's activities and which promotes women's involvement in development initiatives and required implementation strategies;
- Establish a communications strategy that identifies and quantifies the benefits that accrue to the Member States and the people of the basin, because of OKACOM, as well as the challenges behind achieving the vision across the three basin States.





# Corporate Values: How OKACOM behaves

- 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 national, regional and international conventions, using the best scientific information and evidence based opinion available;
- OKACOM will promote improved livelihoods for basin residents, ensuring that the sustainable and equitable utilisation of the resources of the basin include significant efforts for poverty reduction;
- OKACOM will conduct its activities in an inclusive way, ensuring equitable, sustainable utilisation and equal opportunity at all levels are pursued and promoted;
- OKACOM will always act to promote the concept of a shared basin-wide vision and jointly agreed decision framework in all its actions.



# OKACOM Principles: what's behind our thinking

- 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 is a primary objective, with the achievements of the UN MDG's being an immediate priority;
- 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 MDG's such that there is a prudent and rational utilization of living resources together with preservation of the rights of future generations to a viable environment;



# OKACOM Principles: what's behind our thinking (cont)

- 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 organizations shall participate in decision-making and management processes that affect the basin.





# What did we learn from the Visioning process?

- **OKACOM has come of age:** The organisation has successfully transitioned from a gestation phase, through a maturation phase to a growth phase. This has taken two decades, but it critically marks a shift from building trust, sharing information about the basin, and building a common understanding of the basin to a point where delivering key benefits to Member States begins.
- **It's got to be owned by the Parties.** In order for the vision to be taken seriously by the agencies that have the mandate for development in the Member States, it has to be owned by them. The issue of sovereign vs basin/regional interests is always going to be difficult to navigate; unless the founding parties own the basin vision then the sovereign perspective will always prevail.
- **The outcome is important, but the process is more important.** The vision itself is important, but bringing the right people together to discuss the issues is more important. The Commission must become a trusted advisor, and work to i) create the platform for meaningful engagement and discussion between the Parties, ii) create the conditions for open and honest debate, and iii) be a place where developments with transboundary and environmental impacts are discussed openly.





# What did we learn from the Visioning process?

- **It's going to be more 'corporate' going forward.** The growth phase will mean that OKACOM and its organs become more 'business' oriented. More robust 'business planning' will be needed of the phase, and more direct engagement with the corporate or development sectors.
- **Bringing in the right kind of investors is essential.** There is considerable risk if development does not reduce poverty. The investment 'environment' must create incentives that attract the right kind of developers. It is important that we agree 'ground rules' to attract quality proposals.
- **Guiding the Multi-Sector Investment Opportunity Analysis is an important first step.** The MSIOA methodology has been agreed and by the Commission, and the opportunity to use this initiative in a way that incentivises the right kind of investment is key.
- **Start planning for the resources needed to develop the investment prospectus (pipeline).** Be proactive in acquiring new skillsets will be needed really develop the pipeline of good investments.

