

# Zambia Water Forum and Exhibition

**Abstract: Assessing the critical role of water for sustainable development under the impacts of climate change.**

Southern Zambia is in a zone of current and increasing climate variability. This zone straddles central SADC, including parts of seven Member States in eight transboundary rivers. Rain-fed crop production is becoming progressively unreliable, with climate projections indicating that (already vulnerable) small-scale farmers will be exposed to pressing climate pressure. This paper discusses some of the Zambian (and selected responses from other Member States) in the face of increasing climate variability.

Zambia's approach to addressing this issue is a rich source of experience and learning both for its own internal use and for other SADC states across the zone of climate variability. CRIDF and the Government of Zambia are testing a number of 'scenario typologies' in southern Zambia, including i) reducing vulnerability by developing irrigation production to supplement rain-fed crop production, ii) integrating more livestock production into agriculture and iii) considering non-consumptive (tourism) livelihood strategies in the far south-west (in association with Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area).

Further east, but still in the same zone of climate variability, CRIDF is working with Mozambique and Zimbabwe across the shared Pungwe, Buzi and Save basins (PuBuSa). Lessons on sustainability from the PuBuSa suite of interventions are synthesised and are discussed with a view to applicability to rural across all central-SADC Member States.

## Biography: Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility (CRIDF)

The Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility (CRIDF) is DFID's innovative water infrastructure programme for southern Africa. Working to deliver sustainable small-scale infrastructure across 11 SADC countries, the demand-driven programme focuses on water services, water resource management, and water for livelihoods, fostering sustainable development of the region's water resources and addressing the water, food and energy nexus.

CRIDF prepares small-scale water infrastructure projects and facilitates access to finance for the implementation of these projects. Such interventions provide the entry point and platform for CRIDF to engage with, support and influence key SADC interventions, river basin organisations and national stakeholders. Activities are selected according to a set of CRIDF principles to ensure that investments align with strategic objectives that have been developed specifically for each SADC river basin.

As a result of CRIDF's work, poor people in countries of the SADC region will benefit from climate-resilient water infrastructure. The conditions for enhanced cooperation between stakeholders in shared river basins will be improved, and the evidence base – demonstrating the national benefits of cooperation on shared waters – will be strengthened. Through these outputs and outcomes the CRIDF programme will contribute to peaceful, climate-resilient and sustainable planning and management of shared waters in SADC, generating current and future benefits to the poor.

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