



**TALKING POINTS BY THE HON. DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS, AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES,
WATER AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, HON. D. MARAPIRA (M.P) AT THE
LAUNCHING OF THE BUZI, PUNGWE AND SAVE WATERCOURSE COMMISSION (BUPUSACOM)**

SOFALA, BEIRA, TERRACE HOTEL, MOZAMBIQUE

19 JULY 2023

- Governor
- Minister of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources
- State Secretary
- SADC Water Sector Division
- IUCN REP
- GWPSA Executive Secretary
- SADC GMI
- UNESO REP
- USAID RWP
- ORASECOM Executive Secretary
- ZAMCOM Executive Secretary
- IMACOM Executive Secretary
- WATERNET Rep

The launching of the BUPUSA Commission is in fulfilment of the SADC Protocol on Shared Water courses. As you are aware the Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) was signed in the year 2000 with the objective of fostering closer cooperation for judicious, sustainable, and coordinated management, protection and utilization of shared watercourses, and to advance the SADC agenda on regional integration and poverty alleviation. The Protocol guides Mozambique and Zimbabwe in managing their shared river basins. The two countries share a number of watercourses namely: The Limpopo and Zambezi (share with other countries); and the Buzi, Pungwe and Save watercourses exclusively between themselves.

The Protocol which entered into force in 2003, in order to facilitate cooperation, calls for the need to establish agreements and shared watercourse institutions. In line with the protocol, the two governments realise the importance of institutionalising regional cooperation and development in promoting peace and prosperity in the shared River Basins.

Over and above the guidance from the SADC protocol on shared Watercourses, the two countries have in their Water Sharing Agreements and national plans prioritized the need to promote equitable and reasonable utilisation of water resources in shared watercourses, protection of the environment, and promotion of sustainable development and economic growth. The two countries face challenges in the shared River Basins which can be addressed through transboundary water cooperation to ensure sustainable development that will uplift livelihoods in the basins.

As Zimbabwe We are very aware that the shared basins face several challenges which include—high-levels of poverty, lack of infrastructure, climate change/variability, environmental degradation and access to resources.

Extreme events (i.e., Floods and Drought) that have affected the three river basins particularly in the last two decades amplify already existing challenges. Cyclone Eline, Dineo and the most recent Cyclone Idai (March 2019) and Cyclone Freddy (2023) have had devastating effects which have led to loss of life, destruction of property and extensive loss of livelihoods.

Realising the benefits of cooperation, and in line with the SADC Protocol, the Governments of Mozambique and Zimbabwe established a Joint Water Commission (JWC) in 2002.

The newly established BUPUSA Council of Ministers now has overall responsibility for the management of the Buzi, Pungwe and Save Shared River Basins following the signing of the Establishment agreement. They are expected to build on the foundation by the JWC, which has to date initiated several activities that are deepening the cooperation between the two countries.

Allow me to provide a brief background to the support rendered.

Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) through the Pungwe Programme Phase 1 – the Pungwe Monograph and Joint IWRM Strategy were developed and approved in 2006. The Phase 2 of the Sida Support from 2007 -2017, supported institutional development, stakeholder participation, information and communication and regional cooperation activities. Under this phase the countries also conducted five critical projects on saline intrusion, gold panning mitigation strategy, floods and drought mitigation strategy and poverty reduction community projects (supported through a small grant facility). Through this support in 2016, the Governments of Mozambique and Zimbabwe signed the Pungwe Basin Water Sharing Agreement to institutionalize transboundary water management in the Pungwe Basin.

In the same year and building on the success of the Pungwe Agreement, the two governments commenced negotiations on the Buzi and Save Shared River Basins.

In 2006, through the SADC Shared Watercourses Support Project – the Buzi and Save River Basins were supported with funding from the African Development Bank (AfDB). The project supported the development of river basin monographs and strategies, enhanced knowledge and information support system, community basin management projects and capacity building. The project led to the development of the Monographs and Joint IWRM Strategies, which identified projects both small-scale and large-scale investments, for both basins between 2011 – 2013.

The Climate Resilience Infrastructure Development Facility (CRIDF), funded by the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), since 2013 took forward some of the work (that came out of the AfDB-supported initiative) in the Buzi and Save River Basin to support the development of technical studies aimed at increasing the understanding of water use requirements and prioritisation of infrastructure.

Colleagues allow me to share the remarkable progress made by the Joint Water Commission on water cooperation between the two countries.

- Co-operation on the Development, Management and Sustainable Utilisation of the Water Resources of the Pungwe Watercourse (signed in July 2016);
- Co-operation on the Development, Management and Sustainable Utilisation of the Water Resources of the Buzi Watercourse (signed in July 2019);

- Co-operation on the Development, Management and Sustainable Utilisation of the Water Resources of the Save Watercourse (signed in May 2023);
- The Establishment of the Buzi, Pungwe and Save Watercourses Commission (BUPUSA COMMISSION) – (signed in May 2023), and;
- The Hosting of the BUPUSA Commission Secretariat (signed in May 2023);

The above milestones were achieved through the support of the following agencies:

- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) with funding from BMZ and DFID, through SADC Strategic Action Plan IV
- USAID Resilience Waters Programme (USAID)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) BRIDGE Programme
- Global Environmental Facility (GEF), through the BUPUSA Project
- Department for International Development (DFID) through Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Fund (CRIDF) Waternet for Capacity Building
- Global Water Partnership Southern Africa

Special mention goes to SADC Water division for all the support they have provided to BUPUSA especially when resources were most required in 2019. You made the journey possible. Please continue to support the RBOs as this is also your baby.

To the RBOs here Present, I thank you for being available for the exciting moment when a new kid at a time when the latest kid has been born. As the say goes ‘ A child belongs to the village not just to the individual family, I hope you will pay your part in helping us bring the baby to a well-behaved and resourceful adult through your support and experience.

To all the ICPS hear present, I thank you very much for the support you are rendering to the two countries to realise their BUPUSA vision “Sustainable shared river basins for all”

I am informed that a Road Map has been prepared and will be approved by member states in tomorrow’s meeting. This demonstrates the commitment by the two countries to realise our goal.

Furthermore, to demonstrate commitment to the realisation of the BUPUSA Road Map has the government of Zimbabwe has nominated Mr. Elisha Madamombe, the Regional Coordinator for GEF BUPUSA to be the Interim Executive Secretary while we transition into a fully-fledged RBO. We have no doubt that he will be able to meet the challenges since he has been involved in the supporting the negotiations between the two countries in various capacities since year 2000.

I would like to reemphasis the need for further infrastructure development at this stage when we have become more vulnerable to floods and droughts due to climate change. Our two ministers emphasized the need to joint venture in infrastructure development and I would like you to note that in your deliberations.

Finally, committed in the Establishment and hosting Agreements, the Government of Zimbabwe is committed to honour its commitment to support the BUPUSA Commission.

I thank you