

bring other sectors along: climate impacts on water further necessitate resilience and benefit sharing and thus are important drivers for **multi-sectoral planning that benefits end users**.

- **Political will is a critical success factor:** the science policy dialogue should change form to ensure our leaders are well informed and well positioned to take the lead.

Messages from the SADC stakeholders to ensure climate resilience as a driver on the road toward benefit sharing.

- There is need to raise awareness on climate resilience and benefit sharing by taking the dialogue to all levels (national, local and multi-sectoral).
- Local knowledge and practices should inform decision making processes in order to improve climate resilience.
- There is a need to improve communication and to find commonalities to bring the subject down to the level where everyone can relate to the concept and its impacts. There is also a need to ensure that we work with the media to ensure that the importance of sharing benefits in the region is widely and well understood.
- There is need for information and data to support decision making processes by strengthening the role of hydrological centres, climate information centre, disaster management units and early warning systems.
- Regional integration, poverty alleviation and regional economic growth –these are the SADC Treaty goals that should be the drivers for benefit sharing.
- Engaging with stakeholders in and outside the water sector on climate resilience and benefit sharing is important and more needs to be done at national level to engage those outside the water sector taking into consideration the relevant gender and youth issues.
- Research and development on climate resilience and benefit sharing impacts at a regional and local level is needed with the related need to build research capacity in the region and link it to policy making and implementation decisions.
- Capacity development both for humans and institutions is important. Capacity building efforts should focus on improving the understanding of climate resilience and benefit sharing and on building adaptive institutions and strengthening human security.
- Cross-sectoral planning is critical and finance mechanisms are increasingly favoring cross sectoral bids. At the regional level, development plans should be built on a basis of ensuring climate resilience and should consider the possibilities of benefit sharing.
- The emerging international climate finance architecture is one opportunity to ensure regional climate resilience and provides an urgent imperative for the region to improve its climate finance absorptive capacity and to ready itself to be a justifiably frontline recipient of climate funds.
- There is need to raise awareness and to build the requisite capacity to develop innovative and integrated water financing mechanisms.
- The climate finance funds and mechanisms incentivise projects that are multi-sectoral. Benefit sharing is a tool that promotes different sectors working together and is therefore a tool in developing projects for climate financing.
- It is important to work with finance and developing planning departments to ensure that budgetary systems fully integrate climate resilience and incorporate benefit sharing.



Outcomes of the SADC Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue

12-13 October 2010 Maun, Botswana



Watering Development in SADC: Toward climate resilience through benefit sharing



Commissioned by:



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The SADC Multi stakeholder Water Dialogue is an annual event organised by the SADC Water Division and brings together water sector practitioners to dialogue with water using and water influencing sectors. Under the auspices of Watering Development in SADC, the theme of the 2010 SADC Multi-stakeholder Water Dialogue was “Watering development in SADC: Toward Climate Resilience through Benefit Sharing” and was held in Maun, Botswana.

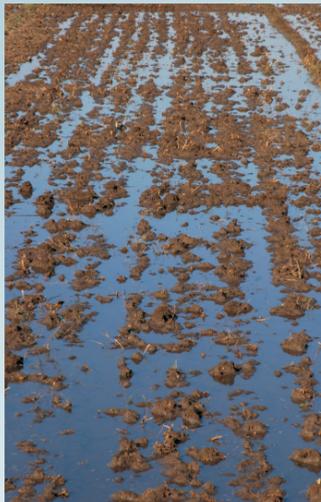
The Maun Dialogue had the following objectives:

Objectives

- Unpack the role of water in economic development and related impacts of climate change.
- Look at climate resilient development as a means and reason for sharing water benefits.
- Improve the understanding of the region's access to climate finance as a means of ensuring a climate resilient development and water secure future.

During the dialogue stakeholders from the region noted the following issues that need to be taken into account in order to ensure climate resilience:

- Climate change and variability impacts on rainfall and thus on our rivers, lakes, wetlands and groundwater resources and these critical sources are drivers for other sectors.
- There is need to consider these impacts throughout the socio economic lifecycle, at all times asking the **'so what'** question; for example, what is the socio-economic change brought about by the related climate induced change in precipitation?
- With regard to food security, climate impacts on water availability and extreme events (notably droughts and floods) affects **access** at the household level and **production** at the national food security level. Market access and trade barriers are among the key drivers of food insecurity in the Region, resulting in significant vulnerability to climate impacts.
- It was noted that irrigation is an important adaptation measure to be considered in the agricultural sector but a sound understanding and improved efficiency in the utilisation of the water resource and its availability and the related benefits are an important component of the evidence for action.
- With regards to energy security it was noted that in terms of planned development, the region will see an even higher dependence on hydropower, which in turn is dependent on constant levels of water supply to be effective. The water sector needs to engage with the energy sector in particular the Southern Africa Power Pool in order to increase the understanding of climate change and risk to development.
- There is a need for integrated energy, water and agricultural production planning with the downstream health impacts in mind.
- There is therefore a need to evaluate the water and socio-economic impacts of hydropower development against the same impacts of achieving food security through strengthened water infrastructure. With the need to achieve both food security and energy security to improve socio-economic development and reduce poverty in the region, the issue of tradeoffs becomes critical.
- Achieving energy security will therefore need to balance the diversity of available resources and demand-side management mechanisms such as hydropower, renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Data to support climate change predictions is critical and the region needs to hone its models and simulations which do not always agree with actual data. The challenge is that decision makers require projections in some form. Developing climate change scenarios rather than pursuing detailed climate change modelling approaches, which take time and present uncertainty, in order to develop strategies for resilience was discussed as a solution. It was noted that some scenario planning tools allow for the incorporation of existing data, research and analysis. This can facilitate an



understanding of how climate change could affect development futures in Southern Africa.

- Improved livelihood mapping and development planning at a local level is important in order to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities.
- Climate change increases vulnerability and reduces resilience of valuable ecosystems – it is important for the region to ensure that programmes promoting environmental sustainability and securing biophysical resources are instituted.
- Livelihoods in Africa depend on ecosystems – many communities practice wetland agriculture and depend on fisheries. Thus **weak ecosystem resilience compromises attainment of the MDGs at the same time as weakening human health and food security.**
- One adaptation strategy is to place a value on ecosystems, goods and services. The science-policy (development planning) dialogue must be strengthened and linked to improving the understanding of the related finance costs with regards to benefits/losses and the relevant institutional and governance requirements.
- Local knowledge and practices are important and there is need to fast track learning to ensure resilience: local knowledge and practice has informed responses to variability for decades and the better practices should inform resilience building, which will have the added benefit of community participation in decision making processes.
- **Climate change is a health issue** – for example food insecurity causes malnutrition, impacting on human development indicators and lowering disease immunity; reduced water quality impacts livelihoods and causes epidemics.
- **Pollution** is a key consideration and has an impact on health, tourism and safe water



With regards to benefit sharing it was noted that:

- Benefit sharing in transboundary water resources is a useful and necessary tool to promote regional development and integration. Climate change and building climate resilience strengthens the argument for benefit sharing in transboundary waters. Climate change impacts extend beyond national boundaries with impact on the entire river basin system. It is therefore important to broaden the basket of benefits.
- Benefits that can be shared include energy security, food security and water security from good water quality and quantity. These in turn lead to improved human health and importantly, human security.
- Benefit sharing and climate resilience should be anchored in existing mechanisms, instruments and institutional arrangements.
- There is need to focus on building multi-stakeholder platforms that bring together energy, defence, peace and security, food and natural resources and human health to ensure that a broad range of benefits are discussed and understood among all the participatory sectors.
- Benefit sharing in most parts of the world is still at a conceptual level with relatively few examples of successful implementation. The SADC region is in infancy stages of integrating the concept.
- SADC is however well positioned to take a lead through having an **international voice on taking benefit sharing from concept to reality.** Climate resilient development planning is a driver and a tool for holistically identifying and realising benefits.
- Ensuring climate resilience through benefit sharing requires change management to both facilitate an understanding of climate and development futures and to bring about the mindset change or paradigm shift needed in the region.
- For benefit sharing at a regional level to be successful there is need to harmonise national interests and to integrate national priorities wherever possible.
- There is need to widen the basket of benefits to include market and trade mechanisms as these promote regional integration at the same time as providing the basis of adaptations to climate change, thus strengthening resilience.
- With water being central to development, to poverty alleviation and to human security in this region, the water sector can

