

# Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus Dialogue and Multi-Sector Investment in the SADC Region

**“Water, energy and food security are key focal elements for reducing poverty and sustaining development”**

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| <b>Name of the Project</b> | Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus Dialogue and Multi-Sector Investment in the SADC Region |
| <b>Financing</b>           | The European Union  |
| <b>Duration</b>            | 2017-2019   |
| <b>Implementing Agency</b> | GWP Southern Africa, on behalf of SADC  |

## The Context

Sustainable development in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) largely depends on goods and services derived from its environment and natural resource base. These resources are crucial in the region's effort to eradicate poverty. Livelihood strategies and food security for the poor often depend directly on functioning ecosystems and the diversity of goods and ecological services they provide. Increasing population, climate variability and change with its long-term implications for social, economic and ecological systems is an inevitable and urgent challenge.

As the SADC region pursues sustainable growth pathways and structural transformation, the management of its natural endowments and most importantly water, land and energy resources is critical. National Development Plans of SADC Member States set ambitious targets in a variety of sectors including water, food and energy. In order to avoid competition and create synergies between sectoral development agendas, integrated planning and cross-sectoral coordination are crucial.

The SADC Regional Water Policy was adopted in 2005. The Policy is implemented through a rolling Regional Water Programme implemented through 5-year Regional Strategic Action Plans (RSAP) on Integrated Water Resources Management. The current RSAP IV (2016-2020) consists of 8 programmes, of which one is focused on the Water, Energy, and Food (WEF) Security Nexus.

In the energy sector, a Regional Energy Access Strategy and Action Plan (REASAP) was approved in 2011, setting broad goals for improving access to modern forms of energy as well as specific policy mechanisms to achieve increased access. A Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan (REEESAP) was approved in 2017, and a SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) was established in 2015.

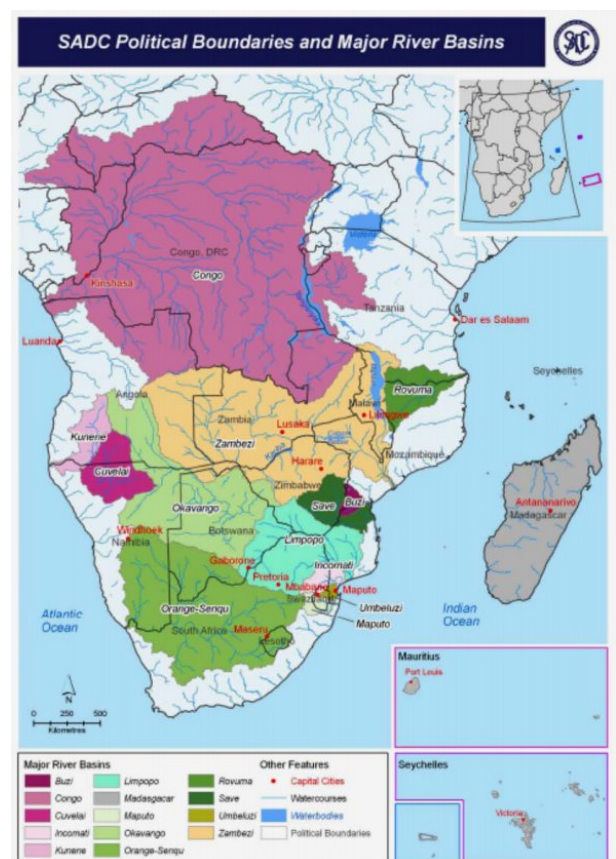
In order to drive food security, the Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP) was adopted in 2014. SADC is working on its

implementation through a Regional Agricultural Investment Plan. SADC has also approved the establishment of Regional Agriculture Development Fund to further support implementation of the Policy.

The SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063) was approved in April 2015. This framework is aimed at driving industrial development and has been placed at the core of the developmental integration agenda of SADC. Inherent in this policy is recognition from SADC Member States that industrial development is central to diversification of their economies; development of productive capacity; and the creation of employment in order to reduce poverty and set their economies on a more sustainable growth path.

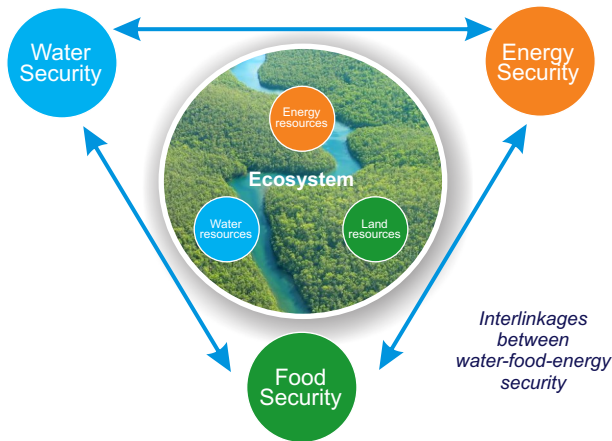
## The WEF Nexus approach in the SADC region

Water, energy and food security are key priority areas for SADC. Integrated planning of water, food and energy sectors and promoting regional cooperation has been considered as a strategy to simultaneously meet water, energy and food security



targets, and to improve natural resource use efficiencies in the region.

WEF security nexus acknowledges that water security, energy security and food security are inextricably linked and that actions in any one area usually have impacts in the others. As the population increases, with increasing demands for basic services, and growing desires for higher living standards, the need for a more efficient utilization of the vital resources (water, land, energy) is required.



SADC WEF Nexus Conceptual Framework

## The SADC WEF Nexus Project

The SADC WEF Nexus Dialogue Project “Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus Dialogue and Multi-Sector Investment in the SADC Region” is a project supported by the European Commission as part of the global ‘Nexus Dialogues Programme’.

The Nexus Dialogues Programme (Phase I) aims at helping regional organisations and their member states apply a nexus approach in the formulation of multi-sector policy recommendations, strategies, action plans and investment programmes. Phase I also aims at identifying concrete investment projects - with a focus on multi-purpose water infrastructure - which could be funded under Phase II.

The SADC WEF Nexus Dialogue Project is a strategic fit in the implementation of SADC’s Regional water, energy, food policies, strategies and action plans. It will also contribute in implementing SADC’s Roadmap and Strategy for Industrialisation.

The project is expected to promote better interaction and synergies between the water, food, and energy sectors in order to unlock and optimize the development potential of the region for economic growth and transformation.

## Project Goal and Objectives

The goal is to support the transformation required to meet increasing water, energy and food security demand in a context

of climate change in the SADC region through the development of an integrated nexus approach.

The objective of the project is to create an enabling environment that will drive cross-sectoral engagement and implementation of nexus investment projects that contribute to enhancing water, food and energy security in the SADC region.

## Expected Results

Two major outputs are expected from the project:

- SADC Regional WEF Nexus Operational Framework
- Prioritized WEF Nexus Investment Projects

The SADC WEF Nexus Operational Framework provides overall guidance and tools to make decisions, coordinate between different sectors and facilitate Nexus investments in the region.

## Duration and Budget

The first phase of the project has a duration of 3 years (2017-2019) with an estimated budget of Euro 700 000.

## Summary of Progress so far (as of February 2019)

### SADC WEF Nexus Operational Framework

- WEF Nexus Country assessments are completed for 15 of the 16 SADC Member States. The assessments identified opportunities in the countries for WEF Nexus approach.
- A Regional WEF Governance and Stakeholders analysis carried out. The assessment has provided clarity on the WEF nexus issues that are relevant for the SADC region.
- A draft discussion paper on WEF Nexus Governance was prepared. The paper identified mechanisms for strengthening WEF nexus governance in the SADC region. The mechanisms are for strengthening WEF sectoral institutional coordination, and for aligning implementation of WEF sectoral policies.
- A draft WEF Nexus Regional Operational Framework was prepared and was reviewed at the SADC Regional WEF Nexus Technical Dialogue.

### WEF Nexus Investment Projects

- A draft discussion paper on WEF Nexus Investment was prepared.
- A draft SADC WEF Nexus investment project screening and appraisal tool developed.
- A provisional list of 15 potential projects was developed to apply WEF nexus approach in the region.

### WEF Nexus Dialogue

- Several regional and global platforms including the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> SADC River Basin Organizations (RBOs) workshops, 8<sup>th</sup> SADC Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Zambezi Basin Stakeholders' Forum and the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum (in Brazil) have been used to engage and consult with stakeholders on the WEF nexus.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> SADC WEF Nexus Technical Dialogue was very useful in defining the scope of the country WEF nexus assessments.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> SADC WEF Nexus Technical Dialogue reviewed the draft discussion papers on WEF Nexus Governance and Tool.

## For further information please contact:

**Kidanemariam Jembere,**  
Technical Advisor, GWP Programs in Africa

Global Water Partnership Southern Africa/Africa Coordination Unit  
333 Grosvenor Street | Hatfield Gardens | Block A | Pretoria | South Africa  
Tel: +27 12 430 2121/2/6/7  
Email: gwpafrica@gwpsaf.org  
Website: <https://www.gwp.org/en/GWP-SouthernAfrica/>  
Twitter: @GWPSAF  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GWPSAF>  
YouTube: [youtube.com/channel/UCGIAjMWcs7EhOZBYckeQJ7Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGIAjMWcs7EhOZBYckeQJ7Q)

**Dr. Patrice, Kandolo Kabeya**  
Senior Programme Officer, Water Division, Directorate of Infrastructure

Southern African Development Community (SADC)  
Plot 54385 | New CBD | Private Bag 0095 | Gaborone | BOTSWANA  
Tel: +267 395 1863  
Email: [pkabeya@sadc.int](mailto:pkabeya@sadc.int)  
Website: <https://www.sadc.int/>  
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