

# Southern Africa:

## Water, Climate and Development Programme for Africa

### Water security for development



Water is central to ecosystems and to socio-economic development in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. But this critical resource is increasingly threatened by a growing population, urbanisation and economic growth driven by industrialisation. Climate change and climate variability add to the stresses on both the quantity and quality of water resources.

The *Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*<sup>1</sup> recognises Southern Africa (SA) as a region that is susceptible to climate change. Water is also recognised as the medium through which the impacts of climate change will be felt, and extreme events such as floods and droughts will severely hamper socio-economic development in the region. Climate hazards will have great impacts on the agricultural, energy, health and industrial sectors. Investments are needed to ensure that water resources in the region are able to respond to the growing and increasingly unpredictable shifts in demand due to climate change.

#### The Water, Climate and Development Programme

In November 2010 the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) adopted a decision recommending that the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and partners operationalise the Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP).

WACDEP aims to integrate water security and climate resilience into development planning processes, build climate resilience, and help countries adapt to a new climate regime through increased investments in water security. The 5-year programme, which is implemented in eight countries, four transboundary river basins and one shared aquifer, runs from May 2011 to April 2016.

**The goal of WACDEP in the SADC region** is to contribute to the achievement of the strategic objectives of the Regional Strategic Action Plan III (RSAP) by empowering stakeholders, supporting the SADC Secretariat and member states in policy harmonisation, and advocating for more investments in water resources management and development. In particular, the delivery of the SADC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Water Sector is central to improving climate resilience and water security.

<sup>1</sup> IPCC (2007) *Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland.

WACDEP is implemented in three basins: the Limpopo, Orange-Senqu and Zambezi river basins. At the transboundary basin level, water security and climate resilience are integrated into the integrated water resources management (IWRM) plan and the development strategy. Botswana and Zimbabwe have been identified for the development of national water security and climate resilience investment options in the Limpopo basin, to be funded and integrated into national development planning processes.

## Expected outcomes

- Regional and basin-level interventions interpreted and implemented at national and local levels, with GWP SA programmatic support to SADC. Within the Transboundary Water Management Programme, GWP SA provides support to local-level interventions and promotes links with the basin and regional context.
- Implementation of the GWP SA 2009–2013 Strategic Business Plan, with consequent achievement of the following goals:
  1. IWRM put into practice in the region, at all levels and scales and across different sectors.
  2. Critical development challenges addressed in the region using IWRM as an entry point.
  3. Effective knowledge management and communications ensured in the region.
  4. A more effective regional network built.

## Activities undertaken and progress

- Regional studies commissioned on economic, social and environmental arguments concerning water security and climate resilience investments, and an assessment of implementation of the SADC Regional Water Policy conducted in 14 SADC states.
- Links to Zimbabwe National Climate Change Response Strategy built to support the integration of water issues.
- Programme on water security and climate resilience investments developed under the SADC RSAP III.
- Scope of capacity-development training identified for mainstreaming climate change into the SADC water sector.
- Awareness increased on water security and climate change within the Limpopo Watercourse Commission and SADC Water Resources Technical Committee.
- Regional and country structures set up to effectively implement the programme.



## Financing management

Initial funding is provided through GWP's financing partners. AMCOW and GWP are committed to building the funding base by engaging additional partners. The Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (Danida) are the main financial partners of the programme. The entire WACDEP programme is expected to cost EUR 12.7 million.

In the SADC region, the programme is expected to cost EUR 2.72 million, covering regional, basin and local activities for the whole duration. Of this, EUR 1.3 million is provided by the SADC-GIZ project on Mainstreaming Climate Change into the SADC Water Sector; this is financed by Germany (BMZ), Australia (AusAid) and the UK (DFID).

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