Overview of the Cubango-Okavango River Basin in Angola: Challenges and Perspectives

Maun, 3-4 June 2019
Botswana
The National Development Plan provides framework for the development of infrastructure, environmental sustainability and land and territorial planning.
Key Challenges

To develop better conditions for the economic development of the region.

To foster sustainable development considering technical, socio-economic and environmental aspects.

To combat poverty and increase the opportunities of equitable socioeconomic benefits.
Key Considerations

1. Inventory of the water needs and uses.
2. Assessment of the water balance between needs and availability.
4. Risk management and valorization of the water resources.
Some of the Main Needs

- Water Monitoring Network
- Decision-making Supporting Systems
- Adequate Funding
- Participatory Management
- Institutional Capacity
Master Plans for Cubango Zambezi and Basins

Cubango/Okavango
- Approved in 2016
- Up to 2030
- 6 main programs

Zambezi
- Final Draft 2018
- Up to 2035
- 9 main programs
Cubango/Okavango Basin Master Plan

Main Programs

- Rehabilitation of degraded areas.
- Maintaining the natural connectivity between rivers and river corridors.
- Implementing water monitoring network.
- Managing the fishery activity and water use.
- Biodiversity conservation.
- Capacity building and governance.
Main Programs

- Water supply for communities and economic activities.
- Sewage and water pollution control.
- Economic and social valorisation of water resources.
- Protection of ecosystems.
- Risk management.
- Economic sustainability of the water resources.
- Institutional and legal framework.
- Water resources baseline.
- Population awareness raising.

- 25 Sub-programs
- 59 Measures
- 97 Actions
Institutional Arrangements

- National Government
  - Ministerial Departments
    - National Water Council
  - Provincial Authorities
    - Bases Management Authorities
- CBOs and NGOs
- Projects and Partners
- Local Communities
- Regional Organizations
- Treaties and Conventions
National Water Council (1)  
(established by the Presidential Decree n.º 76/17 of April 20th)

- It is a central government institutional platform to provide technical advice to the government related to planning, use and management of water resources.

**Composition:**

- Integrates representatives from different ministerial departments (including water and energy, environment, industry, planning, agricultural, geology and mines, etc.).
- Representatives from local communities, water resources associations and traditional authorities.
- The Council is chaired by the Vice-President of Angola (President of the Council) and is supported by the Minister of Energy and Water (Vice-President of the Council).
Main Responsibilities

- To ensure the **inter-sectorial coordination** and articulation in aspects related to water resources while involving other ministerial departments and other public and private entities including communities, in the **general planning process** for the **sustainable use and management of water resources**;

- To **coordinate all the projects** from different sectors with a view to fulfil all the **national and international commitments** with special emphasis to the ones related to water resources, based on an **ecosystem approach** and integration of territorial interests;

- To ensure that **agreements and other commitments** related to the common interests of the Basin States are **correctly applied**.
Regional Cooperation

The Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM) was established on September 25th, 1994 by the States of Angola, Botswana, and Namibia as the technical advisor to the Contracting Parties, in matters relating to the conservation, development, and utilization of water resources of common interest in the Okavango-Ondawere Basin (COBRE).

OKACOM has developed its Information and Communications Strategy to transform the mind-sets of basin stakeholders to adopt a transboundary thinking approach. The strategy’s ambition is to increase the level of awareness of OKACOM’s work and role as a source of information and advice for wise management of the basin. The effective implementation of the strategy facilitates the provision of vital technical and scientific information for decision makers in the planning, allocation, and use of basin benefits, thereby reinforcing a shift towards full cross-sectoral and trans-national management of basin resources. It does this through a strategic combination of networking, information packaging, management, and communications activities.

OKACOM has identified the need to use multiple communication platforms/media (e.g., visual, performing arts, media, and storytelling). The previous version of the comic book (River Cousins) proved to be a very powerful tool to communicate the real meaning of a transboundary sharing of the river basin using metaphorical communication. Thus, OKACOM has developed another comic book and hopes it will be equally or even more compelling.

Over the past 20 plus years, OKACOM has facilitated the Member States to develop tools and instruments for joint management, primarily of which is the joint basin-wide shared vision of an “economically prosperous, socially just and environmentally healthy development of the basin.”

To the readers of this second version of the comic book, OKACOM wishes you all an informative, joyful and ever increasing learning process as you scroll across its pages. Join Domingos, Qano, Haussiku and Bee in their adventurous mission navigating towards the source of the Okavango-Ondawere Basin while encountering unforeseen and unexpected challenges. Will our friends reach the source?

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National Initiatives (1)

Ministry of Environment

- Established two national parks in the Cuando Cubango province (Luengue-Luiana and Mavinga) and is working in creating management capacity.
- Developed management plans for these parks and hired and trained over 200 game rangers.
- Undertook macrofauna mapping and developed various research projects in partnership with Panthera, Elephants Without Borders, KfW.
- Developing strategies for the establishment of transfrontier conservation areas (e.g. KAZA and Mussuma TFCA).
- Signed a Protocol of Cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and the National Geographic Society for the conservation of the biodiversity and water sources in the region.
National Initiatives (2)

Ministry of Tourism

- Established a Okavango Basin Tourism Development Zone in Dirico.
- Developed a Tourism Master Plan which has a focus on wildlife inside and outside conservation areas.
- Established and heads the KAZA Unit in Angola.
- Is signatory of the Protocol of Cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and the National Geographic Society for the conservation of the biodiversity and water sources in the region.
- Is supporting a number of tourism activities such as the Raid Cacimbo, Press Safari and other tourism activities in the area.
National Initiatives (3)

Central Government

- Establishing a national agency for the management of Angolan component of the Okavango region (ANAGERO) with the following objectives:
  - Promote Okavango in Angola and attract internal and external investment
  - Propose strategic investment areas and business opportunities
  - Act as an entry point for projects in the area
  - Act as a coordinating agency between the Angolan entities and regional and international institutions
CBNRM Workshop planned for 4Q2019

- Smart Climate Agriculture
- Sustainable Harvesting
- Community Forest Management
- Aquaculture Initiatives
**Conservation Initiatives**

**PROPOSED RAMSAR SITES**

- Kumbilo-Dirico Wetland Complex in Cuando Cubango (approximately 11,743 hectares) and Lisima Lya Mwono in Central eastern Angola within the province of Moxico (5,367,000 hectares).

**7 WONDERS OF ANGOLA**

- The Cubango-Okavango River Basin was part of the 27 finalists for the 7 Wonders of Angola.

**TENTATIVE LIST (PROPOSED IN 2019)**

- **Cuando Cubango**: CORB; Cuito River; Bototo Rock Engravings; Luengue-Luiana NP and Mavinga NP.
- **Moxico**: Angola Water Tower; Tchafinda Water Falls; Luizavo River Water Falls; Mulondola Lake; Dilo Lake and Cameia NP.
Conservation Initiatives
Lisima Lya Mwono (proposed by NGOOOWP)
Recommendations

National

- Become a member of the Ramsar Convention and advance the two proposed Ramsar sites in the Cuando Cubango and Moxico provinces.
- Prepare the relevant dossiers to approve the national tentative list for natural sites and have them gazetted.

Regional

- Develop a clear (national and regional) road map and Terms of Reference for the potential transboundary nomination.
- Develop a funding strategy for the process and obtain expert support from WHC/IUCN and other relevant institutions.