

The Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM)

Transboundary Cooperation for Protecting the Cubango-Okavango River
Basin and improving the integrity of the Okavango Delta World Heritage
Property

Expert Meeting
3-4 June 2019
Maun, Botswana



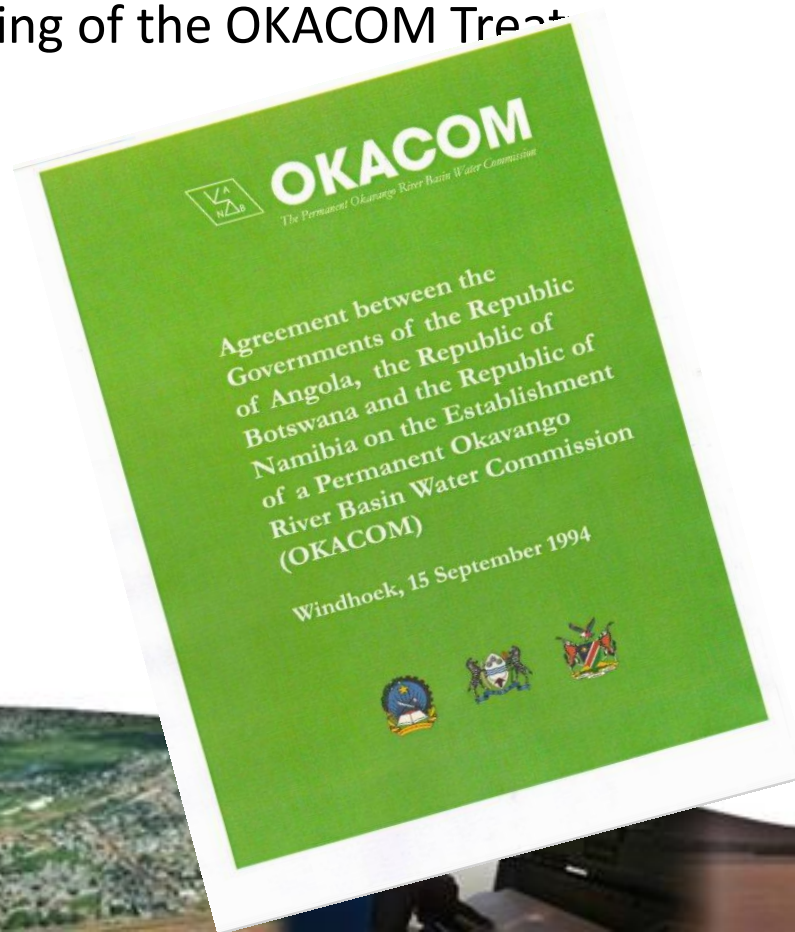
OKACOM Trajectory

- Bilateral Agreements
 - Angola- Namibia
 - Namibia and Botswana
- The 1994 Agreement- established OKACOM
- OKACOM has three members (**Angola, Botswana and Namibia**)
- The 1994 Agreement which gave the Cubango-Okavango River Basin Commission a legal foundation and a **clear mandate**
- The mandate that is **operationalized through successful implementation** of the OKACOM Agreement and related frameworks for the past 20+ years



Establishment Phase (1994 – 2004)

- 1994 – Signing of the OKACOM Treaty



- ✓ Consultative Phase
- ✓ Dialogue, Establishment,
- ✓ Planning, Information sharing
- ✓ Trust building
- ✓ Building partnerships (Academia ,ICPs, basin people)

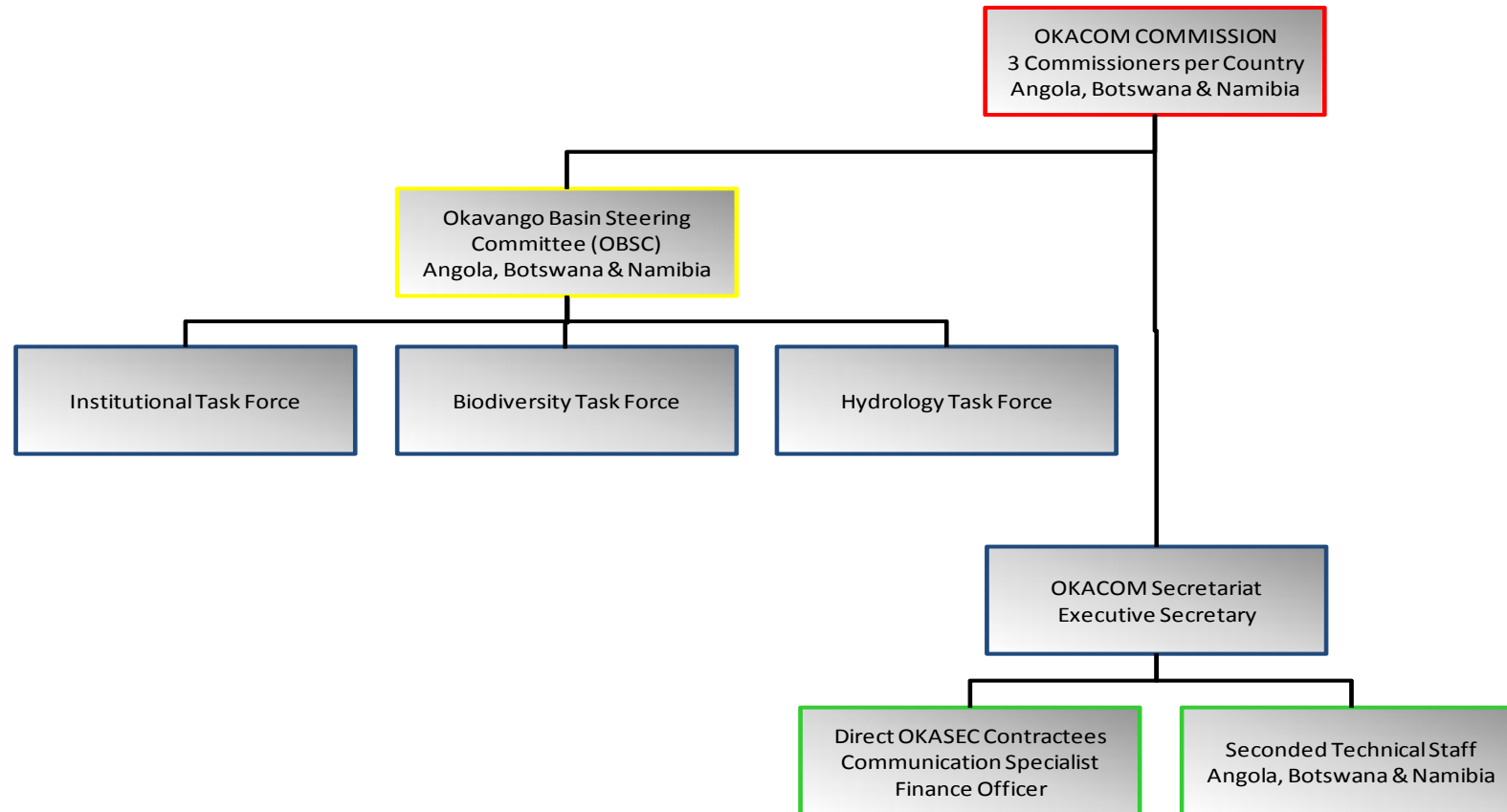
Maturity Phase (2007-2011)

□ Framing of the OKACOM long term cooperation Model

- ✓ Establishing the OKACOM Secretariat
- ✓ Hosting Agreement
- ✓ Organizational structure
- ✓ Governance and operation documents
- ✓ Defining the scope
- ✓ Understanding the resource



Organizational Structure (2007 to 2012)

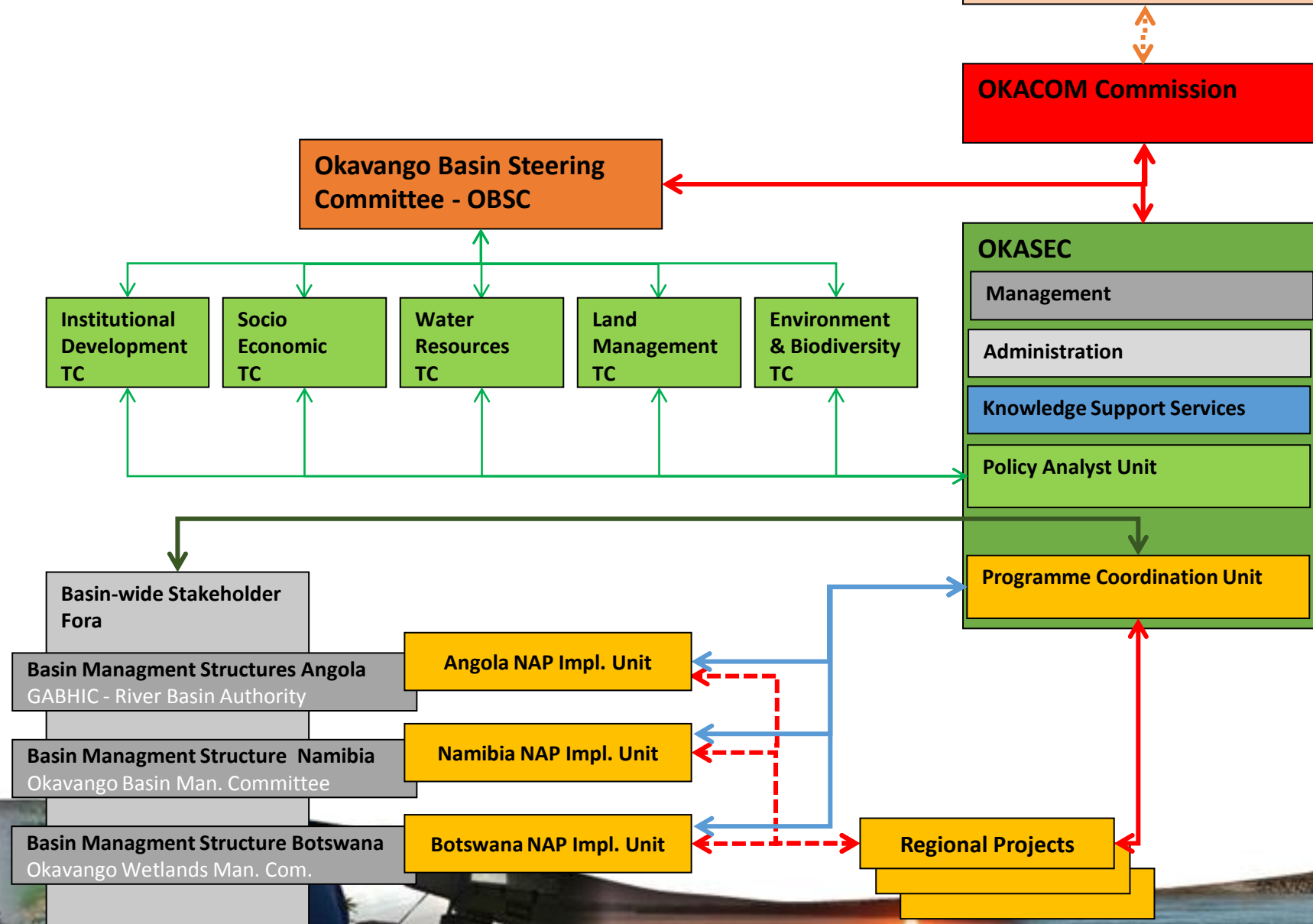


Growth Phase (2011 to date)

❑ Framing of the OKACOM interventions strategy

- ✓ Obtaining and reaffirming political Commitment
- ✓ Formulating the Vision (Economic prosperity, Social Equity, Environmental Health)
- ✓ Formulating the best return in investments
- ✓ Defining development objectives
- ✓ Assessing and communicating benefits of TWC
- ✓ Long-term OKACOM sustainability model- CORB Fund
- ✓ **Identification of Concrete Interventions**
- ✓ Strategic Action Programme - This was informed by the identified key issues and potential risks.
- ✓ Multi-Sector Investment Opportunity Analysis (MSIOA) – livelihoods improvement, Basin wide – tourism initiatives, Infrastructure development.
- ✓ Communication and information sharing
- ✓ Project preparation and implementation, implementation arrangements, financing





Key Aspects of the 1994 OKACOM Agreement

- Act as the **technical advisor** to the Contracting Parties on matters relating to the conservation, development and utilization of water resources of common interest in the Cubango-Okavango Basin
 - **How to manage a river basin system in an integrated and transboundary dimensions?**
- Promoting **coordinated and sustainable** water resources management of the basin, **while addressing the legitimate social and economic needs** of the riparian states
 - **How to optimally face, the challenges of balancing different development priorities of three nations at different political and socio-economic development stages?**



OKACOM Operational Objectives *(as per terms of the 1994 Agreement)*

- ✓ **Determine** the long-term safe yield of water available from the river
- ✓ **Estimate** reasonable demand from consumers
- ✓ **Prepare** criteria for conservation, equitable allocation and sustainable utilisation of water
- ✓ **Conduct** investigations related to development of water resources through infrastructure investment
- ✓ **Recommend** pollution control measures
- ✓ **Develop** measures for the alleviation of short-term difficulties, such as floods and droughts



1994 Agreement -Implementation Approach

- ❑ Strategic Action Program-framework for the OKACOM program of work
- ❑ OKACOM Plan (3yr, 5yr)
- ❑ Annual Plans and associated budgets
- ❑ Implemented by the Secretariat with Project Implementation Units
- ❑ Financial Support
 - Member States Contributions(Financial & In-kind)
 - International Cooperating Partners



OKACOM Strategic Action Programme (SAP)

“Promoting and strengthening integrated, sustainable management, use and development of the Cubango-Okavango basin at national and transboundary levels by all Member States”

- ✓Negotiated policy document
- ✓Endorsed at the highest level of Government in the OKACOM Member States
- ✓Establishes clear priorities and commitments for action to resolve the priority problems identified in the TDA
- ✓Provides guidance to development partners for support to OKACOM



SAP Objective 1: Shared basin-wide vision and agreed decision making framework

‘Economically prosperous, socially just and environmentally healthy development of the Cubango-Okavango River Basin.’

- ✓ ***Tagline***
- ✓ ***Mission Statement***



SAP Objective 2: Decisions are based on solid scientific analysis of available data and information.

- ✓ Scoping study on OKACOM Information and Knowledge Management System, discussions on a Phase 2 underway
- ✓ Review of the OKACOM Data Sharing Protocol
- ✓ Development of the DSS, collation of national and other data.
 - Establishment of water quality monitoring programme
 - Sediment monitoring
 - Assessment for conjunctive use of surface and groundwater in the CORB



SAP Objectives 3: Focused environmental and socio-economic monitoring programmes used in adaptive management strategies.

- ✓ Hydromet, near real-time, and ecological monitoring, spatial data. Updated Protocol
- ✓ Water Quality, groundwater, sediment, socio-economic data.
- ✓ Joint Monitoring Programmes (3 to date)
- ✓ Support to Hydromet monitoring



SAP Objective 4: Integrated planning criteria and objectives for sustainable development. Using the DSS to...

- ✓ Support to the construction of the concept of Development Space
- ✓ Support to the finalisation of the Water Allocation Strategy.
- ✓ Guidelines on Notification and Prior Consultation on Article 4 of SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses
- ✓ Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Implementation Plan
- ✓ Monitoring & Evaluation Tool for SAP implementation



SAP Obj 5: *Livelihoods of the basin people are improved.*

- ✓ Livelihoods demonstration projects ; Tourism, Fisheries, Agriculture.
- ✓ Land rehabilitation Guidelines and Demonstrations
 - Vulnerability assessments,
 - Support to Livelihoods projects.
 - Climate Resilient Development Pathways
- ✓ Support further work on the establishment of the CORB Endowment Fund
- ✓ Support for preparation of the GCF application targeting the livelihoods investment programme in the basin



SAP Objective 6 Technical capacity in the basin and involvement of stakeholders is improved.

- ✓ Training for DSS, Ecological Monitoring, and Citizen Science Monitoring.
- ✓ Remobilisation of OKACOM Technical Committee's

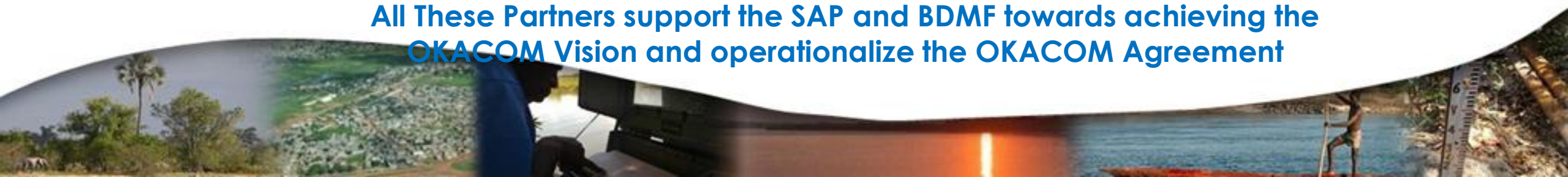


Partners



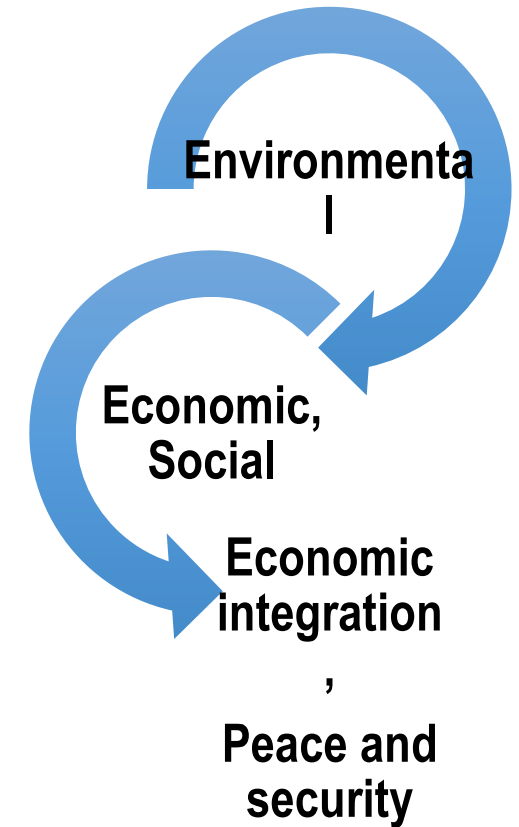
- National Partners,
- Civil Society
- Academia
- Communities

All These Partners support the SAP and BDMF towards achieving the
OKACOM Vision and operationalize the OKACOM Agreement



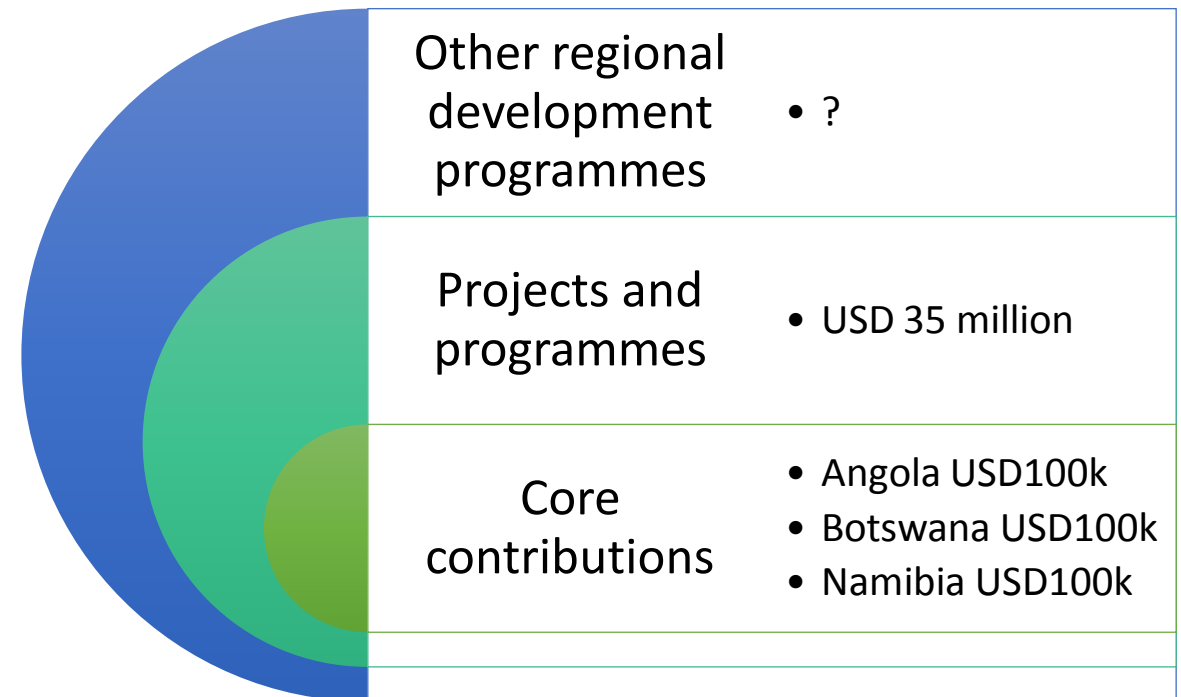
Cooperation is generating benefits in a cascade

- ✓ The basin's characteristics have led to early cooperation focused on environmental benefits
- ✓ Securing them requires realizing economic and social benefits
- ✓ The trust built working together has generated peace and security benefits, and paves way for regional economic integration benefits



The existence of OKACOM as a platform for cooperation is key to realize benefits

- OKACOM has helped to raise the profile of the basin and the development challenges that it faces
- It has attracted resources that otherwise would not have been available
- Through knowledge generation and trust building, it has accelerated success and facilitated a process of maturity (TDA, MSIOA) that can unlock increasingly valuable benefits
- Improved relations between countries, more platform for dialogue



Conclusions

Promoting Transboundary cooperation is a **process** ...OKACOM role and commitment in this process continues, grows and improves with time..



Thank You
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