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

• 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
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.
  - 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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other regional development programmes</th>
<th>?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Projects and programmes</td>
<td>USD 35 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core contributions</td>
<td>Angola USD100k, Botswana USD100k, Namibia USD100k</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Promoting Transboundary cooperation is a process ... OKACOM role and commitment in this process continues, grows and improves with time.
Thank You

www.okacom.org