

Transboundary Water Management in Southern Africa

Time frame 2025 – 2032

Envelope € 20 mil



Transboundary Water Management in Southern Africa

Tebogo MATLHARE

ArcX Programme Regional Workshop

Southern Africa

7-9 July 2026



CONTEXT

- Priority Area 3 of the Regional Multi-annual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2027:
- Specific Objective 5, improve the sustainable use and management of oceans, coastal zones, river basins and lakes.
- Aligned with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the European Consensus on Development.
- Contribute to SDG 6 (Water and Sanitation), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 15 (Life on Land), and also to SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean energy), SDG 11 (Sustainable cities) and SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions)



Background

- Water resources in Southern Africa are increasingly becoming scarce –
- The remaining flows are getting more polluted.
- Rapid population growth, agriculture development and industrialisation has led to a surge in water demand,
- Climate change and environmental degradation have made water supplies less predictable.
- Challenges with availability and quality of previously reliable water sources





Problem Analysis and Responses

- Financial resources and instruments to implement corrective and protective measures to achieve climate resilient basins.
- Commitment and resources to preserve unique and vital ecosystems
- Knowhow and consistent application of best management practices for water security and ecosystem services.
- Data management to consistently secure evidence-based solutions to resource management challenges.
- Supporting an existing transboundary Conservation Trust Fund, the CORB Fund, to complete its governance and capital mobilisation steps.
- Measures to enable the three RSs, OKACOM and UNESCO to work together to expand the Okavango Delta World Heritage Site – and to put in place mechanisms to ensure its sustainable management.
- To strengthen evidence-based water resources management by RSs and RBOs across the SADC region through a standardised and integrated DSS
- Based on the DSS platform and network, Integrated Water Resources Management/ Integrated Catchment Management (IWRM/ ICM) practices applied and enforced in a consistent manner.

Intervention Logic

Impact	To conserve inland water ecosystems and preserve water stocks across river basins in Southern Africa			
Specific Objectives	SO 1: Strengthen finance and resource management pathways for the preservation of ecological, bio-diversity and water resources as a sustainable basis to reap benefits for the communities, livelihoods and peoples of the Cubango-Okavango River Basin		SO 2: Improve mechanisms and coordination for evidence-based management of water resources to affect water security in the river basins of the SADC region.	
Expected Results	R1.1: The CORB FUND, a transboundary conservation trust is operationalised	R1.2: Cross-boarder strategies, covenants and procedures are developed to expand the Okavango Delta WHS to achieve full ecosystem coverage	R2.1: Data management practices and cooperation are improved and a common DSS is championed to provide RBOs and water managers with actionable information to achieve water security	R2.2: The capacities of decision-makers and water managers are strengthened in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)/ Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) principles and practices to ensure and enforce water security

Main activities to SO 1

Key Outputs	Main Activities
1.1 The CORB Fund, a transboundary conservation trust fund, is strengthened to deliver on its core competency of increasing the resilience of the basin by implementing interventions that are balanced to sustain its ecosystems, people, communities and economy.	1.1.1 A Human Resources Capacity Building program is prepared 1.1.2 A Fundraising and Feasibility Strategy 1.1.3 An Environmental Social Governance (ESG) Manual for Resilient Development Interventions
1.2 Cross-border strategies, agreements and procedures appropriate to the riparian states, UNESCO and OKACOM are developed to expand the Okavango Delta World Heritage Site (WHS) to achieve full ecosystem coverage.	1.2.1 Viable Transboundary Covenants are developed to share responsibilities, resources required and benefits of eco-system management for the expanded WHS 1.2.2 Coordination is undertaken and workshops (technical and high-level) are conducted to reach consensus on the expanded WHS 1.2.3 Initial interventions are implemented to provide on-the-ground-support for the expansion of the WHS 1.2.4 A communications and outreach program is designed and executed

Main activities to SO 2

Outputs	Activities
2.1 Data management practices improved and a common DSS is championed to provide RBOs with reliable information on water resources	2.1.1 An IWRM-ICM Data Management Review, Capacities and Strategy Study 2.1.2 Hydro-meteorological stations are installed at strategic, hydrological locations and are suitable for data transmission to the SADC-wide DSS platform 2.1.3 The scaled-up OKACOM DSS is made accessible online 2.1.4 An IWRM-ICM Research Program is developed and implemented
2.2 The capacities of decision-makers and water managers are strengthened in IWRM/ICM principles and practices to ensure and enforce water security across transboundary river basins of the SADC region.	2.2.1 SADC-wide DSS Community of Practice 2.2.2 SADC-wide DSS Community of Leadership 2.2.3 IWRM-ICM Data Management Review, Capacities and Strategy Study



Cooperations and Collaborations

Implementation Partners

- GIZ – **SO 2**
- AFD – **SO 1.1**
- UNESCO **SO 1.2**

Collaborations (non-conclusive)

- Implementing Partners
- SADC Sec
- JRC
- OKACOM and CORB FUND
- Southern African RBOs
- GEF/WB/UNDP
- GWPSA
- TNC
- ORI

Contracting Phase:

- 1) sFA with SADC Secretariat Dec/25
- 2) CA with GIZ – EDA 2030; € 9 450 000
- 3) CA with AFD – EDA 2030; € 8 000 000
- 4) CA with UNESCO –EDA 2030; € 2 300 000



Thank You!

EU Delegation to Botswana and SADC

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