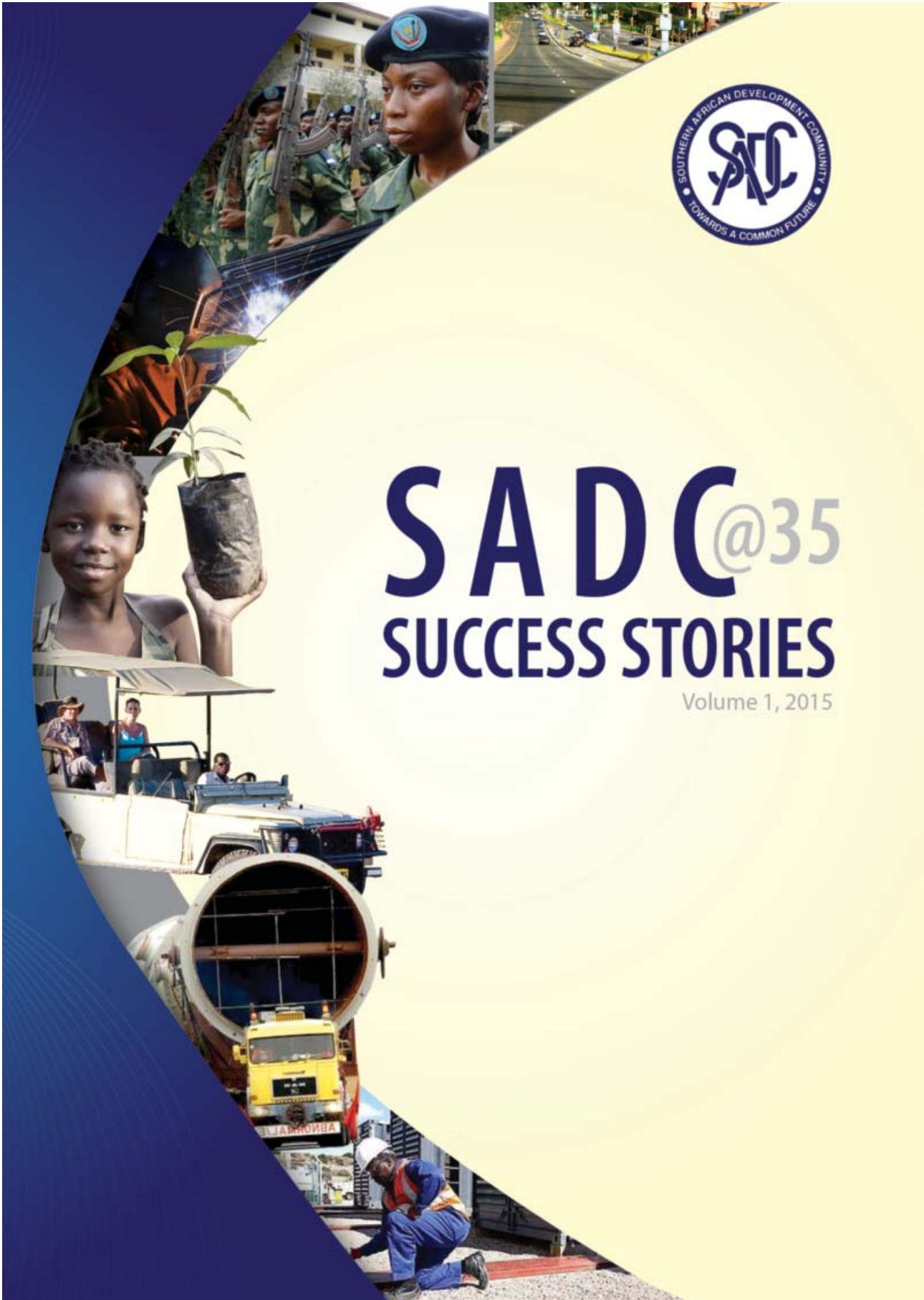




SADC@35 SUCCESS STORIES

Volume 1, 2015



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FOREWORD

THE SADC Success Stories initiative is intended to increase the public visibility of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and to showcase some of the achievements and benefits of regional integration in the belief that SADC is not sufficiently well understood in terms of its mandate, programmes, activities and impact.

Regional success stories and positive results are documented in this publication in a well-informed and accessible manner to demonstrate the benefits of regional integration to SADC citizens, contribute to the spirit of a common future, and generate interest in SADC and its potential.

This year marks 35 years of SADC progress, including its growth from nine to 15 Member States in mainland Southern Africa and the islands. At its formation as the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) in Lusaka, Zambia, in April 1980, the leaders of the region sought to demonstrate their vision of unity through the tangible benefits of working together. SADC has come a long way since its transformation into a regional development community in 1992.

From this solid foundation, the region has transformed into a cohesive Community, which is determined to deliver a better standard of living for the people of the region. The reform of the SADC structure and its institutional framework since 1992 has shown the strong commitment by Member States to consolidate regional economic and political integration, while accelerating the process towards an integrated region as part of a continental African Economic Community.

In pursuit of the regional integration agenda, SADC Member States have since 1992 signed 27 protocols and a number of declarations, charters and memoranda of understanding on various matters, ranging from trade, mining and finance and investment to illicit drugs, forestry and shared watercourses, as well as the empowerment of women and young people.

Out of the 27 protocols, 24 have come into force so far after being ratified by two-thirds of the signatory Member States.

Although there is still a long way to go, we believe that these and other initiatives have improved the lives of SADC citizens.

For example, the One-Stop-Border Post initiative has proved a viable development in eliminating trade barriers through reduction of clearance time and cost, with benefits extending to consumers further afield. Similarly, development corridors have helped boost industrial growth, especially in landlocked countries, by providing cheaper alternative transport routes to seaports.

Equally, the establishment of river basin commissions has made it easier for joint management and utilization of transboundary water resources.

The purpose of this publication is to highlight these SADC achievements, with a focus on how regional integration has benefitted citizens, thus promoting greater awareness and participation by the people of the region and their institutions in the process of regional integration.

I would like to warmly thank the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre and their partners for working hard to produce this publication, and the Federal Republic of Germany for supporting this important initiative through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.



Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax
SADC Executive Secretary



July 2015

SADC Vision

The vision of SADC is one of a Common Future, a future within a regional community that will ensure economic wellbeing, improvement of the standards of living and quality of life, freedom and social justice, and peace and security for the people of Southern Africa.

INTRODUCTION

THIS YEAR marks 35 years of SADC's existence and a lot of achievements and successes have been recorded along the way in the region's endeavour to improve the quality of life of its population of more than a quarter of a billion people. Yet the regional community and the results of its integration efforts are not well known in the region.

The citizens of the region are broadly unaware of the opportunities for socio-economic improvement through regional integration. The lack of information about some of the most basic SADC initiatives hampers the development of regional programmes and diminishes the sense of belonging to a regional community by SADC citizens.

To begin to address this gap, some notable practical achievements have been documented. The achievements are tracked from the development of regional policy through the implementation at national level to the impact on people in their communities, in sectors such as electricity, trade, transport, finance, tourism, biodiversity, disaster management, water resources, and peacekeeping training for civilians and military.

To give the stories a human face, field visits were undertaken to Member States to document testimonies from the local communities. In order to offer a holistic perspective, the success stories are presented in a multi-layered format, including:

- policy analysis, linking the stories with the relevant SADC protocols to demonstrate and explain aspects of regional integration;
- implementation, as demonstrated by the evidence gathered at the national or regional level highlighting the effects of the policies; and
- community impact, as demonstrated by testimonies from people whose lives have been positively affected by the measures taken.

Interviews were conducted, with pictures and videos to show that the "technical success" of the policy implementation has a "human face".

This publication covers a broad range of thematic areas, including regional economic integration, transboundary water resources management, security and political regional integration.

SADC Success Stories was produced through the collaborative efforts of the SADC Secretariat Public Relations Unit, the Regional Economic Development Institute (REDI) of the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) as a long-time SADC partner, and Frayintermedia. The writers, editors and designers worked exceptionally hard to ensure an informative, high-quality publication.

The Success Stories initiative is supported by ProGRESS (Strengthening the Reform Agenda and Management Structures of SADC Institutions), a partnership programme between SADC and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The German contribution to the programme is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

SARDC



Facilitating trade, reducing time and costs

IF ZIMBABWEAN truck driver Godfrey Magaba had a choice, he would use only the Chirundu border post between Zambia and Zimbabwe to ferry goods across the region.

"The service at Chirundu has greatly improved," he says.

This is in contrast with other border crossings across the region where customs and immigration procedures may take several hours or even days to be completed.

The massive reduction in time needed to clear customs at Chirundu is due to the successful launch of the One-Stop Border-Post initiative in November 2009.

This was in line with the SADC Protocol on Trade ratified in 2000. The Protocol advocates for the elimination of barriers to trade as well as the easing of customs and transit procedures.

Under this scheme, immigration and customs procedures are carried out just once in each direction, in contrast to the situation at most border posts in the region where paperwork must be completed on both sides.

Magaba says the simplified passage at Chirundu has saved his company huge sums since he no longer spends long periods waiting to cross.

In the past, it took commercial trucks between four and six days to cross the Chirundu border. The typical charge for a stationary truck at the truck stops at the border is about US\$300 a day, meaning Magaba's company had to spend up to US\$1,800 to cross the Chirundu border. These costs were passed on to the end-user, making goods more expensive for consumers in the region.

Since the introduction of the one-stop border initiative at Chirundu, the crossing time there has been reduced to less than 30 hours on average. Vehicles with pre-clearance can even cross on the same day.

Half of SADC's 12 continental Member States are landlocked, leaving major centres without direct access to a sea port.

"Historically, our border posts were created not for trade, but for military and security reasons and now we need to change that to promote trade and the movement of persons throughout the region," says Lovemore Bingandadi, Transport Corridors Advisor at the SADC Secretariat.

According to the Zambian Ministry of Commerce, traffic at Chirundu has more than doubled since the One Stop Border Post (OSBP) was launched in 2009.

“If the border crossing adopts 24-hour operations, then we can easily achieve same-day crossing for the majority of commercial freight trucks,” Bingandadi explained.

Sixteen of the 35 most important border posts in the region have been identified as candidates for conversion to the one-stop system by 2020. (Table on this page shows the prioritized projects.) For now, Chirundu is the only operational OSBP of its kind in the region.

However, Bingandadi expects more to follow quickly, once the most difficult groundwork of putting in place policy and legal frameworks are completed.

South Africa is in the process of adopting a national policy and strategy which will allow the Beitbridge and Lebombo border posts, among others, to work towards operating as OSBPs.

At Beitbridge, feasibility studies have shown that paperwork, currently requiring 24 steps on each side of the border, could be reduced to just eight once the OSBP is operational.

Name of Border Post	Countries Involved
Beitbridge	South Africa/Zimbabwe
Chiponde/Mandimba	Malawi/Mozambique
Kasumbalesa	Zambia/DRC
Kazungula Bridge	Botswana/Zambia
Mwami/Mchinji	Malawi/Zambia
Nakonde/Tunduma	Zambia/Tanzania
Ressano Garcia/Lebombo	Mozambique/South Africa
TransKalahari/Mamuno	Botswana/Namibia
Zobue/Mwanza	Mozambique/Malawi

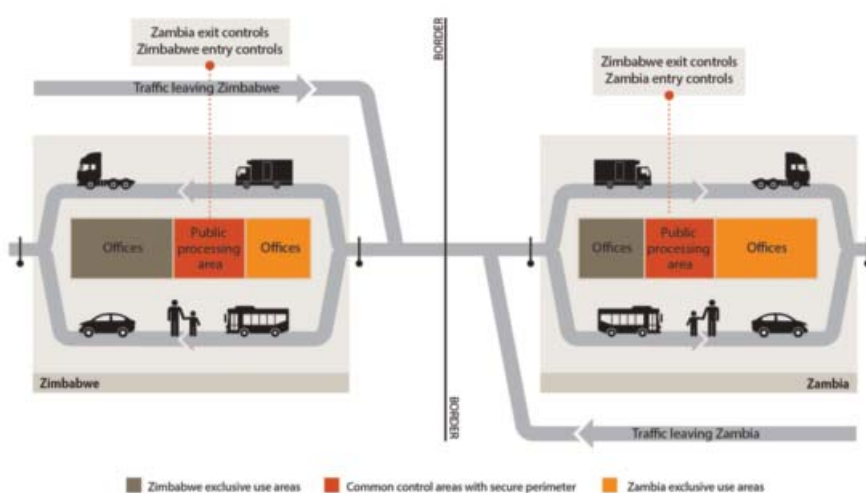
The opportunity cost for commercial companies is about US\$250-500 per day when the truck is stationary. More efficient border crossings means more efficient business as both vehicles and crews can be more productively utilised.

The reduced time spent at the border by drivers and goods also reduces the chances of social ills such as corruption, pilferage and increased exposure to risky sexual behaviour.

Equally, accidents from hazardous cargoes being parked for long hours at border posts are reduced.

And getting business back on the roads quickly helps to drive greater business growth in the region. ▸

Impact of Chirundu OSBP



Source: Adapted from www.translogafrica.com/page/border_posts_osbp.



Maputo Development Corridor paves the way for growth

THE HIGHWAY linking South Africa and Mozambique has made a world of difference to Mozambican Aly Ibrahim Lalgý's family business.

"South Africa represents 50 percent of our business," says the general manager of Lalgý Transport, a transport company with over 350 trucks serving the regional market.

"If we didn't have the Maputo Development Corridor, our income would be about 20 percent of what it is now," says Lalgý.

It is a world away from when his father and uncles started their truck business 30 years ago. Then roads were poor and narrow.

Now the company's trucks are among the steady stream of vehicles that make their way along the busy stretch of road daily.

In 1996, the Mozambican and South African governments signed an agreement establishing the Maputo Development Corridor, which is a network of roads, railway transport and logistics facilities connecting the port of Maputo to South Africa and Swaziland.

The corridor provides more than just a trade route – it drives business growth.

It aligns with SADC's Spatial Development Initiatives, a strategy to connect industries in landlocked countries to seaports and develop the inherent natural endowments of the corridor.

The Maputo Development Corridor is one of 18 transport corridors in the region, explains Lovemore Bingandadi, Transport Corridors Advisor at the SADC Secretariat.

It is the most successful development corridor in SADC, having attracted more than US\$5 billion in investment since its inception.

This includes US\$500 million invested in the port of Maputo since 2003; the development of a toll road from Gauteng to Maputo at a cost of about US\$400 million and a further US\$200 million invested in the railway line between Ressano Garcia and Maputo.

Development corridors such as this support economic integration, anchor spatial development, help open up markets and promote increased trade and investment.

The Maputo Development Corridor stands out because it was driven by private sector frustration at the lack of infrastructure.

“A lot of things came together. There were clear mutual benefits to the two countries, to the private sector and to the governments,” says Bingandadi.

“The increases in passenger and traffic flows across the borders are testament of the importance of this strategic corridor in regional integration and promoting sustainable economic development in the region,” adds Barbara Mommen, chief executive officer of the Maputo Corridor Logistics Initiative (MCLI).

MCLI is the only private sector corridor management of its kind in Africa.

Mommen notes that this private and public sector interface is a key factor in successfully addressing constraints on the Maputo Corridor.

“Without the private sector, the Maputo Corridor Concept wouldn’t be so successful,” acknowledges Nuno Maposse, Information and Marketing Services Coordinator for the Investment Promotion Centre of Mozambique.

“Most of the funds and resources have been sourced from the private sector based on the confidence they had. It’s a very competitive business, it makes sense.”

He says the corridor has had a major impact on Mozambique’s economy.

“We moved from about US\$300 million of exports 10 to 15 years ago to more than US\$2 billion now,” says Maposse.

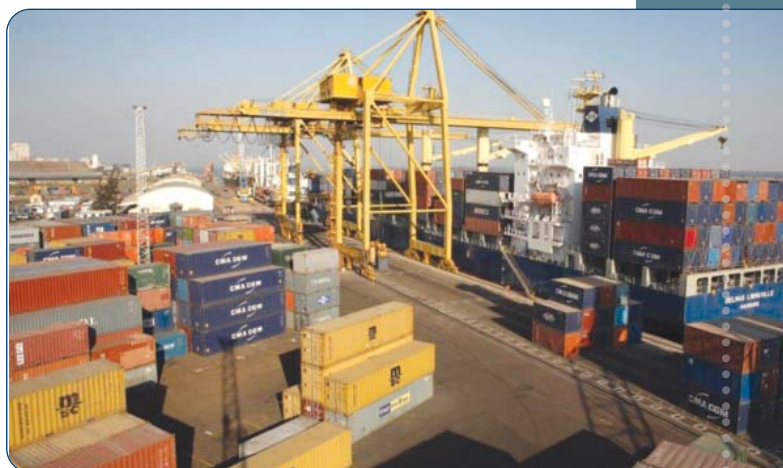
He said the success of the corridor has impacted on activity at the Ressano Garcia/Lebombo border post between Mozambique and South Africa, which has expanded its capacity.

“Now there is around 17 million tonnes cargo coming in. The road has also been upgraded on the Mozambican side and traffic has increased dramatically.”

South African industry has also taken advantage: US\$2.25 billion worth of South African goods were exported through Mozambique in 2013, the bulk of which travelled through the Maputo Development Corridor.

Future challenges, notes Mommen, include establishing a one-stop border post at Ressano Garcia/Lebombo, improving railway efficiency and promoting increased operational efficiency and growth.

All of this will contribute to an even smoother ride for business along the corridor, which now provides an alternative access to sea routes for landlocked countries such as Zambia or Zimbabwe. ▀





Fast, safe and efficient banking

MAURITIAN ENTREPRENEUR Nissar Dowlut always knew he wanted to do business with the rest of Africa as he was convinced it “was the future.” But he worried about the challenges of making and receiving international payments.

Dowlut’s company had a workforce of just three in 2001; today it employs over 100 people at three well-equipped facilities in the capital, Port Louis, which produce posters for local and export markets in Africa.

SADC’s Integrated Regional Electronic Settlement System (SIRESS) can take some credit for this expansion.

SIRESS is a SADC electronic payment system developed by Member States to settle regional transactions among banks within the countries.

Where transactions previously took two to three days to clear, now they are

cleared within 24 hours and fees paid to non-SADC clearing banks are saved.

“The main aim is efficiency and reduction in costs because previously the transactions would go through a correspondent bank. So you are cutting out the middleman,” says Thembi Langa, Senior Programme Officer in the Finance and Investment Unit at the SADC Secretariat.

Former SADC advisor Dr Lufeyo Banda believes that cutting out the intermediary – often a United States or European correspondent bank – means money stays in the region.

“Banks in the region become very liquid and the amount of time it takes to access the funds by the beneficiary is reduced,” says Dr Banda, adding that the shorter turnaround times will have a positive impact on the region’s economy due to increase in efficiency.

SIRESS will therefore facilitate cross border transactions that are essential for boosting intra-regional trade among the SADC Member States.

“We started with a low volume of transactions in July 2013. Since then, SIRESS has processed nearly 14,000 payment transactions,” says Anirood Meeheelau, SADC Finance and Development Programme Officer.

“We started testing the system in four countries, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland. We’re testing the system in South African Rand,” says Maxine Hlaba, the Executive Secretary at the SADC Banking Association.

“We’re now live in nine countries, with Malawi, Mauritius, Tanzania and Zimbabwe joining” since the system was launched, says Hlaba.

The team is also exploring the addition of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar to the countries covered by the system.

“We started with about R10.2 billion in payments in July 2013 and by December 2014 we reached R87.6 billion,” she adds.

“On the morning of 29 April 2015 SIRESS achieved a huge milestone by reaching R1 trillion in settlement value.”

National banks have a system that allows business clients to make inter-bank payments in real time; SIRESS provides a platform to make these payments across national borders.

Sixty-three banks, including five central banks, are already on board. Eventually the system will allow even small person-to-person payments within shorter timeframes.

SIRESS is housed at the South African Reserve Bank.

“This will be a huge benefit to customers on the ground. If we are trying to encourage trade among countries then this is a plus. Obviously there are other components ... Are your roads

good, are your railways good, are your ports good? But taking that out, there will always be an exchange of money.

“We’ve created a platform for that to happen. It’s an efficient platform. It’s a safe platform. You get your money instantly,” says Hlaba.

And for entrepreneurs like Nissar Dowlut, it means more time and money to focus on the business of business. ▀





Power co-operation benefits citizens

BONGANI NGCOBO grew up in Meadowlands, Soweto, in South Africa and was already a teenager when the suburb received electricity for the first time.

"I think we were the last people to have lights (electricity) in Soweto. We used to light candles. There are also these lights that use paraffin," he says.

The availability of electricity has made all the difference in his life.

Today, the 49-year-old runs a successful business, Amafuze Amahle Caterers, which supplies events, including funerals and weddings, throughout the Dobsonville area, Soweto, with cooked items. From the biggest companies to the smallest informal business, the electricity supply is vital. Since 1995, the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) has given planners and managers additional options to meet growing demand.

The SADC Director for Infrastructure and Services, Remigious Makumbe, says one of the benefits of regional cooperation has been the establishment of a

power trading platform operated by the SAPP based in Harare, Zimbabwe.

"The fundamental benefit is that where you do have surplus you (must) channel it to others that have shortfalls. It also optimizes the cost of implementation of projects," Makumbe says.

He adds: "Without this arrangement (power trading), a lot of countries will be experiencing serious shortfalls."

SADC has experienced power shortages since 2007 as the generation surplus capacity has diminished while demand has grown.

This situation has prompted many Member States to resort to various coping mechanisms that include load shedding as well as other demand-side management measures while longer term solutions are being sought to remedy the situation through improved supply.

One element is improved cooperation. Makumbe said this was best demonstrated during the 2010 FIFA World Cup when SADC Member States agreed to dedicate most of their surplus electricity

supplies to South Africa to ensure that there was adequate power during the tournament.

All power utilities in mainland SADC, except Angola, Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania, are interconnected to the regional grid through SAPP, allowing them to sell electricity to one another.

According to SAPP Coordination Centre Manager Dr Lawrence Musaba, the main trading options are bilateral contracts between member utilities which are mainly meant to meet long term security of supplies and are negotiated on a bilateral basis.

In addition to bilateral trading, SAPP has established more competitive trading platforms starting with the Short Term Energy Market (STEM) in 2001 and the Day Ahead Market (DAM) in 2009.

Bilateral contracts still account for more than 90 percent of all energy traded in the region. They usually range from one to five years and the pricing of electricity depends on the consumption period – peak, standard and off-peak periods – as well the negotiating capacity of the countries involved.

The STEM involves daily and hourly contracts between power utilities that mainly focus on off-peak periods. This market caters for about five percent of the trading.

The DAM is an auction-type market. It allows utilities to weight their options and ensure that when it is cheap to get power from the market, utilities will buy it rather than generate power.

This helps SAPP members to bid on and sell electricity a day before transactions are made.

In 2014, SAPP, with the help of Enerweb of South Africa, developed a new trading platform with the aim of reducing trading operating costs and also to add other trading products.

The new trading platform will offer month, week and hour ahead trading options in addition to the current day ahead option.

Dr Musaba said power trading has increased significantly over the years. It soared to more than 450,000 megawatt hours (MWhr) in February 2015 compared to just 50,000 MWhr in 2009.

More than US\$3 million is exchanged on the DAM each month, and about six percent of all energy which is traded in Southern Africa is accessed through the competitive market.

Eskom Senior General Manager Andrew Etzinger acknowledged the importance of the regional power cooperation for South Africa.

According to figures from Eskom, the utility purchased 9,425 Gigawatt hours from across its borders in 2014. Most of the electricity came from Mozambique while some was imported from Lesotho and Namibia.

For instance, the Cahora Bassa Hydropower Station in Mozambique provides up to 1,500MW of electricity to South Africa each day through a bilateral arrangement between the two countries. That is enough to power almost one million South African homes.

For businesspeople like Ngcobo, the existence of SADC's power pool can only be good for cooking up new business. ▀





Fostering peace and security in the region

WHILE HER friends pondered leaving the country because of possible unrest during the snap elections held to resolve political tensions, Mphonyane Mofokeng was adamant the February 2015 poll in Lesotho would be peaceful.

Mofokeng, the director of Thaba Bosiu Prevention and Treatment Centre of the Blue Cross in Maseru, Lesotho, was proved right.

"I wasn't nervous at all. I was telling other people that nothing was going to happen, not on voting day or on the day of the announcement of results. People were fearing tension between the army and police, but I had prayed for a peaceful election," she says.

Mofokeng said this poll was among the most peaceful she had experienced because regional governments contributed by sending observer missions at the request of Lesotho.

"They were neutral so they could keep the peace between the police and army," she says.

SADC sent 539 peacekeepers and 90 electoral observers, according to Dr João Ndlovu, Regional Political Cooperation Coordinator at the SADC Secretariat. The peacekeepers and observers were sent at the request of Lesotho.

Police were deployed by Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. The deployment was done in line with the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, which was ratified in record time after being signed at the 2001 SADC Summit.

The Protocol provides the mandate for the Organ for Politics, Defence and Security at the SADC Secretariat to support the achievement and maintenance of security and the rule of law in the region.

The emphasis of the Protocol and the Organ is on prevention as SADC does not adhere to the notion that military or paramilitary interventions are the solution to addressing political crises in the region.

However this does not mean that the region is not prepared to intervene when needed.

The SADC Brigade, launched in August 2008, supports regional peace operations under the African Union's plan for a continent-wide peacekeeping force.

This is where the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (RPTC) comes in. Based in Harare, Zimbabwe, it has trained over 5,000 individuals – military, correctional services, police and civilians – drawn from all Member States.

“It’s not such a long time ago that people from the military of different countries looked at each other as enemies,” said the former RPTC Commandant, Brigadier General Christopher Chellah.

The relative stability in the SADC region is testament partly to the initiatives to improve relationships between countries and to share in the load of peacekeeping missions.

Those trained at the RPTC have found their skills in demand with an increased role as part of United Nations missions and requests from the African Union which has seen trainees flying the SADC flag throughout Africa and beyond.

“Our police officers have been participating in different courses ... the expertise which has been gained has been of great assistance to our police officers,” says Gustav Babile, Senior Assistant Commissioner of the Tanzanian Police Force.

Babile is one of more than 200 Tanzanians who participated in such training. They have taken part in exercises held across the region, he said, and participated in peacekeeping missions in “the Far East, Liberia, Darfur in Sudan, the Comoros and many other places.”

In addition to providing peacekeepers and election observers, SADC is engaged in other activities to foster peace and security in the region. These include mediation efforts to address some of the political instabilities in Member States.

For example, the involvement of SADC in Madagascar and Zimbabwe allowed the two countries to resolve their political impasses, preventing the situations from escalating into conflict.

“One success is not so visible: SADC is relatively peaceful, but it is not because there are no challenges or potential clashes between members,” says Dr Ndlovu.

There have been no new protracted conflicts in the region for nearly two decades. Dr Ndlovu credits co-operation and mediation efforts in preventing challenges from escalating into conflict.

Preparation is key. “If you see how successful we were in Lesotho, where people were able to vote peacefully, you can link that to the quality of leadership and officers we have in the SADC region,” says Dr Ndlovu. ▀

THE REGIONAL Peacekeeping Training Centre (RPTC) has contributed strongly to meeting SADC’s 50:50 Gender Parity goals which seek to increase women’s representation in leadership in the region.

“The Organ made an important contribution in ensuring gender balance in the defence and security structures across the region,” notes Dr João Ndlovu, Regional Political Cooperation Coordinator at the SADC Secretariat, referring to the SADC body for supporting security and rule of law in the region.

“It was because of the SADC gender peer review that some Member States appointed women police commissioners and force commanders. Today it’s no longer a myth to see a woman in a commanding position.”

One of those trained at the RPTC is Rienada Milanzi, Tanzania’s Superintendent of Police Staff Officer: International Relations.

“The role of women is vital because when you look at conflicts all over the world, the most affected persons are children and women,” says Milanzi, who was deployed with SADC to Darfur, Sudan, for three years as part of the United Nations peacekeeping force.

“In Darfur most of the peacekeepers in the internal displacement centres are men. But the citizens there, are mostly women and children. That means it’s very important to have women police officers or care officers and civilians to assist them. It’s a relief for the women because you know their conditions more than men.”



Towards smooth movement of tourists in SADC

THE TREND is encouraging. The number of tourists visiting the SADC region increased from 12.6 million in 2000 to about 23.2 million in 2013, according to the Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa (RE-TOSA).

Travel to the region is promoted by the SADC Protocol on the Development of Tourism. Ratified in 2002, it seeks to improve the quality of tourism services, safety standards and physical infrastructure to attract tourists and investment into the region.

The Protocol states that traveling in the region can be made easier by abolishing visa requirements for visitors. It calls on SADC Member States to create a "tourism Univisa which will facilitate movement of international tourists in the region in order to increase the market and revenue of the region in world tourism."

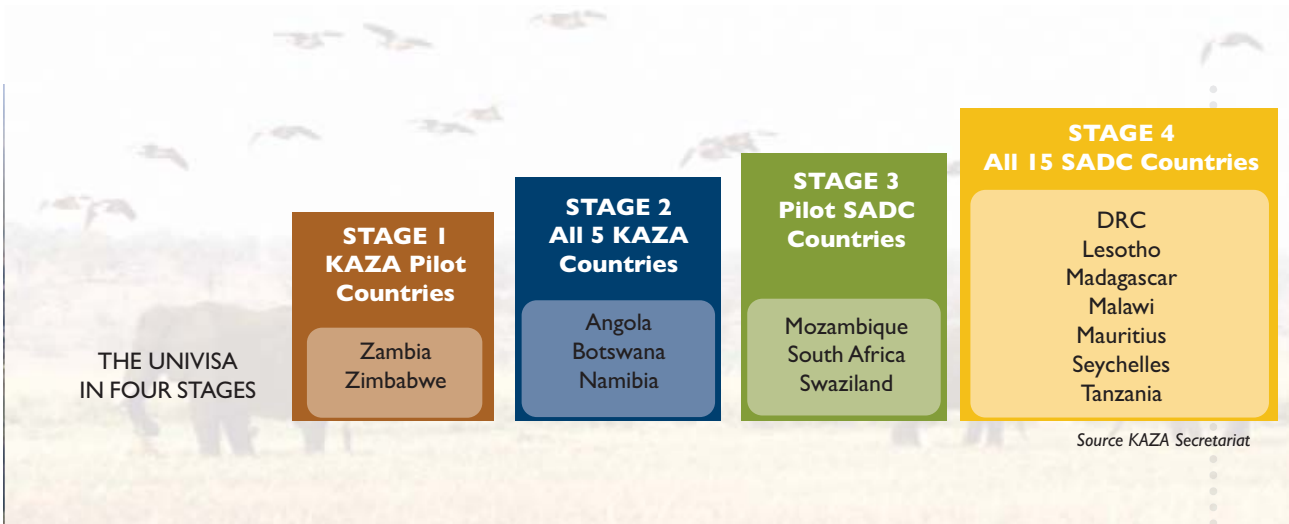
The launch of the Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) Visa between Zambia and

Zimbabwe in November 2014 is the first step towards adopting a Univisa in the SADC region. During the initial phase, the KAZA Visa allows tourists from 40 countries to combine travel to the two SADC neighbours without applying for travel documents separately.

Valid for 60 days, the US\$50 visa gives tourists access to both countries and allows entry to Botswana through the Kazungula border post which serves all three countries.

"About 7,000 KAZA visas were issued during the first three months of the pilot phase," says KAZA Secretariat Programme Manager Mbiganyi Frederick Dipotso, noting that the project exceeded expectations. Despite being introduced in the low season, not enough visas could be issued to completely satisfy demand, for technical reasons.

After the current pilot phase is assessed in mid-2015, the next step will extend the visa to fully cover Botswana



as well as the other countries that share the KAZA Transfrontier Conservation Area, Angola and Namibia. While this is a small step, it is a critical move in the right direction.

The aim is to eventually extend this arrangement to all 15 SADC countries, thereby implementing a Univisa that allows tourists and others to move effortlessly across the region.

What is good for tourists is also good for the business of tourism.

“A Univisa encourages free movement of tourists but it also enhances the appetite for investment,” says Kwakye Donkor, Marketing and Communications Director for RETOSA.

“It means we encourage people to stay in the region longer as they have access to more than one country. Longer stays create more jobs and the local community then stands to benefit.”

The KAZA Secretariat’s assessment of the pilot will include reviewing challenges of equipment, access and infrastructure needed to support the rollout of a regional visa.

“The KAZA landscape has great potential for tourism growth as some of the areas are currently under-utilized,” notes Dipotso.

For travel agents like Owen Mungabo from Zambia, the impact of the Univisa is slowly being felt. There is a steady stream of tourists coming in and out of his Travel Shop in Lusaka who are looking for exciting holiday destinations in the country and beyond.

“We are happy to see more tourists as Zambia is becoming more accessible to tourists,” he says, adding that greater benefits will be felt during the tourism high season.

“We hope to get people coming to the sub-region in masses,” he says. ▀





Crossing frontiers for development



IT IS early afternoon at the Twee Rivieren gate to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park that straddles Botswana and South Africa. Receptionist Betty Jonkers is welcoming visitors.

Jonkers is one of many Northern Cape residents to whom the increasingly popular park offers employment.

"Jobs are scarce around here," says Jonkers, adding that working at the park also allows her to do what she enjoys most: "I love tourism."

The area surrounding the frontier is remote with few opportunities for economic development and employment.

"Members from local communities are employed in various aspects of conservation, tourism, technical services and finance," says South African National Parks Tourism Manager, Ben Van Eeden.

"I think all the local communities in this area depend on the job opportunities provided by the park. And I think that the economic benefit from the Kgalagadi is critical in terms of the livelihood of communities in this area."

The Kgalagadi Park covers about 3.2 million hectares in Botswana and South Africa with the majority of land in Botswana. The park also has an exit to Namibia through the Mata · Mata gate.

As with the other Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) in the SADC region, the

park offers much more than just employment and economic opportunities.

The TFCAs represent a regional approach to biodiversity conservation and tourism development.

TFCAs were founded on the "realisation that natural resources that straddle international boundaries are shared assets with the potential to meaningfully contribute to conservation of biodiversity and the socio-economic development of rural communities," notes SADC's Programme for Transfrontier Conservation Areas.

This is essential as biodiversity in the region is under pressure due to climate change, desertification, expansion of human populations and settlements and wildlife poaching, among others.

"In terms of conservation, you get an open system to wildlife management, you get a research base that you can share. In terms of expertise, we can share information between the two countries," says Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park manager Steven Smith.

“It makes it a bigger area to manage in terms of the movement of game and movement of visitors to have a great experience in different types of environments in the park.”

A number of Protocols and strategies provide an enabling environment for the establishment and development of TFCAs in the SADC region. These include the SADC Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement (1999), the SADC Protocol on Forestry (2002), the SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses (2002) and the SADC Regional Biodiversity Strategy (2006).

There are currently 18 TFCAs within the region. These are defined in the SADC Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement as large ecological regions that straddle the boundaries of two or more countries.

As such, these areas provide testing grounds for regional integration as they are transboundary and multi-sectoral by nature, with a focus on conservation and development for local people in and around them. This drives regional integration on a practical level by promoting the harmonisation of policies and developing new ways of dealing with critical issues such as transboundary law enforcement to combat poaching.

Income from entry to the parks is shared by South Africa and Botswana. The improvements in access to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park have increased the potential for tourism and local economic development. After processing their passports at the Twee Rivieren rest camp, tourists can enjoy the park and then exit via any of three countries – Botswana, South Africa or Namibia.

“The road that you can use runs from Twee Rivieren all the way up to Mata Mata on the Namibian border. There is a tourist access facility there where they process visitors traveling in either direction,” explains Van Eeden.

Tourists have to spend at least two nights in the park before exiting through another country to prevent Kgalagadi being used as an alternative route by transport companies.

“We have seen a significant increase in tourists visiting the park ... increasing from about 20,000 to 30,000 visitors a year,” says Smith.

Tourism and resort operators in all three countries have noted the increased numbers with approval.

Obenne Mbaakanyi, Head of Marketing for the Botswana Tourism Organisation, says the park has led to increased stays within the country and expanded their offerings for tourists.

Lodge management on routes leading to the park report an increase in tourists using their facilities as part of their transfrontier and diverse wildlife experience.

“Botswana tourism is a thriving industry that greatly contributes to the national economy. It is the second contributor to the country’s GDP after mining,” says Mbaakanyi. ▀





Getting water co-operation to flow

WHEN MERRIAM Shashape was growing up in the North West province of South Africa, she and her siblings fetched water from the wind-mill dam each day.

"It was far to walk and we carried the full buckets on our heads," she recalls. When water in the dam ran dry, then Shashape and other villagers would have to walk even further to fetch water from the river.

Today, the 53-year-old mother and grandmother, who now lives in Gauteng province, has easier access to clean water. Actively involved in a community project that helps women adapt to climate change, she now maintains a food garden at home. There she grows spinach, onions and carrots to supplement the family's meals and income.

"It is such a relief to have a tap close-by that the children can get to easily. We use the water for household chores and for bathing. It also helps to water the garden," says Shashape, pointing to the tap in her yard.

"Life is easier now," she says.

As is the case for many in the SADC region, the water Shashape receives flows across borders. In Gauteng, many

residents like her rely on water that starts in Lesotho's Maluti Mountains, from where it flows into the Orange-

Senqu River and then continues for 2,200km to the Atlantic Ocean through South Africa, Botswana and Namibia.

Given that it flows through four SADC countries that all need the water, the Orange-Senqu River requires transboundary cooperation in managing its finite resources. This starts at the source, where Lesotho and South Africa cooperate with the Lesotho Highlands Water Project to provide water and hydropower, and continues downstream with agreements and projects to use the water equitably.

More than 70 percent of the region's fresh water resources are shared between two or more SADC countries.

River basin organisations that support joint infrastructure, planning and co-operation have been established across the region in line with SADC's Protocol on Shared Watercourses. The water division at the SADC Secretariat



provides a platform for Member States to address water related issues and challenges.

The Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM) is an example of such co-operation.

More than 19 million people rely on the Orange-Senqu river basin. It is one of the most developed river systems in the SADC region with over 300 built structures ranging from inter- and intra-basin transfer schemes to large dams.

“One of the key values of the four ORASECOM countries – Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa – working collectively on a river basin is that it aligns planning and forecasting/projection on future demands and resource availability. In this way, the Commission promotes co-operation beyond theory,” says ORASECOM Executive Secretary Lenka Thamae.

He points out the science of climate variability and change projection can be tackled better at a regional level as these only make sense when viewed over a large geographic scale.

Examples of joint projects include the recent co-operation between Botswana and South Africa to address the extreme scarcity of water in southern Botswana.

Water resources are critical to sustainable economic and social development. The region must manage its transboundary resources effectively to meet domestic, industrial and agricultural needs and for sanitation and waste management for over 260 million people in the SADC region, according to Phera Ramoeli, Senior Water Programme Officer at the SADC Secretariat.

“In SADC, water is available in relative abundance, but there are spatial and temporal variations. The DRC has more water than the rest of the SADC Member States, with estimated volumes of around 43,000 cubic meters

per second coming out of the Congo River into the Atlantic Ocean on average,” he says.

“In other areas, such as in some parts of Namibia, we have only 50mm of rainfall in a good year.”

This underlines the need for SADC to develop infrastructure to harness water where it exists in relative abundance and transfer it to where it is needed through inter- and intra-basin transfer schemes.

But water access alone is not enough – it must also be clean and accessible. The effects of climate change threaten to make that even harder.

The water division’s strategy on Climate Change Adaptation in SADC notes that climate change adds pressure to existing threats on freshwater resources and water management systems. It increases water stress in already dry areas, for example, and undermines the water quality in areas flooded by rain or seawater.

The strategy is clear on the need for water infrastructure development with structures for irrigation, drainage, water supply and sanitation, hydropower generation, flood management and other purposes. These structures help to manage water resources and break the region’s dependence on rainfall.

“SADC is able to support Member States through promotion of their own projects as, ultimately, resources for implementation of large water infrastructure projects require investments that can best be guaranteed by governments through sovereign loans at the national level,” Ramoeli says.

One example is the Kunene water supply project, which does more than just supply water to Namibia’s dry northern areas and southern Angola’s Kunene region. It is also a good example of a collaborative project between two Member States.

“The source of water is in a dam on a shared river [the Kunene River] in Angola. From there it is transferred by pipeline and canal to Namibia where it is treated and supplied to the needy centres in northern Namibia and also

pumped back into Angola to serve their own needs,” explains Ramoeli.

“When countries come together as SADC members, then it is easier for us to sell these projects to investors because of the shared benefit, costs and risk.” ▸



SADC River Basin Organisations and Committees

THE MAPUTO-INKOMATI Tripartite Permanent Technical Committee (TPTC) is a collaboration between three SADC Member States – Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland. The committee helps to manage the water flows of the Inkomati and Maputo rivers during times of drought and flood. The TPTC also looks at how to protect and develop these water resources.

The “Third Water Use Agreement of 1969” between Angola and Namibia initiated the construction of the Kunene River Scheme. The agreement established the Kunene Permanent Joint Technical Commission (PJTC) and enabled Namibia to extract water from the Calueque Dam to supply water to the country’s north.

The Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA) was established by Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Zambia. The LTA promotes regional cooperation required for socio-economic development and sustainable management of the natural resources in the Lake Tanganyika basin.

The Limpopo River is one of the largest river basins in the SADC region, extending across Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The basin is managed by the Limpopo Watercourse Commission (LIMCOM), established through a basin agreement signed by the four states in 2003.

Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa formalized the Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM) through the signing of the “Agreement for the Establishment of the Orange-Senqu Commission” in November 2000. ORASECOM was the first commission established following the adoption and signing of the Revised SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses in August 2000.

Given the need to protect the unique Okavango river system while satisfying the social and economic needs of Angola, Botswana and Namibia, the three states signed an agreement in 1994 that formed the Permanent Okavango River Basin Commission (OKACOM).

Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania in 2008 signed an agreement establishing the Ruvuma Joint Water Commission (Ruvuma JWC) with the principal objective of ensuring sustainable development and equitable utilization of common water resources of the Rovuma/Ruvuma River basin.

The Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) agreement was signed by most of the riparian states in July 2004. The agreement entered into force in June 2011 after being ratified by two-thirds of the signatories. The Zambezi River Basin is the most shared river basin in the SADC region, involving more than half of the SADC Member States.



Living with floods

WHEN THE floodwaters came, Ellen Louka was more vulnerable than most.

Like thousands of others in her part of rural Malawi, the elderly Phalombe resident was asleep in a mud house. But with her severely impaired vision, she was ill-equipped to flee to safety.

"I'm blind, I didn't see what was happening," she explained. "I was assisted to get away from here, otherwise I would have been washed away."

Countless houses like Louka's simply dissolved in the deluge. "I did not manage to rescue anything, I lost everything I had in the house," says Louka.

Luckily, her whole family survived. But like many of Malawi's 2015 flood survivors, she escaped with little more than the clothes she was wearing. She is grateful to have saved precious health documents she had wrapped around her waist with a strip of fabric.

Louka's story is becoming more common as climate change stimulates unpredictable rains with increasing floods in the region. Since many weather and climate events affect several countries at once, SADC saw the need to coordinate national policies into a regional approach.

One of the important regional cooperation initiatives is SADC's Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

When 700 people died during flooding in Mozambique in the year 2000, this was a warning to the region. Neighbouring countries offered help and support. Later, when unexpectedly heavy floods displaced more than a million people in southern Africa in 2007, SADC began to meet annually to prepare for future occurrences. Member States have put in place early warning systems and prepared resilience measures.

Inaugurated in 2011, the Platform has saved hundreds of lives. When flooding struck again in 2014, fewer than 20 people succumbed.

Officials in the nation attribute the lower death rate directly to the Platform. All Member States now have some form of early warning system.

The multifaceted nature of the issue means that many SADC Protocols are involved (see Box on page 23). Various practices and organisations are tasked with disaster management support.

SADC's Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) therefore emphasises that cooperation is needed for effective disaster preparedness with projects aimed at early detection, early warning and disaster risk reduction.

"Disasters are not something that happen at regional level, so obviously each Member State has its own mandate to protect its citizens and there are programmes which are there at Member State level supported by national budgets in every country," says Kennedy Masamvu, Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor at the SADC Secretariat.

One example of country-led responses is Mozambique's flood reduction initiative which is overseen by the National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC) in Maputo. The INGC is responsible for coordinating disaster relief initiatives and providing information to the public on preventative measures.

"The main disasters that we have [in Mozambique] are floods and cyclones," says INGC director Maurício Xerinda, adding that in 2000 they began to review how they operated. From simply responding to disasters with rescue operations after floods, INGC began to take preventative measures.

"We started to identify the places we have to remove people," he says. "We started a resettlement programme for people who live in vulnerable areas."

He says at least 60 new resettlement areas have been created to move people from disaster prone areas to safer and higher grounds.

Each large village has its own local official who is briefed directly by the INGC, which in turn receives its information from SADC's Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. It is a constant flow of up-to-date information.

"This coordination is a big benefit for us," says Xerinda.

Mozambique is one of the downstream countries, which is greatly affected by what happens upstream. Failure to inform the country of any heavy rains in any of the catchment areas could have a catastrophic effect in Mozambique.

The Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) provides information to countries on the Zambezi River Basin about the movement of flood water downstream as well as basic meteorological data across the region. The basin covers Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

ZAMCOM was monitoring the floods in Malawi and Mozambique using satellite images from the Water Observation and Information System (WOIS), tracking the development and extent of the floods as the situation developed.

"Disaster risk reduction and management is a cornerstone of the ZAMCOM agreement," explains Professor Zebediah Phiri, the Executive Secretary of ZAMCOM.

Professor Phiri says dialogue and exchange of information between countries is critical in preventing natural disasters such as floods and droughts in downstream countries in the river basin.

The director of the Department of International Rivers in Mozambique's National Directorate of Water, Paulo César Alone Selemane, agrees.

"We know that water can be a source of conflict, but we also think that, in particular for the SADC region, water has become more a driving force for cooperation as opposed to conflict," he says.

Selemane says the upstream countries now regularly inform Mozambique of impending dangers, including informing his department well in advance of any plans to open the flood gates of the dams (Kariba and Cahora Bassa) in the basin.

It is an appreciation of the underlying geography and meteorology that

has led to officials understanding the direct link between heavy rains in the highlands of Angola and surges that sweep downstream for thousands of kilometres.

“If Mozambique knows that there are heavy rains occurring in southern Angola, they at least have several months to prepare for eventual floods,” says Masamvu.

Coupled with SADC Member States drawing up contingency strategies that are inclusive of local communities, the flood warning system is much improved.

With Mozambique now actively promoting river awareness through its disaster programme, the number of direct deaths attributed to floods have dropped significantly – making it a real example in the region. ▸

INSTEAD OF a single protocol on disaster risk reduction or management, the multi-disciplinary nature of disaster risk management means that several existing SADC documents are relevant to the issue:

- Article 2 of the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation notes that a specific objective of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation will be to “enhance regional capacity in respect of disaster management and co-ordination of international humanitarian assistance.”
- Article 25 on Emergency Health Services and Disaster Management of the Protocol on Health states that Parties shall:
 - o (i) co-operate and assist each other in the co-ordination and management of disaster and emergency situations;
 - o (ii) collaborate and facilitate regional efforts in developing awareness, risk reduction, preparedness and management plans for natural and man-made disasters; and
 - o (iii) develop mechanisms for co-operation and assistance with emergency services.
- The Regional Water Policy includes provisions covering people’s protection from water related disasters, including personal security and property protection, disaster prediction, and management and mitigation.



THE PROCESS of approval of a regional legal instrument requires, first, signing, and then ratification, a process that differs from country to country. The protocol “enters into force” following ratification by two-thirds of SADC Member States. This advances the regional law from being a stated intention to actual application.

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