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Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus Dialogue and Multi-Sector Investment in the SADC Region: Phase II



PROJECT NAME

Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security
Nexus Dialogue and Multi-sector investment in
the SADC Region- Phase II

FINANCING

European Union (EU)

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY

GWPSA on behalf of SADC

DURATION

2020-2023

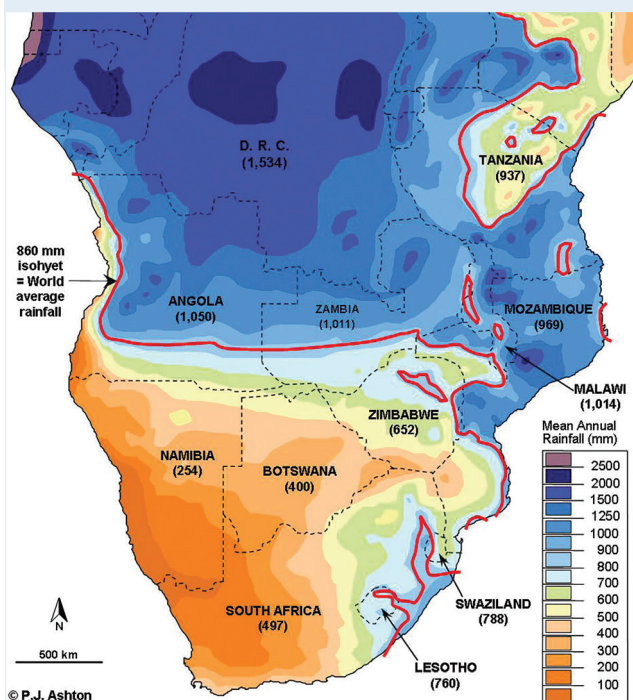


Fig 1. Rainfall variability in the SADC region

CONTEXT

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is a Regional Economic Community comprising 16 Member States: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The SADC has adopted the water, energy food (WEF) Nexus approach as a means to addressing key regional challenges related to (i) achieving WEF security, (ii) sustainable development and job creation, and (iii) sustainable natural resources management.

Sustainable development in SADC largely depends on goods and services derived from its environment and natural resource base. These resources are crucial in the region's effort to eradicate poverty. Increasing population, climate variability and change with its long-term implications for social, economic and ecological systems is an inevitable and urgent challenge.

Figure 1 shows the rainfall variability in the region a wet north and a dry south. This clearly shows varying endowments per country. As the SADC region pursues sustainable growth pathways and structural transformation, the management of its natural endowments and most importantly water, land and energy resources will be critical.



THE WEF NEXUS APPROACH IN THE SADC REGION

Water, energy, and food security are key priority areas for SADC and to respond to the context set above the SADC Secretariat is leading a multi-sector and stakeholder driven process maximising on cross-sectoral synergies and promoting the interconnectedness between water, energy and food security through adapting a Nexus approach. Integrated planning of water, food and energy sectors and promoting regional cooperation has been considered as a strategy to simultaneously meet water, energy, and food security targets, and to improve natural resource use efficiencies in the region.

The WEF Nexus acknowledges that water security, energy security and food security are inextricably linked in the human system and that actions in any one area usually have impacts in the others. As the population increases, with increasing demands for basic services, and growing desires

for higher living standards, the need for a more efficient utilization of the vital resources (water, land, energy) in the natural system is required.

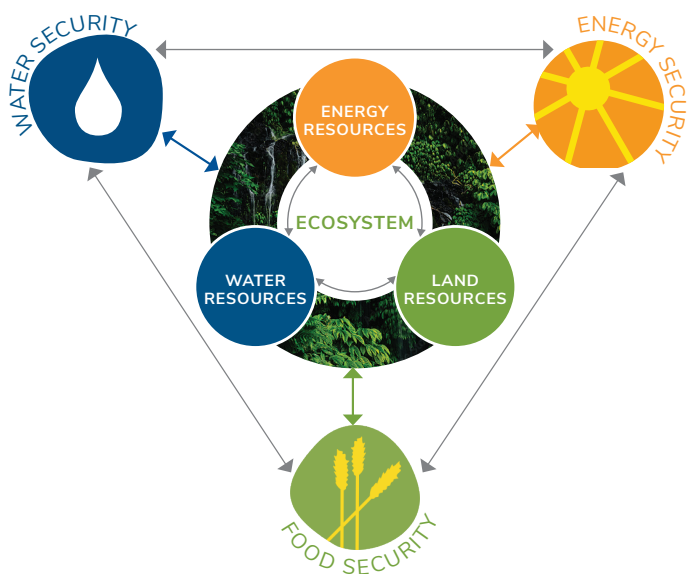


Figure 2. Interlinkages between water-food-energy security

THE SADC WEF NEXUS DIALOGUES PROJECT

The SADC WEF Nexus Dialogue Project “Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus Dialogue and Multi-Sector Investment in the SADC Region” is a project supported by the European Commission as part of the global “Nexus Dialogues Programme”. Phase I of the Nexus Dialogues Programme ran from 2017-2019 and aimed at helping regional organisations, and their member states apply a Nexus approach in formulating multi-sector policy recommendations, strategies, action plans and investment programmes.

KEY RESULTS FROM PHASE I

The key results achieved from Phase I include:

- Establishment of a SADC Regional WEF Nexus Governance Framework.
- The development of a SADC WEF Nexus investment project screening and appraisal tool; and,
- Development of a prioritised list of Nexus Investment Projects

PHASE II

Phase II of the project has a duration of 3 years, commencing in 2020 until 2023. This phase will build on the achievements of the first phase, with the overall objective being to institutionalise the WEF Nexus approach at regional and national governance structures and investment decisions for water, energy, and food security in the SADC region.

PROJECT SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of Phase II are to:

- Increase application of the Nexus approach in planning, policymaking and implementation,
- Increase interest from the public and private investors for projects applying the Nexus approach

- Identifying and accelerating WEF Nexus investments in the SADC region

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Two major outputs are expected from the project:

- Increased application of the Nexus approach in planning, policy making, and implementation.
- Increased interest from public and private investors for projects applying the Nexus approach.

APPROACH AND ACTIVITIES

The activities include organizing national and regional Nexus dialogues. The WEF Nexus regional and country dialogues will provide platforms to bring together stakeholders from the three sectors and establish a common mechanism for coordination between the three sectors.



Figure 3. Nexus Investments projects through dialogues

PHASE II PROGRESS TO DATE:

1. Engagement through WEF Nexus Dialogues

- National Dialogues successfully held in all the SADC Member States & WEF nexus priorities identified. Four projects submitted to funders for consideration.
- Over 200 participants attend a Regional Dialogue for all SADC Member States held in Maseru Lesotho to “bolster regional productive capacities for water, energy, food security and ecosystem resilience to achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial transformation”.
- A regional dialogue for the SADC Oceanic States was held from 9 to 10 March 2023 in Mauritius.

2. Countries supported to mobilize funding

- 15 SADC member states have identified WEF Nexus project opportunities.
- Through WEF national Technical Working Groups, 4 concept notes have been developed and submitted to funders including GEF, AWF, IKI, GCF. The aim is to mobilize over 50 million USD for WEF nexus investments.

3. Strengthening capacities

- Technical assistance provided to develop the second RIDMP Short Term Action Plan Water Chapter. The WEF screening tool was applied to analyse the regional projects.
- WEF Nexus Regional Guidelines developed to guide investment planning in the region.

4. Raising Awareness and promoting WEF Nexus opportunities for development

SADC NRD facilitated and/or co-convened the following:

- 22nd Waternet Symposium co-convened with UKZN, IHE-UNESCO, SACREEE and CCARDESA in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe (with online participation) under the theme 'Integrated Water Resources Management for Sustainable Development in East and Southern Africa.'
- 8th Africa Water Week (AWW-8) virtually co-convened with IWMI and Res4Africa Foundation under the theme "Accelerating water investments through the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus approach".



Delegates follow a panel discussion at the 10th SADC Multistakeholder Regional Dialogue in Lesotho



Some beneficiaries in a WEF Demonstration Project field in Zambia

- 23rd Waternet Symposium held in South Africa where GWPSA convened a WEF Nexus Session on Investment planning.

5. Technical assistance to the implementation of demonstration projects

- The SADC NRD is providing technical assistance in incorporating the WEF Nexus approach in WEF demonstration projects in Malawi and Zambia under the GCCA+.
- Mobilising funding to Upscale the WEF demo projects



WEF Demonstration Project in Zambia



WEF Nexus Project Team including the financiers- EU, implementers SADC, and implementing partner GWPSA

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