

SADC Wetlands Conservation Project

PHASE II

Mid-Term Review

Final Report

by

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Preface

In a letter dated May 13, 2003, NORAD requested the Directorate for Nature Management (DN), to participate in a Mid-Term Review Team to evaluate the project SADC Regional Wetlands Conservation Project Phase II. The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Mid-Term Review is given in Annex 2. The Appraisal Team consisted of three experts; Mr Svein Aage Mehli and Dr. Kjetil Bevinger were recruited by NORAD, Oslo, whereas Mr. Joshua M. Nyoni was recruited by IUCN•ROSA, Harare, respectively. In a meeting in Lilongwe May 20, 2003, it was proposed by SADC WSTCU and supported by NORAD to have Mr. Svein Aage Mehli to function as a leader of the Review Team.

The field work lasted from May 19 to June 6 (cf. Annex 1 for Mission Program). The project draft report was discussed at NORAD/Lilongwe June 5, 2003 at the Project Annual Meeting.

The Review Team would like to thank the IUCN•ROSA staff in Harare, in particular the Programme Coordinator Mr. Lenka Thamae, and Ms. Charity Kayiya who coordinated the logistical and travel arrangements; and Mr. Per Mogstad at the Norwegian Embassy in Lilongwe. We also want to express our gratitude to the Institutions and persons met during the mission for their valuable

List of Acronyms

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CFI	Country Focal Institution
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management
CBO	Community Based Organization
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
COSTECH	Tanzania Commission on Science and Technology
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DEAT	Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (South Africa)
DNFFB	Direccao Nacional de Florestas e Fauna Bravia (Mozambique)
DNPW	Department of National Parks and Wildlife (Malawi)
DNR	Department of Natural Resources (Zimbabwe)
ECZ	Environment Council of Zambia
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	The European Union
FANR	SADC Department for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources
FSTCUSADC	Forestry Sector Technical Coordination Unit, Malawi
GIS	Geographic Information System
GTA	
IT	Information Technology
IUCN	The world Conservation Union
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
IWSD	Institute for Water and Sanitation Development
MBERU	Molecular Biology and Ecology Research Unit (Malawi)
MICOA	Ministério para a Coordinacao de Accao Ambiental (Mozambique)
MPRT	Marine Parks and Reserves (Tanzania)
NCI	National Contact Institution
NCSA	National Conservation Strategy Agency, Botswana
NEMC	National Environmental Management
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for International Development Cooperation
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PS	Permanent Secretary
ROSA	IUCN Regional Office for Southern Africa
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SADC WRF	SADC Wetlands Research Fund
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
TAWIRI	Tanzania Wildlife Research Institution
WARFSA	Water Research Fund for Southern Africa
WSTCU	SADC Wildlife Sector Technical Coordination Unit, Malawi
WTC	Wetlands Technical Committee
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
ZIMOZA	Zimbabwe-Mozambique-Zambia

1 Overall Comments and Recommendations

- 1.1 National policies, plans and strategies for wetlands are in different stages of finalisation among the Member States. Such national plans and policies are of outmost importance in the effective utilization of capacity building; make use of information exchange systems and research programs, for projects run by SADC countries. The project assumption, that the SADC Member States have commitment to wetland issues does not, however, always hold for some countries. In this regard, the project is advised to review plans and priorities to direct and clearly focus on the development of integrated national wetland plans and policies within agreed time frames.
- 1.2 Developing plans, programmes and policy on wetlands at the national level is seen as a participatory process between stakeholders, managed by government. The governments have established as their response, a national focal institution with authority to handle matters in relation to the different government sectors and in relation to other stakeholders and to the SADC Secretariat. The role of the focal institution is to create awareness among politicians, establishing policies and plans on wetlands, the involvement of different sectors and to inform broadly on wetland issues to all stakeholders.
- 1.3 In parallel, activities within organisations which serve as a catalyst, and use wetlands as a vehicle to raise awareness and enthusiasm on wetland issues should be stimulated. Rehabilitation and wise use of wetlands could also contribute considerably to poverty alleviation. Further, the practical implementation of wetlands on district and local level should be prioritized.
- 1.4 The Policy Makers Seminar held in Gaborone (March 3-4 2003), is characterised as successful. In particular the presentation of the national wetlands policy for Uganda was well received at this seminar. In the light of the importance of having developed national plans for wetlands including functional national authorities for all SADC members, the Review Team would like to propose that the Uganda case combined with strategies for awareness raising be presented at the platforms for discussions as part of national seminars on policy development of wetlands. Such national seminars should be offered to SADC member States as an integrated part of the continued wetland project.
- 1.5 The institutional relations with the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone should be improved. Given the organisational changes within SADC and the strengthening of the Secretariat functions and increased formal responsibilities even for ongoing projects, the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) could be based in Gaborone under the general direction and oversight of SADC. This will also allow greater input by the project into SADC thinking and activities. The PIU would, however, continue as a unit within IUCN as the organisation best equipped to be the responsible implementing institution.
- 1.6 There is a need for further research on wetlands in the SADC area, and the research priorities should be developed through internal participatory processes in the member States led by the national focal authority. However, at this stage the Review Team will not support the creation of a special fund for regional research activities as proposed by IWSD. Research may be supported if it has direct relations to localities or elements in the project.

- 1.7 Selection of candidates and information concerning capacity building and training activities need to be improved. The role and importance of National Focal Points/appointed responsible government institutions in informing and sensitizing other sectors and stakeholders on the content, goals and objectives for the training courses, cannot be underestimated. Mechanisms for how training can be redistributed to others need to be more focused and developed.
- 1.8 The selection of localities for developing or facilitating management plans for different wetland types may be carefully characterised as very ambitious. The four localities chosen are partly well documented from previous research or monitoring activities or they are very large and represent types of wetlands of almost global importance. The Review Team would have liked to see more guidance from IUCN on how wetland management plans should be developed and with well defined outputs. In addition, the Review Team would like to propose to limit the aspirations for the Makgadikgadi pans management plan to the production of a well documented project document instead, which might be used to solicit separate funds for its finalisation of the actual Plan.
- 1.9 The organisation of the training courses with delegates from all member states participating has made the courses very expensive with substantial costs for accommodation and travel arrangements and with relatively few people trained. Sub-regional or national training courses could have made the training more cost-effective, direct and cheaper with more people trained. The procedure of selection of candidates should be looked into to identify the most suitable candidates for wetland issues.
- 1.10 The creation of a website on wetlands for the SADC member States is strongly supported by the Review Team. The same conclusion may also be drawn from the talks with institutions and organizations visited. The resources allocated for the Information exchange website seem, however, to be seriously over the 7aubst- NorwDgian -1824thead, wh9672uctioni0 -1-0.0052rawn3

2.3 Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)

The SADC Secretariat is located in Gaborone, Botswana. At the time this project on wetlands started, the responsibilities for projects on activity areas were distributed among the member states. In the case of wetlands, the responsibility was with the SADC Wildlife Sector Technical Co-ordination Unit (SADC WSTCU) in Malawi. Recently SADC has decided to establish the formal responsibility for all project activities related to SADC to be with the Secretariat in Gaborone. For wetlands, SADC Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (SADC FANR) is the responsible unit. However, it seems that for projects established before the formal decisions on the re-organisation were made, will continue with the original arrangements until completed.

2.4 The World Conservation Union, Regional Office for Southern Africa (IUCN•ROSA)

The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) for the project is located within the main office of IUCN•ROSA in Harare, Zimbabwe. IUCN•ROSA has considerable expertise and knowledge both in wetland issues and related issues. The project proposal for resumption of SADC Wetland Conservation Project Phase II was drawn up by IUCN•ROSA in 1998.

2.5 Project implementation

2.5.1 Observations

The contract between SADC WSTCU and IUCN•ROSA was signed in October 2000. As the proposals had been drawn over a long time in the late 1990s IUCN•ROSA sought to confirm the needs and commitments of the SADC member countries. Eleven member States of SADC were engaged in consultations, either through a workshop, a meeting or by electronic discussion during the period June to September 2001. Reports from the meetings were made available to the Review Team on the number of delegates who participated in those meetings and the conclusions. The participants in the meetings

Capacity Building Activities

3.1 Introduction

The project document envisaged that a total of five training courses and a workshop were to be arranged over the three year life span of the project in order to fulfill the main objective of building technical and managerial capacities of wetlands in the region. Four of the courses were to be on wetland ecosystem dynamics and integrated management focusing on the four wetland types prioritized by SADC in the consultative meetings referred to above.

3.2 Observations

The subject matter of wetlands in all the countries visited seems to be a phenomenon that is relatively new, having been adopted in the last ten years. It has no significant coverage by the government departments charged with environmental management. It is therefore, not surprising to find that in terms of technical personnel with the requisite expertise to deal with these areas, there is noticeable dearth of skills. Most officers found in the departments with wetlands responsibilities are formally trained in pure biology, animal science, geography, water engineering, agriculture, marine ecology and other disciplines. However, the management of wetlands has proved to be complex and requires a multidisciplinary approach and expertise encompassing appreciation of both the biological and socio-economic components of the wetland. This is the challenge that has necessitated the need for building capacities in the agencies dealing with wetlands. Capacity building is a never-ending activity in development. It has to be continually revisited by the implementing institutions.

In the period under review there have been three formal training sessions in the project component termed capacity building, viz:

A six week course on Wetland Ecosystem Dynamics and Integrated Management Techniques (Palustrine) at the former Molecular Biology and Ecology Research Unit-Chancellor College, (University of Malawi) Zomba Malawi. 14 participants were trained during this course.

A four-week course on Conflict Management and Participatory Approaches was held at the Thaba Bosiu Lesotho between 18 November and 13 December 2002. 14 participants attended the course.

A four-week course in Wetland Dynamics and integr

As of December 2002 some 38 officials from the region's governments and NGO agencies had benefited from the training offered under the Programme. Resource manuals were produced in hard copy as well as in electronic versions.

In all the countries visited, during the review (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, South Africa and Zimbabwe) none of those that had received training at the regional level had undertaken any formal imparting of skills at the country level through training others. In two countries (Mozambique and Zimbabwe) there was mention of the fact that the materials received were going to be introduced into local course manuals on similar topics for seminar/workshops still to be undertaken. The officer who attended the Conflict Resolution course in the case of Zimbabwe was tasked to draw up a departmental paper on Wetland Management for his department of Natural Resources in recognition of the exposure and expertise received during the training course. He has also been used as a resource person in his department's-run courses on Participatory Rural Appraisals in 8 out of the 57 Rural District Councils.

Those attending the courses rated them fairly highly in all cases, in terms of their relevancy and usefulness to their work at home. The 92% of the course participants in the Wetlands Dynamics course held in Zomba, Malawi felt it "absolutely relevant". More seemed to be gleaned from exposure to field situations rather than from mere lectures as it made the practice of wetland management a real live issue in the African context. Participants also reported that they benefited immensely from cross-country exchanges of information and experiences on wetland management issues. The time duration of more than four weeks, however, as in the case of the Malawi course, was felt to be too long. The different qualifications of the course participants, although initially feared to be a problem, turned out to be a strength, as it led to very good cross-fertilisation and exchange of views and experiences

Course follow up on return to the home country seemed to have been very poor all round. The need to ensure that the original objective of enhancing broad awareness of wetland management issues beyond

resource materials acquired in training courses if funding were sourced for this particular activity. It is a great concern that the sustainability of the Working Group is varied in the respective countries.

Under the training component of the programme, the greater amount of the budget was consumed by accommodation and regional travel of the participants. For greater impact of the programme overall, this item of the expenditure might need revisiting so as to save on costs.

3.3 Analysis

Wetlands management as an issue still seem to occupy lower priority in the development concerns of most of the countries of the region in comparison to such challenges as poverty eradication, the fight against HIV/AIDS, food shortages induced by unpredictable weather conditions and other constraints. However, the awareness of the role of wetlands in the national economies seems to be increasing. The commitment of countries of the region to mainstreaming the environmental concerns in wetland management is varied, as shown by the drawing up and promulgation of specific policies and strategies on wetland (as opposed to general environmental policies) and accession to international protocols such as the RAMSAR and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The lines of responsibility in terms of the mandate to plan and manage wetlands are not always explicit in the respective SADC member countries. It was evident from the meetings held in the countries that the perceived roles of the lead agencies and their capacities were not always shared by other principal stakeholders in the respective countries. Tensions were often observed between various government departments dealing with wetlands. The coordination and overall responsibility for wetland management continues to be a problematic between the various government stakeholders.

In this regard the contribution to a change in attitude, and strengthening of capacities to do so, by implementation of the Phase II Wetlands Conservation Programme seems to be very limited, indeed. Part of the reason for this is the small numbers of personnel who were able to access the vital training offered under the programme. The fact that only one or at most, three officers from each country was able to attend the course in any one country location, is a far cry from the huge amount of work awaiting the incumbents on return to the home basis.

That there was no conscious follow-up on those trained to ensure that they too imparted their newly acquired skills as Trainers, led also to the limited impact of the Programme in most member countries.

The ability of the courses to enhance wetland management skills is still to be tested in the field. This will be clearer when incumbents have been able to meaningfully participate in the production of specific wetland management plans in their respective countries.

3.4 Recommendations

The main recommendations for the Capacity Building Activities of the project is that

more courses could be arranged. The remaining courses could be modified to take care of greater numbers for greater impact at each country level. The model would involve a three pronged modular form involving say the following:

One or two week theory and broad overview at the host institution for two or three trainers from each country

Followed by a one or two week in the home country doing practicals including training of a bigger group of officers (supported by implementing institution)

Concluded by one or two week course completion at initial host institution, including assessment, prior to a certificate of attendance being issued

institutions having nominated candidates, should be bound to follow up those that have received training. Part of the pre-requisite for attending the course should be an agreement ensuring practical follow up, such as training others in-country, when the course is finished. This needs to be discussed with all the parties involved

some of the courses could be arranged for a smaller grouping at the sub-regional level and in particular one that might take into consideration the language requirements of the lusophonic countries

resource persons organized from a pool of experts from various institutions (both private and public) in the region could be used to undertake “ mobile” training in the countries so as to enhance regional approaches, cooperation and appreciation of the diversity of wetlands

another form of training that might be investigated for the immediate and long-term, is distance education of officers. Wherever, possible officers would be encouraged to visit websites offering resource material from training institutions, IUCN and other supportive institutions in the region and beyond. Apparently there is the “WetNet initiative, which is offering water-related, postgraduate training through cooperation among SADC

Makgadikgadi Pans	-	palustrine
Pungwe	-	riverine
Rufiji-Mafia Islands	-	marine
Zambezi Delta	-	estuarine

4.2 Observations

The nine month work plan 01 October 2002 to 30 June 2003 by the IUCN•ROSA envisaged that all four sites in this component would have completed their baseline surveys and “in a similar manner the project will embark on identification of management objectives and strategic action plans for this (these) wetland systems. Further details of the approach and time schedule will become clear when the base line surveys have been completed”. It was evident from the field visits undertaken by the Review Team that many of the sites were having considerable difficulties in starting off the blocks. No baseline surveys were reported in any of the locations yet, except for the Tanzania case where the -Mafia Island Park Management Planning had just be completed after eight years in the making! The National Environmental Management Council of Tanzania reported that another initiative of developing the Simiyu (Riverine

5 Information Exchange

5.1 Introduction

According to the programme documents there is limited exchange of information on wetlands within, and among, SADC member states; a problem which has been addressed in different ways. To meet this challenge it has been an aim of the programme to create a formal network of National Contact Institutions (NCI), i.e. institutions working directly with different aspects of wetland management, international issues on wetlands and/or those assigned custodianship of wetlands in the SADC member states. In RAMSAR signatory countries institutions are supposed to have been nominated by their governments to be the NCI. Thus, apart from overseeing and guiding implementation of the project, these institutions are also responsible for coordinating in-country wetlands initiatives.

In 2002 the project carried out a regional wetlands information assessment in the member states, revealing that the NCI's have data banks with information in both soft and hard copy formats. Computer facilities are available although there is a disparity in the level of competence and capacity. According to the project document, the project was supposed to assist member States to strengthen their national networks through provision of electronic facilities, and/or training of individuals on the use of the facilities where appropriate.

A specific action has been taken through the establishment of a regional wetlands website www.sadc-wetlands.org. The information content is related to key wetland issues and institutions. Thus the web site is supposed to be a route map for institutions engaged in aspects of wetlands management, development and conservation, the data available in these institutions etc. The website design has been based on the principle that the bulk of the national and transboundary data remain in their current locations. The only data and information directly available on the site is the one generated by the project itself or which is region- relevant by nature. It is expected that the website will be developed as a link and networking mechanism for wetland stakeholders in the region, as well as abroad.

The SADC Secretariat's Information Unit in Gaborone will house the website to secure sustainability beyond the project period. Format, design criteria and other key elements have been developed to be compatible with the future custodian system at the SADC Secretariat.

In March 2003 a regional policy maker's seminar in Gaborone was arranged. One of the issues on the seminar was how to secure political will and improve mechanisms/instruments of making information available to policy makers for decision making, i.e. marketing wetlands to policy makers to raise their profile.

As pointed out in the Progress Report (1 July-31 December 2002), there is a significant disparity in the level of information technology (IT) competence and capacity within the countries. Computer facilities are in general available at Ministry and Department Offices; however, the support system seems to be poorly developed, implying that computers and access to Internet are down for shorter or longer periods of time. Intranet systems are, in general, poorly developed, although it has become an issue in some of the contact institutions in some of the countries. , It is not clear to the Review Team from the meetings conducted if each country in fact has a NCI.

At district and local levels IT technology is generally absent. Intranet systems are not developed, although some institutions like MICOA have a plan, which is supposed to be implemented in the near future. It was observed that none of the institutions, except for the SADC Wildlife Sector Technical Coordinator Unit, had been equipped with computers or other type of technical facilities from the project. It was observed that No training on use of technical facilities had taken place.

5.2.2 Internet as a main road for information exchange

The www.sadc-wetlands.org is still being developed, although it is already active. The design of the website is good, and characterised by professionalism. It is simple and user friendly in the sense that the front page has 6 exits to sub-site content; “Countries”, “Reports”, “Events”, “The Project”, “Contacts” and “Links”. To be a SADC website the IUCN logo is more prominent, than that of its client and for the sake of clarity this should be changed accordingly.

There was diverse knowledge of the existence of the website among those interviewed. No one had actually tried to access it, although some said, that they were aware of it. In Mozambique there was a concern with respect to the language, as the information in the website is only in English. Relatively few persons are able to read or speak English.

5.2.3 National Wetland Working Groups

Among the countries visited South Africa, Tanzania and Mozambique had active wetland working groups. The Tanzanian group had close to 30 members from both government and NGO sectors. It meets four times per year. The Working Group in Malawi that had been in existence for ten year has not had meetings since July 2002 when funding, formally provided by DANIDA, ceased. The galvanising force behind most of the Working Groups seems to have been the desire to work towards the specific goal of designating and development of potential RAMSAR sites for eventual ratification of the convention.

It was observed that at the national level the groups are regarded as formal bodies, while at district level there are in a few countries informal groups as well.

5.3 Analysis

5.3.1 Technical facilities

To make the designed IT system for information exchange efficient, a minimum of technical facilities must be in place, at least within the key institutions. The personnel should also have appropriate skills to operate these facilities. The Review Team does not support the idea of using money from the project to upgrade the institutions with technical facilities on IT or include computer training. These are fundamental assumptions, which are supposed to be in place already.

IT support must also be in place to avoid long periods where communication via e-mail and access to new information on the websites are not possible. It is important that each country and key institutions on wetland and NCI have their own websites, which are regularly updated. Experience shows that websites

exchange so far seems to be negligible. However, the impact is difficult to assess at the present stage as the website has been running for a short time. In the long run it will probably come out a useful tool.

5.3.3 National Wetland Working Groups

It is difficult to assess the role and effectiveness of the national wetlands working groups in different member States and their potential input into this part of the project objective. Overview of the extracted information on working groups in the different countries is given in Annex 3. In Tanzania the Wetland Working Group seems to be an active body, and it is assessed to be of significant importance in general to

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Zimbabwe. Within each country semi-structured interviews and discussions were held with representatives of key institutions (governmental and non-governmental) dealing with wetland issues. The discussions concentrated on understanding the roles and responsibilities of the institutions in general, and about wetlands in particular, policies on wetlands guiding the institutions, institutional arrangements, identification of previous and current research projects on wetlands and their link to policy, identification of key priority research issues, and the human and technical resources of the institutions.

According to IWSD substantial research has been conducted on wetlands issues, but the majority has been academic, implemented mostly through Universities, and there has been limited or no formalised arrangements of sharing the research results with policymakers. Moreover, research has been to a great extent focused on ecological issues, and less towards policy, economic and social issues.

The key research areas identified and prioritised during the consultative process with key stakeholders in the region were grouped into issues related to the following;

- policy
- legal and regulatory
- socio-economic
- environmental

The environmental issues were subdivided into *ecological*, *hydrological* and *land use*. For each of the four categories specific areas that require further research were identified. In the conclusion of the report proposes the establishment of, a SADC Wetlands Research Fund (SADC-WRF), is

Exhaustive background information on the project component is to be found in e.g. the IWSD Report (The SADC Wetlands Conservation Research Programme, February 2003) and the SADC/IUCN Progress Report (1 July-31 December 2002), January 2003.

6.2 Observations

6.2.1 Priority of wetland research areas

During the country visits, the Review Team raised the contents of the IWSD report and its findings. However, none of the respondents seems to be aware of it. This is probably due to the fact that the report has so far, not been widely distributed.

Key research areas identified during the previous in-country consultations, and confirmed through the IWSD consultative process, i.e. policy, legal and re

Water Research Fund for Southern Africa (WARFSA) presently administered by IWSD, nor plans relating to an establishment of a new SADC-WRF). Due to the fact that these were completely new thoughts for most of the persons being interviewed, few expressed firm opinions about the idea. However, the main impression among the Review Team members is that the idea in general was not immediately applauded.

6.3 Analysis

6.3.1 Priority of wetland research areas

The IWSD report is unfortunately not very clear, and the conclusions somewhat surprisingly, as the main content is dealing with potential research topics identified during the data collection, but the conclusion is the establishment of a SADC-WRF. It also refers to a Technical Review Workshop in Gaborone March 5-6 (after the Policymakers workshop March 3-4), where the idea and the organisational details of a Research Fund were discussed. The Review Team

At the regional level, the main structures that have been dealing with wetlands and related issues have been found in such organizations as NEPAD, SADC, IUCN, WWF to name but a few. Until recently SADC was organized into specific key sectors and the coordination of these allocated to individual countries. Hence wetlands fell under the natural resources sector, which was coordinated by the Wildlife Sector Technical Coordination Unit, housed in the Department of National Parks and Wildlife of Malawi. However, in the recently announced re-structuring of SADC this sector's coordination will be managed by the SADC Directorate of Food Agriculture and Natural Resources based in Gaborone, Botswana. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) also urges the inclusion of wetland conservation and wise use as a thematic area under its Environment Initiative.

There have been other regional initiatives that have been dealing with wetland issues in their programmes. These include the likes of the Zambezi River Action Plan-Integrated Water Resource Management. However, as at the national and sub-national levels, there is no single institution with the mandate to manage wetlands as a specific and singular responsibility. It is still too early to assess the effectiveness of the newly re-organised SADC FANR Directorate in implementation of wetland management mandate.

The national level coordination of wetland affairs is characterized by fragmentation of responsibility between various ministries, departments and non-governmental structures. This has led to tensions and conflicts of development interests. Attempts to rectify the anomaly have been reported in Zambia, Mozambique and Botswana, where agencies with the mandate to coordinate wetland initiatives have been created, but these have not yet fully resolved the conflicts at the national levels.

Other notable structures that have been observed as crucial in the management of wetlands have been the various "wetland committees", or "working groups". In a number of the countries, as stated earlier the formation of the groups has been facilitated by the process of acceding to the RAMSAR Conventions, which allows the integration of multi-stake holder involvement. In some countries, however, these committees have remained only on paper and others have fizzled out, after initial donor funding of the process has come to an end, whilst other countries have reported successes.(e.g. Tanzania and South Africa).

The greatest challenge has also come from attempts at creating sub-national structures to ensure sustainable management of wetlands. These have involved organizing communities, usually of the direct beneficiaries of the resources found in wetlands, such as fish, wildlife, lands and bird life. Some successes were recorded in such localities as Lake Chilwa in Malawi where bird groups are responsible for looking after the fauna around the site.

In most of the countries, however, none of the structures, particularly those outside of the government systems, have any legal status and as such, their ability to enforce some of the management requirements in natural resources use is severely compromised. For instance, in the sub-regional level, incursion into the wetland areas by non-project groups is often a source of conflict which local committees are not able to resolve through legal provisions.

The challenge to empower the community level management structures, through training is still very huge and needs to be urgently addressed if wetland management will take root in earnest.

7.1.3 Assessment of PIU Capabilities

Within the IUCN•ROSA offices the Wetlands Programme budget provided for a Project Coordinator assisted by Project Secretary who are supposed to be fully devoted to running of this phase of the programme. IUCN•ROSA is supposed to provide other "technical backstopping" to the programme on the

behest of the Project-Coordinator. From the interviews with other technical officers of the regional office the Review Team had the impression that their involvement and appreciation of the deeper complexities in the programme was somewhat limited. Considerable and commendable work has been achieved by the PIU despite the human resource limitations

7.1.4 Analysis

At national level, the setting up of government ministries is often not directed by technical and professional competencies but largely by political considerations. This has compromised, eventually, management of such fields as wetlands. Decentralisation of authority to lower structures has been rather slow, non-existent or underdeveloped in most of the countries.

The human resources devoted to this programme, at IUCN•ROSA seem to have been underestimated at the time of project formulation given the magnitude of the tasks .The Project Coordinator has to ensure the activ that ted to the thenries.

The plan, which was initially, being undertaken through IUCN•ROSA's internal M&E, has since been

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- SADC Regional Wetlands Conservation Project: Regional Policy Makers Seminar - Draft report. IUCN•ROSA in collaboration with SADC FANR. March 2003.
- International Water Management Institute: Water and Sustainable Development in Africa; An African Position Paper
- The Institute of Water and Sanitation Development: The SADC Wetlands Conservation Research Programme. February 2003.

Annexes

Annex 1. Mid-Term Review Programme. Team 1: Kj

Final Report/Mid-Term Review SADC RWCP Phase II

Monday 02.06.2003			
Day 16 Tuesday 03.06.2003			Report preparation
Day 17 Wednesday 04.06.2003			Report preparation
Day 18 Thursday 05.06.2003			11:00 13:00 Annual Meeting
Day 19 Friday 06.05.2003	13:35 Lilongwe		Leave Malawi

Annex 2. Terms of Reference

IUCN The World Conservation Union

SADC REGIONAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION PROJECT PHASE II

Final Draft

Terms of References for the Project Mid-term Review

1.0 PROJECT SUMMARY

1.1 Project title: SADC REGIONAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION PROJECT
PHASE II.

1.2 Implementing agency: IUCN Regional Office for Southern Africa in collaboration with the SADC Directorate for Food Agriculture and Natural Resources.

1.3 Project design

The SADC region supports a diversity of wetland ecosystems that include inter-tidal and sub-tidal marine systems, estuarine systems, lakes (natural and man made), riverine systems, floodplains, swamps, marshes and dambos. Wetland ecosystems are some of the most productive natural ecosystems in the region. They provide freshwater for human consumption, pasture for livestock, fertile soils for agriculture, yield a major harvest of fish protein and support important populations of wildlife. In fact, the wetland ecosystems of Southern Africa have the largest species diversity in the region. However, despite this importance of wetlands to mankind and animals, these ecosystems are increasingly being lost and degraded due to lack of conservation and proper management. This is a consequence of the fact that despite the importance of wetlands to the livelihoods of the people and the ecology of the region, wetland issues are still not prominent on the policy agendas of the countries in the region.

Most of the region's wetland ecosystems are shared therefore achieving sustainable wetland conservation and management requires regional co-operation, an integrated/ecosystem approach and a common understanding of the wetlands and associated natural resource base. A regional and ecosystems management approach to addressing the above issues is essential because of the transboundary nature of the major categories of the wetlands in the region.

The overall objective of the project is to enhance the technical capacity of SADC member states and relevant partners to design and implement effective measures required for the conservation and sustainable use of wetland ecosystems in Southern Africa. This will be achieved through the establishment and execution of short term training courses in various critical aspects of wetland conservation and management; encouragement and facilitation of cross boundary interactions and exchange of information, and the provision of technical backstopping to undertake detailed analytical inventories of wetlands, and the facilitation of the formulation of wetland management plans (with special emphasis on transboundary wetland systems).

The project's approach is to build upon activities initiated in Phase I and complement the related activities initiated by IUCN, SADC-ELMS and other institutions. Of particular importance are the IUCN/CIDA Zambezi Basin Wetlands Conservation and Resource Utilisation Programme, SADC-ELMS ZACPLAN,

This project aims at promoting a regional ecosystems approach to wetlands conservation, which in essence provides an ecologically meaningful spatial framework in which to work. This is envisaged to ultimately result in a co-ordination framework for wetland cons

The mid-term review will assess overall performance of

Ownership of the process will be reflected by the level of engagement of the officials in the process, inclusion of the process in their normal workplans and recurrent budget, and rigorous follow-up on steps required for completion of the work.

2.4 Tasks to performed

2.4.1 Review of Background Information

The mid-term review will include a review of background information available at the Project Implementation Unit, SADC and NORAD. Other related/complementary activity reports will be identified during field visits to member States in SADC.

Background information available within the project includes:

- Reports from SADC Wetlands Conservation Project Phase I,
- Reports on complementary activities and initiatives undertaken by individual member States,
- The SADC Wetlands Conservation Phase II Project Document,
- Project plans,
- Progress reports,
- Project monitoring and evaluation plan,
- Specific activity reports, and
- Training resource ma

Final Report/Mid-Term Review SADC RWCP Phase II

The Review Team will compile their findings, analyse them, produce a draft set of recommendations and compile a preliminary report. The preliminary report will be presented to SADC, NORAD, and IUCN•ROSA for their input and initial comment.

The review team will incorporate the input and comments in a draft final report to be submitted to SADC, NORAD and IUCN•ROSA. The Project Implementation Unit (IUCN•ROSA) will be responsible for distributing the draft final report among SADC member States for their comments.

The final report incorporating final comments of SADC, NORAD, IUCN•ROSA, and Project National Contact Points will be compiled by the Review Team and a final submission made to IUCN•ROSA.

2.5 Outputs

Outputs of the review exercise will include:

- Preliminary report.
- Draft final report.
- Final report.

The following report structure is recommended for all the outputs listed above:

- Introduction and purpose of the mid-term review.
- Review approach.
- Review findings.
- Assessment of project progress towards the goal, objectives, outputs.
- Assessment of project impact and visibility including challenges and opportunities.
- Assessment of project implementation arrangements (regional and national)
- Recommendations.

3.0 MID-TERM REVIEW TEAM

SADC and the Project Implementation Unit will identify two consultants from the SADC region to undertake the review. Selection will be through direct contact and submission of proposals.

NORAD will also identify two consultants from Norway to form part of the Review Team. This is in line with the agreed approach at the Project Annual Review meeting, April 2002.

4.0 WORK-PLAN

Activity	City & Country	Institution	Number of days
1. Mobilization (17-18 May)			1

will then become part of the agenda for the project Annual Meeting Scheduled for the 9th June 2003 in Lilongwe, Malawi.

