



SUB-REGIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

2015-2025

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List of acronyms and abbreviations

AfDB	African Development Bank
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme
CCARDESA	Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COP	Conference of Parties
DLDD	Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ELMS	SADC Environment and Land Management Sector
ESP	Energy Sector Plan
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Society for International Cooperation)
GM	Global Mechanism
GMI	Groundwater Management Institute
IFS	Integrated Financing System
IWG	Intergovernmental Working Group
ICPs	International Cooperating Partners
IT	Information Technology
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
km ²	square kilometre
KNP	Kalahari-Namib Project
LD	Land Degradation
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality
MAPP	Multi-country Agricultural Productivity Programme
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NAP	National Action Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
ORASECOM	Orange Senqu River Basin Commission
R&D	Research and Development
RAP	Regional Agriculture Policy
RBO	River Basin Organisation
REDD	Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
Rio+10	World Summit on Sustainable Development, 2002
Rio+20	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, 2012
RIDMP	Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan
RISDP	Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan
RSAPIII	Regional Action Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management
RVAA	Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis
SADC	Southern African Development Community

SADC FANR	Southern African Development Community Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIPO	Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SRAP	Sub-regional Action Programme
TFCA	Transfrontier Conservation Area
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WOCAT	World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies

Executive summary

Since the development of the Sub-regional Action Programme (SRAP) to combat desertification by the Member States of the South African Development Community (SADC) in 1997 various environmental initiatives were launched and developments adopted at sub-regional, regional and global sphere. These include amongst others the restructuring of SADC in 2009, development of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the adoption of the 10-year strategy of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), 2008-2018 in 2007, and the adoption in 2015 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These activities necessitated the reworking of the SADC SRAP to address these important advances.

SADC has therefore embarked on reworking the SADC SRAP. The revised SRAP is aligned to the 10-year strategy for the UNCCD and 21 actions have been identified to be implemented to satisfy the five operational objectives of the UNCCD Strategy. For each of the identified actions indicators were identified to strengthen monitoring of the action as well as the required resources, the source of such resources and the lead agency to drive the implementation of the actions.

The actions include amongst others:

- Development of a communication strategy at regional level
- Awareness raising for policy makers
- Development of training modules and education at all levels, including for media
- Revision and implementation of the proposed SADC Environmental Information Systems Programme
- Establishment of information exchange and dialogue mechanism/platform
- Promotion of awareness among all relevant SADC sectors of their responsibilities in implementing the UNCCD, including enhancing synergies between the 3 Rio Conventions
- Strengthening and harmonizing policy and legal frameworks for sustainable land management of transboundary natural resources by providing assistance to member States
- Mainstreaming Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD) into existing related SADC Institutions, Protocols/Policies e.g. River Basin Organisations (RBOs), SADC Water Policy (2005)
- Strengthening of early warning systems
- Promoting and facilitating transboundary management of shared natural resources including upscaling the Kalahari Namib Action Project to other countries of similar ecosystem
- Development and transfer of appropriate technology and best practices on Sustainable Land Management (SLM)
- Establishment of a scientific advisory body to ensure the acquisition and development of appropriate technologies and their adaptation to the needs of local communities
- Promoting the use of alternative energy sources through, inter alia, acquisition and dissemination of data, information and experiences on appropriate low cost technologies
- Undertaking regional capacity needs assessment to tackle desertification/land degradation

- Development and implementation of a strategic framework for capacity building and development of a strategic framework for the SADC Region
- Strengthening human capacity of the SADC environmental unit
- Development of a Regional tool kit/guidelines on DLDD issues
- Establishment and operationalization of a Regional Integrated Financing System (IFS)
- Development of guidelines for the establishment of a harmonized green tax
- Strengthening the capacity of the SADC Secretariat for mobilisation of financial resources.

Activities related to financing the SRAP and monitoring and evaluation are included under the five Operational Objectives, and are discussed subsequently to provide more details of the plan for implementation of the SRAP.

Preamble

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) came into force in December 1996. All Member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have ratified the UNCCD. In 2007 UNCCD adopted a 10 year strategy and all parties to the convention are required to update their National Action Programmes (NAP) to align with the strategy (2008 – 2018). Since the strategy is aligned with the other 2 Rio conventions, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) this alignment process will strengthen synergies at the national and sub-regional levels. Sub-regional entities like SADC are required to update their Sub-regional Action Programmes (SRAPs) to align with the objectives of the 10 Year Strategy. This document is the outcome of the SRAP revision process conducted in partnership between the SADC Secretariat, Member States, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as well as other partners in 2013-2015.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Land degradation has profound impacts, of which the principal and most obvious one — widespread poverty aside — is the degradation of 35 058 104 km² of land (Bai *et al*, 2008). This degradation is manifested in the general decline in soil structure and fertility, and degradation of irrigated croplands, leading to the diminution of the affected land's biological potential to sustain life.

The full impact of degradation and loss of productivity of dryland ecosystems is difficult to quantify. However, through the combined adverse effects of climate variations and socio-economic factors, the overall erosion of biological diversity of drylands is clearly eminent and this impacts negatively on the socio-economic conditions of the affected populations. The resultant trends may sometimes prove difficult to reverse. Desertification as a complex human and social problem is not amenable to quick solutions and is a significant global, ecological and environmental problem.

1.1 SADC perspective

The SADC Region has 15 Member States¹ with an approximate population of 277 million people and covers an area of approximately 554 919 km² and is illustrated in Figure 1. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the SADC region is approximately US\$ 575.5 billion and the annual GDP growth rate is 5.14%.

¹ Angola; Botswana; Democratic Republic of Congo; Lesotho; Madagascar; Malawi; Mauritius; Mozambique; Namibia; Seychelles; South Africa; Swaziland; United Republic of Tanzania; Zambia; Zimbabwe.

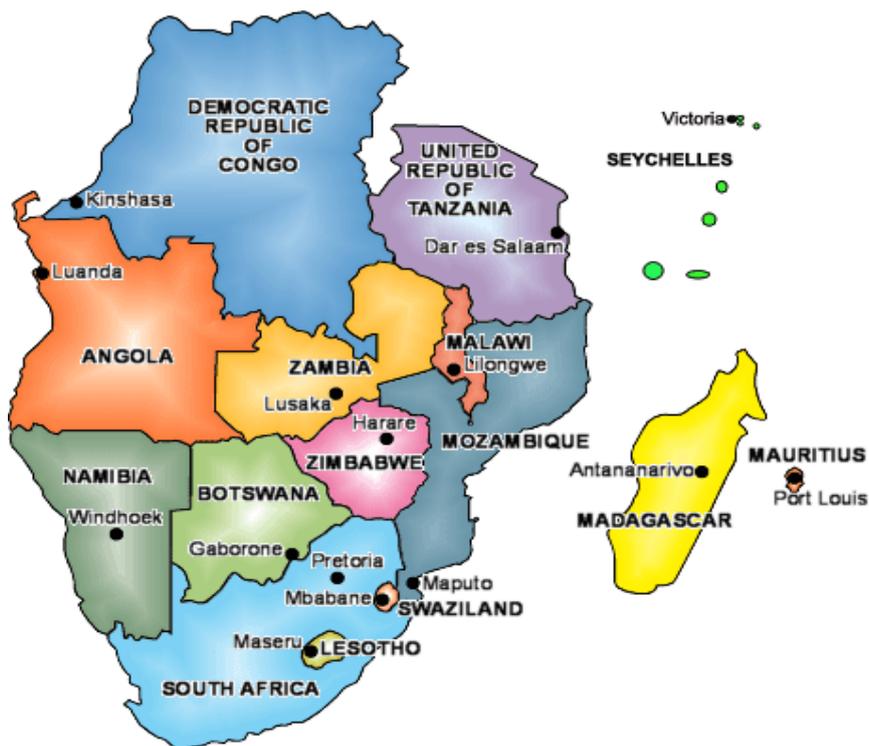


Figure 1: SADC Member States (SADC, 2007)

Southern Africa has a variety of tropical and temperate zones, but comprises mostly arid and semi-arid regions characterized by large variability (of the order of 40-70%) in the annual mean rainfall. This variability affects the agricultural and pastoral economies upon which the well-being of the local populations depend. Figure 2 illustrates the mean annual rainfall across the SADC Region.

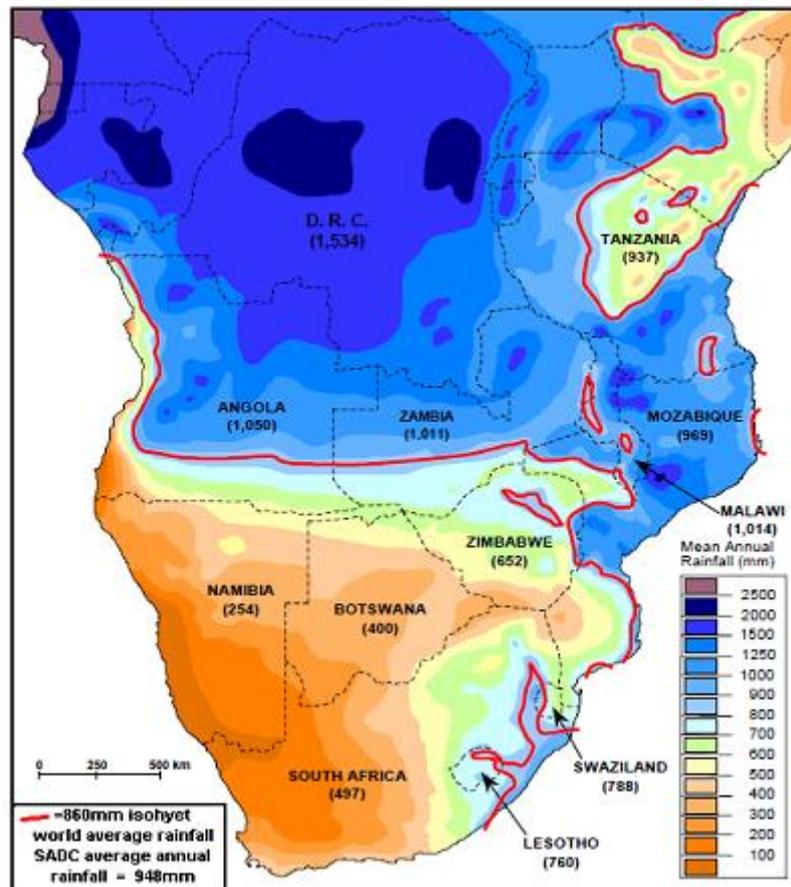


Figure 2: Mean annual rainfall across the SADC Region (SADC 2007)²

The SADC Region is rich in natural resources and has an abundance of water resources, pristine rivers, diverse species of flora and fauna and a diversity of cultures and people. However, desertification poses a serious threat to the sustainable management of these resources which includes the threat to the sustenance of livelihoods as well as attainment of sustainable development of the SADC Region. Three important causes of desertification are over-cultivation, over-grazing and deforestation. Major threats include land degradation, depletion and extinction of species (loss of biodiversity), increasing frequencies of droughts, water stress, dwindling production and productivity and over-dependence on natural resources.

The process of desertification in the sub-region is marked by forage and soil degradation especially in arid and semi-arid lands, which are used beyond their capacity for sustained production by cultivators, herdsman and other land users. The effect of drought is often to accelerate such deterioration. Whereas natural ecosystems usually recover from even prolonged drought, when anthropogenic effects weaken the natural system drought frequently leads to desertification.

The principle pressures on land come from agriculture, development of infrastructure, wood extraction and increases in aridity – obviously the first three pressures anthropogenic as is a large part of the fourth. The underlying drivers of these pressures are population changes,

² SADC. 2007. Regional Water Strategy. Southern African Marketing Company, Gaborone. ISBN 97899912-445-4-6

economic and technological change, climate factors, cultural factors, and policy/institutional factors (Geist and Lambin, 2004)³.

The impacts of degraded land on the SADC countries are illustrated in Table 1⁴. From the table it is apparent that almost the entire population of Swaziland are affected by degraded land. Between 50 and 60% of the populations of Angola, DRC and Zambia are affected by degraded land. Swaziland has the largest portion of its territory classified as degraded (95,22%) whereas in the case of Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zambia between 50 and 60% of its land area are classified as degraded land.

Table 1 Degraded land in SADC countries (Adapted from Bai *et al*, 2008)

Country	Degrading area (km ²)	% territory	% Global degrading area	% Total population	Affected people
Angola	828 029	66,42	2,370	60,74	9 263 348
Botswana	97 831	16,30	0,284	30,74	476 893
DRC	1 346 914	57,43	3,760	53,49	32 081 359
Lesotho	10 344	34,08	0,033	44,49	941 131
Madagascar	163 843	27,91	0,492	21,56	3 901 784
Malawi	30 869	26,05	0,089	19,89	2 486 085
Mozambique	226 567	28,26	0,651	26,36	5 155 480
Namibia	288 945	35,01	0,875	35,87	670 983
South Africa	351 555	28,82	1,124	38,14	17 041 101
Swaziland	16 533	95,22	0,051	98,77	947 510
Tanzania	386 256	40,87	1,081	39,48	15 300 003
Zambia	454 630	60,41	1,312	50,07	5 789 865
Zimbabwe	180 125	46,12	0,531	39,51	5 424 488
World	35 058 104	23,54	100,000	23,89	1 537 679 148

The Restructuring of SADC in 2009 affected some of the strategies and programmes and saw the dissolution of SADC Environment and Land Management Sector (SADC ELMS) and the freezing of the SADC Environment Sector. This affected the implementation of programs like the SRAP and many strategies and proposals such as the development of support institutions, were not fulfilled.

1.2 SADC Protocols and initiatives

In fulfilling the objectives of SADC, various instruments for the implementation of the SADC Treaty have been developed, which include protocols and policy documents. In the period since the approval of the SRAP in 1997 a large number of protocols have been ratified and initiatives undertaken which will all assist in the implementation of the UNCCD in the region.

These protocols and initiatives have been amongst others in the fields of:

- Agriculture and food security;
- Natural resources;
- Meteorology and climate; and
- Poverty eradication and policy dialogue.

³ Helmut J. Geist and Eric F. Lambin, 2004. Dynamic Causal Patterns of Desertification. *BioScience* 54(9): 817-829.

⁴ The assessment by Bai *et al* was based on remote sensing and the estimates and could therefore be subject to a significant margin of error.

A comprehensive list of protocols and initiatives as well as a short description of these documents are attached Annexure 1.

1.3 SADC achievements

Despite the setbacks experienced during the restructuring, SADC has had some success in the environmental field, such as:

- The SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) which provides a guiding framework for the last phase of the RISDP, i.e. 2015-2020 was revised and approved by the Council of Ministers in March 2015. It also provides the Secretariat and other SADC institutions with a clear view of SADC's approved economic and social policies and priorities.
- The SADC Regional Environmental Education Programme established as part of the SRAP-
- The SADC Regional Biodiversity Strategy was developed and approved by the SADC Integrated Council of Ministers in 2007.
- The SADC Biodiversity Action Plan was finalised with the support of IUCN, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and approved by SADC Ministers responsible for Environment and Natural Resources in 2013,
- The SADC Regional Protocol on Environmental Management for Sustainable development was approved by summit in 2014 and has been signed by 14 Member States. All Member States are at various stages of ratification. The Protocol is to promote more regional efforts in managing the environment (marine, aquatic, terrestrial and atmospheric). Within the protocol; article 4 (j) particularly calls for the implementation of sustainable land-use management practices to prevent soil erosion, land degradation, deforestation, desertification, overgrazing and bush encroachment and implementation of the protocol is expected to lead to strategies for the management of a number of environmental issues including the control of desertification.
- The Regional Climate Change Programme was developed to provide an organised regional, institutional, technical, financial and political framework for tackling climate change adaptation and mitigation actions effectively and coherently among the Member States partly to contribute towards the control of desertification.
- The Regional Green Economy Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Development-which also addresses desertification as one of the major focus areas of the Rio outcomes and to improve implementation of other natural resources management protocols such as the Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife Protocols and programmes such as the Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Land Degradation (REDD+) Programme, Transfrontier Conservation Areas Programme (TFCA) and the Fire Management Programme which directly contribute to the UNCCD. The SADC Member States recognize that implementation of the ten year UNCCD Strategy can only effectively be achieved through multifaceted and joint efforts that aim to address the causal agents of desertification and at the same time its impacts, and through the coordinated implementation of the Rio conventions.

1.4 Flagship SADC Projects

In implementing the provisions of the SADC Treaty relating to the sustainable development of natural resources and the alleviation of poverty the following projects can be listed as success stories.

- Kalahari-Namib Project: Enhancing decision-making through Interactive Environmental Learning and Action in the Molopo-Nossob River basin in Botswana, Namibia & South Africa
- Initiatives Contributing to Implementation of UNCCD in the Orange-Senqu River Basin

A detailed description of the projects is attached as Annexure 3.

Chapter 2: Rationale

2.1 The need to harmonize the SRAP with the SADC regional environmental reference frameworks

Since the adoption of the SADC SRAP in 1997, the institutional and political context in the area of environmental issues and rural development has evolved in Southern Africa, with the formulation and/or adoption of new policies and programmes that can now offer opportunities to manage the priority areas of the SADC SRAP.

These regional initiatives are aimed at enhancing the cooperation between the Member States and represent a range of actions and commitment by the Member States to achieve the objectives of these initiatives. The SRAP needs to embrace these initiatives without creating a new structure or institution to achieve its objectives. This will require a coordinated approach to resource mobilization and in particular political commitment to address the issues relating to desertification in the Region. One of the key elements of the SRAP would be an increased political awareness of desertification.

2.2 The need to harmonize the SRAP with global environmental frameworks

Since the adoption of the SADC SRAP in 1997 various developments have taken place at global level. These include the development and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000 which have been replaced by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 as well as developments within the UNCCD such as the adoption of the 10 Year Strategy in 2007.

The development and implementation of the SRAP must take cognizance of the developments at international level such as the SDGs. An outcome of particular relevance to the development of the SRAP is SDG 15, Target 15.3, which builds on the concept on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN).

LDN is of importance for the implementation of the UNCCD as it aims at maintaining or improving the condition of global resources by sustainable land management (SLM) accompanied by land restoration where required. Globally it has been agreed that it is important to reverse land degradation and hence it is important that national targets aimed at achieving LDN be established. At COP 11 in 2013 the UNCCD established an Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) to strengthen understanding of the concept of LDN's relevance to the convention. In anticipation of this the UNCCD has implemented a pilot project to demonstrate the process of LDN Target Setting in 16 countries.

Ten years after the endorsement of the Convention to combat desertification, it should be noted that certain factors have hindered its optimal enforcement. Among these factors:

- (i) the insufficient funding allocated to the Convention

- (ii) the weakness of its scientific foundations,
- (iii) the lack of advocacy and awareness of the various stakeholder groups,
- (iv) the existence of institutional gaps,
- (v) the difficulty for parties to agree on their views (ICCD/COP(8)/10/Add.29 July 2007).

The UNCCD 10 year strategic plan was adopted at COP 8 in Madrid in 2007 as decision 3/COP.8. It came about as a result of consultations by parties and institutions of the Convention, as well as private sector and civil society and it will be implemented between 2008 and 2018.

It has the vision to forge a global partnership to reverse and prevent desertification and land degradation and to mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas in order to support poverty reduction and environmental sustainability through achieving of the following strategic objectives, see Table 2:

Table 2: Strategic objectives of the 10-year UNCCD Strategic Plan

Strategic objective 1: To improve the living conditions of affected populations	
Expected impact 1.1	People living in areas affected by desertification/land degradation and drought to have an improved and more diversified livelihood base and to benefit from income generated from sustainable land management
Expected impact 1.2	Affected populations' socio-economic and environmental vulnerability to climate change, climate variability and drought is reduced
Strategic objective 2: To improve the condition of affected ecosystems	
Expected impact 2.1	Land productivity and other ecosystem goods and services in affected areas are enhanced in a sustainable manner contributing to improved livelihoods
Expected impact 2.2	The vulnerability of affected ecosystems to climate change, climate variability and drought is reduced
Strategic objective 3: To generate global benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD	
Expected impact 3.1	Sustainable land management and combating desertification/land degradation contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the mitigation of climate change
Strategic objective 4: To mobilize resources to support implementation of the Convention through building effective partnerships between national and international actors	
Expected impact 4.1	Increased financial, technical and technological resources are made available to affected developing country Parties, and where appropriate Central and Eastern European countries, to implement the Convention
Expected impact 4.2	Enabling policy environments are improved for UNCCD implementation

Its mission "to provide a global framework to support the development and implementation of national and regional policies, programmes and measures to prevent, control and reverse desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought through scientific and technological excellence, raising public awareness, standard setting, advocacy and resource mobilization, thereby contributing to poverty reduction" will be achieved through five operational objectives, see Table 3:

Table 3: Operational objectives of the 10-year UNCCD Strategic Plan

Operational objective 1: Advocacy, awareness raising and education	
Actively influence relevant international, national and local processes and actors in adequately addressing desertification/land degradation and drought-related issues.	
Suggested areas of alignment/focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication: identification of target audiences, development of messages, communications tools • Multi-sectorial influence
Operational objective 2: Policy framework	
Support the creation of enabling environments for promoting solutions to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought	
Suggested areas of	• Analysis of existing regional policies and frameworks. Focus on transboundary

alignment/focus	<p>issues such as Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), Invasive Species, Protected Area, and Sustainable Land Management (SLM).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing regional multi-sectorial coordination and platforms • Sub-regional Action Programms (SRAPs), SLM issues integrated into regional development planning and investment frameworks • Opportunities to identify and implement mutually reinforcing measures to address desertification, biodiversity and climate change mitigation and adaptation
Operational objective 3: Science, technology and knowledge	
Become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought	
Suggested areas of alignment/focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of regional knowledge management mechanisms, • Review of existing regional, transboundary knowledge systems and sources • Harmonised tools and data collection, analysis and dissemination • Regional assessment of SLM practice, degradation, Drylands biodiversity status • Establishment of regional monitoring systems for biophysical, climatic and socio-economic changes and trends • Establishment or enhancement of regional scientific/advisory committees, Establishment of platforms, networks for knowledge sharing to improve decision making
Operational objective 4: Capacity-building	
Identify and address capacity-building needs to prevent and reverse desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought	
Suggested areas of alignment/focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development or review of capacity building programme for key regional stakeholders • Reinforce capacities for cross sectorial approaches that promote synergies across the 3 Conventions
Operational objective 5: Financing and technology transfer	
Mobilize and improve the targeting and coordination of national, bilateral and multilateral financial and technological resources in order to increase their impact and effectiveness.	
Suggested areas of alignment/focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of integrated regional investment frameworks to leverage finances from national, bilateral and multinational sources, to combat desertification, • increase coordinated efforts to mobilize financial resources from international financial institutions, facilities and funds, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), by promoting sustainable land management (SLM) within the governing bodies of these institutions

The legal basis for the alignment of action programmes (NAPs, SRAPs, RAPs) are embedded in the following relevant decisions:

- Paragraph 5 of Decision 3/COP.8 taking into account the new scientific context of the new framework of action, *“invites the affected developing country parties and any other affected country party, in the framework of the applicable annex regarding the implementation at regional level, to align their action programmes and other relevant activities with the 2008-2018 strategy, namely by ensuring they obtain the results associated with the five operational objectives of the strategy”*.

2.3 Guiding principles of the SADC-SRAP

The SRAP is designed to be a programme for the implementation of the UNCCD and the adaptation/mitigation/reduction of vulnerability to climate changes in Southern Africa. The implementation of the SRAP should therefore contribute to increasing the efficiency and effects of scale of the NAP's results.

The basis of the SADC-SRAP is enshrined in the following guiding principles:

- Participation of all actors, especially women and the youth ;
- Issues of common interest for at least two countries of the sub-region and have a tangible and rapid impact on the implementation of their NAP
- Solidarity, partnership and coordination among all the actors in the sub-region in order to make the most of the resources allocated.

- Reliance primarily on sub-regional resources. External assistance and support should be considered as optional;
- Built SRAP past experiences ;
- Inclusion of the SRAP in poverty eradication strategies as an essential aspect and as a progressive and iterative programme;
- Application of subsidiarity to the implementation of the SADC-SRAP.
- Delegation of authority aimed at achieving complementarity, in order to preclude duplications and resources wasting.
- Cooperation with the other sub-regions and regions across the globe.
- The ten-year Framework of the UNCCD and the obligations of stakeholders to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

CHAPTER 3: Lessons learnt

3.1. SADC Restructuring

The restructuring of SADC in 2009 affected some strategies and programmes and saw the dissolution of SADC-ELMS and the freezing of the SADC Environment Sector.

The functions of the SADC-ELMS relating to agriculture, natural resources and environment have been taken over by FANR and the functions relating to water resources management by Infrastructure and Services. This separation of the functions relating to sustainable development has affected the implementation of programmes such as the SRAP.

As the requirements for the implementation of actions to combat desertification is specific the need exists for a dedicated environmental directorate within the SADC Secretariat.

3.2 Financial and Technical Commitment from SADC Member States and the SADC Secretariat

The SADC Region is viewed by the international community as one of the lead organisations in Africa for the fight against desertification. However, despite various initiatives the region has not allocated sufficient resources to implement elements of the SRAP. Greater commitment, technical and financial support as well as lobbying by Member States to involve other ministries in environmental processes is needed from Member States as well as from the SADC Secretariat. It would also require that Member States capacitate their own structures to implement the provisions of the SRAP and the UNCCD as a convention.

The environmental sector is incapacitated and underfunded within the SADC Secretariat. This is as a result of the current structural arrangements with the environmental division placed under the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate instead of as a stand-alone directorate. The main implication for this is reduced funding allocation for environmental programmes. The SADC Member States had also committed to second staff members to the SADC Secretariat however only Namibia and South Africa have honoured this commitment. The lack of staff members concentrating on environmental issues is also a serious challenge within the Secretariat.

The need for a strong and dedicated environmental directorate can only be achieved through commitment by the Member States to provide resources, both financially and human to support such a directorate.

3.3 Identification of regional actions

The purpose of the SRAP is to address actions that can at best be dealt with at regional level and should not include actions that can be addressed at national level. Although various protocols and initiatives have been developed, issues such as capacity building and awareness raising towards political structures should be addressed at national level. The influence of a regional structure such as SADC would be limited to regional activities and it would for example be inappropriate to become involved with farmers associations in the communication strategy, it would rather provide guidelines on how such organisations should be involved in the implementation of the UNCCD. Similarly, the investigation towards alternative energy resources should be aimed at local conditions and will have to be undertaken at national level.

The development of a SRAP should not obviate the need for Member States to implement the provisions of the UNCCD at national level and only truly regional activities should be included in the SRAP.

3.4 Resource mobilisation for transboundary and regional initiatives

Regional programmes generally have a greater impact and International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) are inclined to support such programmes as they have more benefit on the ground and at global level. This could be due to the fact that it is probably easier to justify work that is not the responsibility of a single country or it could be seen as greater opportunity to add value, or be seen as a manifestation of the global dimensions of desertification.

The Kalahari-Namib Project is a good example of where Member States are working together and this approach should be continued and be used as a model for the rest of the region.

3.5 Information and capacity sharing between Member States

A cornerstone of the implementation of the SRAP is regional coordination and in this regard information sharing is of utmost importance. Examples of such information to be shared relates to experience gained in the implementation of the KNP as well as the success achieved in Botswana in combatting the spread and eradication of *Prosopis* spp. SADC has a definitive role to play in this regard and this item should be maintained in the SRAP.

The alignment of the UNCCD 10-year Strategy with the NAP is an area where information on how this is achieved should be shared between the various Member States.

CHAPTER 4 SADC SRAP (2015 – 2025)

The purpose of the SADC SRAP (2015 – 20) would be to amongst others reinforce the NAPs but operate at a broader geographical, political, institutional and programmatic level; act as an implementation tool of several parties; and express common policy, approach and practice of the various role players. Following the principle of subsidiarity, the SRAP should pay particular attention to matters that cannot realistically be addressed at the national level; matters of transboundary or regional nature. This is consistent with the origins of the Convention as a mechanism to address desertification as a global environmental challenge.

4.1 Introduction to the Revised SADC SRAP (2015 – 20)

The implementation of the SRAP will contribute to the sustainable development of the SADC Region through the sustainable management of its natural resources. The implementation

of the SRAP will take place within the objectives of the Revised RISDP 2015-2020 which was approved by the Council of Ministers in March 2015 and the Strategy of the UNCCD adopted at COP 8 in 2007.

4.2 Revision of the SRAP

Recognising the need to revive action on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and to update and realign the Sub-regional Action Programme for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) with global and regional developments a meeting of SADC Focal Points was convened from 18-20 June 2013 in Pretoria, South Africa.

The meeting requested the SADC Secretariat to lead the process of the revision of the SRAP. The SADC Secretariat in collaboration with the IUCN solicited the services of a consultant to develop the 2nd generation of the SADC Sub-regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification.

At a workshop convened in Pretoria, South Africa from 28 to 30 August 2015, the draft SRAP was discussed and the final actions were agreed, as outlined in this document.

The SRAP will be effective for the period 2015 to 2025.

4.3 The SADC Sub-Regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification (2015 – 20

In line with the purpose and objectives of the SRAP, SADC has identified the following regional priorities in relation to the operational objectives identified in the UNCCD 10-year Strategy at COP 8. The detailed activities needed to implement the regional priorities identified above, are illustrated in Annexure 2.

Operational Objective 1: Advocacy, awareness raising and education

1. Development of a communication strategy at regional level
2. Awareness raising for policy makers
3. Development of training modules and education at all levels, including for media
4. Revise and implement the proposed SADC Environmental Information Systems Programme
5. Establishment of information exchange and dialogue mechanism/platform

To give effect to the implementation of this Operational Objective would require the undertaking of a regional communication needs analysis which would identify the appropriate message to be developed. The message would address the issue of enhanced awareness of the issue of desertification and environmental issues by policy makers as well as the media and general public.

The outcome of this would also include undertaking of a needs analysis regarding the environmental information system and an appropriate dialogue mechanism.

Operational objective 2: Policy framework

1. Promote awareness among all relevant SADC sectors of their responsibilities in implementing the UNCCD, including enhancing synergies between the 3 Rio Conventions.

2. Strengthen and harmonize policy and legal frameworks for sustainable land management of transboundary natural resources by providing assistance to Member States
3. Mainstreaming Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD) into existing related SADC Protocols/Policies e.g. RBOs and the SADC Water Policy (2005).

The outcome of the implementation of the actions required to give effect to this Operational Objective will be an increased awareness and coordination of the provisions of the three Rio conventions.

The first step would be to identify the concurrent requirements of the three conventions and then to align the provisions of the various SADC policy documents to provide a coordinated approach which ensures that DLDD principles are included.

Operational objective 3: Science, technology and knowledge

1. Strengthening of early warning systems
2. Promote and facilitate transboundary management of shared natural resources including up scaling the KNP Action Plan to other countries of similar ecosystem
3. Development and transfer of appropriate technology and best practices on SLM
4. Establish a scientific advisory body to ensure the acquisition and development of appropriate technologies and their adaptation to the needs of local communities
5. Promote the use of alternative energy sources through, inter alia, acquisition and dissemination of data, information and experiences on appropriate low cost technologies

The implementation of the Operational Objective will be achieved by means of a (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threats) SWOT analysis of the existing early warning system to identify any possible deficiencies in the system as well as areas and to propose alternatives to increase its effectiveness.

A similar exercise will be undertaken regarding successful transboundary management of shared resources as well as SLM to identify areas which could be duplicated in areas of similar ecosystems throughout the region.

The establishment of a scientific advisory body will require that an appropriate structure be identified as well as the criteria for the membership. Once this has been established the body will be constituted and operationalized.

Various alternative energy sources will be investigated to determine the most appropriate alternative in the region. Following the identification of appropriate sources the required information will be acquired and disseminated in the region.

Operational objective 4: Capacity-building

1. Undertake regional capacity needs assessment to tackle desertification/land degradation
2. Develop and implement a strategic framework for capacity building and development strategic framework for SADC region
3. Strengthen human capacity of the SADC Environmental Unit pursuing the process of establishing an environment and natural resources directorate
4. Regional tool kit/guidelines on DLDD issues.

The first step will be to undertake a SWOT analysis of the needs in the region that is required to address the desertification issue in the region. Through the SWOT analysis

appropriate technical needs will be identified. From the results of the SWOT analysis it will also be possible to develop a framework for capacity development in the region.

Key human capital requirements in the SADC Environmental Unit needed to enhance the capacity of the unit will be identified. Member States will be requested to consider the appropriate ways of filling the identified positions and also to consider the allocation of additional financial resources to fund these positions. These actions will support the establishment of an Environmental Directorate in SADC.

To address the concern regarding the development of a DLDD toolkit, a needs analysis will be undertaken to identify the most appropriate message as well as technology that will result in an effective and practical toolkit that can be used by various role players to enhance the application of DLDD principles in the region.

Operational objective 5: Financing and technology transfer

1. Establish an environmental unit/department and strengthen the capacity at SADC Secretariat
2. Establishment and operationalization of a Regional Integrated Financing System (IFS)
3. Development of guidelines for the establishment of a harmonized green tax
4. Lobbying for continued political and financial commitment of Member States
5. Strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat for mobilisation of financial resource.

To establish a separate environmental directorate in SADC will require an investigation aimed at identifying the need for such a directorate as well as the most appropriate way of addressing the current shortcomings. Once the structure of such a directorate has been identified it will require that Member States be approached in providing the necessary resources, both human and finances to operate such a directorate.

The identification of an IFS will require that an appropriate system be identified through conducting a needs analysis. Once it is known what is required the operationalization of the system will be considered.

The establishment of guidelines for a harmonized green tax will similarly require that the most suitable system be identified through an investigation aimed at what is needed and what is available. Once such a system has been identified the guidelines to implement the system will be developed.

CHAPTER 5: IMPLEMENTATION OF SRAP

The implementation of the SRAP in SADC is a collaborative initiative which involves various role players which include amongst others the following:

- Member States
- SADC Secretariat

5.1 Role of Member States

The implementation of the SRAP calls for the following roles and responsibilities from the SADC Member States:

- drive national activities and projects that respond to National Action Plans which in turn contributes to the Sub-regional Action Programme (SRAP);

- report to SADC on the implementation of the SRAP and provide information on successes and deficiencies;
- mobilise funds and other resources for the implementation of SRAP;
- engage in transboundary initiatives; and
- facilitate joint implementation with other relevant conventions.

5.2 Role of SADC Secretariat

As the regional coordinating body the role of SADC Secretariat in the implementation of the SRAP would include the following:

- mobilize funds for implementation of the SRAP on behalf of Member States;
- undertake the monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the implementation of the SRAP;
- provide technical backstopping;
- ensure continuity in implementing the SRAP in the case of institutional restructuring;
- mobilize sub-regional institutions for the implementation of the SRAP;
- facilitate the sharing of lessons and learning (e.g. periodic forums); and
- establish partnerships with institutions capable of supporting SRAP implementation.

The framework for implementation of the SRAP should be similar to the framework for the SADC Biodiversity Action Plan. In this regard the SADC SRAP should provide a shared agenda to combat DLDD in the region by -

- guiding the SADC Community in protecting and restoring the region's natural resources and the invaluable benefits it provides across national (political) boundaries;
- providing a tool/roadmap through which the regional structures, Member States, relevant stakeholders and relevant partners can mobilise resources and work together to combat DLDD;
- providing intervention areas and actions where there is regional consensus on key issues and will enable SADC to articulate unified positions at international fora;
- assisting Member States to cooperate in realising regional and national obligations to the UNCCD;
- providing a platform for cooperating with relevant international instruments such as the UNFCCC, UNCBD, the Convention on Migratory Species, Convention on International in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

5.3 Financing the SRAP

Operational Objective 5 of the 10-year Strategy aims at improving the impact and effectiveness of efforts to solicit financial support and the mobilization of other resources required for the implementation of the SRAP.

SADC will play a cardinal role in coordinating the efforts in the region to obtain the necessary financial support to implement the SRAP. The financial support will be obtained from financing agencies such as the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, from other financing institutions such as the World Bank and the African Development Bank as well as from bilateral donors. SADC should maintain dialogue with development partners and facilities of

the United Nations such as UNEP and UNDP. SADC should also identify innovative opportunities for financing with private sector partners.

Through the involvement of SADC in the soliciting of financial support the efforts will take place in a coordinated and well-structured way which would enhance the rate of success of such efforts.

5.4 Monitoring and evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation of the SRAP would aim to answer the extent to which the activities of the SRAP produced the expected results on the basis of the identified performance indicators included in the implementation plan.

As the SRAP is an iterative document a review of the document should be undertaken in 2018. Improved regional data collection will strengthen the capacity of SADC for monitoring implementation of the SRAP and progress towards goals. This is captured under Activity 1.4 on the SADC Environmental Information Systems Programme.

Annexure 1 List of SADC Protocols and related published documents

1. Sustainable Groundwater Management in SADC Member States

A regional project to build Sustainable Groundwater Management in SADC Member States is under preparation by the SADC Secretariat with the support of the World Bank. With the challenges of climate change, pollution and rapidly growing water demand in southern Africa, the project will aim to strengthen the management and development of groundwater for social and economic development. The project will support activities at regional, basin and national levels. There are over 30 shared aquifer systems identified across southern Africa and Member States often share similar groundwater challenges. The project will implement priority actions in the work-programme for groundwater in the SADC Regional Strategic Action Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management (RSAP III, 2011–2015).

The project will be strategically managed by the SADC Secretariat's Water Division in Gaborone, Botswana. The SADC Groundwater Management Institute (GMI) and the project will be hosted by the University of the Free State (through its Institute for Groundwater Studies) on behalf of the SADC Secretariat

2. Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan Energy Sector Plan (2012)

Date Signed: 2012-07-04

Type: Documents & Publications, SADC Technical & Thematic Reports

Themes: Themes, Infrastructure, Energy

This Energy Sector Plan (ESP) is part of the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP) whose aim is to define regional infrastructure requirements and conditions to facilitate the realisation of key infrastructure in the energy, water, transport, tourism, meteorology and telecommunications sectors by 2027. Such infrastructure would enable the SADC region to attain regional integration, economic growth and poverty eradication

3. Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan Meteorology Sector Plan (2012)

Date Signed: 2012-07-04

Type: Documents & Publications, Key Strategies, SADC Technical & Thematic Reports

Themes: Themes, Infrastructure, Meteorology, Meteorology & Climate, Meteorology, Climate Information

With infrastructure central to its goals of poverty eradication and regional integration, SADC developed the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan as a strategic framework guiding infrastructure development in Southern Africa. The Meteorology Sector Plan component of the Master Plan aims to ensure that meteorological services play an integrated and effective role in socioeconomic development of the SADC region.

4. Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan Tourism Sector Plan (2012)

Date Signed: 2012-07-04

Type: Documents & Publications, Key Strategies, SADC Technical & Thematic Reports

Themes: Tourism, Wildlife

With infrastructure central to its goals of poverty eradication and regional integration, SADC developed the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan as a strategic framework guiding infrastructure development in Southern Africa. The Tourism Sector Plan component of this Master Plan aims to outline an approach for development of transfrontier conservation areas – key drivers of tourism in the SADC region.

5. [Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan Water Sector Plan \(2012\)](#)

Date Signed: 2012-07-04

Type: Documents & Publications, Key Strategies, SADC Technical & Thematic Reports

Themes: Water & Sanitation, Water

With infrastructure central to its goals of poverty eradication and regional integration, SADC developed the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan as a strategic framework guiding infrastructure development in Southern Africa. The Water Sector Plan component of this Master Plan aims to further the development of water resources infrastructure in the SADC region, with particular regard for those projects already authorised by Member States.

6. [Outcomes of Rio+20 Conference](#)

Date Signed: 2012-06-01

Type: Documents & Publications, SADC Technical & Thematic Reports

Following the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the Heads of State and Government reaffirm their commitment to sustainable development. The statement on the Outcome of the Conference reiterates the principles of previous action plans and renews political commitment to accelerating efforts toward achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

7. [SADC Policy Paper Climate Change](#)

Date Signed: 2012-04-05

Type: Documents & Publications, SADC Technical & Thematic Reports

Issues: Environment & Sustainable Development

The paper provides a summary of the observed and expected climate change in SADC countries. The observed impacts of global warming and climate change on sectors and the challenges for climate change adaptation and mitigation are discussed to provide a background to the growing need of the SADC region to develop policy strategies in response to climate change. Possible adaptation and mitigation options in different sectors are argued. While adaptation remains a priority for SADC, it is also clear the voluntary mitigation activities can provide benefits to promote regional integration and socio-economic development in the SADC region

8. [Africa Consensus Statement to Rio+20](#)

Date Signed: 2011-10-01

Type: Documents & Publications, SADC Technical & Thematic Reports

Issues: Environment & Sustainable Development

Themes: Energy, Agriculture & Food Security, Food Security, Forests

Prior to the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the Ministers of African States held a preparatory meeting to deliberate the objectives and themes of the conference and to determine a consensus for key priorities and concerns affecting Africa. The Consensus Statement addresses the state of development in Africa and reaffirms States' commitment to sustainable development moving toward the Millennium Development Goals.

The Consensus Statement calls on the Rio+20 Summit to reinvigorate political will and international commitments to sustainable development. States acknowledge the progress of Africa since the 1992 Rio Summit and call for increased action in critical areas such as agricultural productivity, biotechnology research, and others. The Statement recognises new

challenges to sustainable development, such as climate change and the energy crisis, but also notes the opportunities these challenges provide, such as spurring transition to a green economy. States urge the international community to accelerate support for the region and encourage concrete measures based on participation by major groups at all levels in order to successfully implement

9. [Southern Africa Framework of Sub-regional Climate Change Programmes](#)

Date Signed: 2010-06-01

Type: Documents & Publications, SADC Technical & Thematic Reports

Themes: Infrastructure, Meteorology & Climate, Climate Information, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Change Mitigation

Due to Southern Africa's dependency on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture and coastal zones, the increased frequency of extreme climate events in the region has contributed to its vulnerability. In order to emphasise the importance of adaptation to this changing climate, the SADC Experts Group prepared the Southern Africa Sub-Regional Framework of Climate Change Programmes in 2010

10. [Regional Water Infrastructure Programme brochure](#)

Date Signed: 2010-01-01

Type: Documents & Publications, SADC Technical & Thematic Reports, Brochures

Themes: Water & Sanitation, Water

The Regional Water Infrastructure Programme for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is aligned with regional goals of regional economic integration and poverty eradication, the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and supporting one of the priority intervention areas under the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP).

11. [SADC Communication Strategy for Water Sector \(2008\)](#)

Date Signed: 2008-05-01

Type: Documents & Publications, Key Strategies, SADC Technical & Thematic Reports

Themes: Water & Sanitation, Water

The Regional Awareness and Communication Strategy for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Water Sector fulfils the call for establishing sector specific strategies and crafting, packaging and dissemination of messages and themes, which should be based on but not limited to SADC priority intervention areas.

12. [SADC Multi-country Agricultural Productivity Programme \(MAPP\) Document](#)

Date Signed: 2008-04-01

Type: Documents & Publications, SADC Technical & Thematic Reports

Agriculture in the SADC region is the primary source of subsistence, employment and income for 61 percent of the peoples of the region. Despite a diversified natural resource base, overall agricultural growth and productivity have remained low over the past twenty years. The urgent implementation of broad-based programmes to reverse the overall decline in the productivity of the agriculture sector is a central priority in setting SADC Member States on the path of fast economic growth and poverty reduction. The diversity of the region's farming and livelihood systems presents great challenges to policymakers in formulating sound agriculture development strategies. But, even given this diversity, many

countries in the region share similar problems and opportunities. Cooperation in some of these key areas can yield significant benefits – as can greater economic integration by taking advantage of natural comparative advantages

SADC MAPP is designed as a comprehensive 15-year programme of change, arranged around three 5 year phases. The overall programme goal is to bring about pluralistic and strengthened agricultural technology generation and dissemination, together with strengthening linkages among agricultural institutions in the SADC region in order to accelerate smallholder productivity. The result will be market- and smallholder-responsive and accessible agricultural technologies which will create agricultural growth, and increase incomes especially amongst the rural poor.

13. [SADC Regional Biodiversity Strategy](#)

Date Signed: 2008-02-01

Type: Documents & Publications, SADC Technical & Thematic Reports

Issues: Environment & Sustainable Development

Southern Africa is home to abundant biodiversity, which contributes to the livelihoods of many people in the region. Therefore, this biodiversity is central to SADC's objective of improving socioeconomic development. In order to foster this biodiversity in the face of regional underdevelopment and environmental challenges, SADC has devised a Regional Biodiversity Strategy.

The Regional Biodiversity Strategy aims to provide a framework for cooperation and implementation of provisions toward sustaining the region's biodiversity. Noting practical constraints on sustaining biodiversity in the region, the Strategy outlines tactics for addressing focal areas that cut across several sectors – forestry, wildlife, agriculture, and others. These tactics are based on a scope of developing programmes to enhance economic development without compromising sustainable use. The Strategy also suggests activities for its funding and implementation, encouraging SADC Member States to develop projects in biodiversity focal areas.

14. [SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis \(RVAA\) Synthesis Report 2013](#)

Type: Documents & Publications, SADC Technical & Thematic Reports

Themes: Themes, Agriculture & Food Security, Food Security

15. [SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis \(RVAA\) Synthesis Report 2014](#)

Type: Documents & Publications, SADC Technical & Thematic Reports

Themes: Themes, Agriculture & Food Security, Food Security

16. [Protocol on Forestry \(2002\)](#)

Entry Into Force: 2009-07-17

Date Signed: 2002-08-03

Type: Protocols

Themes: Natural Resources, Forests

The SADC Protocol on Forestry of 2002 aims to promote the development, conservation, sustainable management and utilisation of all types of forest and trees; trade in forest

products and achieve effective protection of the environment, and safeguard the interests of both the present and future generations

17. [Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses \(2000\)](#)

Date Signed: 2000-08-07

Type: Documents & Publications, Protocols

Themes: Infrastructure, Water & Sanitation, Natural Resources, Water

As much of Southern Africa relies on agriculture for its subsistence, water is of special concern for SADC. Many watercourses in the region are shared among several Member States, a situation that demands their development in an environmentally sound manner. To this end, SADC initially passed its Protocol on Shared Watercourses in the Southern African Development Community on 28th August 1995, which was revised on 7th August 2000.

The Protocol aims to foster closer cooperation among Member States for protection, management, and use of shared watercourses in the region. Member States agree to cooperate on projects and exchange information on shared watercourses, consulting with each other and collaborating on initiatives that balance development of watercourses with conservation of the environment. The Protocol also contains an institutional framework that sets out a Water Sector Organ, its committees and units, and its duties for joint protection and development of shared watercourses in Southern Africa

18. [Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement \(1999\)](#)

Entry Into Force: 2003-11-30

Date Signed: 1999-08-14

Type: Protocols

Themes: Agriculture & Food Security, Transfrontier Conservation Areas, Wildlife

Wildlife resources in Southern Africa have the potential to affect the region's economic development and environmental protection – two primary concerns of SADC. Therefore, SADC passed its Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement on 18th August 1999 to establish a common framework for conservation and sustainable use of wildlife in the region

19. [Protocol on Fisheries 2001](#)

Type: Protocols

Date Signed: 2001-08-14

Entry Into Force: 2003-08-08

Place: Gaborone, Botswana

Theme tags: Agriculture & Food Security, Fisheries

SADC recognises the important role of fisheries in the social and economic well-being and livelihood of the people of the region, in ensuring food security and alleviating poverty. Therefore to support national initiatives taken and international conventions for the sustainable use and protection of the living aquatic resources and aquatic environment of the region, SADC Member States signed the Protocol on Fisheries in 2001.

The Protocol emphasizes the responsibilities of Member States, international relations as well as the effective management of shared resources. In signing this Protocol the Member States agree to harmonise their domestic legislation with particular reference to fisheries and

the management of shared resources, to take adequate measures to optimize fisheries law enforcement resources and thus protect aquaculture and the aquatic environment and safeguard the livelihood of fishing communities.

20. [Declaration on Agriculture & Food Security \(2004\)](#)

Date Signed: 2004-05-15

Type: Documents & Publications, Declarations

Themes: Agriculture & Food Security, Food Security, Crop Production, Livestock Production, Fisheries, Agricultural Information

Agriculture and food security contribute to a region's quality of life, making them top priorities for SADC. The Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in the SADC Region sets out SADC Member States' commitment to enhancing agriculture as a means of improving access to food for people in the region.

Member States agree to implement short, medium, and long-term objectives to advance the state of agriculture and food security in Southern Africa. Short-term plans focus on raising the level of agriculture and food security through such means as ensuring small farmers access agricultural inputs, improving fertilizer usage in the region, and increasing production of drought-resistant crops and short-cycle livestock. Medium- to long-term approaches concentrate on maintaining sustainable agriculture and food security measures through environmental conservation, disaster preparation, and research into modern agricultural technologies.

The Declaration instructs the SADC Integrated Committee of Ministers to implement the related Plan of Action, reviewing its progress every two years

21. [Charter Establishing the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development \(CCARDESA\) \(2010\)](#)

Date Signed: 2010-11-05

Type: Documents & Publications, Charters

Themes: Agriculture & Food Security

The Member States of the Southern African Development Community on the 5th November 2010 signed a charter establishing the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa. Acknowledging that the capacity of the SADC region scientific community to undertake and manage research and development (R&D), and related training activities has increased considerably and cooperation in Agricultural Research and Development would enhance efficiency in alleviating common problems, Member States agreed to the development of the centre.

The Charter provides Member States with a framework for the establishment and operationalisation of a Sub-regional Organisation that will coordinate agricultural research and development (R&D) in the SADC region. It outlines the specific objectives and functions of the centre as well as its relationship with the SADC Secretariat.

22. [SADC Agrometeorological Update](#)

Date Signed: Regularly published

Type: Documents & Publications, Newsletters

Themes: Agriculture & Food Security, Food Security, Crop Production, Meteorology & Climate, Meteorology, Climate Information

23. [SADC Food Security Update](#)

Date Signed: Regularly published

Type: Documents & Publications, Newsletters

Themes: Agriculture & Food Security, Food Security

24. [SADC Strategic Framework and Programme of Action 2008-2015](#)

Date Signed: 2008-11-01

Type: Documents & Publications, SADC Technical & Thematic Reports

Themes: Social & Human Development, Poverty Eradication & Policy Dialogue

The impact of poverty, food insecurity, and disease on Southern Africa is most evident in its effects on orphans, vulnerable children, and youth. Although policies throughout the region in support of vulnerable young people are strong, SADC has identified a need for a strategic framework to support these policies, setting out actions for change that complement national and community efforts for development. For this reason, SADC initiated its Strategic Framework and Programme of Action for Orphans, Vulnerable Children and Youth in 2008

25. [Declaration on Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development 2008](#)

Date Signed: 2008-04-20

Type: Documents & Publications, Declarations

Issues: Environment & Sustainable Development

Themes: Social & Human Development, Orphans, Vulnerable Children & Youth, Poverty Eradication & Policy Dialogue

With poverty eradication in Southern Africa as a chief objective, SADC addresses the current state of development and its areas of priority through the Declaration on Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development, signed on 20th April 2008.

This Declaration advises Member States to redouble their efforts in meeting Millennium Development Goals by highlighting areas of focus such as food insecurity, climate change, and underdevelopment of infrastructure.

Along with the long-term strategies for poverty eradication outlined in the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan and the Strategic Indicative Plan of the Organ, the Declaration urges Member States to deepen Regional Integration and to liberalise their economies as a means of improving the regional standards of living. Among other strategies, the Declaration also calls for the establishment of a taskforce on food insecurity, mitigation plans for climate change, and microfinance systems for small- and medium-sized enterprises.

Through all of these plans, SADC encourages Member States to mobilise resources for its poverty eradication programmes and to promote private sector investment that spurs the region's economic development

26. [The Regional Poverty Reduction Framework](#)

Date Signed: 2008-04-01

Type: Documents & Publications, SADC Technical & Thematic Reports

Themes: Poverty Eradication & Policy Dialogue

The Regional Poverty Reduction Framework seeks to elaborate and translate SADC's Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan priority intervention area on poverty eradication into an implementation framework. This has the effect of fine-tuning the regional agenda for poverty eradication and provides a bridge to align national poverty reduction strategies to regional interventions.

The framework selectively covers critical and high impact areas where a regional approach is expected to complement and bolster the national interventions in the fight against poverty across the region.

The framework therefore focuses on the regional dimensions of national poverty reduction interventions including cross-border issues which need to be identified and addressed collectively. This must dovetail with the poverty dimensions of regional integration and cooperation policies and programmes (RISDP) and Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO) in order to maximise synergies between regional and national interventions.

The Regional Poverty Reduction Framework also pays more attention to cross-border issues in order to improve consistency between national strategies and programmes on one hand and the regional strategies and programmes on the other with a view to enhance the visibility and relevance of regional interventions to country policy makers.

27. [Southern Africa Framework of Sub-regional Climate Change Programmes](#)

Date Signed: 2010-06-01

Type: Documents & Publications, SADC Technical & Thematic Reports

Themes: Infrastructure, Meteorology & Climate, Climate Information, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Change Mitigation

Due to Southern Africa's dependency on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture and coastal zones, the increased frequency of extreme climate events in the region has contributed to its vulnerability. In order to emphasise the importance of adaptation to this changing climate, the SADC Experts Group prepared the Southern Africa Sub-Regional Framework of Climate Change Programmes in 2010.

The Framework provides an overview of Southern Africa's climate situation and programmes aimed at climate change adaptation, mitigation, or capacity building. It collates and analyses existing regional initiatives as a means of facilitating greater synergies between the SADC Secretariat, coordinating body, and national governments. Along with projections for regional climate change, the Framework identifies gaps in current initiatives and suggests steps for further progress toward a comprehensive programme of adaptation and mitigation actions, including training, policy review, and funding mechanism for further initiatives

28. [Protocol on Science Technology and Innovation \(2008\)](#)

Entry Into Force: Not yet in force

Date Signed: 2008-08-17

Type: Protocols

Issues: Science & Technology, Information & Communication

Themes: Science, Technology & Innovation

Science and technology are cross-cutting issues for the SADC region, affecting all aspects of the region's socioeconomic development. Recognising that these factors play an important role in the future of Southern Africa, SADC Member States signed the Protocol on

Science, Technology and Innovation on 17th August 2008 to foster cooperation and to promote development of science and technology in the region.

In signing the Protocol, Member States agree to cooperate on institutional mechanisms for science, technology, and innovation. The Protocol sets out these institutions, as well as their committees and subcommittees, composition, functions, systems of financing their initiatives, and methods of monitoring progress. The aim is to promote development and harmonisation of science, technology, and innovation policies, advocating investment in research and development and promoting public awareness of science and technology.

29. Regional Agricultural Policy (2014)

The Regional Agricultural Policy sets out the principles that guide SADC agricultural policy, notably subsidiarity, additionality, complementarity, proportionality, coherence, partnership and consultation, environmental sustainability, solidarity and market integration.

Key policy objectives set out in the document include:

- enhancing “sustainable agricultural production, productivity and competitiveness”;
- improving “regional and international trade and access to markets of agricultural products”;
- improving “private and public sector engagement and investment in the agricultural value-chains”;
- reducing “social and economic vulnerability of the region’s population in the context of food and nutrition security”.

Several areas for project and programme interventions are identified. In addition, a range of policy commitments are made, the most significant of which relate to:

- harmonising sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and national veterinary service systems in line with international standards;
- promoting harmonisation of product standards, where these constitute barriers to trade;
- rationalising and simplifying rules of origin;
- developing approaches to the successful elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in intra-regional inputs and outputs (including export bans and similar trade disincentives);
- eliminating tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade in extra-regional inputs;
- developing increased consultations on tariff and safeguard measures adopted;
- promoting cooperation in international trade negotiations;
- establishing mechanisms to address adjustment costs associated with trade integration;
- promoting cross-border partnerships and investments;
- developing common guidelines on subsidies to agricultural production and investment;
- promoting national and regional commodity exchanges;
- improving and integrating agricultural market information and intelligence systems;
- promoting contract farming, investment in storage, and in related infrastructure and market-friendly food shortage/emergency policies;
- adopting measures to minimise the use of trade-distorting policy measures in response to food shortages;
- promoting farmer organisations and strengthening their bargaining power within value chains;

- promoting the development of regional mechanisms and instruments to support agricultural investment, and eliminating barriers to investment;
- strengthening agricultural and farm systems research in the face of the realities of SADC member states (including the HIV/AIDS pandemic and gender inequality).

The policy identifies a range of success factors essential for regional agricultural policy implementation. Importance is attached to:

- identifying those areas which yield the most immediate returns;
- the establishment of an Agricultural Development Fund to support the Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP), which should be consistent with National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs) under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Plan (CAADP);
- the establishment of a strong monitoring and evaluation system.

The policy aims to implement various measures within a rolling 5-year time frame, with progress being subject to regular review, and planning and implementation.

My Comments on this whole section:

This section can be shortened by the following ways:

1. The Regional Infrastructure Development Masterplan can be written as one approved document, then reference is made to the different sector plans. Instead of listing them one by one as individual policy documents.
2. The Water framework documents can also be grouped into one paragraph and named there.
3. The climate change documents can also be grouped into one paragraph
4. The same applies to the Agriculture and Food security documents.
5. No reference has been made to the SADC Green Economy Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Development

Annexure 2: List of actions identified to implement regional priorities

This action part forms a key part of the document and is crucial for resource mobilisation. Maybe because of time we didn't get to costing the activities and proposing time frames for implementation (i.e short, medium and long term)

Result	Main activities	Secondary activities	Indicator	Resource required	Where will the resources come from	Who will lead in mobilisation of these resources
Operational Objective 1: : Advocacy, awareness raising and education						
1. Regional communication strategy	Development of a regional communication strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs analysis Identification of appropriate message Develop strategy Solicit resources 	Communication strategy developed and adopted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultant Consultative meetings/ workshop 	Internal (Member States) and external sources (international donors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SADC Secretariat
2. Policy makers aware of environmental issues	Awareness raising for policy makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs analysis Development of strategy Development of policy briefs Solicit resources 	Number of awareness meetings conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training manual development Policy briefs 	Internal sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SADC Secretariat Member States
3. Increased awareness regarding environmental issues	Development of training modules and education at all levels, including for media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs analysis Identification of appropriate message Develop strategy Solicit resources 	Modules developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultant Consultative Meetings/ workshop 	Internal and external sources (international donors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SADC Secretariat Centres of excellency Designated Member State
4. Implementation of the proposed SADC Environmental Information Systems Programme	Revise and implement the SADC Environmental Information Systems Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs analysis Revise Environmental Information Systems Programme Implement the Environmental Information Systems Programme Solicit resources 	Revised Environmental Information Systems Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultant Consultative Meetings/ workshop 	Internal (Member States) and external sources (international donors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SADC Secretariat
5. SADC information exchange and dialogue mechanism/platform	Establishment of information exchange and dialogue mechanism/platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs analysis Identification of appropriate mechanism Develop mechanism Solicit resources 	DLDD Online network /portal linked to the website Number of regional conferences/ workshops conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IT expert Equipment Conferences/ workshops 	Internal and external sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SADC Secretariat Member States
Operational Objective 2: Policy framework						
1. Increased awareness among relevant SADC sectors relating to UNCCD and 3 Rio	Promote awareness among all relevant SADC sectors of their responsibilities in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify relevant SADC sectors Identify relevant areas of overlap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration framework Joint liaison group established 	Panel of experts	Internal and external sources	SADC Secretariat

Result	Main activities	Secondary activities	Indicator	Resource required	Where will the resources come from	Who will lead in mobilisation of these resources
Conventions	implementing the UNCCD, including enhancing synergies between the 3 Rio Conventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solicit resources Initiate the establishment of a joint liaison group 				
2. Strengthened and harmonized policy and legal frameworks for SLM of transboundary resources	Strengthen and harmonize policy and legal frameworks for sustainable land management of transboundary natural resources by providing assistance to Member States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify relevant areas of cooperation Identify existing policies and legal frameworks SWOT analysis Develop appropriate interventions Solicit resources 	Harmonized policy and legal frameworks consider institutional arrangements in different countries	Legal and policy experts	Internal and external sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SADC Secretariat Designated Member States
3. Desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) mainstreamed into existing related SADC Protocols/Policies	Include DLDD principles into existing protocols and policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify relevant protocols and policies Identify deficiencies Incorporate DLDD principles in relevant protocols and policies Solicit resources 	Updated protocols and Policies with DLDD issues incorporated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultant Consultative meetings 	Internal and external sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SADC Secretariat UNCCD Secretariat
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND KNOWLEDGE						
1. Improved and effective early warning system	Strengthen the early warning systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solicit resources SWOT analysis Apply identified improvements 	Improved and effective early warning system	Technical expertise, infrastructure and financial resources	UNOCHA UNFCCC GEF WMO LDCF	SADC
2. Transboundary management of shared natural resource including KNP Action Plan upscaled to other countries of similar ecosystem	Promote and facilitate transboundary management of shared natural resource including upscaling the KNP Action Plan to other countries of similar ecosystem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solicit resources SWAT analysis Apply identified improvements 	Number of transboundary projects implemented	Technical expertise, infrastructure and financial resources	UNDP NEPAD TerrAfrica GEF BILATERALS	IUCN
3. Development and transfer of appropriate technology and best practices on SLM	Upscaling of appropriate technology and best practice on SLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify appropriate SLM technologies Identify best practices on SLM Upscale identified SLM technologies and best practices Solicit resources 	Number of appropriate SLM best practices identified and up scaled	Technical and financial resources	GEF UNDP (small grant programme) LDCF UNFCCC NEPAD/TerrAfrica	IUCN
4. Establish a scientific advisory body to	Establishment of scientific advisory body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify appropriate structure 	Scientific advisory body established and	Technical and financial resources	SADC GEF	SADC

Result	Main activities	Secondary activities	Indicator	Resource required	Where will the resources come from	Who will lead in mobilisation of these resources
ensure the acquisition and development of appropriate technologies and their adaptation to the needs of local communities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify members of the body Operationalize the advisory body Solicit resources 	operational		UNEP enabling activity	
5. Increased use of alternative energy resources	Promote the use of alternative energy sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of appropriate alternative energy sources Acquisition and dissemination of data, information and experiences on appropriate low cost technologies Solicit resources 	Number of appropriate technologies identified and utilised	Technical and financial resources	GEF UNDP (small grant programme) LDCF UNFCCC	NEPAD/TERRAFRICA
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 4: CAPACITY-BUILDING						
1. Regional needs relating to desertification/land degradation determined	Undertake regional capacity needs assessment to tackle desertification/land degradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment SWOT analysis Addressing of identified needs Solicit resources 	capacity needs assessment report in place	Technical and financial expertise	UNDP NEPAD TerrAfrica GEF Bilaterals AfDB UNEP	UNEP
2. Develop and implement a strategic framework for capacity building and development strategic framework for SADC Region	Develop and implement a strategic framework for capacity building and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment SWAT analysis Addressing of identified needs Solicit resources 	Strategic framework for capacity building developed and implemented	Technical expertise, infrastructure and financial resources	UNDP NEPAD TerrAfrica GEF Bilaterals AfDB UNEP	SADC Secretariat
3. Strengthened human capacity of the SADC environmental unit while in the process of establishing an environment and natural resources directorate	Strengthen human capacity of the SADC environmental unit while in the process of establishing an environment and natural resources directorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify key HC issues Solicit support from Member States Solicit resources 	Increased number of officers in the SADC Environment Unit from 1-3 Establishment of Environment Directorate	Technical expertise, infrastructure and financial resources	NEPAD UNEP UNDP Member States SADC Secretariat	SADC Secretariat
4. Regional tool kit/guidelines on DLDD issues	Develop a regional tool kit/guidelines on DLDD issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment Identification of appropriate methodology Identification of appropriate 	Regional tool kit/guidelines on DLDD issues developed	Technical and financial support	Global Mechanism of the UNCCD UNCCD Secretariat IUCN UNEP WOCAT	UNEP

Result	Main activities	Secondary activities	Indicator	Resource required	Where will the resources come from	Who will lead in mobilisation of these resources
		technologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solicit resources 				
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 5: FINANCING AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER						
1. Establish an environmental unit/department and strengthen the capacity at SADC secretariat	Establishment of an environmental unit/department and strengthening the capacity at SADC secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key deficiencies • Solicit support from Member States • Solicit resources 	environmental unit/department established	Political support	Member States	SADC Secretariat
2. Establishment and operationalization of an Regional Integrated Financing System (IFS)	Establish and operationalize a Regional IFS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solicit resources • Identify appropriate system 	Regional Integrated Financing System (IFS) developed	Technical and financial support	Global Mechanism of the UNCCD UNCCD Secretariat World Bank	GM of the UNCCD
3. Regional guidelines for a harmonized green tax developed	Development of guidelines on harmonized green tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solicit resources • Identify appropriate system • Identify best applicable practice 	Green tax guidelines developed and implemented	Technical and financial support	GM of the UNCCD UNCCD Secretariat World Bank UNFCCC	GM of the UNCCD
4. Strengthened capacity of the secretariat for mobilisation of financial resource	Strengthen the capacity of the secretariat for mobilisation of financial resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solicit resources • Identify deficiencies • SWOT analysis • Recommend appropriate actions 	Capacity for the secretariat to mobilise financial resources strengthened	Technical and financial support	SADC Member States NEPAD World Bank Bilaterals GEF	SADC Secretariat

Annexure 3 Key UNCCD related projects in the SADC Region

1. The Kalahari-Namib Project: enhancing decision-making through Interactive Environmental Learning and Action in the Molopo-Nossob River basin in Botswana, Namibia & South Africa

The Kalahari-Namib Project is a 20 year initiative developed by the then SADC ELMS. The first phase of the project began in 2011 and will end in 2016. The project deals with the problem of land degradation and desertification, looks at addressing challenges of unequal and insecure access to land and its resources, the challenge of coordination and cooperation between development partners and sectors within countries and the challenges of narrow, project-specific and ad-hoc approaches which fail to address the cross-sectoral nature of land degradation. It assists local communities' in their livelihood strategies as they depend directly on range resources, yet their rearing of small stock and use of veld products remains underdeveloped, unsustainable and in the informal economic sector. It focuses on transboundary ecosystem management to address regional challenges in a coordinated manner.

Key successes of the project include promoting regional cooperation in the management and control of invasive *Prosopis*, rangeland management, institutional strengthening and awareness raising; making a contribution to the Forest and Range Resources Bill in Botswana and supporting the development of a strategy to manage and control invasive *Prosopis* (mesquite).

The project has contributed to the implementation of the UNCCD by improving access to information and knowledge on understanding and valuing ecosystems, strengthening the policy environment – enabling innovation, integration and coordination, improving community participation in planning, decision-making and implementation, providing technical innovation in sustainable land management (SLM), providing incentives through livelihood benefits and supporting governance institutions for natural resources management (NRM) and SLM at community, national and regional/transboundary levels.

2. Initiatives Contributing to Implementation of UNCCD in Orange-Senqu River Basin

The Orange-Senqu River Basin Commission (ORASECOM) is comprised of four member states, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa. There are approximately 14, 27 million people living within the basin within an area of 1 million km². Key challenges within the basin include industrial mining and pollution, soil erosion, farming run-off and poor health and ecosystem ecology affected by changes in flow regime and silt load.

One of its core principles is integrated water resource management, a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems. ORASECOM operates under a number of frameworks and plans which also encompass addressing land degradation within their principles. Four projects are currently underway in the basin;

- Demonstration project on community based rangeland management in Botswana aims to empower local communities to address landscape degradation resulting from overgrazing by implementing locally designed measures favouring sustainable

management of communal land through rangeland management, water use and conservation and alternative income opportunities.

- Community Based Rangeland Management Project in Lesotho focuses on community based range management, resting rangelands, rotational grazing and rehabilitation of degraded sites, improved stock productivity and alternate income sources.
- 'SPONGES' PROJECT' –Rehabilitation and protection of the Orange-Senqu Water Sources. The main objective is holistic protection and conservation of the 'Sponges' in the Khubelu catchment to demonstrate a methodological approach for the sustainable management of the wetlands benefiting the population as well as the environment and securing long-term availability and quality of water from the Upper Orange-Senqu catchment area. It focuses on improved rangeland management, wetland restoration and monitoring in the Lesotho highlands.
- Community IWRM Demonstration Projects which contribute to regional integration and sustainable development in Southern Africa through the application of integrated water resources management (IWRM) in Lesotho, Namibia and Botswana. The project is still in its early phase focusing on project preparation and community mobilisation. In Botswana, the project will likely focus on reducing the reliance on the reverse osmosis plant for non-drinking purposes, will help regulate use of by-product from reverse osmosis for livestock and will assist with wastewater disposal. In Lesotho, the project will likely focus on expansion of the scheme and integration with different uses (e.g. agriculture), water sanitation and alternative energy sources. In Namibia, the project will likely focus on reuse of treated wastewater for agriculture (e.g. fodder production).