



**OKACOM**

The Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission  
Comissão Permanente das Águas da Bacia Hidrográfica do Rio Okavango



# 12nd World General Assembly of INBO, Bordeaux, France: Session 5



Water Resources and Climate Change: How can  
basin management be more resilient?

**THE CORB GOVERNANCE AND ENHANCED MANAGEMENT TO  
ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION.**

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**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**6 – 10 October 2024**

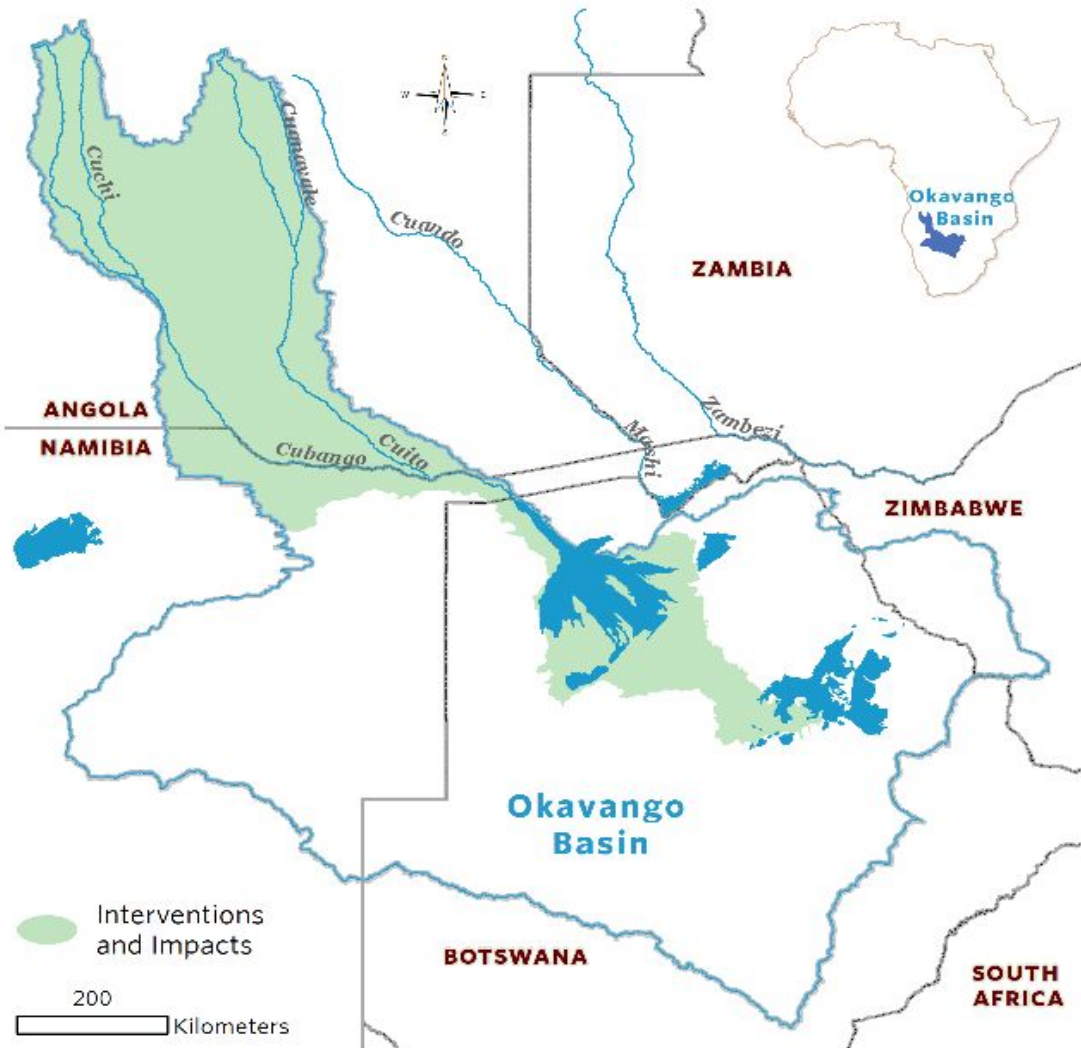


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## BACKGROUND TO THE OKAVANGO RIVER BASIN



- The CORB near pristine free-flowing rivers and central to sustainable economic development within the arid landscapes of the basin;
- The Area of the Basin is about 700,000 square kilometers.
- 95% flow originates from the highlands in Angola (120,000 sq kilometers) and a large proportion of this water supports the Okavango Delta ecosystem in Botswana, a wetland of international importance;
- It is Transboundary Basin shared by 3 riparian states **Angola, Botswana, and Namibia**;
- Joint Management and collaborative development of the basin is guided by the OKACOM Agreement signed by the three state **in 1994**
- Basin support about **1 million inhabitants** mostly rural with high levels of poverty

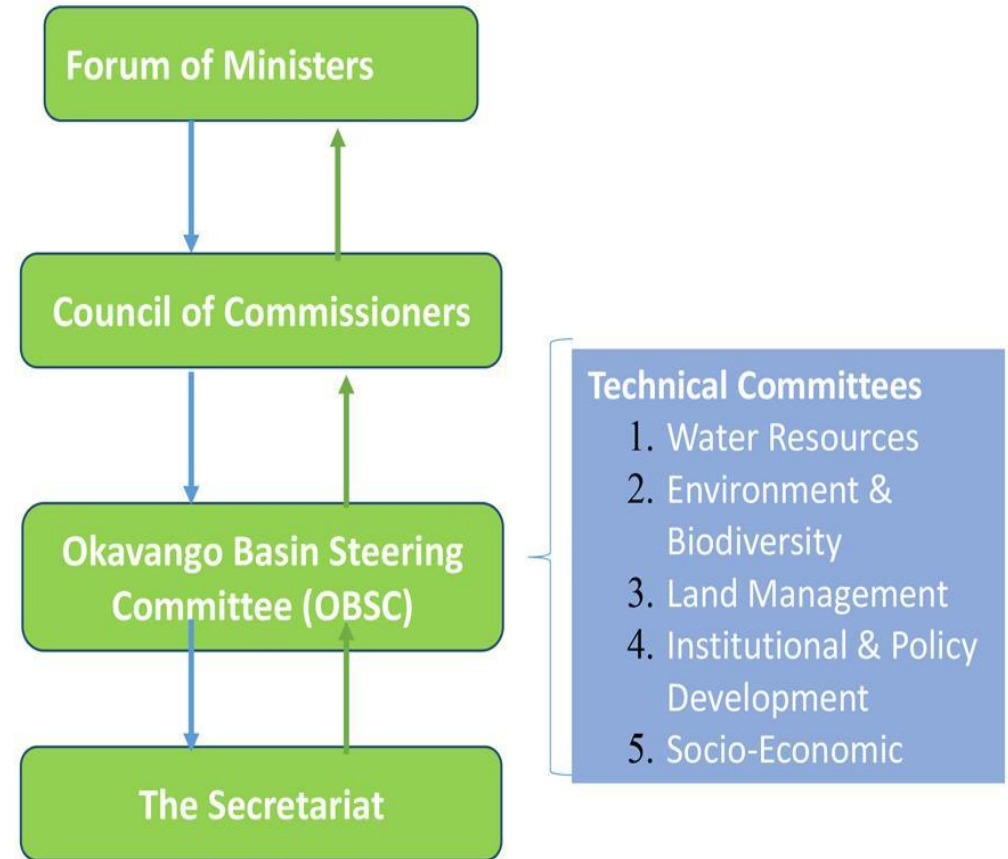


## OKACOM Legal and Organizational Structure

Joint Management and collaborative development of the basin is guided by the OKACOM Agreement signed by the three state in 1994 (recently Revised)

Provides for the Establishment of OKACOM and its requisite Organs (The Forum of Ministers, The Council of Commissioners, The Okavango Basin Steering Committee (OBSC), the OKACOM Secretariat and Specialized Technical Committees

Establishment of a Permanent Secretariat in 2007 based in Botswana to Provide administrative, financial and Programme coordination functions to the Commission



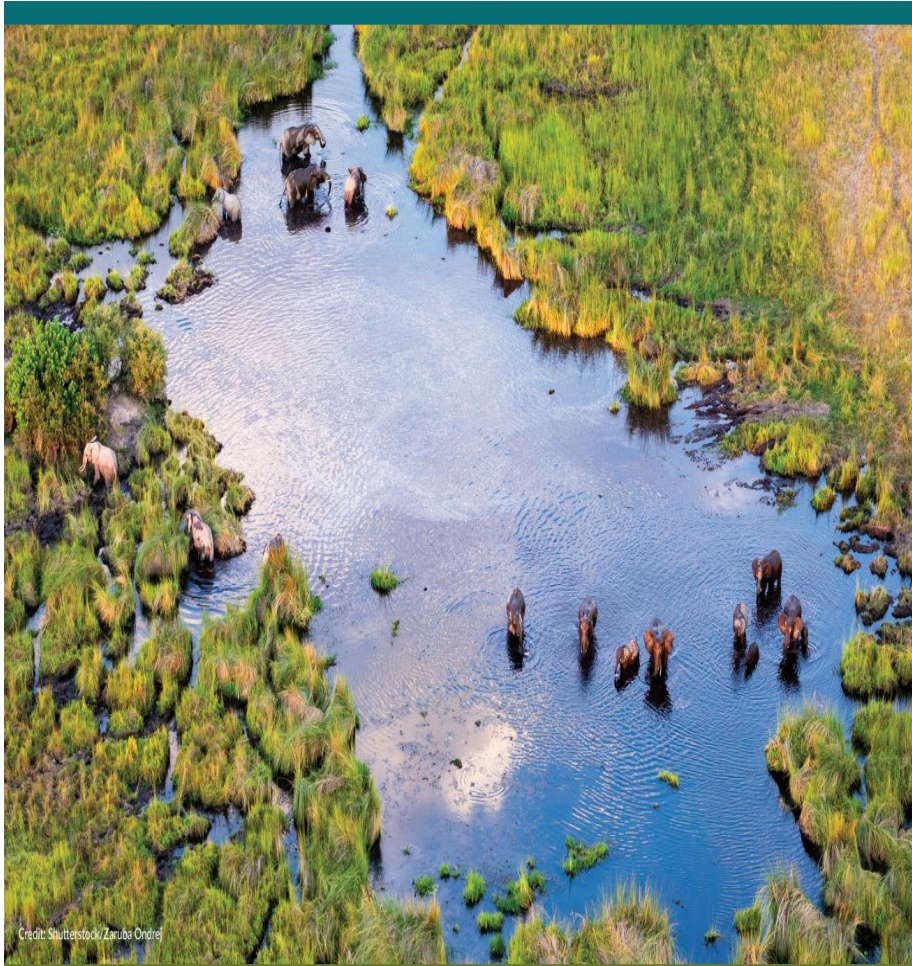


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## CORB Strategies and policies to Support Resilience



- The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) & the Strategic Action Programme SAP (2011)
- CORB Payment for Ecosystem Services (CORB PES)
- Establishment of the CORB Conservation FUND (The CORB Fund)
- CORB Strategic Environmental Assessment (CORB SEA)
- Decision Support System (Data & Basin Assessment Tools, with Flood early warning system)
- Livelihoods Demonstration Projects in The CORB



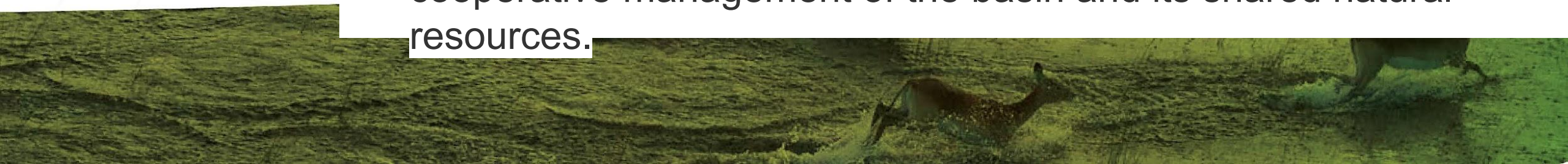
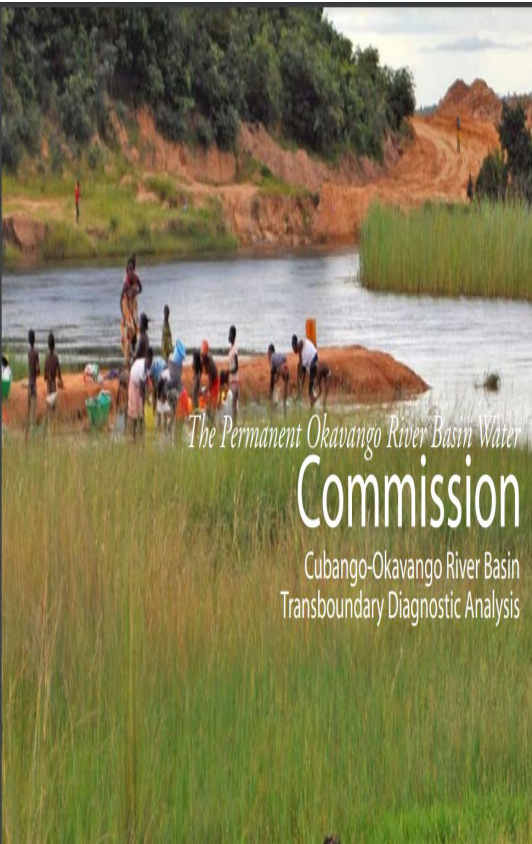
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## the TDA & SAP

- At this point, the Cubango-Okavango River basin was one of the basins least affected by human impact on the African continent, with no major hard infrastructure.
- Therefore, the TDA was necessary to identify and understand environmental issues that cross national boundaries, such as water pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate change.
- The SAP is a basin-wide policy framework for the (CORB) that lays down the principles for the development of the basin and improvements of the livelihoods of its people through the cooperative management of the basin and its shared natural resources.





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## CORB SAP Processes..

**The overarching objective of the SAP is:**

- To promote and strengthen the integrated, sustainable management, use and development of the Cubango-Okavango River basin at national and transboundary levels according to internationally recognized best practices to protect biodiversity, improve the livelihood of basin communities, and the development of basin states
- SAP has a suite of Integrated Management Objectives (IMO)
  - Thematic Area 1: Livelihoods and Socio-economic Development
  - Thematic Area 2: Water Resources Management
  - Thematic Area 3: Land Management
  - Thematic Area 4: Environment and Biodiversity



The CORB Fund will distribute resources from an independent fund in order to support interventions designed to conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem functions, enhance livelihoods equitably, and ensure the environmentally sound and socially responsible development of the infrastructure and natural resources of the Cubango-Okavango River Basin'



## COMPETING DEMANDS ON WATER RESOURCES

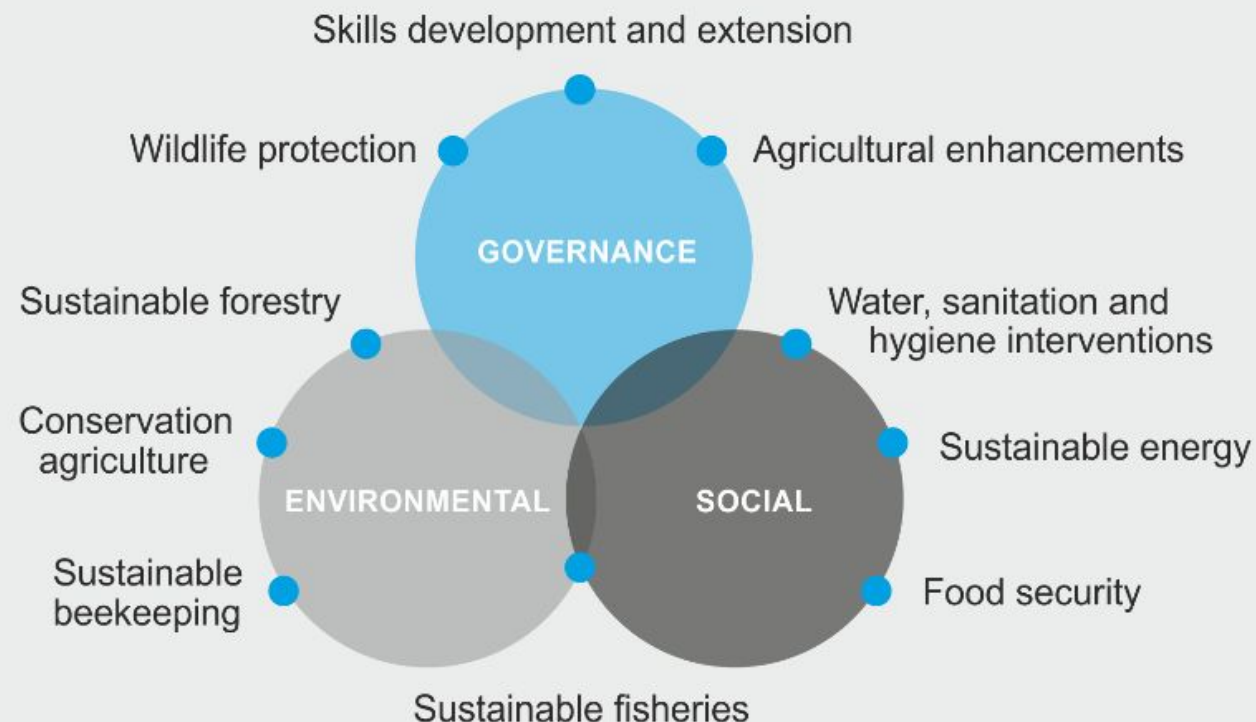
1. Urban Development
2. Resource-Based Livelihoods
3. Expanding Tourism
4. Commercial Agriculture
5. Water Extraction

## THREATS TO WATER RESOURCES

1. Poverty
2. Rapid Rural Population Growth
3. Commercial-Scale Resource Harvesting
4. Climate Change



## RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS





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## Community based livelihoods demo projects

- With the support of the UNDP-GEF and EU Projects support to SAP Implementation several livelihoods' interventions were carried out including:
- Conservation Agriculture Practices in communities in the basin
- Climate Smart Horticulture Produce with links to high-end tourist market (19 Farmers supported in Botswana)
- Community Fisheries Management plans with tools and capacity development;
- Community Tourism campsites as alternative livelihoods and private sector partnership arrangement – The Sikerete Campsite in Namibia;
- Non-timber forest sustainable resources harvesting by communities including bee keeping;



### Outcome 3. Environmentally-sound socioeconomic development demonstrated in the basin- Enhance horticultural produce in Maun through climate-smart practices-Linking

#### • Botswana

- 19 (11 males, 8 females ) farmers
- All the demonstration farmers have reported an increase in production
- **All farmers embraced new hybrid seeds, new crops and new management practices.**
- **Farmers Learnt that**
  - Climate-smart horticulture farming practices improved productivity and profitability, by enhancing production
  - Using hybrid seeds resulted in shorter growing periods, increased yields and improved crop quality
- **Management skills**
  - Cropping plans in response markets and climatic conditions
  - Problem identification
  - Crop selection
- **Technical skills**
  - Importance of records Keeping
  - Marketing and negotiation skills
  - Pest management skills
  - Soil fertility management
  - Maintain and trouble shoot the irrigation system



# Key CA lessons Learnt

- Farmers learnt that CA yields better the Traditional Agriculture
- Farmer learnt that CA improves soil nutrients and soil moisture holding capacity
- Farmers also learnt that CA is very labor intensive, hence the need for the need for working groups.
- The Project is not able to ascertain levels of CA uptake among the demonstration farmers.
- However farmer showed great enthusiasm
- There is therefore need to follow those demo farmers beyond the project lives span.





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## Conclusion

- TDA is required to understand environmental conditions, and to identify transboundary issues, drivers and threats in the basin
- Enhances cooperation at the transboundary level by providing a common framework for analyzing transnational components of the basin system
- Kick starts the implementation of joint strategies and plans through the SAP
- SAP allows for flexible management approaches and incremental gap filling with the development of support instruments,
- SAP also provides an opportunity for systematic approaches to address needs and common issues in the basin through joint agreed interventions.
- Stakeholder engagement and participation is crucial for the success of the Programme implementation.



## VISION

*Economically prosperous, socially just and environmentally healthy development of the Cubango-Okavango River Basin*

## VISÃO

*Desenvolvimento economicamente próspero, socialmente justo e ambientalmente saudável da bacia do Rio Cubango-Okavango*

THANK YOU

**The Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission Secretariat (OKASEC)**

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