



Support to the Cubango-Okavango Strategic Action Programme (SAP) Implementation

Project Brief

Project Description

The Permanent Okavango River Basin (OKACOM) is currently implementing a regional four-year Project entitled “Support to the Cubango-Okavango River Basin (CORB) SAP Implementation” funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), executed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) office in Gaborone. The Project is fully aligned to the CORB SAP and associated National Action Plans (NAPs). It provides OKACOM with strategic direction in operationalization of the SAP and development of the Basin Development Management Framework (BDMF).

The main objective of the Project is to strengthen the joint management and cooperative decision-making capacity of the CORB states on the optimal utilization of transboundary natural resources, with a view to enhance socio-economic development of the basin communities while sustaining the health of the basin ecosystems.

The Project addresses several barriers that undermine cooperative decision-making and joint management of the CORB. Such barriers include capacity deficits at the national and regional levels, and the lack

therein of transboundary co-management of water resources such as fisheries within the CORB. The Project recognises that most of these barriers are largely due limited capacity among institutions mandated to contribute to management and regulation of natural resources utilisation within the basin, hence its strong emphases on capacity enhancement at different levels including the OKACOM Secretariat. The basin is currently characterized by conflicts between different user groups over access to natural resources, inadequate Knowledge Management Systems and conflicting policies. The inadequacy of Knowledge Management Systems undermine decision making processes at local user level as well as at basin level.

therein of incentives that cultivates private sector involvement in transboundary and local natural resources management. The Project therefore endeavours to facilitate creation of partnerships among key stakeholders and as well as contribute towards the development of a Decision Support Systems and their associated tools. The Project was designed to support removing the barriers through a two-pronged implementation approach:

i) builds capacity, at high-level, within the Basin to enhance joint management and cooperative decision-making for optimal utilization of natural resources; and,

ii) demonstrates, at community-level, how best to incorporate low impact development to support socio-economic development in the Basin while sustaining the health of the Basin into day-to-day production practices.

The Project places emphasis on participation and building partnerships between governments, private sector and rural communities through active engagement of key those stakeholders.

In addition to robust stakeholder engagement, the Project also places emphases on demonstration of sustainable livelihoods activities which include small scale irrigated vegetables production, Conservation Agriculture, sustainable utilisation of fisheries resources through transboundary co-management and use of appropriate fishing methods and community-based tourism (Figure 1). While the sustainable livelihoods are demonstrated at selected sites, the plan is to engage other development partners to explore opportunities and possibilities of replicating such activities throughout the basin.

The Project also focuses on improvement of water resources management and planning, including strengthening of environmental monitoring programmes and systems.



OKACOM
The Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission

Comissão Permanente das Águas da Bacia Hidrográfica do Rio Okavango



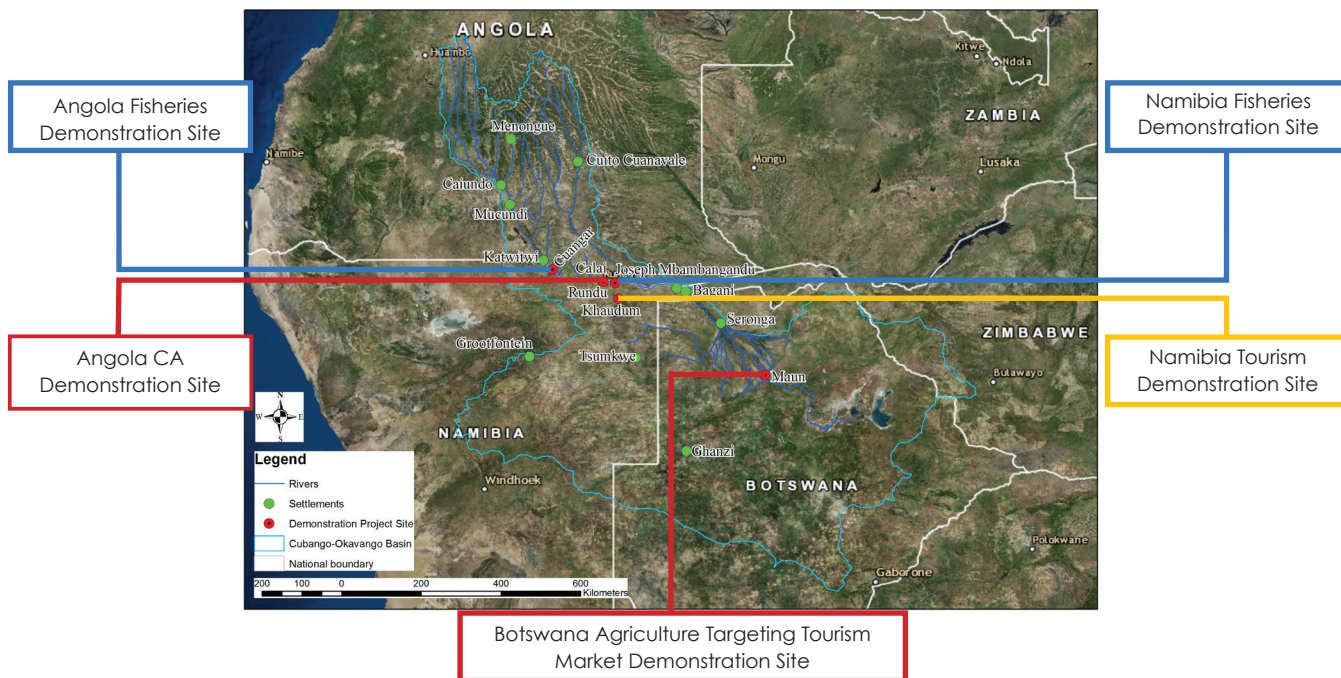


Figure 1. Geographical distribution of the identified demonstration projects in the CORB

Project Areas of Intervention

The Project is composed of three (3) components and four (4) outcomes:

- I. **Component 1:** Construction of Basin Development and Management Framework.

Outcome 1: A shared long-term basin development vision and concept of a development space.

Outcome 2: Strengthened management framework including enhanced OKACOM mandate.

- II. **Component 2:** Environmentally Conscious Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Development Demonstration Projects.

Outcome 3: Environmentally sound socioeconomic development demonstrated in the basin to allow the basin population to improve their socio-economic status with minimum adverse impacts to and enhanced protection of the basin ecosystem.

- III. **Component 3:** Integrated Water Resource Management.

Outcome 4: The basin's states capacity to manage transboundary water resources based on IWRM principles enhanced.

Partnerships

To effectively deliver on the proposed areas of interventions, the Project developed several partnerships through existing structures of OKACOM.

Specifically, the Project built its partnerships with the existing OKACOM ICs co-financing the SAP, capitalizing in their respective added value. The Project has also explored the existing cooperation between OKACOM and academia / research institutions, particularly to support in bringing in innovative approaches in addressing identified challenges in the CORB.

To effectively delivery on the selected demonstration projects, partnerships with local nongovernmental organizations has been established, which includes ACADIR in delivering the demos priorities in Angola, NCONGO in Botswana, and NNF for the fisheries demo in Namibia.

Implementation Timeline

GEF funding allocation is provided below:

YEAR	PLANNED BUDGET (USD)
2017	170,000
2018	1,580,000
2019	1,780,000
2020	1,545,000
2021	1,025,000
TOTAL	6,100,000

Actual Project implementation timeline: Nov. 2017 – Mar. 2022

Project Implementing Partner:

The Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM)

We would like to recognize the many partners that are contributing to the Project and jointly delivering on the OKACOM SAP thematic areas; and special thank to the Global Environment Facility (www.thegef.org) for their financial contribution to this Project.

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