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OKACOM



WORLD BANK GROUP
Water

Cubango-Okavango River Basin Workshop

Assessing the benefits of transboundary water cooperation in the CORB

Concept Note

9-10 May 2017, Kubata Hotel, Windhoek, Namibia

Background

Transboundary water cooperation in the Cubango-Okavango River Basin (CORB) between Angola, Namibia and Botswana has increasingly developed over the last 20 years. In 2015, prompted by discussions taking place under the framework of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Helsinki Water Convention) serviced by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Permanent Okavango River Basin Commission (OKACOM) decided to undertake an assessment of the benefits of transboundary water cooperation in the CORB in order to promote stronger cooperation in the basin. The first output of that effort was the discussion paper “The benefits of transboundary cooperation in the Cubango-Okavango River Basin – Scoping a Benefit Assessment Exercise”. Building on the *Policy Guidance Note on the benefits of transboundary water cooperation: identification, assessment and communication* developed under the Helsinki Water Convention, the discussion paper put forward a proposal to undertake a study to identify, assess, document and communicate the benefits of transboundary water cooperation in the CORB.

The proposal to develop a benefit assessment study was endorsed by the OKACOM Commissioners in May 2015. Thanks to support from the World Bank and the UK-funded Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility, the study started and in the course of 2016 data collection and analysis took place in the three countries, engaging stakeholders from the national level as well as from communities in the basin through workshops and interviews. The output of those efforts has been three national perspective papers developed by national consultants.

The final output of the study is the “CORB Benefit Assessment Report”. This report summarizes the results of the national perspectives paper and combines them to offer a basin-wide view of the multiple benefits of transboundary water cooperation in the CORB. The report is primarily aimed at key government officials in water and non-water sectors (including economic development and foreign affairs), representatives from water users and local communities, as well as development partners interested in supporting Angola, Namibia and Botswana in reaping the multiple benefits of improved water resources management and improved cooperation in the CORB.

Objectives and expected outcomes of the workshop

The workshop has five objectives:

- Present the context of the “CORB Benefit Assessment Report”, including the Helsinki Water Convention
- Validate the findings and recommendations of the “CORB Benefit Assessment Report”
- Communicate the main messages of the report to key stakeholders, including non-water actors
- Explore next steps to communicate the messages of the basin report
- Explore next steps to realize the potential benefits of stronger cooperation

The expected outcomes of the workshop include:

- OKACOM and its partners are ready to finalize an improved version of the “CORB Benefit Assessment Report” shortly after the workshop.
- Key stakeholders gain a better understanding of the importance and benefits of transboundary water cooperation in the CORB and are ready to further support the strengthening of transboundary water cooperation in the CORB.
- OKACOM receives input from key stakeholders on how to realize the potential benefits of stronger cooperation and is ready to plan follow up work to realize that potential benefits.

Draft Programme

DAY 1. TUESDAY 9TH MAY 2017

- 14:00-14:15 **Opening: workshop objectives and agenda**
OKACOM OBSC Co-Chair
Ijeoma Emananjo, World Bank
Chantal Demilecamps, UNECE
- 14:15-15:15 **Context of the CORB Benefit Assessment**
Transboundary Water Cooperation and the Helsinki Water Convention (Chantal Demilecamps, UNECE)
The Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation (Roberto Martin-Hurtado, consultant to UNECE)
- 15:15-17:15 **Findings from the CORB Benefit Assessment**
Chapter 1 and 2. Eben Chungica, Executive Secretary, OKACOM Secretariat
Chapters 3 and 4. Rute Saraiva, National Consultant to CRIDF
Chapters 5 and 6. Ijeoma Emananjo, World Bank
(including coffee break)

DAY 2 . WEDNESDAY 10th May 2017

- 9.00-10:00 **Group work: Findings of the CORB Benefit Assessment**
Do the participants agree with the findings of the Assessment?
What are the most important past and potential benefits when looking across the whole CORB?
To which countries and stakeholders do they accrue?
- 10:00-10:30 *Coffee break*
- 10:30-11:00 **Plenary discussion on the Findings**
Groups report back
General discussion

- 11:00-12:30 **Group work: Implications of the CORB Benefit Assessment**
What can be done (reforms, investments...) in the CORB countries to ensure that the potential benefits of stronger transboundary cooperation in the CORB are realized?
Who are they key actors to implement those reforms and investments? What can be done by each of them? What are some realistic timelines?
- Plenary discussion on the Implications**
Groups report back
General discussion
- 12:30-13:30 *Lunch break*
- 13:30-14:30 **Group work: Next steps in the CORB countries**
To help ensure that the potential benefits of transboundary cooperation in the CORB are realized, who needs to be aware of the findings of the assessment report and the conclusions of this workshop? What are the best ways of reaching them?
In addition to communication efforts, what other supportive actions can be spearheaded by OKACOM?
- 14:30-15:00 *Coffee break*
- 15:00-15:30 **Plenary discussion on Supportive Actions**
Groups report back
General discussion
- 15:30-16:00 **Plenary discussion**
In view of the workshop discussions, how can the CORB Assessment Report be improved and finalised?
- 16:00-16:15 **Monitoring transboundary water cooperation**
Benefits and process of accession to the Helsinki Water Convention
Chantal Demilecamps, UNECE
- 16:15-16:45 **Workshop conclusions and closing**
OKACOM OBSC Co-Chair
Eben Chungica, Executive Secretary, OKACOM Secretariat
Chantal Demilecamps, UNECE