

*ORNL Technical Assistance to USAID to Foster Sustainable
Environmental Management in Southern Africa¹*

**Progress Report
January-March, 2008**

Prepared by Keith Kline, ORNL for Chris Schaan, Environment-NRM Program Manager in the Regional Botswana Field Office for USAID/Southern Africa (formerly RCSA Strategic Objective 17): Improved Management of Shared River Basins

Background

The PASA Agreement between USAID and ORNL is designed to provide technical support to USAID Regional Programs in Southern Africa for: (1) evaluation and follow-on design for the regional natural resources program; (2) the Agreement with the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) for the water sector; (3) Okavango basin biodiversity protection; (4) other technical assistance, research and analysis upon request to support the Mission to achieve environmental program objectives; and (5) corresponding reporting. Work is based on an approved scope and written guidance from the USAID Cognizant Technical Officer (CTO)². Progress reports summarize activities and level of effort (LOE). Reported LOE figures are estimated in progress reports while actual costs are submitted through IPACS and summarized in Quarterly ORNL Administrative reports.

January-March 2008 Activities

Activities this period focused on assistance with the planning, consultations and implementation of the first stages of the design process for a new five year program. The major LOE this period was associated with the TDY to the region February 24 – March 14. Assistance was also provided upon request in reviewing some financial reporting issues (identifying discrepancies and potential solutions) and facilitating input from State Overseas Building Operations Office regarding renewable energy options for emergency back up power.

The TDY and resulting set of deliverables are described in the corresponding trip report (submitted to CTO on April 1, 2008). Selected documents submitted to USAID during this period are listed per email correspondence in an Annex to this report (under two categories: general issues and design issues). Coordination and communications with USAID/AFR and EGAT were intensive during this period due to the participation of representatives from these two office on the design team and also because USAID guidance for funding the new program design and corresponding earmark definitions presented moving targets demanding constant follow-up.

The Quarterly Administrative Report for January-March was submitted separately on April 9, along with information on accruals through the end of the period and projected expenditures through the end of the PASA agreement. The PASA will end on September 30 this year unless extended.

¹ Work performed per terms of USAID/Southern Africa Award 690-P-00-06-00118-00, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Environmental Sciences Division, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, under Department of Energy Contract # DE-AC05-00OR22725 with UT/Battelle. USAID CTO: Chris Schaan, SchaanC@State.gov. ORNL technical contacts: Keith Kline, Principal Investigator KlineKL@ornl.gov and Dr. Tom Wilbanks, Group Leader, Supervisor WilbanksTJ@ornl.gov.

² See PASA Statement of Work, section 4.

Future Tasks:

Planned activities over the coming six months include ongoing support to complete a follow-on program design for a \$22 million Southern Africa Regional Environmental Program (SAREP) funded with biodiversity and water earmark funds, and assistance with operational plan preparations. A TDY is tentatively scheduled for later this FY to assist the mission with final design consultations, to document local counterpart buy-in and possibly to assist with other tasks required to complete the selection process. Other specific tasks may be defined by the CTO.

Table 1: LOE Planned and Used to Date (to March 31, 2008)

Progress Report thru month of Mar 08	Total LOE planned (days)	LOE used to date (days)					% total LOE remaining
		FY 2007	Oct-Dec 2007	Jan-Mar 2008	Apr-Jun 2008	Jly-Sep 2008	
1. Eval/Design	90	60.2	1.4	11.2			19%
2. SADC	45	17.8	0.4	7.5			43%
3. Biodiversity	35	12.2	1.0	9.2			36%
4. Other SO17	30	22.2	7.0	0.6			1%
5. Rpts/Admin	10	8.9	0.6	0.5			0%
6. Eval-Wilbanks	11	11	0	0			0%
Totals	221	132.3	10.4	29	0	0	22%
<i>Time Remaining</i>	<i>25%</i>						

Attachment: List of selected email correspondence this period.

[end rpt]