

Comments on Draft Concept Paper received during and immediately following Kline TDY to Africa  
(Comments received as of September 15, 2008)<sup>1</sup>

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**From:** OKACOM Namibia Commissioner

REF : Draft Concept Paper :

Excellent proposal I fully support your document.

You know how expensive linear development is and that is what is happening along the Okavango river, the people is also not drinking clean water and that effect their livelihood. If you want to develop sanitation with out having development centers along the river this will be a nightmare.

Good luck, I hope we see some of this aid.

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**From:** EU Rep (notes from interview 10 Sept 2008)

Good plan. The USAID program has established expertise and shown progress with the biodiversity protection components of the program in the Okavango. Other programs have not had this kind of focus; thus the USAID program offers support in a strategic niche that needs to be considered in all basins, making the connections between biodiversity protection, water resources management and development.

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**From:** SADC (notes from interview 10 Sept 2008)

We hope this project proceeds as proposed in the concept paper. It will also be useful to integrate climate change and adaptation issues into project activities and identify how the international cooperation protocols for river basin management can be more explicitly linked as regional initiatives that build capacity for climate change adaptation.

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**From:** Sida (notes from interview 10 Sept 2008)

Interested in identifying effective ways to partner with the Sida-supported, regional Demand Management project that is just getting underway and administered by the South African Development Bank (SADB).

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**From:** KAZA (notes from interview 5 Sept 2008)

The vision evolving from the five KAZA partner countries is to develop this area as "The number one, premier, tourist destination in Africa." The water-based resources in the Delta and Victoria Falls are obviously key points of attraction. To achieve the vision will require major investment and cooperation in wildlife (land) and water management.

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<sup>1</sup> Note: Mission comments received prior to August 28 with USAID's approval of the draft concept paper are documented separately.

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**From:** OKACOM Botswana and various members of Environmental Dept

Following the DEA meeting with yourselves last week we perused the concept paper and would like to submit that:

- The key elements which are in our interest are adequately covered in the programme. These relate to building of synergies with on-going initiatives such as EPSMO, KAZA etc, capacity building at key levels of resource management and planning in the basin (with emphasis in Angola), resource management infrastructure eg. data management systems, water monitoring for targeted areas within the basin, strengthening of institutions to enhance effective resource management eg. in biodiversity aspects
- To strengthen the quality of information to support decision making, and as a demonstration activity, the programme could include a natural resource accounting exercise on water within the Okavango River. The environmental economic instruments would be expected to yield findings that can inform the Commission of the status of the water resources in economic terms. This provides information for future negotiations and planning decisions (*this is food for thought Chris!*)
- In order to harmonise regional action and in the case of the Okavango, a scoping exercise could be taken up in particular on *climate change adaptation* strategies. Scenario planning for flow reduction, floods, temperature increase, resilience of basin communities to adapt to climate changes – farming, wildlife distributions, reduction in tourist numbers etc. are some of the elements which could be interrogated to establish mechanisms to cope with climate change.

Thank you.

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**From:** Advisor to DEA and UNDP Environment Support Programme

**Subject:** Water and biodiversity

I had a quick look at the concept paper and I think it is comprehensive and innovative ... few comments:

1. The water supply infrastructure component initially seems a bit awkward but could be made more significant by pursuing a strong link with environmental flows in the basin (data, flow modelling, linking with HOORC and Env Info System at DEA etc), RBO governance (water security, 'virtual water' debate, demand mgmt of shared water courses), and ecosystem health (human - livestock - wildlife conflict over access to water, biodiversity conservation, wildlife corridors, alignment of fences, fish resources, alien species etc).
2. Water demand management / water conservation measures (reduce, re-use, recycle, effluent standards, eco-tourism / 'greening of the tourism industry' re

waste mgmt + effluent discharge into the system) will be part of the WSS approach?

3. The area of wetland goods and services, Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) / conservation finance (wetland banking etc.), natural resource accounting / green accounting and in general the economics of the activities proposed in Attachment 1 would make for an interesting dedicated sub-activity under one of your 'results areas'

Kind regards,

From Kline Meeting Notes:

**Summary of ICP Suggestions for a New Regional USAID Supported Environment-Water Program**

Note: Support among stakeholders remained strong on the following topics (see March Trip Report for details):

- USAID should provide continuity to activities initiated 2005-2009 in the Okavango basin. Maintaining a river basin focus within the geographic framework of KAZA remains an effective strategy for focusing limited resources on transboundary water management and biodiversity issues.
- Program results must support development priorities, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) such as poverty reduction, access to safe water and a healthy environment, and corresponding SADC protocols (shared watercourses, wildlife, and proposal for environmental assessment).
- Enthusiastic support for possible program expansion to include a new Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) component – the first of its kind for the USAID-SADC partnership. Linking environmental objectives with WSS service provision is key strategic goal.
- USAID needs to insure appropriate processes are followed to strengthen and maintain local “ownership” of the program.
- Building local capacity and sustainability are commonly identified as key needs and strategic program goals across nations and cooperating partners in the region.
- Partnering with other donors offers opportunities to achieve key indicators with increased flexibility in years of uncertain funding but demands more attention for program coordination and management. Donor coordination remains extremely important due to many potential interfaces among programs. Issues being addressed in ORASECOM may offer insights for the Okavango.
- Current biodiversity efforts – exemplary but incipient – are laying foundations for future activities.
- Technical areas where several stakeholders recommended action include: systems for sharing costs and benefits, NRM accounting, WSS system management and revenues for

sustainability, management of invasive species (esp. aquatic plants), RBO maturation, and improved policy and regulatory framework, esp. for EIA procedures.