

The influence of international water governance on water management in Zambia.

GCI conference 2010: The Global Dimensions of Change in River Basins - Threats, Linkages and Adaptation. 6-8 December, 2010. Bonn.

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INTRODUCTION

- International concerns about water resources management have led to the global consensus on the need to adopt a new approach to managing water resources
- new agenda -comprehensive water resources management framework (integrates social, economic and environmental considerations)
- recognition of the need for integrated water resources management has stimulated efforts to organise water governance according to hydrologically defined boundaries, ie. integrated river basin and catchment based management.

Water governance addresses :

- Principles such as equity and efficiency in water resource and services allocation and distribution, water administration based on catchments, the need for integrated water management approaches and the need to balance water use between socio-economic activities and ecosystems.
- The formulation, establishment and implementation of water policies, legislation and institutions.
- Clarification of the roles of government, civil society and the private sector and their responsibilities regarding ownership, management and administration of water resources and services.

UNDP (2010)

INTERNATIONAL WATER GOVERNANCE PARADIGMS

A number of landmark events have shaped most of the current paradigms and the consensus on norms regarding water resources and water services management. Includes:

- the UN Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972);
- the UN Conference on Water((Mar del Plata, 1977);
- the International Conference on Water and Environment (Dublin, 1992);
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change, 1992;
- the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992);
- the United Nations *Convention* on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (1997),
- the World Water Forums (Marrakech 1997; The Hague, 2000; Kyoto, 2003; Mexico, 2001; Istanbul, 2009);
- the Millennium Goals, 2000;
- the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002);
- revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses in the Southern African Development Community, 2000;
- The Convention on Sustainable Management of Lake Tanganyika, 2003.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES IWRM

The central message of these is a holistic/ sustainable approach to management of water.

4 Dublin principles:

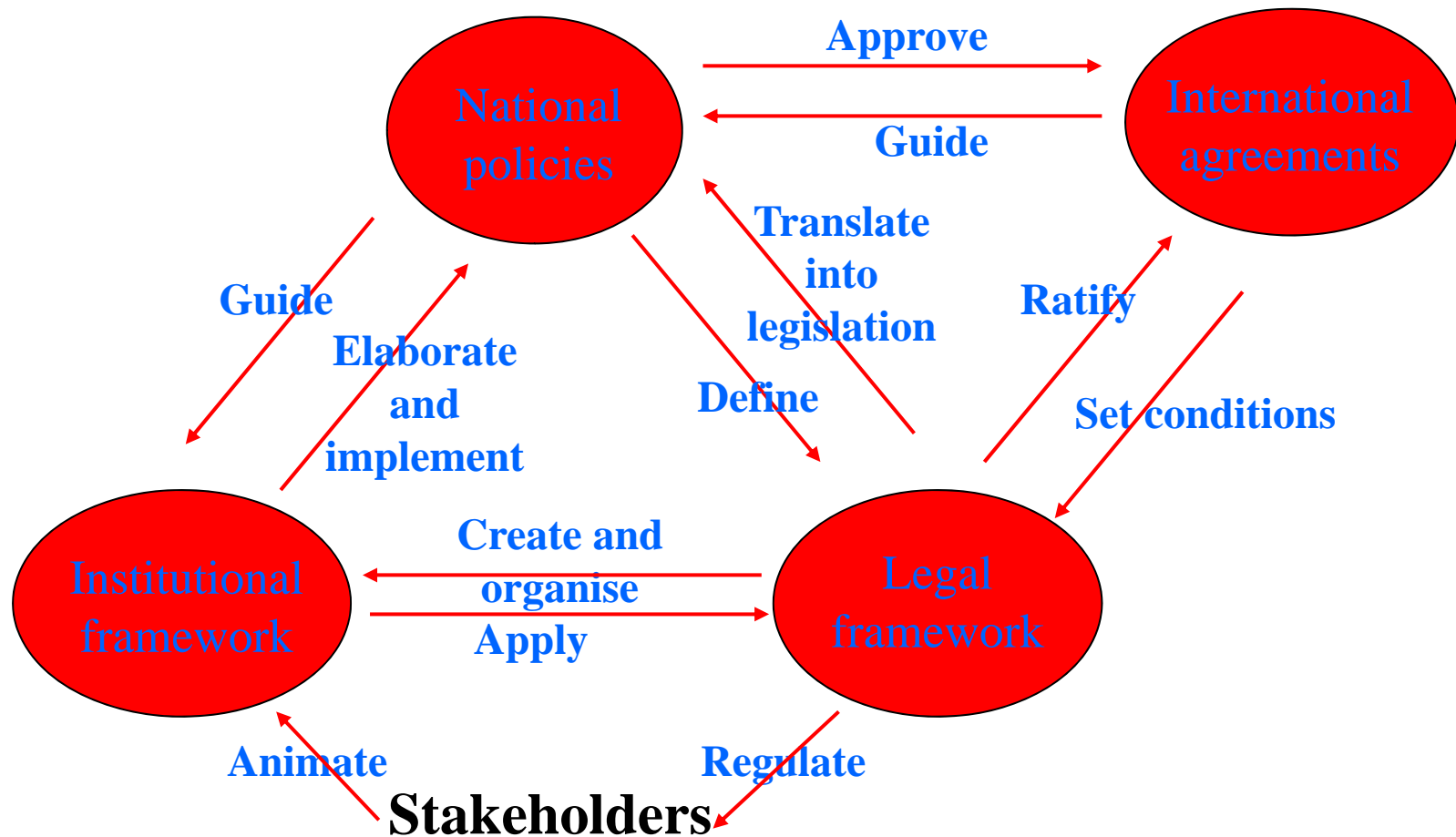
- "Fresh water should be seen as a finite and vulnerable resource..."
- "Water development and management should be based on a participatory approach.."
- "Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water"
- "Water has an economic value in all its competing uses and should be recognized as an economic good"

OTHER GUIDING PRINCIPLES IWRM

- Land and water should be managed together based the catchment/river basin boundary
- Land and water should be managed at the lowest appropriate level
- The private sector has an important role in water resources management
- Use the precautionary principle
- Apply the user-pays-principle
- Apply the polluter-pays-principle
- Apply realistic standards and regulations
- Balance economic and regulatory instruments
- Establish mechanisms for cross-sectoral integration
- Encourage participatory approach with involvement of all relevant stakeholders
- Give open access to information on water resources
- Promote international cooperation on shared/international water courses



HOW WATER GOVERNANCE IS INFLUENCED



KEY WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ISSUES IN ZAMBIA

- the uneven distribution of water resources across the country
- high climatic variability (resulting in frequent floods and droughts) made worse by the emerging climate change phenomenon,
- degrading water quality are increasingly undermining the important role of water in the country's economic development.
- water resources infrastructure is poorly developed.
- Growth in water demand esp. for agriculture and hydropwer
- Low access to safe and adequate water supply and sanitation
- Country is wholly in international water course

THE WATER SECTOR REFORMS

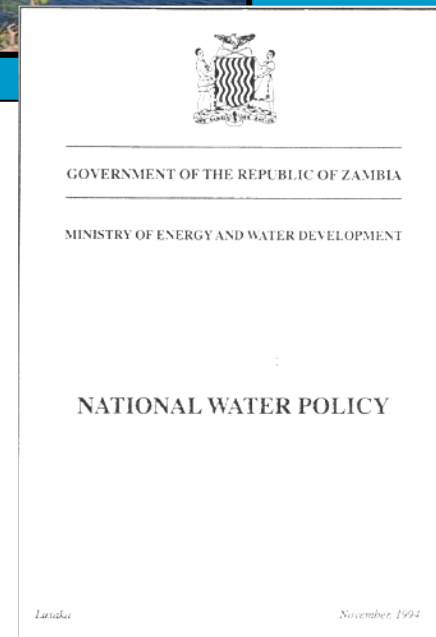
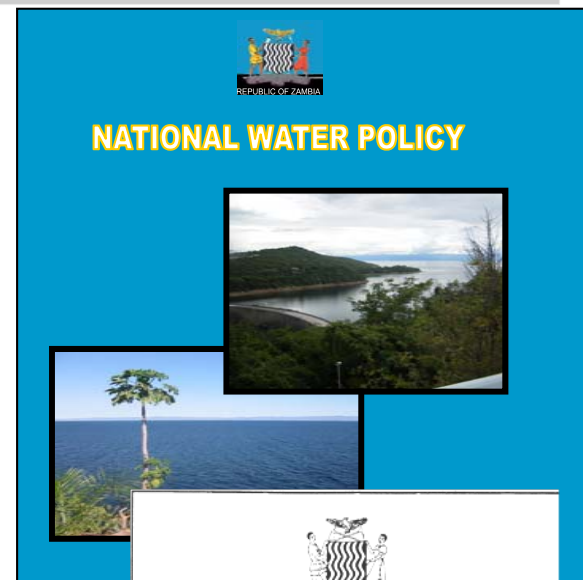
National Water Policy, 2010

The Vision of the revised National Water Policy, 2010 is: “To optimally harness water resources for the efficient and sustainable utilisation of this natural resource to enhance economic productivity and reduce poverty.”

Key reasons for revising the National Water Policy of 1994

- re-align the Water Policy with the current international developments
- re-examine the role of the water sector in terms of the National Development Plan;
- integrate cross cutting issues such as gender, HIV/AIDS and climate change ; and
- re-examine the institutional and legal framework and bring it in line with modern principles of water resources management and harmonise it with other pieces of legislation.
- assess the progress made in the implementation of the 1994 Policy and update it taking into consideration the key developments in the water sector in Zambia and international best practices for water resources management;

The policy acknowledges being shaped by a number of international landmark events and instruments



LEGAL FRAMEWORK

1948 Water Act cap 198. governs WRM

- Key weaknesses :water allocation is made at a central level, inadequate stakeholder involvement, ground water and international waters are not regulated.

Violation of best practices of water management.

Some key highlights of the Water Resources Management Bill, 2010 include:

- Providing for the establishment of a decentralised system at (river basin level), sub-catchment, water user levels)
- To provide for the regulation of groundwater
- To establish an appropriate set of fees, levies and/or raw water tariff structure, reflecting that water beyond basic needs usage is to be treated as an economic good
- To ensure that the new Act covers international watercourses (including shared lakes) and the regulation of water thereof; also provide for the domestication of international treaties(e.g. SADC Protocol, UN Convention) that Zambia has ratified thereby providing the basis for the international protocols to which Zambia is a signatory to legally come into effect
- Water resources are clearly dealt with as a social and economic good
- Financing of water resources infrastructure will be enhanced by establishment of a water resources development trust fund and promotion of public private partnerships

Water Resources Management Bill, 2010

Principles outlined in the Bill encompass the international best practices developed. Some of the key principles are (Government of Zambia, 2010):

- water resources shall be **managed in an integrated and sustainable** manner;
- water is a **basic human need** and as such domestic and non-commercial needs shall enjoy priority of allocation use;
- the **environment is a water user** and shall enjoy second priority of allocation use to the human need;
- there shall be **equitable access to water**;
- water has an **economic and social value**
- there shall be **equity between both gender** in accessing water resources
- the **basic management unit shall be the catchment** in recognition of the unity of the hydrological cycle;
- the management and utilisation of water resources shall **take into account climate change** adaptation.

The Bill has in November, 2010 been presented to Parliament for the first reading.

INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND WATER EFFICIENCY (IWRM/WE) PLANS

WSSD 2002

The Plan of Implementation adopted by WSSD in Johannesburg, 2002, calls for all countries to:

“Develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans with support to developing countries”

The text talks about “national/regional strategies, plans and programmes with regards to integrated river basin, watershed and groundwater management”



Republic of Zambia

Integrated Water Resources
Management and Water Efficiency
(IWRM/WE)

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Volume 1: Main Report (2007-2030)

April 2008

INTERNATIONAL RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT

- Zambia's territory entirely in international shared river basins (the Congo (25%) and Zambezi (75%).
- Guided by international water law and management principles enshrined in the Helsinki Rules and the United Nations Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses.
- Key principles adopted are equitable and reasonable utilisation, obligation to cooperate and protection of the environment.

Interventions:

- established Zambezi River Authority (Zambezi River Act, 1987),
- the revised SADC protocol on shared watercourses and the Lake Tanganyika Convention.
- development of the proposed Zambezi Water Course Commission (ZAMCOM) agreement and Zambezi River Basin Strategy.
- Capacity is being built by establishment of an International Water Management unit in DWA.
- revised Water Policy, 2010 and the proposed WRM Bill, 2010 take into account measures to enhance international water management.

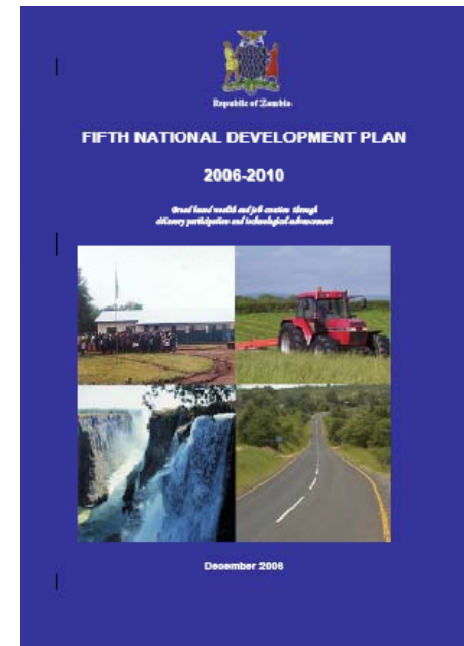
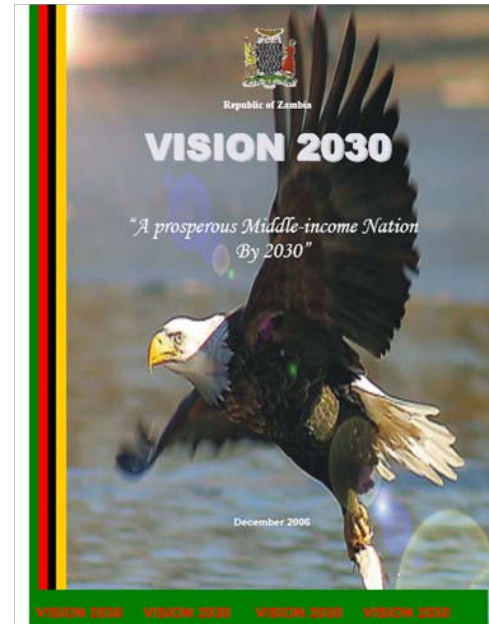
THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- The National Long Term Vision 2030 (Republic of Zambia, 2006) is to become **“A Prosperous Middle Income Nation by 2030”**.

One of the goals under the water sector is: **Fully integrated and sustainable water resource management.**

Attainment of the Vision is through the implementation of 5 year national development plans.

- Sixth National Development Plan (SNDP) 2011-2015. The river basin approach (IWRM), adopted for water resources planning, demand management, infrastructure development, financing and climate change adaptation.
- In response to the threat Climate Change, SNDP has been climate proofed by mainstreaming climate change in the SNDP programmes of all sectors. Specific to water resources management has been the development of a adaptation to climatic change programme.



CONCLUSION

- Government of Zambia put in place a reform process to improve the management of water resources following the best practice of integrated water resources management.
- Various international water governance measures from the various events and instruments has influenced the development of Zambia's water governance system as evidenced from the Water Policy development and its provision and the proposed water resources management Bill.
- Main Challenges is the implementation



Thank you