



OKACOM

Communication And Stakeholder Consultation; Namibia and Botswana

Specialist Report prepared by Adrian Cashman for :

PERMANENT OKAVANGO RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

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OKACOM

PERMANENT OKAVANGO RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

MISSION STATEMENT

OKACOM is an initiative of the three Okavango River Basin states, Angola, Botswana and Namibia. The Commission has the functions of advising the governments on the sustainable development of the basin and of co-ordinating investigations and research activities.

A **OKACOM** é uma iniciativa dos três estados da Bacia do rio Okavango,- Angola, Botswana e Namibia. A comissão tem as funções de aconselhar os governos sobre o desenvolvimento sustentável da bacia e de coordenar investigações e actividades de pesquisa

Maitlamo magolo (Mission Statement)

OKACOM ke lekgotla la mafatshe a mararo a Angola, Botswana le Namibia a noka ya Okavango e a ralalang. Lekgotla le tihametswe go gakolola mebuso ka diriso e e lolameng le go gokaganya ditlhotlhomiso tse di amanang le noka e.

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1. INTRODUCTION

One of the principle activities to be undertaken as part of the Preliminary Assessment Study is to be the establishment of co-ordination and consultation mechanisms. Mechanisms are to be established to enable more effective co-ordination, consultation and co-operation between OKACOM, the GEF implementing agencies, national and local governments, sectoral institutions, donors, the private sector, non-governmental organisations and local communities. Within this broad definition of activities the consultation advisor was tasked to work on the establishment and initiation of mechanisms of communication and consultation between interested and affected parties in Namibia and Botswana. A copy of the Terms of Reference is attached as Annex 1.

The main purpose of the consultation and communications process was to introduce to stakeholders as well as interested and affected parties the concept, purpose and goals of OKACOM, the Preparatory Assessment Study and the Environmental Assessment. Thus the aim was to inform and disseminate information rather than to seek the involvement and participation of stakeholders at this stage. This would follow as part of the formulation and implementation of the environmental assessment process.

The purpose of this report is to record the work that has been undertaken and the contacts that have been made. Based upon this, some initial suggestions are offered as to the type of initiatives that might be considered for inclusion as components of the full environmental assessment study. It has become very clear as a result of this preliminary work, that communication and consultation must play an major role in the assessment study if it is to be meaningful and to gain the support and confidence of the stakeholders.

2. COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION INITIATIVES

The communication and consultation initiatives reported upon were undertaken in Namibia and Botswana. Angola was not part of the brief and is to be covered by a separate consultancy.

2.1 Identification Of Stakeholders

One of the first tasks was the identification of stakeholders. Stakeholders were broadly defined as those parties which have a perceived interest in what happens in and to the Okavango River Basin as well as those who would be affected directly or indirectly by developments. Stakeholders were identified either through knowledge and experience of the region or through consultation with various parties.

A number of government agencies at national and local level in each country were identified. Some of these have a direct interest. In the majority of cases it was agreed that at this stage it would be more appropriate to inform rather than to consult and arrange meetings with them.

The exceptions to this were the regional government structures such as councillors, the regional governor, the district commissioner and traditional authorities. These were to be directly informed and consulted with.

In addition to these, there were a number of non-governmental agencies which ranged from environmental groups, donors, aid and development agencies and local business groups. Again, only those with a direct involvement were targeted to be consulted with.

2.2 Information

In order to provide stakeholders with information and an introduction to OKACOM and more especially the proposed study, a colour pamphlet giving basic details was produced. The pamphlet has been produced in English, Portuguese, RuKwangali and Setswana, these being the main languages spoken and understood in the three countries. It also includes contact addresses and telephone numbers. An example of the pamphlet is included as Annex 3.

The pamphlets have been distributed to the identified stakeholders. In some cases, a number of them have been given out with a request that these be further distributed. For example, a number of the environmental groups active in the Okavango Delta work together with women's groups or with local communities. Rather than duplicate channels of communication, these existing ones have been tapped into in order to provide greater coverage. This was one of the matters which was the topic of discussion with these groups apart from the sharing of information. The pamphlets have also been made available to the newspaper media in both countries.

Contact has been made with the radio in Namibia and discussions held with both the national and RuKavango services with a view to their future involvement in publicising and disseminating information. Both services have expressed their willingness to participate on a regular and on-going basis. In the case of the national service, the weekly programme "Living World" which covers environmental issues and development has been proposed as being the most appropriate vehicle. With respect to the RuKavango service, a journalist has been identified who can act as the point of contact. However, to be properly effective a regionally based spokesperson who is fluent in the vernacular of the Kavango would need to be identified for the future. In the case of Botswana, similar contacts have been made and, at the time of writing discussions are still to be held with Radio Botswana to see how this matter can be progressed. Again it will require someone who is fluent in Setswana and who can act as a spokesperson to be involved.

2.3 Meetings

A range of meetings have been held with identified stakeholders in order to inform them about the project and the Preparatory Assessment Study. The majority of these have been

with traditional leaders and local communities supplemented by others with various interest groups. In Botswana meetings have been held with ;

Maun Kgotla - traditional leaders and community representatives,
North West District Councillors,
The Paramount Chief of the Batawana.

In Namibia meetings have been held with ;

Traditional leaders and local communities,
The Regional Governor.

A report on the meetings, the presentations made and the questions asked, is given in Annex 4.

3. FEEDBACK

Arising out of the meetings and discussions that have been held with stakeholders, interested and affected parties, are a few general points which can be highlighted. In general everyone who was spoken to was in favour of and supportive of OKACOM, the Preparatory Assessment Study and the proposed environmental assessment (the main study). Almost without exception it was felt that there was a great need for a study of this nature. It was the correct approach to first understand the environmental factors and parameters within which any future planning, development and utilisation of resources would have to take place. Significant development should only be allowed once a framework for ensuring sustainability and co-ordination had been developed. Having said this there was some concern as to the commitment and ability of the countries to achieve these objectives.

Traditional leaders and communities especially of all the groups consulted, wanted to be kept informed. They also wanted to be assured that their views and concerns would be reflected and addressed in any study. A frequently asked question was, how they would be informed. It would appear that based on past experience they feel that they have either not been properly consulted or have not had the findings or outcome of studies conveyed to them such that they felt that they were not in the picture about events. There was a feeling that they had lost control over events and developments that affect their lives. This was apparent from the comments about the impact of modern technology and the perceived practices of the “*younger generation*” which have led to degradation and loss of resources.

The issue of Namibia's emergency pipeline project surfaced at every meeting and discussion. In some cases the delegation were treated with caution and suspicion as it was thought that they had come to promote this project. A project which is not well thought of at all by the peoples of the region. It had to be emphasised many times that this project had nothing to do with that one. There is, it is suggested, a need to get this message across as otherwise it may

prove more difficult to win the trust and co-operation both of the people as well as other interest groups. It is felt that the meetings that have been held so far have been successful in getting that message across but this should and would need to be reinforced as part of future project actions.

There was a general perception that the environment and resources available to communities had become degraded and that communities no longer had the same access and availability of these as they used to. More importantly to them, there was a perception that the flow in the river had been significantly reduced in recent years. This was coupled with a feeling of vulnerability that this was going to continue and that eventually there would be no more water left in the river. The people in Botswana tended to blame Namibia and the people in Namibia tended to blame Angola for this. There did not seem to be a connection between flow in the river and climatic events such as rainfall. Indeed it was noted that there was some difficulty in relating local knowledge and observation to the wider basin context and the events in it. The people consulted realised this to an extent, and it was perhaps because of this that they stressed the importance of educating their children on these matters.

4. PROPOSED INITIATIVES

The following are some proposals for future actions and initiatives that could be considered that have arisen out of the discussions. They are not intended to be detailed as they would need to be discussed in greater detail. Rather they are intended to provoke debate and discussion.

4.1 Preparatory Assessment Study

Feedback on Information Meetings

In order to demonstrate a commitment to communication process and in doing so to gain support and credibility, there should be a degree of feedback to those who have been consulted. Firstly, the results of the discussions that have taken place, the main points and concerns that have been raised as well as some of the thoughts and answers that have been shared could be feedback to people and interest groups. People want to know what has been going on and what other people have said.

This could be simply achieved by producing a newsletter/pamphlet as well as a press release. This would supplement the feedback that has been given via the radio programmes that are currently being undertaken.

Consultation on the Diagnostic Assessment Document

Once a draft document on the diagnostic assessment has been prepared and in parallel with its peer review, it could also be made the topic of workshops to be held in each country. The participants could be drawn from traditional leaders, councillors as well as environmental and other interest groups. It should be possible to incorporate into the final document any points raised at the same time as those raised in the peer review.

4.2 Strategic Action Plan

Communications Secretariat

The scope of the communication and consultation component of the Strategic Action Plan should not be underestimated, especially when it comes to involving communities and interest groups. These are key players in the process and much of the success of the exercise will depend on them as much as on the efforts of government and specialists. In this regard it is considered important that education is incorporated into communication. Attitudes and practices can be changed through education and it is through this that an integrated basin management plan can best and most successfully be implemented.

To do this there will be a need to establish a full-time and properly staffed communications component of a secretariat. It is presumed that a full-time secretariat for the Strategic Action Plan will be established, though it is not the place here to debate its form, function or scope. It is suggested that although there would need to be some centralisation, most operational functions should be regionally based in each of the three countries. The broad functions could include ; dealing with protocol arrangements for visiting specialists, gathering and disseminating information, providing a feedback channel to the project, regular consultation with stakeholders, organising workshops, developing educational material, liaising with schools, producing information packs and initiating media coverage.

Education

On several occasions the issue of involving young people and providing them with opportunities to participate was raised. It was also felt that unless the youth were involved they would not learn from the mistakes of the past and be able to improve their future quality of life. The team that visited the Okavango Region in Namibia were urged to explore ways of incorporating school leavers into the project.

It is recognised that this could be a powerful and beneficial tool. Therefore it is suggested that the project could consider employing a certain number of school leavers who would be tasked to assist the various specialists in their work especially where data gathering is concerned. School leavers would have to receive training and this would have to be incorporated into the brief of the specialists and researchers. They could also assist with providing feedback to local communities as well as liaising with schools.

A certain number of bursaries could be made available to the most able of the school leavers to enable them to study further. It is also proposed that a small number of suitably qualified graduates, preferably from the region, could be employed alongside the school leavers in order to strengthen the capabilities.

At the same time specialists could be required to prepare material in a popularised style for schools and museums and to present lectures as part of their contract.

Consultation

Consultation should include the involvement of interested and affected parties from the development of the terms of reference of individual study modules, through the selection of specialists, the management and the review of their work.

Stakeholders have all expressed their desire to be involved and more especially to be consulted. However care will need to be exercised in order to achieve an acceptable level and balance of involvement of the groups. This is an aspect which will need to be given some detailed thought. Workshops and interviews of key informants will have to be the principal means of communication. A balance between involving the general public and those who represent particular interest groups will need to be struck. Over all this the process of consultation and communication must be seen as being constructive and transparent by all parties involved. The effort required to achieve this should not be underestimated and it is likely to generate a considerable amount of work.

Some interest groups, especially the environmentally inclined ones, have expressed a desire that they play a direct role in studying certain aspects which fit in with their remit. An example of such organisations is the Okavango Research Centre. Others have expressed a willingness to fulfil a peer review role or to assist with the community consultation and dissemination, such as the Kalahari Conservation Society. All are open to suggestions and it would be beneficial once there are more concrete ideas as to what is to be undertaken, in sitting down with them to explore mutually beneficial co-operation.

STAKEHOLDERS - NAMIBIA

Name	Address	Telephone
<u>NGO's - Kavango</u>		
Oxfam Canada/Canamco	Box 683 Rundu	067-255335
Lux Development		067-255651
Kavango Regional Chamber of Commerce	Box 339 Rundu	067-225351
Kavango Regional Farmers Union	Box 499 Rundu	067-255104
Kavango River Group (Lodges)	Box 634 Rundu	067-255161
AMCOM Holdings (NDC)	Box 12 Rundu	067-255012
Rössing Foundation	Box 368 Rundu	067-255993
<u>NGO's - Windhoek</u>		
Namwater	P/Bag 13389	3209111
Rössing Foundation	Box 20746	211721
DRFN	Box 20232	229855
CCN	Box 41	217621
Catholic Church	Box 272	223889
ELCIN	Box 24541	261581
Namibia Development Corporation	P/Bag 13252	2069111
Agricultural Bank	P/Bag 13402	238540
Namibia Agricultural Union	P/Bag 13255	237880
Agrifutura	Box 31487	227630
Development Brigades Corporation	P/Bag 13180	226211
Red Cross	Box 346	235226
<u>Government - Windhoek</u>		
National Planning Commission	P/Bag 13356	222549
Central Statistics Office	P/Bag 13356	239360
Dept Water Affairs	P/Bag 13193	2969111
Dept. of Agriculture:		
Perm Sec	P/Bag 13184	2022038
Director Veterinary Services	P/Bag 12022	2022163
Director Extension & Engineering	P/Bag 13184	2022127
Director Agricultural Research & Training:	P/Bag 13184	2022035
Livestock	P/Bag 13184	2022005
Crop Production	P/Bag 13184	2022138
Herbarium	P/Bag 13184	2029111
Ministry of Basic Education:		
Perm Sec	P/Bag 13186	2939311
Dept Culture - Under Sec	P/Bag 13186	2939311
Division Museums	Box 1203	2934376
Ministry of Environment & Tourism:		
Perm Sec	P/Bag 13346	2842333

Director Resource Management	P/Bag 13346	2842331
Director Environmental Affairs	P/Bag 13306	249015
Director Forestry	P/Bag 13306	221478
Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources:	P/Bag 13355	2053007
Perm Sec	P/Bag 13355	2053015
Director Resource Management	P/Bag 2116 Mariental	0661-362
Hardap Freshwater Fish Institute		
Ministry of Health	P/Bag 13198	2039111
Perm Sec		
Ministry of Higher Education:	P/Bag 13391	253670
Perm Sec		
Ministry of Prisons & Correctional Services:	P/Bag 13281	250690
Perm Sec		
Ministry of Lands, Resettlement & Rehab:	P/Bag 13343	2852111
Perm Sec		
Ministry of Mines & Energy:	P/Bag 13297	2848111
Perm Sec		
Ministry of Regional and Local Govt & House:	P/Bag 13289	2972911
Perm Sec	P/Bag 13289	236730
Director Community Development	P/Bag 13289	224711
Director REgional & Local Govt.		
Ministry of Trade & Industry:	P/Bag 13340	2837111
Perm Sec	P/Bag 13340	2837111
Director Industrial Development		
Ministry of Works Transport & Comms:	P/Bag 13341	2089111
Perm Sec	P/Bag 12005	2089111
Department of Transport	P/Bag 12005	2082041
Director Planning & Transportation Manag		
<u>Government - Kavango</u>		
DWA Rural Water Supply	P/Bag 2147 Rundu	067-256380
Namwater Rundu	P/Bag 2090 Rundu	067-255027
Dept of Agriculture	P/Bag 2096 Rundu	067-255666
Min of Education - Regional office	P/Bag 2082 Rundu	067-255033
Min of Environment & Tourism:	P/Bag 2093 Rundu	067-255403
Resource Management	P/Bag 2144 Rundu	067-255033
Forestry	P/Bag 2082 Rundu	067-255267
Ministry of Regional & Local Government	P/Bag 2082 Rundu	067-255396
Regional Governor & Councillors	P/Bag 2082 Rundu	067-255396
Mayor & Town Council	P/Bag 2082 Rundu	067-255401
Ministry of Lands - Omega		

PURPOSE OF THIS PAMPHLET

The purpose of this pamphlet is to:

- ☑ introduce you to OKACOM and the Preparatory Assessment Programme,
- ☑ seek your co-operation and request your participation,
- ☑ start the process by making contact and establishing channels of communication between you as a STAKEHOLDER and OKACOM.

WHAT IS OKACOM ?

In 1994 the governments of Angola, Botswana and Namibia established the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission to co-ordinate and collaborate on the sharing of the basin's water resources.

WHO'S INVOLVED ON OKACOM ?

OKACOM is made up of three ministerial appointed representatives, drawn from the top government level management in each of the three states. In addition it can co-opt as many advisors as necessary. This allows full and meaningful consultation and dialogue with government agencies, communities and interest groups.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF OKACOM ?

The Okavango River plays a key role in the lives of the people of the region. It is also one of the few relatively undeveloped river basins in the world containing unique environmental and ecological features.

Recognising this, there is a need to manage the mounting regional development pressures through the formulation of an Integrated Basin Management Plan. Such a plan would span national boundaries and interests and promote the sustainable development of the Okavango River Basin through a process of open consultation at all levels.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PREPARATORY ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME ?

The purpose is threefold :

Establish Co-ordination and Consultation Mechanisms - establish channels of communication for the further effective co-ordination, consultation and co-operation between stakeholders. This will facilitate stakeholder participation in the Environmental Assessment and the development of the Integrated Basin Management Plan

Diagnostic Assessment - On the basis of the review of the current state of information and knowledge to identify key areas of concerns and gaps in knowledge of the physical and socio-economic systems of the Okavango River Basin.

Strategic Action Programme - Following from the Diagnostic Assessment to carry out an Environmental Assessment to address issues, priorities and gaps in information and understanding which will lead to the formulation of an Integrated Basin Management Plan

HOW LONG WILL ALL THIS TAKE ?

The Preparatory Assessment Programme is to be completed by March 1998. It is anticipated that the Environmental Assessment and Integrated Basin Management Plan will take up to six years to complete.

WHY IS THE OKAVANGO RIVER BASIN SO IMPORTANT ?

- 🌍 Large numbers of people, (hundreds of thousands) rely on the natural resources of the land and water for their day to day living.
- 🌍 Unique inland wetlands and delta - in an arid region, reliant for their productivity on the maintenance of annual flooding and water quality.
- 🌍 Increasing threats to the natural environment, degradation and loss of biodiversity as the area comes under increasing pressure to develop its land and water resources.
- 🌍 The basin is at present undeveloped and in a relatively pristine condition.

EXPECT

- 🌍 Things will not happen overnight, this will be a long process - maybe up to 6 years.
- 🌍 There will be on-going opportunities for you to participate in the Environmental Assessment and the development of the Integrated Basin Management Plan.
- 🌍 Your views and opinions will be respected.

CONTACT

For further information contact :

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NOTE

An OKACOM Internet web site should be functional by mid September 1997.

OBJECTIVO DESTE PANFLETO

O objectivo deste panfleto é:

- ! Dar-lhe a conhecer a Okacom e o Programa de Avaliação Preparatório,
- ! procurar que coopere connosco, solicitando a sua participação,
- ! dar início a este processo, fazendo contactos e estabelecendo canais de comunicação entre vocês como potenciais interessados, e a Okacom.

O QUE É A OKACOM?

Em 1994 os governos de Angola, Botswana e Namibia, fundaram a Comissão Hidráulica Permanente da Bacia do Rio Okavango para coordenar e colaborar na partilha dos recursos hidráulicos da bacia.

QUEM ESTÁ ENVOLVIDO NA OKACOM?

A Okacom é composta por três representantes nomeados ministerialmente, pertencentes ao topo da hierarquia da administração de cada um dos três estados. Acrescentar a isto, a Okacom pode cooptar com quantos Consultores forem necessários. Isto permite por um lado, uma consulta plena e significativa, e por outro lado o diálogo com agências governamentais, comunidades e grupos de interesse.

QUAL É O OBJECTIVO DA OKACOM?

O rio Okavango desempenha um papel chave na vida das pessoas da região. É também uma das poucas bacias no mundo que apresenta um desenvolvimento relativamente baixo, apesar das suas características ambientais e ecológicas únicas.

Reconhecendo este facto, há necessidade de administrar as crescentes pressões de desenvolvimento regionais, através da formulação de um Plano Integrado de Administração da Bacia. Tal plano iria alargar as fronteiras e os interesses nacionais. Promoveria também o desenvolvimento sustentável da Bacia do Rio Okavango, através de um processo aberto de consulta a todos os níveis.

QUAL É O OBJECTIVO DO PROGRAMA DE AVALIAÇÃO PREPARATÓRIO?

O objectivo é tripartido:

Estabelecer mecanismos de coordenação e de consulta - estabelecer canais de comunicação para uma efectiva coordenação posterior, consulta e cooperação entre as partes interessadas. Isto facilitaria a participação dos interessados na avaliação do meio ambiente e o desenvolvimento do Plano Integrado de Administração da Bacia.

Avaliação diagnóstica - a partir de um exame sobre o estado da informação e do conhecimento actuais de modo a poder identificar áreas chave de preocupações e de lacunas, em relação ao conhecimento dos sistemas físico e sócio-económico da Bacia do Rio Okavango.

Programa de acção estratégica - a ser desenvolvido na sequência da avaliação diagnóstica, para levar a cabo uma avaliação do meio ambiente que se refira às questões, prioridades e lacunas de informação e de compreensão; esta poderá conduzir à formulação de um Plano Integrado de Administração da Bacia.

CALENDÁRIO PREVISÍVEL DO PROGRAMA

Prevê-se que o Programa de Avaliação Preparatório possa estar terminado em Março de 1998, e que a Avaliação sobre o Meio Ambiente, bem como o Plano Integrado de Administração da Bacia venham a ser concluídos num período de seis anos.

PORQUE É QUE A BACIA DO RIO OKAVANGO É TÃO IMPORTANTE?

- ! Um elevado número de pessoas (centenas e milhares) depende dos recursos naturais da terra e da água, para a sua sobrevivência diária.
- ! A existência de terrenos pantanosos, interiores e de delta - numa região árida, cuja produtividade depende da manutenção do ciclo do caudal anual e da qualidade da água.
- ! Crescentes ameaças ao meio ambiente natural, devido à degradação e perda da sua biodiversidade, uma vez que a área é sujeita a uma pressão cada vez maior, no sentido de desenvolver as suas terras e os seus recursos hídricos.
- ! A Bacia é no presente pouco desenvolvida, apresentando

características relativamente primitivas.

O QUE SE ESPERA

- | O que foi apresentado não acontecerá de um dia para o outro - Será um longo processo a ser desenvolvido, provavelmente por um período de seis anos.
- | Haverá oportunidades contínuas para que você possa participar na Avaliação do Meio Ambiente e na implementação do Plano Integrado de Administração da Bacia.
- | Os seus pontos de vista serão respeitados.

CONTACTO

Para mais informação contacte:

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NOTA:

Uma Web site da Internet OKACOM entrará em funcionamento em meados de Setembro de 1997.

SITAMBO SEPUKURURO ELI

Sitambo sepukururo eli sesi:

- ! kupukurura vantu womomukunda ogu va dive ko yuma yokuhamena OKACOM ntani asi yinke sitambo sazo.
- ! kutulisa po eruganeno kumwe pokatji kovantu womomukunda ogu kumwe nokomiti zangesi.
- ! kupukurura vantu nokutulisa po ngendeso zeuyungo kumwe pokatji KOMUHAMENIMO naOKACOM.

YINKE OKACOM?

Melima eli 1994 egwanekero kumwe lyoyirongo eyi yitatu, Angola, Botswana naNamibia yipo va totere po komiti ezi negano lyokutarurura ngendeso zokuruganesa mema gomomukuro pankedi zongwa.

WOLYE VA HAMENA moOKACOM?

OKACOM kwa kara novakarelipo vatatu woyirongo eyi tuna tumbura omu. Vakarelipo ava kwa va horowora yirongo yawo. Ano vakarelipo ava yiwo wokuvhura kuhorowora vagavimagano ava ngava vhura kuvakwafa mosirugana sawo. Eyi kwa yi tulira po va gave mpito kovantu wokulikerera kumwe nomaruha gamwe gemepangero nawo ngava vhure kuhamena mumatokoro aga nga zi tulisa po

komiti zangesi.

YINKE SINKA soOKACOM?

Mukuro gwaKavango mulyo unene momparukiso unene kwava va tunga moKavango. Mukuro ogu yigo gumwe gwa mouzuni pira kugwana ekuliko.

Ano morwa nokonda dangesi, kuna kara nye hepero zokutulisa po ngendeso zeruganeno kumwe moku ka tarurura magano gokuvhura ku ka kambadara kuretesa po ekuliko lyomukuro ogu. Egano kuna kara lyokutura po eruganeno kumwe lyoyirongo eyi yitatu nekwatakaneso ezokomeho lyomukuro gwaKavango ponontambo nadinye.

YINKE SITAMBO SERONGIKIDO LYELLIKWAMO ELI?

Sitambo selikwamo eli kuna kara momaruha gatatu:

Kutura po eruganenkumwe neligwanekero lyopauyungo - kutura po nkedi zomaligwanekero mombuyungiro zovakarelipo navenye. Ezi yizo nkedi zimwe ezi nazi vhura kugava mpito kovakarelipo navenye ngava vhure ku ka tarurura posiruwo sokurugana makonakono noku fira sinka nsitwe.

Ekonakono lyonsitwe - Ekonakono eli lyokutarurura ukaro wonsitwe zomukuro noku nongonona maudona aga nga ga vhura ku ka horoka komeho momukuro gwaKavango.

Elikwamo lyeturo mosirugana - yitundwa mo yomakonakono aga ngava rugana yigo nga ga gava uzera owu ngava k a ruganesa mokutulisa po ngendeso zelipakerero lyonomusare.

SIRUWO SOKUHURA KUPI NGAYI KARA YININKE EYI?

Maliwapaikiro gelikwamo eli ngaga haga mwaNsinano 1998. Ano ekonakono lyonsitwe kumwe noku ka tulisa po mbungagendeso zelipakerero nga li kara siruwo sokusika pomalima ntazimwe.

MUKURO GWAKAVANGO MORWASINKE GWA KARERA NOMULYO?

! Sinzi sovantu kuparukira momukuro morwa mema norunone ronomfi edi da kara momukuro.

! Mulyo unene madiva nsene va ga pakera mbili unene po posiruwo soruhanzo morwa hepero zokuruganesa mema gomomadiva nonomusare.

! Kuna kara po utjirwe asi nsitwe kuvhura zi ka zonauke poku ka tarerera runone rwangesi. Kuna kara po hepero moku ka kulika runone oru.

! Madiva nonomusare kwa ga tarerera pwanare eyi yina kulikida asi pa tupu ekuliko lyongandi.

ENDINDIRO LYOKOMEHO

- Yininke nayinye eyi kapi ngayi horoka ezuva lyoolyo, nye nga si kara sirugana sokukwara siruwo esi ngasi tu sikisa komalima ntazimwe.
- Ngava gava mpito kovantu womomukunda nawo nga vhure kuhamena mwankenye magazadaro gokuhama ekuliko lyegendeso lyomukuro gwaKavango
- Magano gangesi ngava ga fumadeka noku ga tambura ko.

OGU NO VHURA KUUYUNGA NENDI

Nsene ono hara kudiva yoyinzi, zogera kumwe na;

Munekuto S. Crerar,
Mugendesikurona gounongononi
konsako zoposa ezi :
P O Box 2484, Windhoek
Tel : 064-61-237728,
Fax : 064 61 238880.
E-Mail : okacom.sm@iwwn.com.na

Maikaelelo a pampitshana e ke:

- ✓ Go go itsese ka thulaganyo ya paakanyetso tshakatsheko ya lekgotla la OKACOM.
- ✓ Go kopa tirisano mmogo le go tsenya lebogo ga gago.
- ✓ Go simolodisa thulaganyo ka go therisanyo magareng ga rotlhe batsaakarolo le OKACOM.

OKACOM ke eng?

Erile ka ngwaga wa 1994 mebuso ya mafatshe a Angola, Botswana le Namibia ya tlhoma lekgotla la Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM) go gokaganya le go tlhomamisa tirisano ya noka le mafatshe a a e tlhakanetseng.

Ke bo mang ba ba mo OKACOM

OKACOM e tlhamilwe ka ka babirela mmuso ba maemo a magolwana ba le bararo go tswa mo mebusong ya mafatshe o o mararo. Mo godimo ga bone go ka tlhophiwa ba gakolodi ba palo e e batlwang. Se se dira gore go nne le therisanyo e e tlhomameng fa

gare ga makalana a mebuso, morafe le ditlhopho tse di nang le kgatlhego.

Mosola wa OKACOM ke eng

Noka ya Okavango e botlhokwa mo matshelong a batho ba le bantsi mo borwa jwa Aferika. Ke nngwe ya dinoka mo lefatsheng e nang le sepego sa yone e le nosi.

Ka go lemoga se, go a tlhokafala go re go laolwe tirisano e e ka fokotsang boleng jwa noka e ka go dira lenaneo le le tlhamaletseng la tirisano ya yone. Lenaneo la mothale o, go botlhokwa gore le tlole melelwane le dikeletso tsa bonosi tsa mafatshe a noka e fetang ka o ne mme le itebaganye segolobogolo le tirisano e e nang le bokamosa ka go diragatsa therisanyo.

Mosola wa lekgotla la paakanyetso tshakatsheko ke eng.

Mosolo o o maphata mararo

1. Go rulaganyetsa kgokagano le therisanyo. Go tlhama ditsela tsa disela la go buisanya gore gore go tle go nne le kgokagano, therisanyo le

tirisanyo fa gare ga batsaakarolo. Se se tla a dira gore batsaakarolo botlhe ba nne le seabe mo go direng lenaneo la tirisano ya noka.

2. Go seka seka kitso e e teng ka noka e le go bona gore e tlhela fa kae.
3. Go tsaya kgato mo go se se tlaabong se lemogilwe se tlhela ka kitso ya nako e ka maikaelelo a gore lenaneo la tirisano ya yone enne e e lolameng.

Se se tlaa diragala mo nakong e e kae?

Lenaneo la paakanyetso tshakatsheko le solofelwa go bo le feditswe ka kgwedi ya Mopitlo ka 1998. So solofelwa gore tshakatsheko ya tikologo le ya lenaneo la tirisano di ka tsaya dingwaga di ka nna thataro go wediwa.

Keeng noka ya Okavango ele botlhokwa go le kana?

- ▷ Matshwitshwiti a batho a itshedisa ka meamuso ya lefatshe le metsi.

- ▷ Lekgobokgobo la Okavango le le fa gare ga lefatshe la komelele le ikaegile ka go elela ga noka ya Okavango.

- ▷ Tirisano e e tswelaletseng pele ya metsi le lefatshe le le mo makgobokgobong le tlisa letshogo la gore tikologo le ditsa tlhologo tse di ikaegileng ka legobokgobo di kare phelelong tsa nyelela.

Solofela

- ▷ Dilo ga dina go kgonega tshotlhe ka nako e le enngwe. Tema go se e khutshwane. Go ka nna ga re tsaya dingwaga dile thataro.

- ▷ Le tlaa nna le nna le ditshono tsa go tsenya lebogo mo tshakatshekong ya tikologo le go dira lenaneo la tirisano ya noka.

- ▷ Megopolo le dikakanyo tsa lona re tlaa di tlotla.

NOTES ON MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The purpose of this document is to place on record the various parties that have been met with and the discussions that have taken place with them in the process of establishing channels and mechanisms of communication in Namibia and Botswana. This background, together with other initiatives and contacts that have been made, should form the basis of proposals for the development of an outline communications strategy as an integral part of the Strategic Action Plan and its Environmental Assessment.

Wednesday 13 August - Windhoek

Desert Research Foundation of Namibia

P O Box 20232

Windhoek Namibia

Tel : 229855

email : drfn@iwwn.com.na

http://www.iwwn.com.na/drfn/index.html

Person met : Dr Mary Seely, Director of DRFN

DRFN is a non governmental research institution which has been active in Namibia for the last three decades. Since independence in 1990 it has gradually expanded its focus of activities. These now include environmental consultancy work, community programmes, research-through the Gobabeb Ecological Research Unit, policy and training programmes, networking with other NGO's as well as partnership with government and the application and dissemination of research. DRFN is dedicated to creating and furthering awareness and understanding of arid environments and developing capacity, skills and knowledge to manage arid environments appropriately. The Foundation is self funding.

DRFN's main concern with respect to the Okavango River Basin is that there should be developed a framework for sustainable development based on an understanding of how the basin functions. This understanding should included all the basin stakeholders. It was seen as being very important that there should be good communications with communities and that there should be effort during the Environmental Assessment into developing and implementing a pro-active communications policy to disseminate information. Areas that need to be addressed include : the preparation of information and material concerning the studies, making materials available, getting feedback, gathering information. It was suggested that use could be made of recent graduates to fulfil part of these roles but that they would require more professional assistance in order to guide and direct their activities.

It was suggested that there should be an Okavango River Basin Library established and that all work carried out should be in the public domain. It was pointed out that the recent Namibian Emergency Pipeline project had attracted a lot of international criticism. In view of this, PR should be addressed as a very serious and important aspect of any future work on the

Basin. It was recommended by Dr Seely that OKACOM should hire a full time PRO to handle this aspect and to ensure a “positive press”.

TRIP REPORT : 19 TO 26 AUGUST BOTSWANA

Tuesday 19 August - Maun

Okavango Research Centre

Meeting with Prof. Lars Ramberg of the Okavango Research Centre (ORC) in Maun. The ORC is part of the University of Botswana and has recently been established, approximately 18 months ago. The purpose of the centre is to carry out research and to advance the knowledge of the Okavango Delta across a broad spectrum of disciplines. Prof. Ramberg has been aware of OKACOM and its functions for some time, and has recently, at the request of Botswana, been co-opted onto the Okavango Basin Steering Committee as an advisor. As such he will have a role in reviewing the work carried out as part of the Preparatory Assessment Study.

The projects on which the ORC is currently engaged were outlined. In the Environmental Assessment ORC would like to be involved in the carrying out of appropriate research and development work on the Delta as well as other aspects such as review of terms of reference of modules, comment and peer review of studies, compilation of reference works and acting as a repository of information.

Wednesday 20 August - Maun

Okavango Peoples Wildlife Trust Private Bag 290, Maun Tel : 661717

Persons met with : Mr G E Y du Plessis and “Shakes” Tlolego, both office holders.

A recently formed community based group which seeks to interact directly with the chiefs, headmen and communities and act as a vehicle to represent their views and concerns on the use and control of natural resources to the authorities. The President of the Trust is Paramount Chief Tawana and the Patron is Lt. General Ian Khama. The Trust has established direct contact with chiefs and headmen, membership is approximately 300 which include 16 chiefs. They recently held a 4 day conference which addressed issues such as Fences, Fires, Hunting and Community Consultation. At the time of meeting with them, the proceedings of the conference had not been finalised but copies were promised.

The reaction of the two staff members to the Preparatory Assessment Programme and OKACOM in general was very favourable and supportive. They undertook to disseminate

any material that was produced to the communities in the Delta and would gladly assist where they could.

It would appear from discussions with them as well as with others that the Trust is active and that they are able to reach chiefs, headmen and communities. With respect to the future and possible role that they saw for themselves in the communications process, they felt that they could act as a channel for the views and opinions of the communities as well as represent their views. However, they did say that this would be done in consultation with those communities.

Conservation International
P O Box 448, Maun
Tel/Fax 660017

Persons met : Dr Karen Ross - Director

The main aims of CI are ecosystems conservation and community involvement and in order to achieve these aims they have four core programmes. The programmes are environmental education, science and research, enterprise development and policy development. Conservation International have taken a close interest in OKACOM and more recently in the Namibian Emergency Pipeline Project. Their stance has been that OKACOM's work should be completed before any development of the water resources of the Okavango takes place. To this end they have been an active member of the Okavango Liaison Group which is co-ordinating NGO response to the Namibian project. A very active and well respected NGO with international contacts.

CI'S most successful programme in the Delta is environmental education and they have three education centres which support this. The economic enterprise programme has focused on enabling communities and especially women to generate income through the utilisation of natural products. They have supported the Okavango Research Centre as part of the science and research programme.

CI are very positive towards OKACOM and its work, especially the PAS. They envisage that they could have a positive role to play by using their close contacts and influence in the area to facilitate communications between parties, especially communities and community representatives. In addition to this they feel that they could play a review role on technical committees for future work carried out as part of the Environmental Assessment, especially with respect to policy development issues. They would also like to carry out monitoring and mapping work directly.

CI are active in Brazil and the possibility of utilising them to visit Angola and maybe set up a parallel programme in Angola was mentioned as something that could be explored in the future.

Hotel and Tourism Association of Botswana (HATAB)
Director Modisa Motoagae
Red Cross Bldg, Gaborone
Tel 357144, Fax 303201

Person met : Derek Flatt, Deputy Chair

The tourism industry has a keen interest in the workings of OKACOM and anything that might have an impact on the Delta. Tourism is THE industry on which the well being of Maun and the majority of the people of Ngamiland depend. In the past there has been a high degree of suspicion of government in the area and government consultation due to the fact that much of it is seen as occurring after the fact. The Association and its members want to know what is going on and any information provided to them would be forwarded to the members. The Association does speak on behalf of its members and does represent their views. Mr Flatt undertook to inform the Director of HATAB of our meeting and to brief him that information would be made available and that this should be circulated. Various mechanisms for involving HATAB were explored for the future. HATAB could facilitate access to tour operators and information regarding tourism, its importance to the local and national economy as well as to the people of the Delta. HATAB would also like to be involved with reviewing aspects relevant to them such as terms of reference and commenting on reports.

Wednesday 21 August -Gaborone

IUCN

Person met : Rudd Janssen Country Director

IUCN is not a community based organisation but deals mostly with other NGO's as well as government on environment related issues. They were concerned that previously OKACOM was in their view very much water abstraction driven. They are pleased to see that it has been broadened to include other issues such as resource use and an ecosystems approach. IUCN have certain concerns and these include; that there could be a bias towards water resources in the work of OKACOM, that the level of effort should be perceived as being equal between all countries, are current national and regional plans going to be incorporated into the work and will there be conflict between the findings of the study and these plans. It was suggested that as part of the development of the Integrated Basin Management Plan a Basin Development Agency should be considered as an option to oversee development.

Mr Janssen felt that IUCN with its regional approach and presence as well as its close involvement in the Zambezi River Basin planning (ZACPLAN) could bring this experience to OKACOM through its direct involvement on for example, a steering committee or reference group. Other areas of involvement could be on international issues, policy, legislation and

legal aspects which he believes they have a particular expertise in. They could act as an external reviewer or even in a mediating/facilitating role in areas of potential conflict.

Mr Janssen undertook to report the substance of the discussions back to IUCN's Regional Office in Harare.

Kalahari Conservation Society

P O Box 859

Gaborone

Tel : 374557

Fax : 314259

Person met : Dr Keith Leggatt - Conservation Officer

KCS are currently engaged in a programme of consultation of communities in the Okavango Delta to obtain their views and concerns about the Namibian Emergency Pipeline Project. To this end they have held meetings in Maun in order to get a mandate from the chiefs to talk to communities and have recently held a number of kgotla meetings. They are planning follow up meetings with kgotlas towards the end of September. KCS is aware of the aims and objectives of OKACOM and fully support them. They are of the opinion that the work of OKACOM should be substantially completed before any developments take place. They welcomed the approach to them to inform them of the PAS and offered to assist the consultation and communications process wherever they could. They did offer to take information on OKACOM and PAS to communities.

With respect to their future role, they see this as facilitating communication with local community leaders, they could also play a review role if requested to assist in this aspect.

National Conservation Strategy (Co-ordinating) Agency

Private Bag 0063 Gaborone

Tel 375551/302050

Fax 302051

The purpose of the meeting was to inform NCS of the progress with the PAS and in particular with the consultations that had been carried out. Ideas for facilitating the setting up communication channels were discussed showing the pamphlet that had been prepared and the information that it contained.

Friday 22 August - Gaborone

Department of Water Affairs

Private Bag 0029

Gaborone

Tel 360 7100

Fax : 303508

Person met : Mr B Khupe - Director

The purpose of the visit was to inform Mr Khupe of the progress that had been made with the PAS as well as what had been achieved in the various meetings that had been held with NGO's and other community leaders.

Sunday 24 August - Maun

Meeting with chiefs and headmen.

The purpose of the meeting was to brief the chiefs and headmen ahead of the Monday Kgotla meeting. The meeting was attended by 22 chiefs and headmen, councillors had been invited to the meeting but were not present. The meeting was briefed by Mr M Sekwale, Co-chair of OKACOM on the present status of the Namibian Emergency Pipeline, OKACOM and their relationship to each other. The meeting was informed as to the history of OKACOM how it had come about and its purpose. It was pointed out that there was no connection between the Namibian pipeline and OKACOM. The meeting was informed that OKACOM had initiated a study of the environment of the Okavango River Basin which was being supported by the UN. The first step was the Preparatory Assessment Study and part of this consisted of sharing information with stakeholders. An information broadsheet in English and Setswana was distributed to the meeting.

The questions that came up were concerned with the Namibian pipeline issue and not on OKACOM as such. The chiefs and headmen were supportive of the work of OKACOM and wished to be informed.

Monday 25 August - Maun

Kgotla Meeting

The Kgotla meeting was attended by between 100 and 120 people, these included the chiefs and headmen, the MP for Ngamiland and the District Commissioner as well as members of the public. Members of NGO's had been invited to the meeting but only representatives from CI and ORC were present. The press (Okavango Observer) and Radio Botswana were present.

The meeting was addressed by Mr Sekwale and followed the same format as the briefing to the chiefs and headmen of the previous day with the same topics being covered. The meeting was informed of the Preparatory Assessment Study, the appointment of specialists and the consultation process. Most of the questions that arose were to do with the Namibian pipeline or with what was understood as being water rights of the various countries and what this

entitled them to. At the end of the meeting information broadsheets were distributed to the audience and the Tribal Administration Secretary undertook to provide additional copies. After the meeting, a short briefing was given to the reporter from the Okavango Observer.

Meeting with Paramount Chief Tawana III

The opportunity was taken to meet with and brief Chief Tawana as to the background to OKACOM, what its aims and objectives were and what actions had been taken. He was informed of the PAS and what had taken place so far especially with the appointment of specialists and the communications and information sharing process that had been embarked upon. It was emphasised that consultation and communication would play a vital role in the eventual success of OKACOM and that it was vital that all stakeholders take an active part in its work. The Chief understood this and supported the initiative. It was agreed that the Chief would be kept informed through the Tribal Administration Office.

TRIP REPORT : 2 & 3 SEPTEMBER BOTSWANA

Tuesday 2 September - Maun

North West District Council

Private Bag 01

Maun

Tel : 660471 - Council Secretary

The meeting was with the full council for North West District, which incorporates Ngamiland, Kavango and Chobe. The purpose of the meeting was to brief the councillors on OKACOM, the Preparatory Assessment Study and to establish channels of communication with them. The meeting followed the Kgotla meeting of 26 August in Maun which the councillors were not able to attend. The chairman of the council Mr Sebati Sebati made time available during the full council meeting for them to be addressed. The meeting was attended by 46 councillors as well as the Study Manager, the communications consultant and Mr I Pinhiero a member of OKACOM from Angola. The meeting was addressed by the Study Manger who gave the background to OKACOM, what it was, its Mission Statement, its work and the Preparatory Assessment Study. This was followed by Mr Cashman who gave an overview of the communications and consultation process what it hoped to achieve and how interested and affected parties could be involved.

A number of question were asked. One concerned the relationship to the Namibian Emergency Pipeline, and in reply it was pointed out that OKACOM had nothing to do with that project and that furthermore it was understood that the project had been shelved for between 4 and 5 years as a result of good rains in Namibia.

In answer to a question as to whether the Selinda spillway is included in the study it was said that this was considered to be part of the Zambezi Basin but that it had not been forgotten and the relevant attention would be paid to it.

There was general agreement that the Study Team should periodically report back to the Council and share its information with them by organising seminars.

It was pointed out that the PAS would be reviewed by international bodies.

There was general concern that Namibia seemed to be ignoring OKACOM's advisory role to governments and was going alone on its pipeline project. The Council felt that no government in the basin should embark upon substantial development until the studies had been completed.

Nhabe Museum - Maun

The Nhabe Museum has been going for approximately two years. Its main focus is on local culture and history. In addition to the museum itself there is a small craft centre which is currently being established which will show local arts and crafts being manufactured by local artisans. We spoke to the Australian volunteer who is running the place and were informed by him that the museum is very active with the local schools and that all the schools in the area visit the museum. Displays are updated every month with different themes, there are also monthly lectures which attract a wide audience from among the local people. The museum would welcome the idea of participating in the environmental assessment through showing the work of specialists and by hosting lectures by them.

TRIP REPORT : 9 TO 11 SEPTEMBER NAMIBIA

Tuesday 9 September - Namibia

Meeting with traditional leaders - Kwangali and Mbunza Tribal Areas held at Kandjimi Murangi School, Okavango Region

An attendance list for the meeting is attached. Present at the meeting was the Regional Governor for the Okavango Region, Governor R Muremi, Hompa Haingula of the Mbunza and Hompa Sientu of the Kwangali as well as senior headmen and headmen from the two areas. In addition to this, the opportunity was taken to invite the teachers and Grade 10 pupils of the school to attend the meeting. There were approximately 150 present at the meeting including pupils of the school.

The format of the meeting was as follows ;

- Opening prayer
- Introduction of the delegation
- Welcome by the Hompa

Address by Dr de Wet - Standing in for Mr P Heyns OKACOM Commissioner
Address by Ms S Bethune - OKACOM Technical Advisor
Address by Mr S Crerar - Study Manager
Address by Mr Cashman - Technical Advisor Communications
Questions and discussions
Closing remarks by the Governor
Closing remarks by the Hompa
Closing prayer

The first speaker, Dr de Wet (standing in for Mr P Heyns one of Namibia's OKACOM Commissioners) related the history and background of OKACOM and stressed the importance of the commission for all three countries.

The second speaker, Ms S Bethune is a Technical Advisor to OKACOM and a member of the Okavango Basin Steering Committee (OBSC), a technical committee appointed by OKACOM. Ms Bethune gave more details of OKACOM, what it had been doing since its inception and what it would be doing in the future. She explained that there was much that was not known of the Okavango River Basin and the manner in which it functioned, this had to be understood in order to be able to plan for the future. In order to do this, OKACOM had decided that as a first priority it should commission a basin-wide environmental assessment study. Funding for a Preparatory Assessment Study has been obtained from the United Nations Global Environmental Facility and it is this PAS that has now started. The purpose of the PAS is to find out what is known of the River Basin, what is not known and what should be known and to use this to develop the terms of reference for a full environmental study which could last up to 8 years.

The third speaker, Mr S Crerar, the PAS Study Manager gave some background information of the Okavango River Basin, where the river rises where it ends and how the character of the river changes along its course as well as the circumstances and conditions in each of the countries that border it. He stressed that the intention of OKACOM is to reach an understanding of the functioning of the river basin system and how its resources could be utilised sustainably before allowing any significant development to take place. Mr Crerar went on to give an outline of how the PAS would be carried out, who would be involved and how long it would take to complete.

The fourth speaker Mr Cashman, a technical advisor on communications and consultation processes, discussed the need for community consultation and communication in the environmental assessment and the development of an integrated basin management plan. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the community about OKACOM, what it meant, what it was supposed to do and how this was relevant to the people of the region. He went on to say that when the full environmental assessment was conducted there would be a strong communication and consultation component included, and that there would be opportunities at all levels for interested and affected parties to be involved. He also stressed that similar consultation and information meetings to this had been held in Botswana and would be held in Angola.

Questions from the house were then invited.

The first question concerned the OKACOM Agreement, what did the three countries agree to. The answer given was that the three agreed to co-operate, share information and to talk to each other about possible developments.

Why is Botswana not represented but Angola is and can the delegate from Angola address the meeting. It was explained by Mr Pinheiro, the Angolan representative, that he was present as an observer, to see the work of the specialists and to learn. It was also pointed out that Botswana had declined the invitation to be present. In response the Hompa said that as Botswana was not represented he doubted if they were in favour of the agreement.

It was asked if the water would dry up. In answer to this, it was stated that the purpose of the study was to ensure as far as possible that the water did not dry up.

There was concern that the OKACOM Commissioners were political appointees and that therefore they had no knowledge of the Okavango River. Further had the specialist recognised that there had been changes in the flow of the river because the flows were now much less that they were in the past. In answer it was pointed out that one of the aims of the environmental assessment would be to gain a greater understanding of the river hydrology but it should also be understood that there had been dry periods in the past as well.

If the pipeline is built, then the river will dry up and then how will people be compensated. It was pointed out that the OKACOM project has nothing to do with Namibia's proposed emergency pipeline project and also that the construction of the pipeline had been shelved for the moment. The reasons for considering the pipeline had been the drought but since the dams had filled up there was now no need to build a pipeline.

It was stated that the government should look into desalination of seawater. Further it was feared that Angola had built a dam and was altering the flow of water, It was important to preserve the river so that the future generations would know what crocodiles and hippos were.

If private companies want to abstract water, do they have to go to OKACOM. At present DWA gives out permits for abstraction and that existing permits would be honoured. However, in the future it had been agreed that requests for abstraction would be channelled through OKACOM so that all three countries would know what was going on.

What is the correct protocol for obtaining permission for specialists to work in an area. It was pointed out that before anybody worked in an area, the Regional Governor should be approached and informed. He would then contact the Hompas and if necessary a meeting would be arranged to inform the Hompas what the request was about. The Hompas would then go back to their headmen and discuss the matter and then they would inform the people what their decision was.

In closing, the Regional Governor stated that this was an important meeting to exchange news and to learn from neighbours. He would inform the councillors about what had been discussed.

The Hompa requested that OKACOM must come back and inform them as to what was happening in the study and what the specialists had found. This had been a very important meeting as it affected our children's future and their heritage.

Wednesday 10 September - Namibia

Meeting at Mukwe with traditional leaders - Mbukushu Tribal Area held at Mukwe Tribal Office, Okavango Region.

An attendance list for the meeting is attached. Present at the meeting was the Fumu for the Mbukushu as well as senior headmen and headmen. Approximately 45 people were present at the meeting.

The format of the meeting was ;

- Opening prayer
- Introduction of delegates
- Welcome by the Fumu
- Address by Dr de Wet - Standing in for Mr P Heyns OKACOM Commissioner
- Address by Ms S Bethune - OKACOM Technical Advisor
- Questions
- Address by Mr S Crerar - PAS Study Manager
- Questions
- Address by Mr A Cashman - Technical Advisor Communications
- Closing remarks - Fumu
- Closing prayer

The presentations to the meeting were essentially the same as for the previous meeting and so will not be repeated. However, Dr de Wet emphasised at the outset that the meeting had nothing to do with Namibia's emergency pipeline project although this did not mean that this could not be commented on by the house.

The following questions arose during the meeting.

In answer to what the reaction to the meetings in Botswana was, it was stated that the reactions were generally very positive and supportive of the OKACOM process as they also saw this as a way to conserve and protect the resources of the Okavango River.

Is there a dam in Angola which is stopping the water because he has heard of a dam at Kayingo. Mr Penheiro stated that there was no dam on the river and that this could be

confirmed by looking at the satellite imagery of the catchment basin which the Study had purchased.

The Fumu asked if the rainfall in Huambo had been less over the past few years. In answer it was said that it was difficult to give an answer, because as a result of the war, the majority of the rain gauging stations had gone out of use and there were no records. But all the rivers of the region, including the Zambezi, Kwando and Okavango were generally lower in level as a result of the drought which had been going on for some 15 years.

The Fumu wanted to know if the people who would be carrying out the study would be from the region and would know the river. He asked this because in the past people had come in from outside who did not know the river and had therefore not drawn the correct conclusions and had not talked to the right people. In answer it was stated that as far as possible local experts would be used. In order to make sure that the result properly reflected the concerns of the people, it was planned to have report back workshops and that interviews would be conducted with the people. It was hoped that the Fumu would assist in making sure that these were with the right people.

The Fumu pointed out that the resources of the river and the land alongside it had degraded in recent years. He blamed modern technology and the activities of the younger generation. It was confirmed by the team that the whole purpose of the OKACOM study was to conserve and protect. Headman Ronga stated that the younger generation was destroying resources and driving the animals away. When he was young it was a different river, there were tributaries and if you dug a well you found water, now you cannot find water if you dig a well.

Canamco Development Agency
P O Box 144
Rundu
Tel 255335 Fax 255336

Person met Mr M Hamutenya.

Canamco are a development agency which has been active in the Okavango Region since 1990. They have focused on community development, water projects, horticulture and business enterprise development. Originally they were funded through Oxfam Canada but have recently moved towards being a locally based NGO which receives only part of its funding from Oxfam. They have a number of mobilisation officers who work in the field and with local communities. As many of the activities that they are promoting make use of the resources of the river in one form or another, any environmental assessment would be of interest to them and might even have an impact on the type of projects that they promote. They have asked to be kept informed and would be willing to co-operate in the future. In fact they were assisting one of the OKACOM specialists, Mr C Hines with information for the PAS already.

CARE Austria
P O Box 319
Tel 255607/256155 Fax 255981

Person met Mr Douglas Chemambo.

CARE Austria are a relatively newly established NGO in the Okavango Region. Their main focus of activity is in the operation of credit schemes to assist small to medium sized enterprises. These are mostly in the manufacturing, commercial, construction and transport sectors. They network with the Rundu Vocational Training College. They also assist with the training of credit recipients in business development and other aspects of running a business. Although there did not seem to be any direct connection between their work and OKACOM they would be very glad to receive information and if appropriate would co-operate in the studies.

Okavango Tourist Lodges Association

In discussions with the owner of Sarasungu River Lodge, who had been previously cited as being instrumental in setting up an informal association of the lodge operators along the river, it was established that no association exists. It was also felt that the Hotel Association of Namibia did not reflect the views and interests of the lodge operators in the region. In order to gain the views and opinions of the lodge operators each one would have to be contacted separately.

Namibia Broadcasting Corporation - Radio RuKavango
P O Box 100
Rundu
Tel 255118 Fax 255120

Person met Alphonso Muketo.

The RuKavango Services was approached to send a reporter to the following days meeting. Following discussions with the reporter it was agreed that the services would be very interested in publicising and reporting on the activities of the OKACOM Study in the future. It was suggested that this could take the form of regular monthly report back over the radio. The exact nature would have to be discussed at a later stage.

Thursday 11 September - Namibia

Meeting with traditional leaders - Shambyu Tribal Area held at Kayengona Tribal Office, Okavango Region.

An attendance list for the meeting is attached. Present at the meeting were the Hompa Rahebe and the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Water and Rural Development Mr S Webster as well as senior headmen and headmen. There were approximately 130 people present at the meeting. A reporter from NBC was present at the meeting and interviewed members of the delegation and others after the meeting (the interviews were broadcast the following day nationally as well as locally).

The format of the meeting was as follows ;

Opening prayer

Welcome by the Hompa

Address by the Deputy Minister - Mr S Webster

Address by Ms S Bethune - OKACOM Technical Advisor

Questions

Address by Mr S Crerar - PAS Study Manager

Questions

Address by Mr A Cashman - Technical Advisor Communications

Closing remarks - Hompa

Closing prayer

The proceedings of the meeting were similar to those of the two previous meetings with the exception of the address by the Deputy Minister. This address is summarised below whilst the others are not as they were unchanged from the previous two days.

The Deputy Minister stated that consultation was in his view the key to the success of OKACOM and the wider the consultation the better. That was why the participatory assessment had to precede the environmental assessment and that the co-operation and participation of the people of the Okavango was the most important component. The Government of Namibia fully supports the process of dialogue between OKACOM and the people of the region. It was important to stress that OKACOM had nothing to do with the pipeline project. This study will be used as the basis on which the three governments of Angola, Namibia and Botswana decide what can be done in terms of development and what the implications would be for the river. Water is special because we cannot make it, it is the biggest single key to development. It is important to look at the river and its needs, understand them and then decide on development.

The questions raised were as follows ;

The House wanted to know what was happening with the pipeline. In answer it was stated that the study has nothing to do with the pipeline. The study is being supported by Angola, Namibia and Botswana and it is the intention that no significant development project go ahead, such as the Namibian pipeline, until this study is completed. It was stressed that the river is being looked at as a single entity.

It was asked as to how the team would consult the people. In reply it was pointed out that this was the start of the project and the main aim at the moment was to inform people. As the project progressed the team would come back to the people and that there would also be information on the radio. Once the main study starts there will be interviews and workshops with the people, that aim of which would be to gather all the available knowledge and to share ideas. It was also hoped that it might be possible to employ some of the people on the project.

In answer to a question regarding Botswana it was said that similar meetings had been held in Botswana. However, due to the situation in Angola it may not be possible to do things in the same way in that country. For the time being the information was being made available via the government offices and agencies and the governors for the various regions were being asked to assist as would non-governmental organisations. A journalist had been appointed in Botswana to get the information onto the radio and into the newspapers.

Would the study really take as long as six years or more? It was confirmed that it was expected that it would take this long however, it would not be the case that specialists would come in, do their work and then disappear. They would involve and consult with the local communities and give them feedback on the progress of their work.

A speaker suggested that the study should teach the teachers so that they could then teach the pupils about the river and increase their understanding. The house applauded this suggestion and it was strongly supported by the team. It was felt that there should be a strong educational component to the project. At the meeting at Kandjimi Murangi the teachers and grade 10 pupils had been involved in the information meeting.

The house wanted to know if the representative from Angola was employed by the Namibian Government to which it was pointed out that he was not and that he worked for the Angolan Government. was an OKACOM commissioner, and had been to Botswana as well as Namibia to observe the consultations that were taking place. Mr Penheiro was encouraged to make sure that the Angolan people were given the same opportunities to learn about the project and to take part as the peoples of Namibia and Botswana even if it were only possible using the radio.

**Information and Consultation Meeting
Kandjimi Murangi School
Okavango Region**

