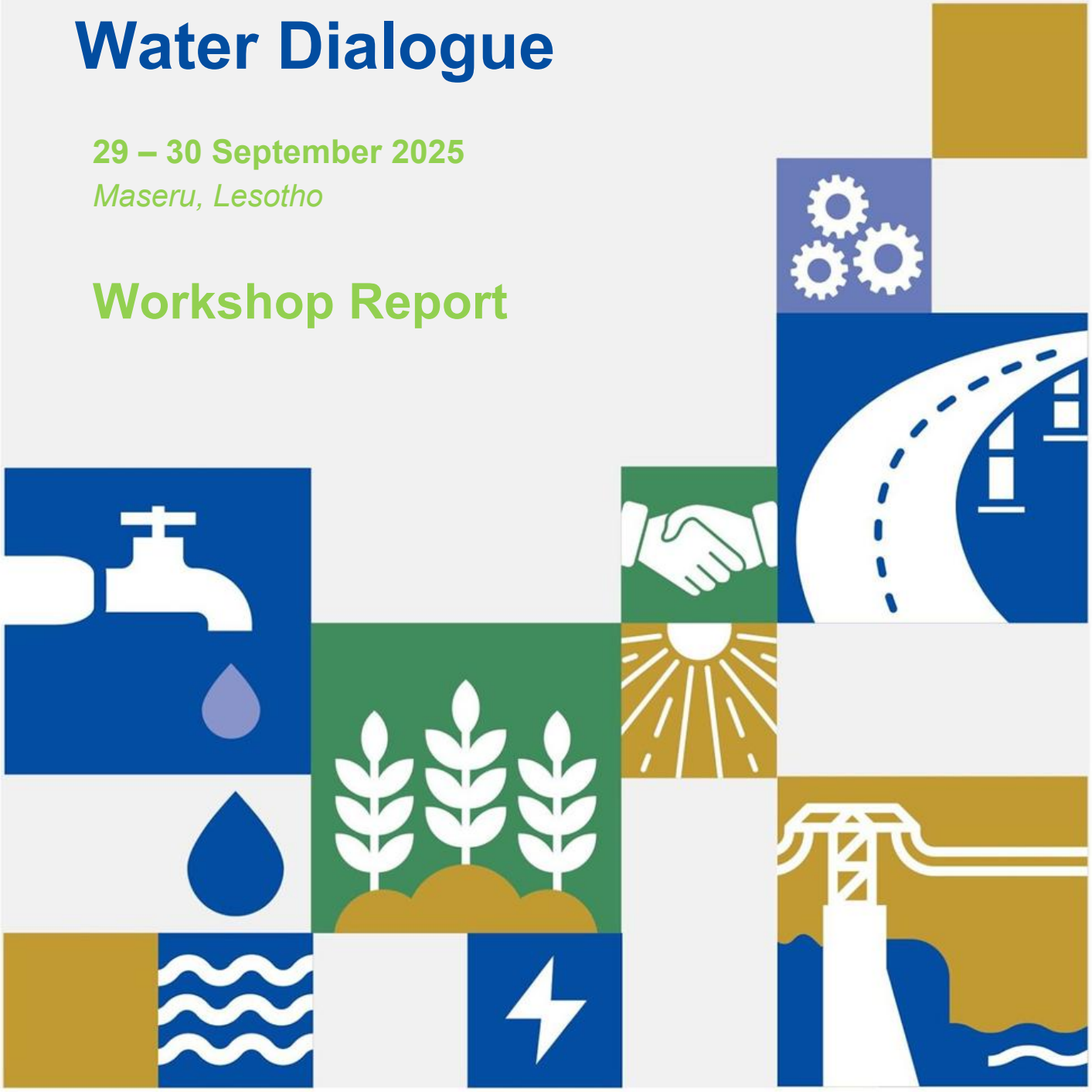
# 11th SADC Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue

**29 – 30 September 2025**

*Maseru, Lesotho*

## Workshop Report



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# 11th SADC Multistakeholder Water Dialogue

**Theme: Water Security, Innovation, and Nexus Action for Regional Economic Corridors**

## 1 Executive Summary

The 11th SADC Multistakeholder dialogue was held in Maseru, Lesotho under the theme, Water Security, Innovation, and Nexus Action for Regional Economic Corridors, from the 29th of September – 30th September 2025. Precisely, the focus in the delivery of the theme was to explore and define the strategic role and value of the water sector in enabling smart, integrated, and climate-resilient regional economic development corridors in the SADC region through inclusive and adaptive Water–Energy–Food–Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus approaches, i.e. "Watering and Enabling Regional Economic Development Corridors for Transformation in SADC." The dialogue attracted 226 participants (203 in-person, 23 virtual) drawn from 12 member states representing stakeholders from sectors that include water, energy, food and environment.

The Dialogue was driven by the following sub-themes: (i) Re-positioning the WEFE Nexus for impactful contribution to the regional economic development corridor agenda: (ii) Innovative climate resilient water infrastructure solutions towards trade, and regional value chains; and (iii) Partnerships for inclusive and sustainable regional economic corridor growth. A critical strategy for engagement in the dialogue was the development of the background paper. The paper challenged for a re-imagination of corridors as platforms for sustainable prosperity - where resource efficiency, climate resilience and inclusion are built in by design. The paper positioned SADC's corridors as strategic arteries of transformation - able to drive industrialisation, accelerate AfCFTA (African Continental Free Trade Area) - compliant trade, and strengthen climate resilience while safeguarding ecosystems.

Discussion and presentations in the dialogue focused on the transformation of the regional development corridors into economic hubs underpinned by full integration of water-energy-food and ecosystems (WEFE) nexus in planning, investment and governance. Anchored in the SADC Industrialization Strategy (2015–2063) and aligned with Agenda 2063, SADC Vision 2050, and the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030, this approach promotes the development of corridors that interconnect cross-border value chains, logistics networks, power systems, and regional markets. During the dialogue several observations were made that include, (i) The SADC region is under pressure from climate variability, water scarcity and growing demands for food and energy systems, (ii) The North–South Corridor, along with routes through such as Maputo, Walvis Bay, Nacala, Lobito, and others, has long been recognized as being vital for trade and transport, (iii) RBOs and TFCAs mandates policies and mandates are not aligned to support regional cooperation and water security, (iv) Water is an entry point for the corridors to deliver their full potential as life-lines for resilience, food security, climate-smart growth, and (v) the social dimension (poverty, unemployment, inequality) must not be forgotten as a critical aspect in corridor-water integration.

The Dialogue concluded with a strong call to action, emphasising that the time to act is now, as the cost of inaction is substantial. Participants identified several immediate priority actions (more details in the Outcome Statement) to accelerate the integration of water into corridors and advance regional resilience:

1. Develop a pipeline of bankable projects that deliver tangible value along development corridors, leveraging economic clusters and regional value chains.

2. Clarify and strengthen the roles of River Basin Organisations (RBOs) and Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) by establishing linkages between ecosystems, water, energy, transport, and trade to support integrated corridor planning.
3. Mobilise finance from diverse sources, including non-traditional funders, public budgets, public–private partnerships (PPPs), climate finance mechanisms, and private capital such as insurance and pension funds.
4. Promote strategic partnerships to unlock the full potential for integration of water into corridors through project de-risking, technical feasibility assessments, and coordinated investment planning.
5. Adopt a balanced approach that integrates both grey and green infrastructure to enhance regional resilience in the face of climate change and other stressors.
6. Harness digital technologies for early warning systems, water loss monitoring, and enhanced water security as part of comprehensive disaster risk reduction strategies.
7. Advance progressive policy alignment to strengthen Water Energy Food Ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus collaboration in regional corridor development.
8. Incorporate system life-cycle planning and design in dam and water infrastructure development to ensure that green infrastructure measures are embedded within operation and maintenance (O&M) investment frameworks.
9. Safeguard and restore critical ecosystems within the region's "water tower" nations to maintain environmental services and hydrological balance.
10. Ensure that investments are climate-resilient and innovation-driven, underpinned by robust knowledge, capacity development, and skills enhancement.

In general, the dialogue was a success with recommendations made by stakeholders that a tracking framework needs to be developed as a means to follow up on the resolutions and outcomes of dialogues.

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**ACRONYMS**

| | |
|---|---|
| AfCFTA | African Continental Free Trade Area |
| AU | African Union |
| AUDA-NEPAD | African Union Development Agency - New Partnership for Africa's Development |
| BUPUSACOM | Buzi, Pungwe, and Save Watercourses Commission |
| CAPEX | Capital expenditure |
| CUVECOM | Cuvelai Watercourse Commission |
| CORB | Cubango-Okavango River Basin |
| DBSA | Development Bank of Southern Africa |
| DFI | Development Finance Institutions |
| FANRPAN | Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network |
| ICPs | International Cooperating Partners |
| INMACOM | Incomati and Maputo Watercourse Commission |
| LHPA | Lesotho Highlands Water Project |
| LIMCOM | Limpopo Watercourse Commission |
| OKACOM | Okavango River Basin Commission |
| ORASECOM | Orange-Senqu River Commission |
| OPEX | Operating expenses |
| PIDA – PAP 2 | Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa – Priority Action Programme Two (2) |
| RBO | River Basin Organisations |
| RBA | River Basin Authority |
| RIA | Regional Implementing Agencies |
| KOBWA | Komati Basin Water Authority |
| RISDP | Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan |
| RVC | Regional Value Chain |
| SADC | Southern Africa Development Cooperation |
| SADC GMI | SADC Groundwater Management Institute |
| SAPP | Southern African Power Pool |
| SONGWECOM | Joint Songwe River Basin Commission |
| SMME | Small and medium entrepreneurs |
| TFCA | Transfrontier Conservation area |
| WASH | Water, Sanitation and Hygiene |
| WEF | Water–Energy–Food nexus |
| ZAMCOM | Zambezi Watercourse Commission |

## 2 Background

The SADC Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues provide a forum for water sector stakeholders and practitioners to share best practices, deepen regional integration in water sector development, and address poverty and environmental sustainability issues in the region. With support from the development partners, the SADC Secretariat's Water Division has through the years organised these events which have gradually transitioned to address various development priorities ranging from IWRM; climate resilience and sustainable financing mechanisms; ecosystem-based approaches; regional cooperation across the WEF Nexus continuum; including youth empowerment and gender considerations, to ensure a sustainable development trajectory in the SADC region (SADC, 2022).

The inaugural Dialogue was convened in Maputo in 2007 under the theme *"Watering Development in the SADC: Beyond IWRM Concepts and the Converted."* From the onset, these Dialogues have served as a platform for integrating emerging development concepts, including Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), climate risk and vulnerability considerations, financing water for climate resilience, and benefit sharing in the planning and management of the region's finite natural resources (second to fifth dialogues). Building on this momentum, subsequent dialogues have broadened their scope to embrace holistic approaches such as the Water–Energy–Food (WEF) Nexus, strengthening regional cooperation and fostering sectoral engagement, innovation, and youth empowerment for sustainable development. The more recent dialogues (sixth to tenth) have also underscored the critical role of water in driving industrialisation across the SADC region.

This year's 11th SADC Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue was held in Maseru, Lesotho from the 29th to the 30th of September 2025, hosted by the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho through the Ministry of Natural Resources and convened by the SADC Secretariat with technical support from GIZ and the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA). It was attended by 226 participants (203 in-person, 23 virtual) from 12 SADC Member States. Sectors represented included the water, energy, food, environment, trade and investment, ICT, tourism, meteorology, with youth and gender inclusion accounted for. The event attracted eight RBOs (BUPUSACOM, CUVECOM, INMACOM, LIMCOM, OKACOM, ORASECOM, SONGWECOM, ZAMCOM) and two RBAs (KOBWA and LHPA) as well as seven regional implementing agencies and 13 ICPs. The Dialogue was `funded by the German Government through the SADC Transboundary Water Management (TWM) project, implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

### 2.1 Theme of the Dialogue

The theme for the 11th SADC Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue was "Water Security, Innovation, and Nexus Action: Watering and Enabling Regional Economic Development Corridors for Transformation in SADC." Furthermore, the Dialogue theme was driven by the following sub-themes:

i. Re-positioning the WEFE Nexus for impactful contribution to the regional economic development corridor agenda:
ii. Innovative climate resilient water infrastructure solutions towards trade, and regional value chains; and
iii. Partnerships for inclusive and sustainable regional economic corridor growth.

A background paper was developed to frame the discussion. The paper invites a re-imagining of

corridors as platforms for sustainable prosperity, where resource efficiency, climate resilience and inclusion are built in by design. The paper positions SADC's corridors as strategic arteries of transformation, able to drive industrialisation, accelerate AfCFTA (African Continental Free Trade Area) - compliant trade, and strengthen climate resilience while safeguarding ecosystems.

### 2.2 Objectives of the Dialogue

The overall objective of the 11th SADC Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue was to explore and define the strategic role and value of the water sector in enabling smart, integrated, and climate-resilient regional economic development corridors in the SADC region through inclusive and adaptive Water–Energy–Food–Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus approaches. The dialogue therefore aimed to engage multi-sectoral stakeholders in defining a coordinated agenda to sustainably catalyze corridor-based actions on water security, innovation, and nexus approaches, thereby supporting regional economic development and integration.

### 2.3 Programme

The Dialogue took place over two days, dedicated to structured sessions that involved presentations and panel discussions. Case studies were shared in the sessions which included lessons learned from the implementation of various programmes in the region. The dialogue had seven sessions over the two days. Day one focused on setting the scene: policy, vision and institutional alignment. Day two focused on innovations, investment and partnerships for corridor development. The related sessions were as follows:

Day 1 - setting the scene: policy, vision and institutional alignment:

- Session 1 (opening session): official welcome remarks and speeches by the organising institutions and dignitaries.

- Session 2 (setting the scene): presentation of the background paper from Dr. Luke Wasonga and reflections on it.

- Session 3 (Clarifying the role of water in regional economic corridor development and continental integrated corridor approach): this session included presentations from SADC and AUDA-NEPAD on economic corridors and water sector alignment and some case studies.

- Session 4 (Positioning and aligning the WEFE Nexus for impactful contribution to the regional economic development corridor agenda): the objective was to highlight how WEFE aligned actions would contribute to integrated corridor development.

Day 2 - innovations, investment and partnerships for corridor development:

Session 5 (Innovative climate-resilient and risk-informed water infrastructure solutions towards trade and regional value chains): this section focused on WEFE aligned infrastructure in supporting corridor developments.

- Session 6 (Financing Nexus Investments in Corridors): this session's objective was to showcase financing and investment models in corridor developments.

- Session 7 (Partnerships for Inclusive and Sustainable Regional Economic Corridor Growth: RBO–TFCA–Private sector–CSO collaboration): this was a roundtable dialogue to draft recommendation on institutional alignment, investment opportunities, partnerships and inclusion.

# 3 Day One Proceedings

## 3.1 Opening session

**Session Chair:** Mr. Motoho Maseatile, Director, Department of Water Affairs, Lesotho

### 3.1.1 Welcome Remarks - Principal Secretary for the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Kingdom of Lesotho


*Figure 1: Lesotho Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ms. Relebohile Lebeta.*

The official welcome remarks of the 11th SADC Water Dialogue were given by Ms. Relebohile Lebeta, Principal Secretary for the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Kingdom of Lesotho (Figure 1). She expressed gratitude for Lesotho to be afforded the opportunity to host the event, highlighting how the SADC Multi-stakeholder Dialogue has grown into one of the region's most important platforms, linking policy, practice, and partnerships across water, energy, food, and ecosystems. Ms Lebeta described the Dialogue as providing an opportunity to break sectoral silos and embrace the systems thinking required to achieve regional transformation. She reflected on how the theme resonated with Lesotho as water was central to the country's national prosperity.

Through the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), one of the largest transboundary water

projects in Africa, Lesotho has firsthand experience on how shared water resources can power multiple sectors: delivering water to South Africa, generating hydropower for Lesotho, and supporting livelihoods along the Orange Senqu River Basin. She furthered explained that Lesotho had made investments in irrigation, Integrated Catchment Management (ICM), and climate-smart agriculture in alignment with the SADC Regional Industrialisation Strategy (2015–2063). The Principal Secretary also expressed gratitude to the SADC Secretariat for organising the dialogue; the German Government for financial support to the event; GIZ and Global Water Partnership Southern Africa for the technical support. She concluded by encouraging participants to deliberate boldly, listen attentively, and to craft solutions that will move the SADC region from dialogue to shared actions.

### 3.1.2 SADC Secretariat Remarks

Official remarks from the SADC Secretariat were presented by Dr Patrice Kabeya (Figure 2), representing Ms. Mapolao Mokoena, the SADC Director of Infrastructure.


*Figure 2: Dr Patrice Kabeya, Senior Programme Officer for Water at the SADC Secretariat making opening remarks on behalf of Ms. Mapolao Mokoena, the SADC Director of Infrastructure.*

Dr. Kabeya emphasised that the platform was meant for sharing pressing issues in the SADC region, since water is instrumental in issues of regional development. Furthermore, he explained that integrating economic corridors with water, food and energy was a game changer to improve WEF access. Water is instrumental in regional development, an enabler of regional value chain development, and assuring water security for livelihoods and industrial development is a regional imperative. He reported that the outcomes of the Dialogue would serve as critical input in the development of the regional economic corridor investment plan. The SADC secretariat also

expressed gratitude to the Kingdom of Lesotho hosting the event.

### 3.1.3 Remarks by GWPSA

Remarks from the Interim Executive Secretary of the Global Water Partnership for Southern Africa (GWPSA), Mr. Andrew Takawira, were delivered by Dr. Loreen Katiyo (Figure 3). Mr. Takawira highlighted that the Dialogue provided vital technical leadership on issues of regional cooperation aligned with integrated water management. He noted that the region continues to face mounting pressure from climate variability, water scarcity, and increasing demands from the food and energy sectors, while simultaneously pursuing ambitions for industrialisation, agricultural growth, and energy transition.


Figure 3: *Dr Loreen Katiyo from GWPSA making remarks on behalf of the GWPSA Interim Executive Secretary, Mr Andrew Takawira.*

He observed that corridors such as the North–South, Maputo, Walvis Bay, Nacala, and Lobito have long served as strategic routes for trade and transport, connecting countries and markets, facilitating the movement of goods and people, and stimulating investments. He emphasised that water plays a pivotal role in unlocking the full potential of these corridors as lifelines for resilience, food security, and climate-smart growth. Mr. Takawira further underscored that water serves as a key entry point for multiple sectors, including energy generation (through hydropower), agriculture and agro processing as well as industrial hubs and manufacturing. He explained that investments often fail to integrate water considerations within transboundary basins that span multiple borders, as well as within Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) that protect ecosystems and support the generation of goods and services for livelihoods.

Furthermore, he highlighted that as the region advances efforts to integrate water considerations into corridor investments, it is essential to incorporate the social dimension — to address poverty, inequality, unemployment, and vulnerability, while promoting opportunities for women. He emphasised the importance of developing water-smart and climate-resilient corridor investments that demonstrate innovative solutions, such as climate-proof hydro-logistics, smart hydropower scheduling, and diversified financing mechanisms. These mechanisms include mobilising resources from non-traditional funding sources, public budgets, public–private partnerships (PPPs), climate funds, and private capital.

He explained that GWPSA has developed the Continental Africa Investment Programme seeking to mobilise 30 billion dollars annually towards water investments. Recommendations from the dialogue would further inform strategies for implementation. The Dialogue was therefore critical to inform corridor investments, strengthen linkages between RBOs, TFCAs and development corridors to plan a role in integrated planning and align to regional and continental mechanisms. Frameworks such as the Vision 2050, RISDP, Agenda 2063, Africa Continental Free Trade Area, Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP), Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA PAP 2) can be leveraged to ensure SADC economic corridors are part of wider transformation.

### 3.1.4 Remarks by the German Embassy, Botswana

The remarks from the German Embassy in Botswana were given by Ms. Simone Goertz, Head of Economic and Development Cooperation, via a pre-recorded video. Ms. Goertz expressed the German Government's deep appreciation for the strong partnership with SADC and its Member States in promoting regional development. She emphasized that advancing good water governance, coupled with strategic partnerships, is pivotal to overcoming the region's water-related challenges.

### 3.1.5 Remarks by EU Delegation Lesotho

The remarks from the EU Delegation in Lesotho were given virtually by Ms Anna Renieri, Head of Cooperation for the EU Delegation in Lesotho. She reported that water security in Southern Africa can only be achieved through action and coordination at all levels – national governments, river basin organisations, and regional institutions. She reported that since 2021, the EU had invested over €578 million in supporting transboundary water management in Africa, with the SADC region as a priority.

### 3.1.6 Keynote Address

The keynote was presented by the Honourable Mohlomi Moleko, Minister of Natural Resources of the Kingdom of Lesotho (Figure 4). He highlighted the strategic position of Lesotho as a water tower. He explained that although Lesotho occupies 3.4% of the Orange Senqu Basin, it contributes 40% of water to the system and hosts one of Africa's largest bulk water transfer schemes. Other additional investments are planned that include the Lesotho-Botswana Water Transfer (LBWT) scheme; currently under feasibility studies - to benefit South Africa and Botswana, with the Polihali multipurpose dam project currently under construction to integrate irrigation and electricity generation from 400MW floating solar plant at the dam.

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*Figure 4: Lesotho Minister of Natural Resources, Honourable Mohlomi Moleko, delivering opening remarks*

He emphasized that the deliberations of the Dialogue should not only deepen the understanding of the interlinkages between water, energy, food, and ecosystems, but also define clear pathways to translate this understanding into concrete actions that secure water for development, enhance climate resilience, and ensure that no community, sector, or Member State is left behind.

### 3.2 Sessions

#### 3.2.1 Session 2 (setting the scene): Presentation of the Background Paper and reflections.

Dr. Luke Wasonga (Figure 5) delivered a presentation titled: *Water Security, Innovation, and Nexus Action for Regional Economic Corridors*, drawing on the Dialogue's Background Paper. He observed that while the SADC region possesses abundant natural resources, these remain largely underutilized amid persistently high poverty levels. He emphasized that water serves as a central enabler of development and must be integrated with other key sectors—particularly energy and food—to unlock the region's potential. He further highlighted the importance of developing human capital as a catalyst for wealth creation. Dr. Wasonga concluded that Southern Africa stands at a critical inflection point, where development corridors are evolving beyond transport conduits to become the structural backbone of regional transformation. This is anchored in the SADC Industrialization Strategy (2015–2063) and aligned to Agenda 2063, SADC Vision 2050 and the RISDP 2020–2030. Corridors knit together cross-border value chains, logistics, power systems and markets. To fully unlock this potential, the WEFE Nexus must shift from a peripheral consideration to the central design principle for planning, investment, and governance.

*Figure 5: Dr Luke Wasonga presenting the Background Paper*

Practical actions proposed include:

- formal basin–corridor compacts with river basin organisations (e.g., ZAMCOM, ORASECOM, LIMCOM, OKACOM) for joint allocation rules and drought-year protocols
- mandatory WEFE screening and performance standards in corridor pipelines (RISDP/PIDA PAP II)
- regulatory harmonisation across borders to de-risk private participation; and
- blended finance that leverages public budgets, DFIs and climate finance into credible PPP structures.

### 3.2.2 Reflections on the Background Paper

Two reflection positions were given, one from OKACOM, by Mr. Phera Ramoeli, and from the SADC TFCA Network, by Mr. Steve Collins (Figure 6). The key issues raised were:

- Water from various sources needs to be developed to be used.
- Access to water resources is still an issue in the SADC region.
- The role of WEF in corridor development must be expanded to consider operations, management and the livelihoods of people that depend on natural resources
- Wealth creation must consider downstream impacts and strike a balance.
- Ecosystems protection in the headwaters must be prioritised as an anchor for water, energy and food securities.


*Figure 6: Mr. Steve Collins from the TFCA Network outlining his reflections on the findings of the Background Paper*

### 3.2.3 Session 3: Clarifying the role of water in regional economic corridor development and continental integrated corridor approach

Dr. Dumsani Mndzebele (Figure 7) gave a presentation on 'Unpacking SADC's approach to economic corridor development in the context of the water sector and the regional water policy'. He outlined the concept of smart and integrated economic corridors, and the actions from the SADC policies to unlock corridor development and clarify the role of RBOs.

*Figure 7: Dr Dumsani Mndzebele giving a presentation on SADC water sector's approach to economic corridor development.*

The key takeaways were:

- Supportive SADC water policies exist for corridor development responding to several themes which include:
  - Inclusive governance and enabling environment
  - Climate resilient ecological and built infrastructure development
  - Regional cooperation and integration
  - Climate-resilient ecological and built infrastructure development
  - Conjunctive management and development of water resources
  - Equitable access to water supply, sanitation and hygiene services
  - Financing for a water-secure region
  - Fostering gender-transformative empowerment and inclusive participation
  - Research, capacity development, knowledge management and digital transformation.

  - Linking RBOs to corridor development requires a system-wide source-to-sea thinking, transboundary water infrastructure support, basin-wide mandates for regional institutions and a water-for-peace agenda to guarantee access.

The second presentation in this session was by Mr. Noel Lihiku (Figure 8), focusing on regional value chains in the context of the regional economic corridor development and frameworks (Vision 2050, RISDP, Industrialisation Strategy).

*Figure 8: Mr Noel Lihiku making a presentation during the 11th SADC Water Dialogue in Maseru, Lesotho.*

The following were the key take away messages:

- Corridor development is anchored in the SADC Treaty, specifically Article 5(a), as a key area for promoting regional integration. It is further reinforced by the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan, which prioritizes the identification and development of strategic hubs and gateways to rehabilitate and enhance infrastructure, thereby ensuring that passenger and goods markets are efficiently served.
- SADC priority value chains include pharmaceuticals, capital goods, agro-processing, services, mining and mineral beneficiation and consumer goods.
- SADC has fostered the establishment of industrial clusters to form either an entire value chain from supplies to end producers (vertical clusters) or to specialise in similar/related products (horizontal clusters). Examples include wheat between *Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa, Namibia and Madagascar.*
- Corridor development in SADC should promote Regional Value Chains and not only serves as passages for exporting the region's raw materials (and receiving final goods).
- SADC member states should devote resources to infrastructure development in the corridors with the view to address the region's binding constraints.
- Cooperation and not competition among SADC member will enhance industrialization through regional integration.
- Policy coordination and harmonization on value chains and corridor development must be the agenda for regional integration.

A third presentation was made virtually by Mr. Ibra Wahabou fAUDA-NEPAD's Head of Infrastructure & Transport. He highlighted that the PIDA-PAP 2 responds to the objective of regional integration,

especially the AfCFTA, through planning of priority regional infrastructures in line with the AU vision under Agenda 2063. The integrated corridor approach has a strategic shift beyond just transport corridors but a multi-sector approach (transport, ICT, energy, water), inclusivity (jobs, gender, climate, rural connection), strong economic and finance impact.

Key reflections for corridor-water integration include:

- Institutional alignment: RBOs, power pools, corridor Secretariats must co-plan projects and must have agreements.
- Finance for resilience: development funds and private sector require water-smart, climate resilient projects.
- Inclusivity and partnership: corridors must serve communities (jobs, women, youth, rural access). It was recommended that procurements must be gender sensitive.

### 3.2.4 Session 4 Positioning and aligning the WEFE Nexus for impactful contribution to the regional economic development corridor agenda.

Mr Rapule Pule made a presentation on RBO-driven Water Investments in Corridor Development based on the Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM) experience.

*Figure 9: Mr Rapule Pule making a presentation on RBO-driven water investments*

He highlighted that the role of ORASECOM was to advise parties on matters related to cooperative and joint development, utilisation and conservation of the water resources in the river system, with evolution towards a stronger implementation role e.g., preparation of infrastructure project ideas to bankability stage with opportunities of influencing the design of such projects to include corridor-relevant aspects.

The key takeaways of his presentation were:

- Policy alignment and early planning and nexus alignment are critical
- ICT is important to support planning and decision making
- Basin–corridor compacts strengthen coordination
- Alignment of financing strategies across RBOs is important, with SADC playing a facilitatory role.
- Capacity development, continuous awareness raising and stakeholder engagement are critical

His closing message was that ater investments are not optional add-ons, they are the backbone of resilient economic corridors.

A panel discussion followed, moderated by Mr. Lenka Thamae. The panellists were as follows:

- Policy: SADC Water Division - Dr Patrice Kabeya
- Energy: Southern Africa Power Pool (SAPP) - Mr. Steadmore Musenyi
- Agrifood Systems: FANRPAN - Dr Tshilidzi Madzivhandila
- Ecosystems:  SADC TFCA Network - Mr. Steve Collins
- Water: ZAMCOM - Mr.Felix Ngamlagosi
- Information & Communication Technologies: SADC-ICT - Mr. Chisepo Lungu)

*Figure 10: Panel discussion on aligning water governance with corridor objectives; the role of RBOs, TFCAs, Power Pools, Regional Agri-food systems institutions; and ICT*

The Key takeaway messages were as follows:

- Power Pool (SAPP - Mr. Steadmore Musenyi)
  - Synchronisation of dam operations is critical to support electrical energy generation from hydropower.

- With climate impacts, there is need to work on water security
- Access to energy limits the SADC region investments and this needs to be unlocked

- FANRPAN (Dr Tshilidzi Madzivhandila) on how corridors can further improve agriculture:
  - Agriculture consumes a lot of water
  - Use technologies enabling water efficiency
  - The corridor approach should incorporate agro-processing elements and smart technologies
  - Ensure inclusive approaches and gender sensitivity
  - Integrate science with policies
  - Connect to rural communities which are the majority inhabitants in the region

- SADC TFCA Network (Mr. Steve Collins) on the role of TFCAs in corridor development:
  - Nature based solutions should be incorporated as ecosystem are the centre of water-food-energy nexus

- ZAMCOM (Mr. Felix Ngamlagosi) on the challenges of ZAMCOM in linking water governance with corridor approach:
  - Joint planning requires bringing stakeholders to facilitate engagement
  - The Zambezi Strategic Plan (2018) has a perspective on energy and food expansion as well as ecosystems
  - The PIDACC and NPC (Nature People and Climate) projects both focus on both built and natural infrastructure (wetland rehabilitation under PIDACC)
  - WASH facilities' funding is often not adequate
  - A fragmented approach translates to uncoordinated approaches to support food security and ecosystems
  - Medium term investment plans contributing to the longer-term investment plans must be developed

- SADC-ICT (Mr. Chisepo Lungu) on the role of ICT in improving Corridor approach in the region
  - Universal connectivity of ICT to all SADC regions would be critical.
  - ICT is strategic enabler that can be used for decision making
  - Telecommunication strategic planning is essential
  - Applications include:
    - ✓ mapping of disaster vulnerability (e.g. floods)
    - ✓ generating maps of infrastructure (connectivity) to improve accessibility of resources, enhancing climate resilience across the region

Key comments included requests for updates on dam synchronization efforts within the SADC region to enhance power generation. The meeting was informed that ongoing initiatives involve a combination of institutional coordination, data-sharing and early-warning systems, as well as the development of pilot operational guidelines to facilitate synchronized (conjunctive) dam operations. These efforts are particularly relevant in the Zambezi Basin, where the Kariba and Cahora Bassa dams are central to regional hydropower supply. Such synchronization will be vital in the future to improve energy access and optimize water–energy resource management across the region.

The meeting noted that SADC is implementing an active multi-stakeholder programme centred on the biennial SADC Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue as a regional coordination platform. This programme is complemented by a suite of basin-specific and sectoral projects that operationalize the Water–Energy–Food–Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus through integrated planning and investment processes across the region. Recent activities include:

- SADC Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue (biennial): the region's official multi-stakeholder platform that brings together water, energy, agriculture, environment, finance and private-sector actors to align policy and investments.
- Basin / transboundary programmes using multi-stakeholder processes: for example, ZAMCOM's Zambezi programme (PIDACC-Zambezi) was developed through an inclusive, multi-sectoral stakeholder process and explicitly aims to promote inclusive, transboundary investments and resilience.
- WEFE / Nexus regional initiatives: a regional WEFE Nexus programme and regional nexus dialogues (supported by partners such as GWPSA and GIZ) have been promoted across SADC oceanic and mainland states to mainstream multi-sector action in planning and corridors.
- Country / infrastructure projects with multi-stakeholder elements: large investments (e.g., Lesotho Lowlands Water Development Programme Phase II and other donor-supported water infrastructure & corridor initiatives) are being advanced with multi-sector and multi-stakeholder engagement and partners (World Bank, EIB, EU, GIZ, GWPSA).

On the possibility of linking River Basin Organizations (RBOs) to optimize the use of available funding, participants learned that such linkages are both technically feasible and financially strategic. The emerging trend within the SADC region is toward programmatic, cross-basin funding frameworks under the SADC umbrella, where shared platforms for data, capacity, and governance help to maximize synergies and amplify regional impact. Some of the existing frameworks are:

- SADC Regional Water Investment Programme (2022–2031) which explicitly calls for multi-RBO collaboration to optimise financial and technical resources.
- Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) now prefer regional, multi-basin submissions to reduce project fragmentation.
- WEFE Nexus Dialogue Programme Phase II is exploring how to design cross-basin investment packages.

### 3.2.5 TFCAs – RBOs Collaboration for Corridor Development

Mr Steve Collins spoke about integrating TFCAs, RBOs, and Power Systems for resilient corridors. He highlighted that water was crucial in ecosystem resources management. 14 SADC TFCAs exist in the SADC region. He proposed that frameworks focusing on watercourses protocols, infrastructure, transport and corridors etc, could be incorporated to solve arising challenges by:

- Establishing Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between KAZA–OKACOM and GLTFCA–LIMCOM to foster technical cooperation and bridge existing governance silos.
- De-risking corridor investments.
- Promoting renewable energy solutions to reduce the region's carbon footprint, including

innovative financing mechanisms such as a hydropower generation tax to support upper catchment management and fund Transfrontier conservation organizations.

- Recognizing that ecosystems in the headwaters underpin the functioning of the Water–Energy–Food–Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus and must be protected and managed sustainably; and
- Addressing challenges associated with siloed institutional operations and fragmented governance, noting the need for a mapping of governance linkages across Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs), River Basin Organizations (RBOs), and economic corridors to enhance policy coherence and coordination.

In his concluding remarks, he emphasized that water is not a free resource and that collective responsibility must be taken to ensure the sustainable management and protection of natural resources.

### 3.2.6 Presentation by SADC Water Fund

The presentation by Mr. Chenge Chikara from the SADC Water Fund focused on investment in Climate-Resilient Water Infrastructure for Regional Economic Corridors. He reiterated that without water, corridors cannot thrive. He underscored the importance of identifying WASH projects that have direct impacts on corridor development and mobilizing financial resources to implement the necessary infrastructure for enhanced regional resilience. Illustrative investments supported by the SADC Water Fund include the Ramotswa Transboundary Aquifer Remediation Project (between South Africa and Zimbabwe), the Beitbridge–Musina Water Scheme, and the Kazungula Water Supply and Basic Sanitation Project in Zambia.

Mr. Chikara outlined the adoption of a multi-sectoral *Water–Energy–Food (WEF) Nexus* approach in the implementation of the Kazungula Water Supply and Sanitation Project. The intervention integrates key sustainability measures, including:

- Utilizing solar energy to power the water treatment plant
- Incorporating climate-proofing and ensuring the infrastructure is fit for purpose; and,
- Addressing interlinkages among water, energy, and food systems to enhance project effectiveness and resilience.

Considerations for ensuring WEFE in the Project design include:

- The complexity of achieving alignment across transboundary projects
- The need for harmonization of policies, standards, and implementation frameworks
- The importance of enabling sustainable financing mechanisms; and
- The adoption of innovative technologies, such as solar-powered treatment facilities

*Figure 11: Mr. Chenge Chikara presenting the SADC Water Fund initiatives.*

### 3.2.7 Strengthening Climate-Resilient Water Governance and Infrastructure in the Zambezi Basin: From WASH at Border Posts to Nexus-Based Corridor Investments

Mr. Felix Ngamlagosi, the Executive Secretary of ZAMCOM (Figure 12) gave a presentation on Strengthening Climate-Resilient Water Governance and Infrastructure in the Zambezi Basin: from WASH at Border Posts to Nexus-Based Corridor Investments. Water forms the backbone of energy access, food security, and economic growth. He noted that ZAMCOM has adopted the *Zambezi Strategic Plan (ZSP, 2018)*, which prioritizes livelihood support, environmental management, water resources management, and infrastructure investment. Under the Border Post WASH Initiative, feasibility studies have been completed at four border posts. These interventions are expected to enhance trade efficiency while reducing the risk of WASH-related diseases. A key lesson emerging from the initiative is that partnerships among River Basin Organizations (RBOs) can transform shared challenges into collective solutions.

*Figure 12: Mr Felix Ngamlagosi presenting during the 11th SADC Water Dialogue*.

### 3.2.8 Multi-Stakeholder Stewardship for Water Security: From Urban Hubs to Regional Corridors: NatuRes Project

Ms. Adjoa Parker (Figure 13) presented on multi-stakeholder stewardship for water security: from urban hubs to regional corridors.

*Figure 13: Ms Adjoa Parker during the 11th SADC Water Dialogue in Maseru, Lesotho.*

The key aspects highlighted in her presentation included:

- Adopting a stewardship approach to promote private sector integration and strengthen economic sustainability
- Utilizing natural resource stewardship risk and action frameworks to identify shared risks and incorporate appropriate mitigation measures
- Fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships to enhance collaboration and accountability in natural resource stewardship
- Recognizing that Water–Energy–Food–Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus elements are inherently interconnected and should be addressed through holistic and integrated approaches; and
- Leveraging corridor development as a platform to engage the private sector and local communities, while advancing WEFE-based interventions.

Open discussions during the plenary session (Figure 14) took place on the key issues from the presentations.

*Figure 14: Stakeholders deliberating during the open discussion session*

The key issues highlighted in the open discussion include:

- The public health dimension remains insufficiently integrated within regional corridor development, underscoring the need to explore mechanisms for incorporating health considerations beyond traditional WASH interventions
- The inclusion of mobile connectivity within ICT collaboration frameworks is essential for water projects to enable real-time monitoring and strengthen climate and system resilience
- Greater attention is required to ensure that WEFE (Water–Energy–Food–Ecosystems) Nexus issues are mainstreamed at the community level, allowing for local perspectives and inputs on project impacts
- Circular waste management approaches should be embedded in project design

- Sustainable water abstraction must be upheld as a fundamental principle of water resources management; and
- The SADC Water Fund emphasized that the Kazungula Project successfully incorporated community perspectives, ensuring continuous stakeholder engagement throughout implementation to support the long-term sustainability of project outcomes.

### 3.3 Day 2 - Innovations, Investment and Partnerships for corridor development:

#### 3.3.1 Session 5: Innovative climate-resilient and risk-informed water infrastructure solutions towards trade and regional value chains.

The first presentation in this session was from Mr Thabo Hloele (Figure 15), Project Coordinator, ORASECOM, focusing on the Lesotho Botswana Water Transfer Project (Lesotho–South Africa-Botswana) and Noordoewer- Vioolsdrift Dam (NVD - South Africa and Namibia).

Mr Hloele began his presentation by outlining the transboundary challenges in the Orange-Senqu basin that include industrial and mining pollution, soil erosion threats and ecosystem degradation. He explained that the Lesotho–Botswana Water Transfer Project aims to supply water to Botswana, Lesotho, and South Africa, while also providing electricity generation and irrigation benefits for Lesotho. In addition to these core objectives, the project is expected to create long-term employment opportunities—not only during its development and construction phases but also throughout its operational period—thereby contributing to poverty reduction, particularly among rural communities. The Noordoewer Vioolsdrift Dam provides re-regulation storage on the Lower Orange River and allows releases to correct seasonal flow distribution in accordance with Reserve and riverine Ecological Water Requirements (EWRs) on the Lower Orange River (Orange River Mouth is RAMSAR site). Project success hinges on a well-structured de-risking approach encompassing stakeholder alignment, affordability, financing, market engagement, off-taker assurance, and legal and financial risk mitigation.

*Figure 15: Mr Thabo Hloele from ORASECOM making his presentation*

The second presentation was from Ms. Sindy Mthimkhulu (Figure 16) focusing on transboundary Water Infrastructure and Governance for Corridor Development: lessons from the Incomati and Maputo Basins.

*Figure 16: Ms. Sindy Mthimkhulu, Executive Secretary of INMACOM, making her presentation*

Ms. Mthimkhulu highlighted that the Incomati and Maputo Basins (INMACOM) have one of the most significant Spatial Development Initiatives (SDI), the Maputo Development Corridor. The original project aim was to unlock the inherent capital potential of specific spatial locations in Southern Africa. Maputo is the best performing international corridor in Sub-Saharan Africa. Key infrastructure projects include the Empuluzi/Methula off channel Storage Dam (submitted by the Republic of South Africa, July 2025) for domestic water supply to the Mkhondo Municipality and surrounding areas, the Mkhondvo–Ngwavuma Water Augmentation Project (MNWAP) by the Kingdom of Eswatini, strategically designed to drive economic growth, enhance food security, and mitigate the devastating effects of climate change, hydropower generation at Maguga Dam (Eswatini) and Corumana Dam (Mozambique) contributing to Grid stability, renewable energy targets and Cross-border energy trade. Key lessons learned include the importance of developing climate-resilient and risk-informed approaches; ensuring policy coherence through institutional coordination mechanisms such as Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs); promoting inclusive stakeholder engagement; adopting innovative financing frameworks; fostering strategic alliances for sustained collaboration with other

River Basin Organizations (RBOs) and development partners; and implementing on-the-ground demonstration projects to enhance livelihoods and showcase practical impact.

The third presentation was given by Eng. James Sauramba (Figure 17) from SADC GMI, focusing on how sustainable groundwater management in SADC Member States contributes to supporting regional economic corridor development.

*Figure 17: Eng. James Sauramba, Executive Director of SADC-GMI, giving his presentation during the 11th SADC Water Dialogue, Maseru, Lesotho.*

Eng. Sauramba showed that roughly 37% of the SADC population rely on formal or improved groundwater sources; another ~40% depend on unimproved groundwater or surface water sources. Urban corridor resilience relies on groundwater planning, pollution control, and climate-proofed recharge strategies. SADC GMI fosters urban groundwater investments through dependency and vulnerability mapping. Additionally, 24 projects were being implemented across 12 member states, focusing on investments in groundwater production and monitoring boreholes.

Key take aways include:

- Groundwater is central to water security and corridor resilience – yet is underutilised (<5% tapped).
- Groundwater enhances climate resilience by serving as a drought buffer for livelihoods, trade, and ecosystems.
- Greater integration of groundwater can boost food security and regional GDP.
- Transboundary governance needs better data, faster processes, and stronger financing mechanisms.
- Collaboration works – MoUs with RBOs and groundwater committees strengthen shared

management.

- Urban & policy integration: Cities and corridors need groundwater-sensitive planning, supported by expanded monitoring projects.

The fourth presentation was by Dr Muchaneta Munamati of UNESCO (Figure 18) focusing on innovative water harvesting solutions for climate resilience and water security.

Dr Muchaneta Munamati highlighted that water harvesting, groundwater recharge, and MAR (Managed Aquifer Recharge) are not just environmental tools; they are economic and political instruments for regional stability and growth. Water harvesting is essential for integrated WEFE Nexus planning. A reliable water supply, secured through water harvesting ensures:

- Water access for municipal services and the human capital that drives corridor economies.
- Continuous operation of water-intensive industries such as mining and high trade volumes along the corridors.
- Consistent hydropower generation, which is vital for the corridor's logistical flow.

Her call to action was:

- Adopt a strategic shift and implement robust adaptation efforts to reduce vulnerability and enhance climate resilience
- Institutionalize water harvesting within SADC's Regional Strategic Action Plans (RSAPs) and Corridor Development Strategies.
- Prioritize funding for multi-purpose water infrastructure that includes MAR and community-level water harvesting (money follows value)

*Figure 18: Dr Muchaneta Munamati giving her presentation during the 11th SADC Water Dialogue, Maseru, Lesotho.*

To close the session, a question-and-answer session followed. Key aspects raised included that:

- Infrastructure projects should be conceptualized and implemented using a life-cycle approach
- Disaster risk management (DRM) must be integrated as a core component of corridor–water planning and implementation
- Sediment management should be embedded within catchment protection strategies to support catchment restoration
- Inaction on environmental degradation carries significant economic and social costs.

### 3.3.2 Session 6 Financing Nexus Investments in Corridors.

The first presentation in this session was from Ms. Chitundu Malumba (Figure 19) and Mr Billy Katotoka on financing SADC economic corridors. She explained that water was not just a resource but an economic asset. The challenge was that water's value remains invisible in GDP. A water intensity model (WIM) framework was developed that looks at how efficient water generates GDP. Financing will follow the efficiency hence water intensity becomes the metric for allocating capital into corridor projects.

*Figure 19: Ms Chitundu Malumba giving her presentation during the 11th SADC Water Dialogue, Maseru, Lesotho.*

The presentation ended with a call to action of the following:

- Adopt WIM pilots in selected corridor nodes.
- Launch the Water-Intensity Corridor Bond (WICB) as the flagship financing instrument.
- Build the SADC Corridor Water Dashboard with live data for investors, policymakers, and communities.

The second presentation was by Mr. Tente Tente on financing the Lesotho Highlands and Development Project. Mr Tente explained that revenue generation on the Lesotho Highlands and Development (LHDA) Project was through water royalties and power exports. It is a strategic

partnership between South Africa and Lesotho. CAPEX costs were covered through sovereign-backed and DFI Loans. OPEX was shared between the two governments and incorporated into the respective national budgets.


*Figure 20: Mr Tente Tente from the Lesotho Highlands and Development Authority (LHDA)*

The key take away messages were:

- Innovative actions including wetlands rehabilitation and catchment management were not treated as separate add-ons but were fully integrated into the financing mechanism.
- LHDA had also developed a Climate Change Policy which prioritises mobilisation of funding from regional and international mechanisms such as:
  - Green Climate Fund (GCF),
  - Adaptation Fund,
  - Global Environment Facility (GEF), and
  - African Development Bank's Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF).
- Green and blended finance instruments are being explored to integrate climate resilience into future LHWP investments.

The third presentation was made by Mr. Domingos Gove, Director Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) at the SADC Secretariat (Figure 21). The presentation was on policies and strategies for food, agriculture and natural resources in SADC smart economic corridors.

Key message from his presentation were that:

- There is need to formalize politically the WEFE Approach to support development of smart corridors. Currently a SADC WEF Nexus Framework Strategy had been approved by the Ministers responsible for Water and Energy and endorsed by the Ministers responsible for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Aquaculture.
- RBOs and TFCAs must enter into formal agreements to better protect/manage water resources to:

- Improve ecosystem functioning
- Secure water in quantity and quality for human consumption (WASH)
- Support energy and food production; and
- Develop WEFE investment projects.

- Build synergies in mobilizing resources to raise adequate financial resources and have large and impactful projects
- Include WEFE Approach in the development and implementation of Regional Corridors to:
  - Maximize economic and social impacts of corridors
  - Minimize economic and social Impacts on water resources

*Figure 21: Mr Domingos Gove, Director FANR at the SADC Secretariat, making his presentation during the 11th SADC Water Dialogue, Maseru, Lesotho.*

The following presentation was on the Circular Food Systems in Africa (CFS) project and was delivered by Dr Tshilidzi Madzivhandila (Figure 22). The key objectives of the CFS project are: (a) develop integrated resource flows to minimise loss/waste, (b) promote gender equity & social inclusion (GESI), (c) identify conditions for scaling circular food systems (CFS).

The expected impacts include:

- reducing water & energy intensity via reuse and precision irrigation
- cutting post-harvest losses and valorising by-products into new revenue streams
- creating circular economy jobs with clear pathways for women and youth
- improving soil health, biodiversity and food security under climate stress

The key takeaways were:

- Co-structure a corridor CFS Facility with aligned instruments (grants, concessional debt, guarantees/first-loss).

- SADC must commit to a gender-responsive financing framework and enable an SMME ecosystems along corridor nodes.
- Collaborate with other sectors on pipeline and shared KPIs: water and energy efficiency, loss reduction, jobs, and climate resilience.


*Figure 22: Dr Tshilidzi Madzivhandila making a presentation on circular food systems in Africa (CFS) project during the 11th SADC Water Dialogue, Maseru, Lesotho.*

A facilitated discussion (Figure 23) then took place bringing to light key issue that include:

- The SADC region should draw lessons from the Great Renaissance Dam to mobilise funding to develop mega infrastructure projects such the Inga dam in DR Congo.
- Water harvesting approaches for flood water for Lesotho should be considered
- Water intensive models should be considered with incentives developed
- Water is a fugitive resource - if not harnessed upstream, it escapes downstream, reducing opportunities for optimal use and benefit.

*Figure 23: The Facilitator engaging with one of the participants during the 11th SADC Water Dialogue, Maseru, Lesotho.*

The session concluded with a panel discussion on financing Nexus investments in regional corridors, featuring panelists representing International Cooperating Partners (ICPs), the private sector, Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), and relevant government ministries, and moderated by Eng. Edvan Moyo. (Figure 23). Eng. Moyo opened the session by noting a significant decline in infrastructure investment across developing economies, including the SADC region, with the current financing deficit estimated at approximately USD 20 billion. He emphasised that this gap poses a major constraint to regional growth and integration, as it is compounded by rising sovereign debt levels and limited access to hard currency, particularly the United States dollar (USD). These financial challenges continue to hinder the implementation of priority infrastructure projects critical to advancing industrialisation, energy security, and sustainable development within the SADC region. Panellists were invited to comment on what will it take to finance infrastructure which is resilient and climate smart.

*Figure 24: Panel discussion moderated by Eng. Edvan Moyo of the SADC Secretariat*

A summary of key away message per institution was:

- DBSA (Eng. Chenge Chikara)
  - Technical feasibility of the project should be clearly demonstrated, highlighting its readiness and potential for support from DBSA.
  - Off takers should be clearly identified and actively engaged to ensure financial viability and bankability of projects

- AIP (Ms. Sumbi M. Shimumbwa, who made her submissions virtually)
  - Projects should have multiple nexus benefits (hydropower, irrigation, flood control) for consideration to be funded.
  - Packaging of the financing instruments — including grants, loans, and guarantees — should clearly outline eligibility criteria and indicative ticket sizes to enhance transparency and attract suitable investors.
  - Technical assistance is critical for the transformation of projects into bankable projects.
  - The AIP framework adopts a pyramidal structure for water sector financing, comprising a blend of instruments such as grants and technical assistance (approximately 2%), development finance, domestic financing (around 50%), and pension funds. This structure promotes balanced resource mobilisation, risk sharing, and sustainable investment across the water value chain.

- Private Sector - Water Utility (Mr. Gift Monde).
  - The project's value proposition should be clearly articulated and contextualised, demonstrating its strategic relevance, expected socio-economic benefits, and alignment with regional development priorities.
  - Political will is needed to support implementation with clear policies
  - De-risking the project can be through multiple incomes e.g. Solar PV in water generation in Zambia
  - Incentives should be incorporated to enhance infrastructure financing, including measures to

reduce payback periods and improve the attractiveness and bankability of projects.

- CORB Fund (Mr Innocent Magole)
  - Endorsement funds (offshore) and sinking funds should be established to strengthen financial security, mitigate investment risks, and ensure the long-term sustainability of infrastructure projects.
  - Funding strategies should encompass a balanced mix of interventions, integrating both green (nature-based) and grey (engineered) infrastructure solutions, rather than focusing solely on conservation, to enhance resilience and service delivery.

- RENOKA ('we are a river') Network (Mr Makomoreng Fanana)
  - Catchment area stewardship should be promoted through active engagement and partnerships with the private sector to enhance water resource management, sustainability, and shared value creation.
  - Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs) should be structured to engage communities directly in Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) initiatives, ensuring local participation, ownership, and sustainable outcomes.

- SAPP (Mr Steadmore Musenyi)
  - Projects should leverage financing opportunities from global renewable energy funds to support sustainable, low-carbon energy solutions within the water–energy–food nexus.
  - A diverse energy mix should be promoted, with strategies to de-risk renewable energy investments, thereby enhancing energy security, investor confidence, and sustainable development outcomes.
  - Opportunities should be explored to secure financing from institutional investors, including pension funds and insurance companies, to mobilise long-term capital for infrastructure and development projects.
  - Concessional financing, such as loans from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), should be leveraged to support the development and implementation of energy projects, particularly those promoting climate resilience and low-carbon solutions.

### 3.3.3 Session 7 Partnerships for Inclusive and Sustainable Regional Economic Corridor Growth: RBO–TFCA–Private sector–CSO collaboration.

Ms Yenziwe Mbuyisa from the Southern African Network of Water Centres of Excellence (SANWATCE) (Figure 24) presented on harnessing Science and Innovation for Water Security: Regional knowledge development in support of the SADC's Regional Economic Corridor Enhancement Vision. She outlined how over 2000 research studies from the SADC region were reviewed drawn from across themes that include climate resilience and risk assessment, water security for corridors, green infrastructure innovations and digital and smart solutions.

*Figure 25: Presentation by Ms Yenziwe Mbuyisa, SANWATCE*

Ms Mbuyisa highlighted the following research gaps on water security for corridors:

- Corridor-scale hydrological systems research
- Water demand forecasting for corridor urbanization
- Industrial water efficiency and circular economy
- Transboundary groundwater management
- Climate change adaptation for water infrastructure
- Economic valuation and financing mechanisms
- Artificial Intelligence and predictive analytics
- Water-Energy-Food Nexus quantification
- Water infrastructure resilience and redundancy
- Emerging contaminants in industrial contexts
- Indigenous Knowledge and local innovation
- Water conflict and cooperation research
- Water quality monitoring technologies
- Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) water solutions
- Water System Cybersecurity

The second presentation was made by Prof. Krasposy Kujinga from SADC Waternet (Figure 25) focusing on water, knowledge, and partnerships: advancing nexus capacity for climate-resilient economic corridors.


*Figure 26: Prof. Krasposy Kujinga of Waternet making his presentation during the 11th SADC Water Dialogue, Maseru, Lesotho.*

The key takeaways from the presentation were:

- WaterNet is building the skills, knowledge, and partnerships to ensure corridors are climate-resilient and inclusive.
- Greater investment in training and research to match corridor needs is required
- Mainstreaming WaterNet graduates and tools into corridor-linked institutions should be explored
- Expansion of partnerships with private sector to support innovation and finance for capacity development is required

His closing remarks where that if corridors are to last, there is a need for investment in human resource development and knowledge to sustain them.

The last session involved group work (Figure 27) divided into three clusters (water-transport, food-ecosystems and energy- ICT).

*Figure 27: Mr Lenka Thamae facilitating a group session during the 11th SADC Water Dialogue, Maseru, Lesotho.*

The guiding questions for the groupwork were:

- Institutional Alignment: How can SADC, AUDA-NEPAD, national governments, and RBOs better coordinate corridor and Nexus planning?
- Investment Opportunities: What corridor- linked water (green & grey), energy, and food/agriculture projects are ripe for financing, and how can Nexus approaches strengthen their bankability?
- Partnerships and Inclusion: What mechanisms can ensure equitable participation of private sector, CSOs, and local communities in corridor initiatives?

The key outcomes per group were as follows:

- ***Group 1: Water and Transport***
  - Water is a key enabler of economic development and a cross-cutting resource that intersects multiple sectors—including transport—both through deliberate infrastructure development and natural processes, underscoring the need for coordinated and collaborative management.
  - It was observed that while the implementation of water infrastructure projects often has a positive impact on community livelihoods, these benefits tend to diminish or reverse after project completion. Countries in the region were urged to address this challenge proactively and change the narrative.
  - The SADC region is silent on how water is used to process oil and other minerals – lithium, rare earth, etc. It is imperative to highlight that these processes lead to adverse effects on water quality.
  - There is a direct link between the Environment and water resources.

- Water is used as a means of transport in some areas, such as the remote areas in the DRC, where the roads are dilapidated.
- Glaringly poor management of water resources in the regions has led to poor water quality and contamination,
- Several risk-prone areas highlight the importance of judicious and inclusive management of water resources. For example, in the Lesotho Highlands Water Project and the Metolong Dam Project in Lesotho, some affected communities have expressed feelings of neglect and exclusion, resulting in tensions and animosity at the community level. These cases underscore the need for stronger community engagement and benefit-sharing mechanisms in water infrastructure development.
- It is undeniable that water can be used to improve the livelihood of the people.
- Promotion of development in regional corridors through leveraging diverse water sources and related infrastructure will drive economic growth and regional integration
- Transposition and inter-basin linkages that give rise to multi-faceted, cross-sectoral projects integrating water, energy, agriculture, and trade objectives should be encouraged
- Attraction of the private sector investment in the water sector, particularly peri-urban and rural areas, is a challenge due to price, tax, payback period, etc.
- There is need to ensure the affordability of water for the poor people and accessibility of water to all
- There is need to develop a tariff model setting within the SADC region that takes care of the poor and those who can afford it.
- Tariff setting should be attractive to the private sector to invest in the water sector.
- Water within the tourism sector and the income realised thereof could be reinvested in the water infrastructure.
- Impact of water: water is a right and economic good. Water is a right when it is in the river; once distributed to the household, it becomes a value-added service and no longer a right because of the costs associated. Therefore, there is a need for a synergy of the right aspect on one end and the commercial aspects on the other end.
- Water pricing must consider the investment made in water supply and distribution infrastructure.
- There are challenges with the quality of data within the water sector, particularly the data relating to groundwater, which is attributed to a lack of resources or capabilities.
- There should be emphasis on the management of groundwater for now and for posterity.
- The water coming from decommissioned old gold mines in South Africa is contaminating rivers, and strategies for the reuse of such water, e.g. irrigation, are already in the pipeline.
- Emergency Management Plans should be developed for water structures to strengthen risk preparedness and response mechanisms.

- ***Group 2: Food and Ecosystems***

Group 2 identified the following barriers and gaps:

- Sectoral silos (land, water, ecosystems); between countries in transboundary settings
- Duplication and limited harmonization in governance (policies and institutions)
- Weak linkages between irrigation and water sectors
- Top-down approaches, where consultation is cosmetic
- Political unwillingness to harmonise (closed fishing season in Namibia, open fishing season in Botswana during the same time)
- Non-openness to exploring the concept of virtual water and benefit sharing

- Insufficient collaboration with research institutions (within and across)
- Financing barriers affecting ability to raise resources for corridor development (different fiscal positions to guarantee financing for investment) - domestic resource mobilization versus public finance systems
- Market system challenges (e.g. food systems do not have clear business models – there is weak corridor development beyond infrastructure)
- Inadequate understanding of the resources (not fact or science based, not enough data, need for long term data)
- Monitoring, Evaluation and adaptation (inadequate information on land use patterns, e.g. from siltation in Lesotho)
- Ecosystem and water do not follow corridor boundaries – we need to invest outside of corridor boundaries e.g. Lesotho and Angolan highlands
- Sustainability and empowerment of communities (developing capacity for maintenance of facilities) to ensure access and availability

Solutions for institutional alignment:

- Strengthen/ advocate for system thinking
- Integrated national budget planning (e.g. ministers defending sector budgets at both national and regional level)
- Institutionalise the "talk" – joint ministerial mandates (e.g. water and energy)
- Move away from water-centric e dialogue to WEFE dialogue with participation of all sectors (e.g. opening session of this dialogue attended by Water Minister only)
- Accelerate the implementation of already developed plans

Low-hanging investment opportunities identified include:

- RENOKA – Integrated Catchment Management
- MCA Compact 2 – Lesotho
- LIMCOM – Integrated Transboundary Development for the Sustainability of the Limpopo River Basin
- Conservation of ecosystems which are still pristine (CORB, Zambezi)
- Quantification of how much private sector is investing already (e.g. in PES CORB)
- Policy harmonization to attract investments  e.g. a utility in one country may be an off taker but a utility in another country may allow open access for IPP to invest in a sector

Avenues for partnerships and inclusion:

- Engagement/involvement of all the sectors (e.g. this dialogue & in planning)
- Discussions on water tariff adjustment to attract private sector investment

- ***Group 3: Energy and ICT***

Infrastructure and innovation priorities include:

- Data and information infrastructure and systems for the transformation of the data.
- Remote sensing and transmission of data (e.g. using Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM))
- Water and energy interlinkage efficiencies e.g. for hydropower or irrigation (water to create energy and energy to pump water)
- Real-time early warning systems for water levels and water quality as well as for monitoring systems, including systems to capture real-time data information in remote locations.

- Co-dependencies of ICT and (e.g. water for processing and cooling systems) and ICT technologies for mapping landscapes and for forecasting and modelling environmental systems
- Collaboration software to facilitate rapid informed responses to environmental extremes, models for prediction enhancement and to assist accountability
- Accurate data collection, including time series data

Barriers and Gaps identified include:

- Competing water demands that continue to strain supply systems
- Lack of alignment and consensus in the formulation and implementation of corridor agreements
- Limited and siloed communication between the water sector and the transport and trade sectors, which currently act as the primary drivers of economic corridor development
- Fragmented data and information systems, constraining evidence-based decision-making and coordinated planning
- Policy misalignments and competing stakeholder interests,
- Insufficient political will and weak community engagement

The solutions proposed include:

- Honouring riparian rights in a manner that embraces best practices in International Water Law and the equitable utilization of the resources.
- Empowering governance structures
- Standardization of protocols to enhance data harmonization and anchoring of joint planning across the involved institutions.
- Development of mechanism of coordination via the mandated bodies. e.g. AU, SADC or RBOs, to pitch ideas at the relevant levels

Investment opportunities

- Integrated, multipurpose infrastructure approaches are more bankable and can attract investment

Partnerships and Inclusion

- Local communities' consultations are critical i.e. nobody must be left behind.
- Managing expectations is key
- Policy harmonization for Public Private Partnerships is fundamental.

## 4 Reflections from Partners

The EU delegation representative (Figure 28) highlighted strong partnerships that made the dialogue possible. He expressed the need for the outcomes of the meeting to be transformed into action fostered through regional cooperation with partners.

Some of the key reflections were:

- SADC region needs to embrace cooperation and think outside box
- Water is not a free resource; it carries a production and delivery cost that must be recognised and factored into planning, financing, and management frameworks to ensure sustainability and cost recovery.

- Action and coordination at all levels was required through strengthened governance systems.
- There is a need to identify and leverage synergies, such as those offered by the digitalisation agenda, to unlock value chains, enhance efficiency, and drive innovation across sectors.
- The EU Global Gateway offers opportunities for mobilising investment and technical cooperation to advance sustainable infrastructure development and regional integration within the SADC region.

*Figure 28: Representative from the EU delegation in Lesotho, Mr. Tsepo Motsamai, speaking during the close out session*

## 5 Outcome Statement of the SADC 11th Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue

The outcome statement was given by Dr Dumisani Mndzebele from the SADC Water Division. The full outcomes statement is annexed to this report (see Appendix 1)

## 6 Official Closing

### 6.1 Remarks by the Government of Lesotho

Closing remarks were made by the Deputy Principal Secretary for Water of the Lesotho Ministry of Natural Resources, Mr Lisema Lekhooana. He thanked SADC for considering Lesotho for hosting the event. He noted the good outcomes from the event and pledged the country's commitment to the course of regional integration, development and transboundary water cooperation. He wished all travelling participants safe travels back home.

### 6.2 Official Closing Remarks by the Deputy Chair of SADC

Official closing remarks on behalf of South Africa (Vice Chair of SADC) were delivered by Ms. Celiwe Ntuli. She thanked SADC for driving the Dialogue, the Government of Lesotho for hosting, and all participants for attending and for the lively and fruitful deliberations. She then closed the meeting,

wishing all safe travels back to their respective destinations.

## 7 Conclusion

The dialogue was a success, resulting in the identification of several critical actions. Key stakeholders, including River Basin Organizations (RBOs), Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs), and sectoral groups from the water, food, and energy domains, actively participated. It was agreed that a tracking framework is essential to monitor progress and outcomes. Furthermore, participants emphasized that corridor–water integration requires robust governance mechanisms and sustainable financing models to effectively unlock the WEFE nexus potential within development corridors.

Appendix 1

# 11th SADC Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue

**29 – 30 September 2025**

*Maseru, Lesotho*

## Outcomes statement

german cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

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Global Water Partnership Southern Africa

**OUTCOMES STATEMENT**

**11th SADC Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue**

**Theme:** *Water Security, Innovation, and Nexus Action for Regional Economic Corridors*

**Dates & Place:** 29–30 September 2025, Maseru, Lesotho

## 1. Preamble

The 11th SADC Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue convened 226 participants (203 in-person, 23 virtual) from 12 SADC Member States, including representatives of water, energy, agriculture/food systems, environment and TFCAs, trade and investment, ICT/digitalisation, finance, youth and gender groups, River Basin Organisations (RBOs) and River Basin Authorities (RBAs), regional implementing agencies, international cooperation partners, development finance institutions, academia, utilities and the private sector.

Guided by SADC Vision 2050, the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP: 2020–2030), the Regional Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap (2015–2063), and aligned with the Africa Union Agenda 2063 and Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), the Dialogue focused on repositioning water and the Water–Energy–Food–Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus for impactful contribution to the regional economic development corridor agenda, and embedding the WEFE nexus and climate resilience into planning, investment and governance.

## 2. Core Messages

The core messages that came out of the Dialogue are:

**2.1. Water is a foundational economic enabler, not a support sector.** Corridor performance (ports, border posts, industrial parks, agro-zones, cities) depends on reliable water quantity and quality, and on risk-informed management of droughts and floods.

**2.2. Nexus governance must be institutionalised.** RBO, TFCA, utility and corridor mandates require alignment; policy duplication, siloed planning and fragmented data constrain delivery.

**2.3. Groundwater is underutilized yet pivotal for cities, industries and agriculture along corridors**; managed aquifer recharge and groundwater-sensitive planning are essential.

**2.4. Digital, data and early warning systems are essential ingredients** for efficiency, loss reduction and climate resilience; data standards and interoperability are needed region-wide for harmonized efforts.

**2.5. Inclusive growth matters**. Gender, youth and community participation must be embedded to ensure benefits persist beyond construction and across rural and urban divides.

**2.6. Green and grey infrastructure integration improves resilience and returns**. Pairing nature-based solutions with engineered assets (e.g., catchment restoration, wastewater reuse, water storage and smart operations) raises bankability and climate readiness.

**2.7. Finance follows clarity and preparation.** Off-taker certainty, tariff realism with affordability protections, robust Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) and de-risking instruments unlock blended finance.

## 3. Economic Corridor Development and Nexus Linkages

Participants reaffirmed that industrialisation and regional value chain development are catalytic drivers of corridor growth and competitiveness in the SADC region. There was consensus that sustainable industrialisation depends on efficient, reliable, and climate-resilient water and energy systems, embedded within the WEFE Nexus framework.

The Dialogue underscored the need for accelerated agricultural transformation through adoption of water-efficient, renewable-energy-powered, and climate-smart technologies. Strengthening regional value chains will require concerted efforts to reduce water and food losses, improve supply chain efficiency, and promote inclusive, circular, and resilient food systems linked to regional corridor hubs.

The strategic role of water and energy as the backbone of resilient corridors was recognised as critical for regional integration and competitiveness. Delegates noted that regional renewable energy ambitions, including scaling capacity to 300 GW by 2030 and achieving Net Zero emissions by 2050, are essential enablers of corridor transformation and low-carbon growth. The Inga III Hydropower Project and regional interconnections under the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) were highlighted as important pathways for strengthening energy security and ensuring access for key economic nodes.

Participants emphasised that cooperation and synergy, rather than competition, must guide regional efforts. Cross-sectoral collaboration across water, energy, food, transport, and environment was cited as indispensable to building shared prosperity, improving corridor functionality, and ensuring equitable resource access.

Recognising the economic value of water as both a productive asset and an enabler of trade and industry, the Dialogue called for increased investment in the water sector, coupled with integrated approaches to governance, infrastructure, and finance that unlock water's full development potential.

## 4. Agreed Pillars and Commitments

### 4.1. Institutional Alignment & Policy Coherence

- Formalise politically the WEFE nexus approach for impactful contribution to smart corridors
- Formalise WEFE Nexus screening in SADC and Member State corridor planning, appraisal and approval processes.
- Progressively ensure policy alignment for increased nexus collaboration in regional corridor development
- Establish corridor compacts with RBOs and TFCAs, together with integrated corridor agreements for both regional and continental integrated corridor development
- Bring together RBOs, TFCAs, corridor/transport authorities, cities/utilities, energy pools, agricultural institutions and private sector and define clear roles, shared Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and protocols.
- Synchronise dam operations across shared basins to optimise regional water and energy security and reduce flood/drought risks affecting corridor nodes.
- Advance progressive policy harmonisation (tariffs, quality standards, Environmental & Social safeguards) to reduce cross-border friction and accelerate infrastructure project preparation-to-finance processes.

### 4.2. Investment & Finance for Water-Smart Corridors

- Encourage RBOs to enter into agreement with TFCAs, and jointly develop WEFE investment projects

- Develop multi-sector project pipelines anchored in economic clusters along corridors (i.e. logistics hubs, industrial parks, irrigated agro-value chains, border towns).
- Package green and grey infrastructure portfolios: catchment restoration, wetland rehabilitation and sediment management plus bulk water, treatment, reuse, storage and managed aquifer recharge.
- Mobilise blended finance inclusive of sovereign and sub-sovereign budgets, Private public Partnerships (PPPs), climate funds, guarantees and institutional capital, backed by public and development finance-funded project preparation (i.e. prefeasibility and feasibility studies, Environmental & Social Safeguards, offtake structuring, de-risking).
- Develop a regional model for standard tariff setting to attract investment in the Water sector
- Issue regional guidance on cost-reflective yet inclusive tariff models (e.g., tiered structure with lifeline blocks, performance-based Non-Revenue Water (NRW)reduction) to crowd-in private capital while protecting vulnerable users.
- Promote co-revenues (e.g., floating solar on reservoirs, treated effluent sales, Payment for Ecosystem Services) to strengthen cashflows and shorten payback periods.
- Invest in managed aquifer recharge and more innovative water harvesting solutions, which are crucial for regional water security.
- Invest in the maintenance of ecosystems in the region's water tower nations.
- Maximise and integrate flood water harvesting using underground storage, managed aquifer recharge, and other water storage options.
- There is also need to invest outside of corridor boundaries: ecosystems do not follow corridor boundaries.

### 4.3. Partnerships, Inclusion & Knowledge

- Formalise RBO-TFCA cooperation through MOUs focused on corridor nodes (headwaters, protected areas, border posts, wetlands, deltas).
- Mainstream gender and youth participation in governance, procurement and project teams; ensuring community benefit continuity during and after project construction or implementation.
- Launch a SADC-level Data & Digital initiative to standardise hydromet/quality/asset/Non-Revenue-Water data, scale real-time monitoring and early warning.
- Adopt natural capital accounting to evidence Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and asset impacts.
- Partner with SANWATCE, WaterNet, IWMI, UNESCO and universities to close research and capacity gaps, and to localise innovation (e.g., the urgent need to build capacity for water harvesting portfolios from community to regional scale).

## 5. Closing Message

The Dialogue reaffirmed that water within a nexus context is an enabler for SADC's regional economic transformation. Water catalyses industrialisation, trade, and resilience when managed through integrated, inclusive, and climate-smart approaches. There was consensus by participants on the need for:

- Institutional alignment and formal adoption of the WEFE approach.
- Development of bankable Nexus-aligned corridor investments.
- Policy and data harmonisation for coordinated regional action.
- Inclusive partnerships and sustainable financing for long-term implementation.

## 6. Call to Action

Member States, RBOs/RBAs, TFCAs, corridor and transport authorities, cities and utilities, SAPP/energy actors, agri-food institutions, private investors, DFIs and ICPs are called upon to

convert this consensus into implementable programmes. By institutionalising Nexus governance, structuring bankable green and grey pipelines, standardising data and digital systems, and ensuring inclusive partnerships, SADC can turn its corridors into resilient, competitive economic systems that create jobs, secure food and energy, and protect ecosystems in a changing climate.

SADC is committed to elevate priority recommendations and the Dialogue Outcomes to the SADC Sectoral and Cluster Ministerial Committees, Council and Summit processes, and relevant continental platforms under AUC, AUDA-NEPAD/PIDA and the AfCFTA.

*Adopted in Maseru, Lesotho on 30 September 2025.*

## Appendix 2: Programme

**DAY 1 - SETTING THE SCENE: POLICY, VISION AND INSTITUTIONAL ALIGNMENT**
**29 September 2025**

| Time | Activity | Speaker/Lead(s) |
|---|---|---|
| **08:30–08:50** | **Arrival and Registration of delegates** | All |
| **08:50–09:00** | **Arrival of the Minister and Dignitaries** | |
| **Opening Session Chair: Mr. Motoho Maseatile, Director, Department of Water Affairs, Lesotho** | | |
| **09:00–09:05** | Welcome & Housekeeping (Incl. Observing of Anthems) | Mr. Motoho Maseatile, Director Department of Water Affairs, Lesotho |
| **09:05–09:10** | Welcome Remarks | Ms. Relebohile Lebeta Principal Secretary for the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Kingdom of Lesotho |
| **09:10–09:20** | SADC Secretariat Remarks | Ms. Mapolao Mokoena, SADC Director of Infrastructure |
| **09:20–09:30** | Remarks by GWPSA | Mr. Andrew Takawira, Interim Executive Secretary- Global Water Partnership for Southern Africa |
| **09:30–09:40** | Remarks by the German Embassy, Botswana | Ms Simone Goertz, Head of Economic and Development Cooperation |
| **09:40–09:50** | Remarks by EU Delegation Lesotho | Ms Anna Renieri - Head of Cooperation EU Delegation in Lesotho |
| **09:50–10:00** | Keynote Address | Honourable Mohlomi Moleko, Minister of Natural Resources of the Kingdom of Lesotho |
| **10:00–10:05** | Observing of Anthems | **All** |
| **10:05–10:40** | Cultural entertainment Family photo and tea break | All, Guest of Honour |
| **Beginning of Technical Session (Setting the Scene): Event Facilitator** | | |
| **10:40–11:10** | Presentation of Background Paper | Dr. Luke Wasonga, Background Paper Specialist |

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| **11:10–11:30** | Reflections on the Background Paper | OKACOM - Mr Phera Ramoeli, and SADC TFCA Network - Mr. Steve Collins |

| Time | Activity | Speaker/Lead(s) |
|---|---|---|
| **Session 1: Clarifying the role of water in regional economic corridor development and continental integrated corridor approach** | | |
| **11:30–11:40** | Presentation 1 – *Unpacking SADC's approach to economic corridor development in the context of the water sector and the regional water policy* | SADC Water Division – Dr Dumisani Mndzebele |
| **11:40–11:50** | Presentation 2 – *Regional value chains in the context of* the *regional economic corridor development and frameworks (Vision 2050, RISDP, Industrialisation Strategy)* | SADC IDT – Mr Noel Lihiku |
| **11:50–12:00** | Presentation 3 – *Integrated corridor approach & PIDA projects, with reflections on water-related infrastructure dependencies*. | AUDA-NEPAD - Mr. Ibra Wahabou |
| **12:00–12:10** | Facilitated discussion | Facilitator |
| **Session 2: Water's Role in Corridor Development: Case Studies and Panel Reflections** | | |
| **12:10–12:20** | RBOs-driven Water Investments in Corridor Development | Mr. Rapule Pule - ORASECOM |
| **12:20–13:00** | Panel Discussion: Aligning water governance with corridor objectives; the role of RBOs, TFCAs, Power Pools, Regional Agri-food systems institutions; and ICT | Moderator – Mr. Lenka Thamae<br>Panellists:<br>SADC - Water Division- Dr Patrice Kabeya; Power Pool (SAPP - Mr. Steadmore Musenyi ); Agrifood Systems (FANRPAN- Dr Tshilidzi Madzivhandila); Ecosystems – (SADC TFCA Network Mr. Steve Collins); RBO – (ZAMCOM Mr. Felix Ngamlagosi), Informations & Communications (SADC-ICT-Mr. Chisepo Lungu) |
| **13:00–14:00** | **Lunch** | |
| **Session 3: Positioning and aligning the WEFE Nexus for impactful contribution to the regional economic development corridor agenda** | | |
| **14:00-14:10** | TFCAs – RBOs Collaboration for Corridor Development | SADC TFCA Network - Mr Steve Collins |
| **14:10-14:20** | SADC Water Fund: SADC Water Fund: Investing in Climate-Resilient Water Infrastructure for Regional Economic Corridors | SADC Water Fund – Mr Chenge Chikara |

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| **14:20-14:30** | Facilitated Audience Q&A | Facilitator |
| **14:30-14:40** | Strengthening Climate-Resilient Water Governance and Infrastructure in the Zambezi Basin: From WASH at Border Posts to Nexus-Based Corridor Investments | ZAMCOM – Mr. Felix Ngamlagosi |

| Time | Activity | Speaker/Lead(s) |
|---|---|---|
| **14:40-14:50** | Multi-Stakeholder Stewardship for Water Security: From Urban Hubs to Regional Corridors: NatuRes Project | NatuRes Project - Ms. Adjoa Parker |
| **14:50–15:00** | Facilitated Audience Q&A | Facilitator |
| **15:00–15:30** | **Health break** | |
| **17:00** | Day 1 end | |

## DAY 2 - INNOVATION, INVESTMENT, AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT
## 30 September 2025

| Time | Activity | Speaker/Lead(s) |
|---|---|---|
| **08:30–08:50** | Recap of Day 1 & Framing of Day 2 | Facilitator/GWPSA |
| **Session 4: Innovative climate-resilient and risk-informed water infrastructure solutions towards trade and regional value chains** | | |
| **08:50–09:00** | Lesotho Botswana Water Transfer Project (Lesotho–South Africa) & Noordoewer-Vioolsdrift Dam (NVD - South Africa and Namibia) | ORASECOM - Mr Thabo Hloele |
| **09:00–09:10** | Transboundary Water Infrastructure and Governance for Corridor Development: Lessons from the Incomati and Maputo Basins | INMACOM - Ms. Sindy Mthimkhulu |
| **09:10-09:20** | Facilitated Audience Q&A | Facilitator |
| **09:20-09:30** | Sustainable Groundwater Management in SADC Member States (Phase 2): contributions in supporting regional economic corridor development | SADC GMI - Eng. James Sauramba |
| **09:30-09:50** | Innovative water harvesting solutions for climate resilience and water security | IWMI (Nexus gains) and UNESCO – Dr Muchaneta Munamati |
| **09:50-10:00** | Facilitated Q&A with audience | Facilitator |
| **10:00–10:30** | **Tea break** | |
| **Session 5: Financing Nexus Investments in Corridors** | | |
| **10:30–10:40** | SADC Secretariat paper on financing in economic corridors | Ms. Chitundu Malumba |
| **10:40–10:50** | Financing the Lesotho Highlands & Development Project | LHDA - Mr. Tente Tente |
| **10:50-11:00** | Facilitated Audience Q&A | Facilitator |
| **11:00-11:10** | Policies and Strategies for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources in SADC economic corridors | SADC-FANR Director- Mr. Domingos Gove |
| **11:10-11:20** | Circular Food Systems in Africa (CFS) project | FARNPAN - Dr Tshilidzi Madzivhandila |
| **11:20-11:30** | Facilitated Audience Q&A | Facilitator |

| Time | Activity | Speaker/Lead(s) |
|---|---|---|
| **11:30-11:40** | ReNOKA Lesotho ICM Programme – Financing for Corridor Resilience | RENOKA - Mr. Makomoreng Fanana |
| **11:40-11:50** | Financing Renewable Energy for Corridor Development: Regional Pathways to Nexus-Resilient Growth | SAPP – Mr. Steadmore Musenyi |
| **11:50-12:00** | Facilitated Audience Q&A | Facilitator |
| **12:00–12:10** | Okavango River Basin Sustainable Financing (Namibia, Botswana, Angola) - CORB fund | CORB Fund Secretariat – Mr. Innocent Magole |
| **12:10-13:00** | Panel Discussion: Financing Nexus Investments in Corridors<br>Panelists: representatives of ICPs, Private Sector, DFIs & Ministries: | Moderator: Eng. Edvan Moyo<br>Panelists: DBSA (Eng. Chenge Chikara), AIP (Ms. Sumbi M. Shimumbwa) Private Sector - Water Utility (Mr. Gift Monde) |
| **13:00–14:00** | **Lunch Break** | |
| **Session 6: Institutional Alignment, Investment Opportunities, and Partnerships for Nexus-based Corridor Development** | | |
| **14:00-14:10** | Harnessing Science and Innovation for Water Security: Regional knowledge development in support of the SADC's Regional Economic Corridor Enhancement Vision | SANWATCE – Ms Yenziwe Mbuyisa, Ms Zimbili Sibiya |
| **14:10–14:20** | Water, Knowledge, and Partnerships: Regional capacity development for advancing Climate-Resilient Economic Corridors | Waternet – Prof. Krasposy Kujinga |
| **14:20-14:30** | Facilitated Q&A with audience | Facilitator |
| **14:30–15:45** | **Facilitated group discussions:**<br>Institutional and Policy Alignment Dialogues (3 Parallel by combined thematic focus Groups: Water & Transport; Energy & ICT; Food & Ecosystems; Climate Services (Cross-cutting: ICPs, Private sector, CSOs, Finance, Gender & Youth)<br><br>*Guiding questions:*<br>• *Where are the WEFE Nexus linkages (synergies or trade-offs) most visible in your sectors?*<br>• *What are the main barriers or gaps to effective alignment?*<br>• *Institutional Alignment: How can SADC, AU agencies, national governments, and RBOs better coordinate corridor and Nexus planning?*<br>• *Investment Opportunities: What corridor-linked water (green & grey), energy, and food/agriculture projects are ripe for financing?* | 3 parallel groups (same groups as in Day 1) with 3 facilitators and 3 rapporteurs<br><br>Facilitators:<br>Mr Lenka Thamae<br>Dr. Luke Wasonga<br>Mr. Moses Ntlamelle |

| Time | Activity | Speaker/Lead(s) |
|---|---|---|
| | • *Partnerships & Inclusion: What mechanisms can ensure equitable participation of private sector, CSOs, and local communities in corridor initiatives?* | |
| **15:45–16:15** | Report Back and Reflections | Rapporteurs and Facilitator |
| **16:15–16:25** | Partners reflections | EU |
| **16:25–16:40** | Outcome Statement | SADC Water Division |
| **Closing Session** | | |
| **16:40–17:00** | Official Closing Ceremony | SADC Chair (or Vice Chair) |

**Appendix 3: Facilitators Report (available as separate annex)**

**Appendix 4: Participants list**

**11TH SADC MULTI-STAKEHOLDER WATER DIALOGUE**

**MASERU, LESOTHO**

**29 SEPTEMBER -1 OCTOBER 2025**

**FINAL PARTICIPANT LIST**

| | Mode of participation | Gender | Title | Name | Position | Organisation | Sector | Type of Organisation | Email | Country |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Physical | Female | Mrs | Maida Margarida Luis Gomes | Directora Geral Adjunta para Área Técnica/Geofísica | Instituto Nacional de Recursos Hídricos do Ministério da Energia e Águas de Angola | Water | Government | maida.gomes@inrh.gov.ao | Angola |
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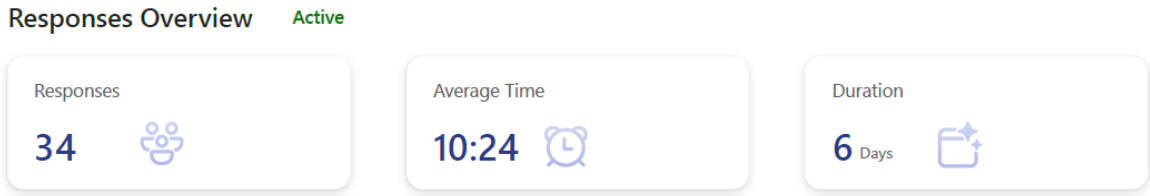
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 201 | Physical | Male | Mr | Polao Moepi | Principal soil scientist | Ministry of environment and forestry | Natural Resources | Government | moepipolao@gmail.com | Lesotho |
| 202 | Physical | Male | Mr | Gerard Heqoa | Chief Economic Planner | Ministry of Finance and Development Planning | Finance and Economic Development | Government | heqoag@yahoo.co.uk | Lesotho |
| 203 | Physical | Female | Ms | Thato Mope | Economic Planner | Ministry of Finance and Development Planning | Finance and Economic Development | Government | | Lesotho |
| 204 | Physical | Female | Mrs | Tsieho Molitse | Director- Department of Regional Integration | Ministry of Finance and Development Planning | Finance and Economic Development | Government | tsieho.molise@gov.ls | Lesotho |
| 205 | Physical | Female | Mrs | Makanalelo Tshelang | PEE | Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) | Labour and employment | Government | | Lesotho |
| 206 | Physical | Female | Mrs | Maqenehelo Mahlo | Director National Employment Services | Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) | Labour and employment | Government | | Lesotho |
| 207 | Virtual | Female | Ms | Matseliso Moshe | Procurement Officer | Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home- Affairs and Police | Local Government | Government | matselisofmoshe@gmail.com | Lesotho |
| 208 | Physical | Male | Mr | Mabolaoane Selinyane | Director- Department of Tourism | Ministry of Tourism, Sports, and Culture | Tourism | Government | mabolaoane.selinyane@gov.ls | Lesotho |
| 209 | Physical | Male | Mr | Letlotlo Tsehla | Director | Department of Trade and Industry | Industry and Trade | Government | tsehla.letlotlo@gov.ls /tsehlaletlotlo@gmail.com | Lesotho |
| 210 | Physical | Female | Mrs | Moliehi Motsatse | Statistician | Minstry of Public Service | Public Service | Government | | Lesotho |
| 211 | Physical | Female | DR | Mamohau Thamae | Director - Water Institute | National University of Lesotho | Water | Academia | | Lesotho |
| 212 | Physical | Male | Mr | Kelebone Lekunya | Assistant Physical Planner | Ngoajane B01 Community Council | Water | Governemnt | klekunya@gmail.com | Lesotho |
| 213 | Physical | Female | Mrs | Mahlalele Setlhako | Cosultant | T&M Nexus Consulting Company | Water | Private Sector | tlalimahlalele@yahoo.com | Lesotho |
| 214 | Physical | Female | Ms | Mantopi Martina de Porres Lebofa | Director -TED (Hon. Consul of Germany in Maseru) | Technologies for Economic Development -TED | WASH | Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) | mantopi@yahoo.com | Lesotho |
| 215 | Virtual | Female | Ms | Maeti George | Lecturer | National University of Lesotho | Water | Academia | maetigeorge@gmail.com | Lesotho |
| 216 | Physical | Male | Mr | Polao Ishmael Moepi | MSc Student- Water Institute | National University of Lesotho | Water | Academia | moepipolao@gmail.com | Lesotho |

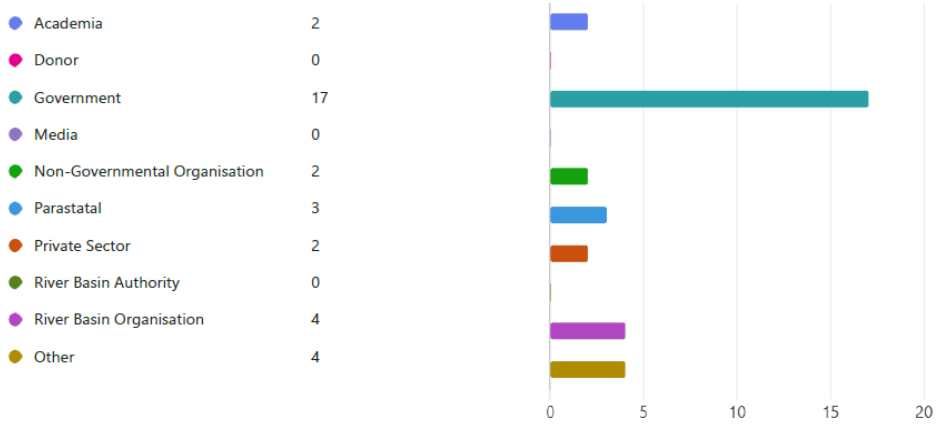
| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 217 | Virtual | Male | Mr | Kabelo,Mofelehetsi | Director - Projects & Operations | TOTH Concepts | Water | Private Sector | kabelo@tothconcepts.com | Lesotho |
| 218 | Physical | Male | Mr | Lawrence Seretse | Chairperson | Botswana Editors Forum | Media | Private Sector | seretseofficial@gmail.com | Botswana |
| 219 | Physical | Male | Mr | Bokang Masasa | | Lesotho Tribune | Media | Private Sector | | Lesotho |
| 220 | Physical | Female | Mrs | Lerato Seleso | Reporter | Lekope FM | Media | Private Sector | | Lesotho |
| 221 | Physical | Female | Ms | Limpho Petlane | | Modern Times Media | Media | Private Sector | | Lesotho |
| 222 | Physical | Female | Ms | Rasethuntsa | Journalist | Bokamoso FM | Media | Private Sector | | Lesotho |
| 223 | Physical | Male | Mr | Thoboloko | | Newsday | Media | Private Sector | | Lesotho |
| 224 | Physical | Male | Mr | Reitumetse | | Public eye | Media | Private Sector | | Lesotho |
| 225 | Physical | Female | Mrs | Joyce Lefaso | | Sky Alpha HD | Media | Private Sector | | Lesotho |

## Appendix 5: Participant evaluation

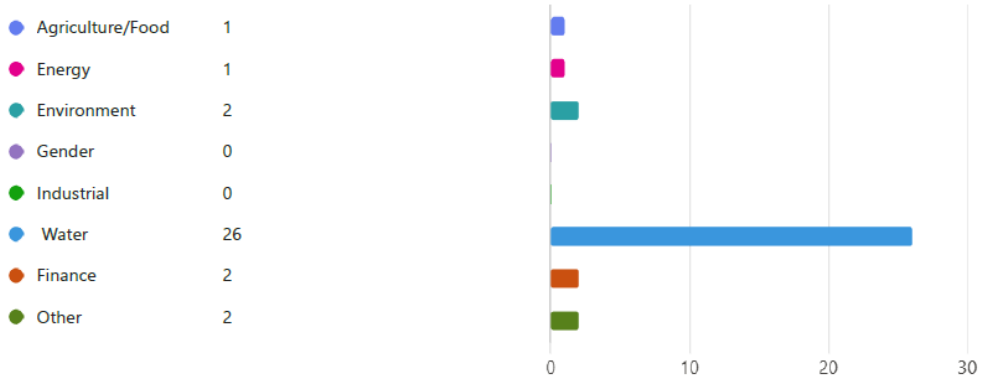
An online survey was conducted to provide feedback on the organisation and running of the 11th SADC Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue. Allowance for feedback even after the dialogue was provided. The findings are presented below for the responses that were obtained:




1. What type of organisation do you represent at the 11th SADC Multistakeholder Water Dialogue?



2. Which sector(s) do you work in?



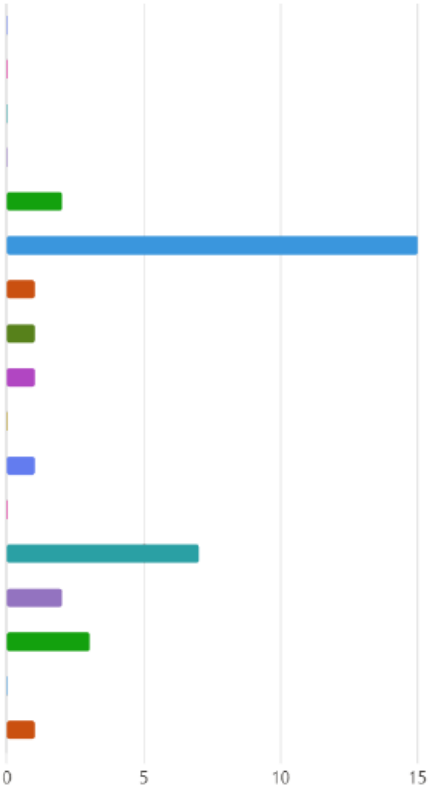

3. What is your age group

4. Gender category

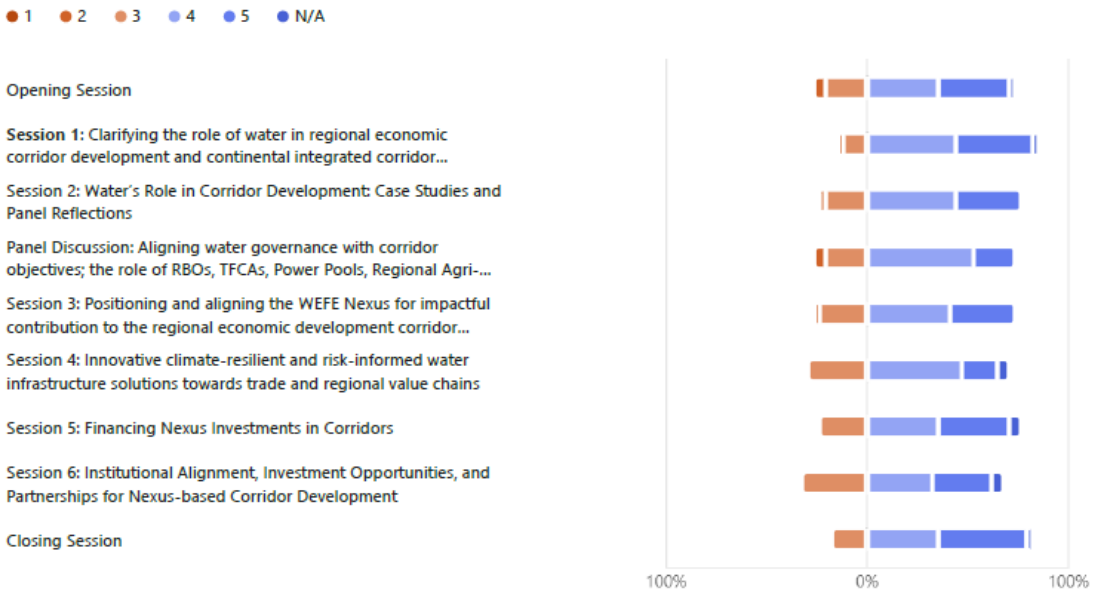
| | |
|---|---|
| Female | 16 |
| Male | 18 |
| Choose not to share | 0 |


5. 1. **Which country are you based in?**

| | |
|---|---|
| Angola | 0 |
| Botswana | 0 |
| Comoros | 0 |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | 0 |
| Eswatini | 2 |
| Lesotho | 15 |
| Madagascar | 1 |
| Malawi | 1 |
| Mauritius | 1 |
| Mozambique | 0 |
| Namibia | 1 |
| Seychelles | 0 |
| South Africa | 7 |
| Tanzania | 2 |
| Zambia | 3 |
| Zimbabwe | 0 |
| Other | 1 |



6. Please rate the quality and relevance of the sessions . **Kindly rate (from 1 = Very poor to 5= Excellent, if you did not attend the sessi on, please select N/A)**



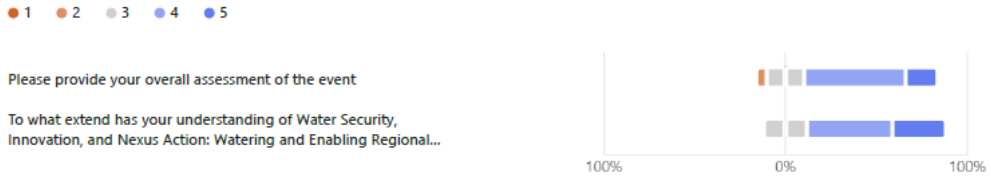

7.
Comment on the Workshop sessions

27
Responses

Latest Responses
"Unfortunately the technical delays did exhaust the level of concern traction. The s... "
"Absence of heads of agency and department at the opening session did not refle... "
...

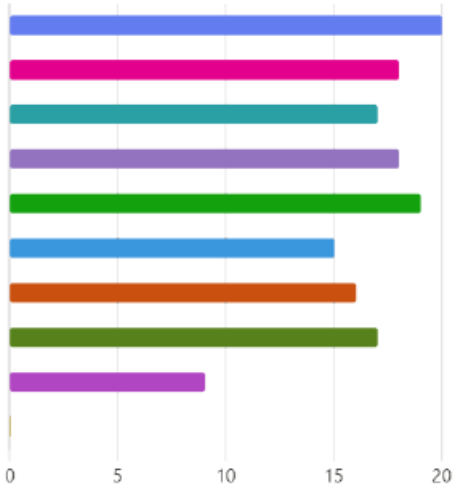
6 respondents (24%) answered time for this question.
Update


8. Overall impression of the event. **Kindly rate (from 1 = Very poor to 5= Excellent)**



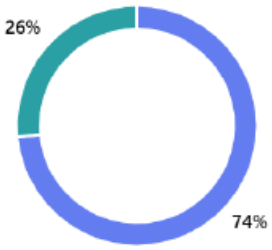
9. Which Session(s), topic(s) or aspects of the 11th SADC Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue did you find most interesting or useful?

| | |
|---|---|
| Session 1: Clarifying the role of water in regional economic corridor development and continent... | 20 |
| Session 2: Water's Role in Corridor Development: Case Studies and Panel... | 18 |
| Session 3: Positioning and aligning the WEFE Nexus for impactful contribution to the region... | 17 |
| Session 4: Innovative climate-resilient and risk-informed water infrastructure solutions toward... | 18 |
| Session 5: Financing Nexus Investments in Corridors | 19 |
| Session 6: Institutional Alignment, Investment Opportunities, and Partnerships for Nexus-... | 15 |
| Panel Discussion: Aligning water governance with corridor objectives; the role of RBOs, TFC... | 16 |
| Facilitated group discussions: Institutional and Policy Alignment Dialogues (3 Parallel by... | 17 |
| Closing Session | 9 |
| Other | 0 |

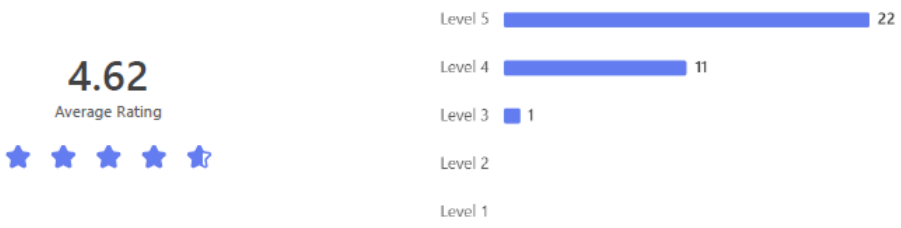



10. Did the workshop achieve the programme objectives?

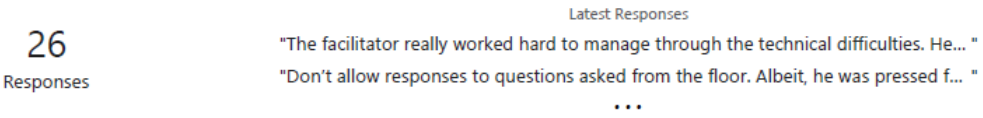
| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 25 |
| No | 0 |
| Partially | 9 |



12. Workshop facilitator (Rate from 1 star = **poor to 5** stars= **excellent)**




13. Comments on facilitator

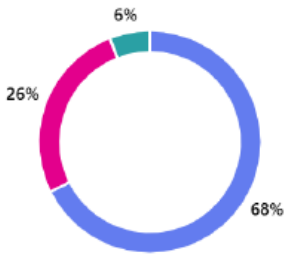




14. To what extend did the event meet your expectations?

15. Will the content discussed in the dialogue be useful/applicable in your work?

| | |
|---|---|
| Definitely | 23 |
| Mostly | 9 |
| Somehow | 2 |
| Not at all | 0 |

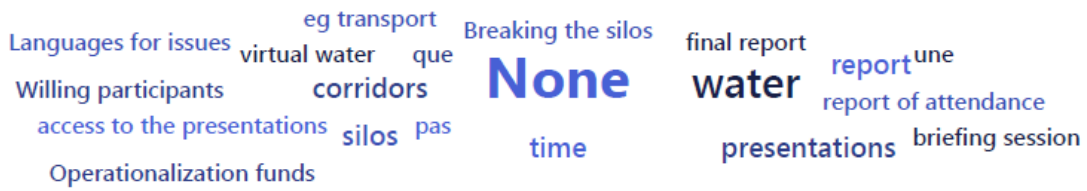



16. What challenges are faced in sharing insights and perspectives in your work after attending these events?

24
Responses

Latest Responses
"The content covered in the workshop was not entirely note worthy"
"N/A"
...

4 respondents (18%) answered None for this question. Update




17. How do you think the Workshop could have been made more effective?

30
Responses

Latest Responses
"Yes, delegates could've been given more opportunities to dialogue and debate. T... "
"The Dialogue could have discussed the different scales of impact of the corridors ..."
"Better seating arrangement."
...

7 respondents (26%) answered Time for this question. Update

18. Recommendations and suggestions (including initiatives or topics, improvements you think would be useful, for the future)

23
Responses

Latest Responses
"More questions and case studies to discuss more sharing of best practise"
"The nexus of the corridor approach vis RBOs and other regional organizations an... "
...

3 respondents (14%) answered actions for this question. Update

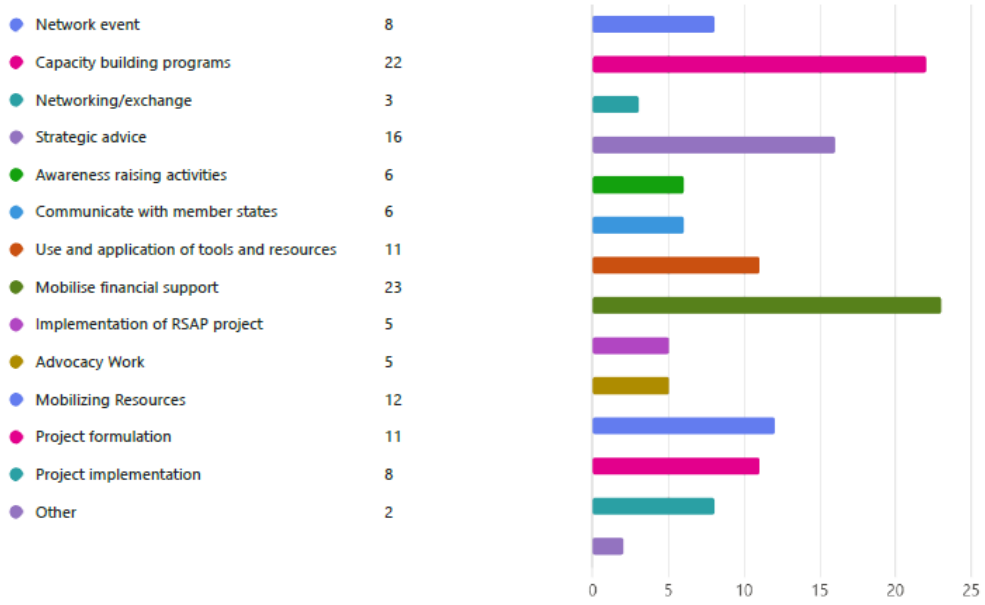

19. What kind of support have you received from SADC Water Division in the last 12 months?

23
Responses

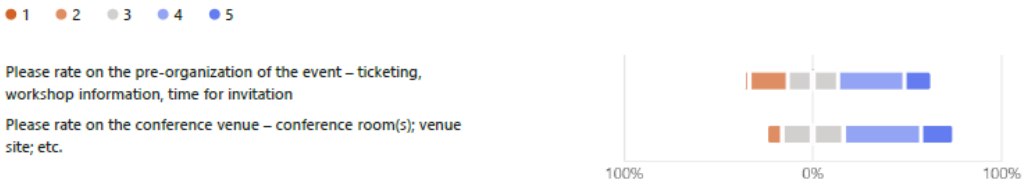
Latest Responses
"Funding to attend conferences and meetings Expertise SADC has extremely capa... "
"None."
"Leadership support to complete the Lesotho Botswana Water Transfer Project fea... "
...

4 respondents (20%) answered None for this question. Update

20. In which area(s) would you like the SADC Water Division to provide further support?




21. Please assess the quality of the different logistical aspects of the workshop. **Kindly rate (from 1 = Very poor to 5= Excellent)**




22. Comments on logistical aspects of the workshop

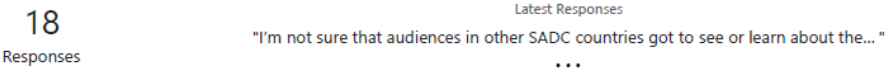
23
Responses

Latest Responses
"Everything was planned at the very last minute. The sound techs let the organiser... "
"The sitting arrangements could have been better organized. The finer details of t... "
...

2 respondents (10%) answered ICT for this question. Update

23. Kindly give an overall impression of the visibility accorded to the Dialogue. **Kindly rate (from 1 star = Very poor to 5 stars= Excellent)**


24. Comments on communication and visibiity aspects of the workshop





25. Did you follow the event updates on any platform before or during the Dialogue?


26. If yes to question 25 , kindly cite the platform (s) through which you followed the event updates.