

Ministry of Lands and Water Affairs

Department of Water and Sanitation

CONCEPT NOTE: BOTSWANA'S NATIONAL ACCESSION TO THE UN WATER CONVENTION

Theme: Water Security and Sustainable Sanitation for All

The 1992 Water Convention on The Protection And Use Of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (The Water Convention)

The Water Convention is a unique international legal instrument and intergovernmental platform which aims to ensure sustainable use of transboundary water resources by facilitating cooperation. It is based on and fully in line with customary international law and its three-pillar normative structure includes: i) the obligation to prevent, control and reduce significant transboundary impacts (the so called "no-harm rule"); ii) the equitable and reasonable utilization principle; and iii) the principle of cooperation. The UN General Assembly encourages all UN member states to join the Water Convention with an understanding that the implementation of the Water Convention at the global level would be crucial for international peace and the prevention of conflicts. On the 17th March 2023, Botswana expressed her interest by submitting to the Water Convention Secretariat, to be party to the Water Convention.



Botswana is in a semi-arid region where water is a scarce commodity, and naturally where such water is a shared resource with riparian states. It is therefore more important for Botswana to cooperate in order to access & ensure sustainable, equitable and efficient use of transboundary water resources. She subscribes to four river basin organisations (OKACOM, ZAMCOM, LIMCOM and ORASECOM) and have signed the agreements that operationalize cooperation on shared transboundary basins and aquifers with riparian states with an understanding that cooperation at that level is an evolving process. The Water Convention would then be useful for Botswana to cooperate and collaborate more with the regions as it provides the framework for day to day transboundary cooperation, including through the exchange of information and data, consultations, early warning systems, mutual assistance and other procedures.

Preparations for the ratification process are ongoing and a multi-national workshop has been organized which will attract the international community over the horizon to solicit information and guidance that will aid Botswana in her accession.

The workshop is intended to:

- Appraise on benefits Botswana will gain from being Party to the Water Convention.
- Sensitize leadership on the twinning initiative benefits and also identify country-partner to twin with, preferably those that the country has historical bilateral relations and are party to the Water Convention
- develop activity plan under the twinning initiative
- Discuss the practical implementation of the Water Convention to meet the challenges of water resource management in Botswana, based on the experience of existing Parties
- Discuss the next steps in the accession process and solicit guidance and inputs of the high level decision makers on how to facilitate Botswana to accede to the Water Convention

National Workshop related to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes:

BOTSWANA'S ACCESSION PROCESS TO THE UN WATER CONVENTION

Agenda

DATE: 25th October 2023

TIME: 0900hrs

VENUE: **Protea Hotel Masa Square**, Masa Square New Cbd, Cnr 1st &, Western Commercial Rd, Gaborone, Botswana

DAY 1		
SESSION 1: ACCESSION TO THE 1992 UNITED NATIONS WATER CONVENTION		
Chair / Facilitator: : Mr Daniel Moatshe-, Ministry of Lands and Water Affairs, Botswana		
Item	Presenter	Time
Registration	All	0900hrs - 0930hrs
Opening Prayer	Volunteer	0930hrs - 0935hrs
Introductions;	Mr Nchidzi Mmolawa, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands and Water Affairs, Botswana	0935hrs - 0940hrs
Welcome Remarks	Dr Kekgonne Baipoledi, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Lands and Water Affairs, Botswana	0940hrs - 0950hrs
Key Note Address: Botswana Accession to Water Convention	H.E. Hon. Dr Kefentse Mzwinila, Minister of Lands and Water Affairs, Botswana	0950hrs - 0955hrs
Introductory Remarks in Relation to Botswana's Accession to the Water Convention	Ms. Sonja Koeppel, Secretary of the Water Convention	0955hrs - 1000hrs
	H.E. Ms. Petra Pereyra, Ambassador, EU Delegation to the Republic of Botswana and SADC	1000hrs – 1010hrs
	Mr. Zia Choudhury, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Botswana (<i>VIDEO statement</i>)	1010hrs – 1015hrs
(Group photo 20min) Morning Tea Break 1030hrs – 1045hrs		
Overview Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (1992), and Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses (1997)		
Why 2 UN global Water Conventions? Key provisions, similarities, differences &	Mr. Remy Kinna, Legal Officer, Water Convention Secretariat	10:45hrs – 10:55hrs

complementarities of both global legal frameworks for consideration by Botswana		
The institutional framework supporting the 1992 Water Convention, its Programme of Work and implementation on the ground	Ms. Sonja Koeppel, Secretary to the Water Convention	10:55hrs - 11:05hrs
Activities and experience from the perspective of Hungary	Mr. Peter Kovacs, Water Director, Hungary, Member of the Bureau to the Water Convention	11:05hrs – 11:15hrs
Q&A /Discussion (30min)		
SESSION 2: BOTSWANA'S WATER CONTEXT: NATIONAL & TRANSBOUNDARY		
<i>Chair / Facilitator: Mr Daniel Moatshe-, Ministry of Lands and Water Affairs, Botswana</i>		
Regional Transboundary Water Cooperation within Southern Africa: Frameworks and Initiatives relevant to Botswana and its shared waters including the Africa Water Investment Program	Mr. Alex Simalabwi, Executive Secretary, Global Water Partnership (GWP) Southern Africa & Director-Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (<i>VIDEO statement</i>)	11:45hrs – 11:55hrs
Relationship between the Convention and Botswana's Transboundary Basin Governance Arrangements: Example of the OKACOM Agreement, Benefits assessments on cooperation briefs and activities	Mr. Phera Ramoeli, Executive Secretary, OKACOM	11:55hrs – 12:05hrs
Transboundary water cooperation agreements, institutions and activities and their alignment with the Water Convention	Dr. Kobamelo Dikgola, Deputy Director: Dept. of Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Lands and Water Affairs, Botswana	12:05hrs – 12:15hrs
Q&A /Discussion (30min)	All	12:15hrs – 12:45hrs
LUNCH BREAK (60min)		
SESSION 3: PANEL DISCUSSION ON WATER CONVENTION PERSPECTIVES (COUNTRY & BASIN) & PRACTICAL APPLICATION		
<i>Chair / Facilitator: Mr Daniel Moatshe-, Ministry of Lands and Water Affairs, Botswana</i>		
<i>Moderator: Prof. Piet Kenabatho, University of Botswana</i>		
The Water Convention: Panel discussion on Sharing experience at high level in the accession process benefits and participation in decision making. Presentations on value add and lessons learned	Panelists	14:00hrs – 14:30hrs
Sharing experiences with Accession since joining as Ghana was one of the first African countries to become party to UN Water Convention	Ms. Bernadette Araba Adjei, Director, Legal and Monitoring Department, Water Resources Commission, Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, Ghana	
Sharing the experience on the process as Namibia has recently acceded to the UN Water Convention	Ms. Ndina Nashipili, Deputy Director: Directorate of Water Resource Management, Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Land Reform, Namibia	

Sharing the journey on Zambia’s accession to the UN Water Convention	Mr. Stanley Hantambo, Principal Water Officer- International Waters, Department of Water Resources Development, Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation, Zambia	
Relationship between the Convention and Transboundary Basin Governance Arrangements: The ZAMCOM Agreement and related activities	Mr. Felix Ngamlagosi, Executive Secretary, ZAMCOM	
Q&A /Discussion (30min)		
Afternoon Tea Break: 15:00hrs – 15:15hrs		
<p>SESSION 4: HOW MIGHT BOTSWANA’S EXISTING WATER FRAMEWORKS, INSTITUTIONS & TRANSBOUNDARY WATER ORIENTED INITIATIVES BENEFIT FROM THE WATER CONVENTION – GAPS, NEEDS & SYNERGIES AT DIFFERENT LEVELS</p> <p><i>Moderator: Professor Ditiro Moalafhi, Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources</i></p>		
30 mins for presentations		15:15hrs – 16:15hrs
Topic	Panelists	
Talk about the importance of having transboundary water Secretariat and its role on facilitating dialogue among riparians: LIMCOM example	Mr Sergio Siteo, Executive Secretary, LIMCOM	
Perspective of Botswana on transboundary water cooperation and commitments made	Ms Bogadi Mathangwane, Director Water and Sanitation	
Linkages with global processes on SDG 6 and transboundary water cooperation	Ms. Sonja Koepfel, Secretary to the Water Convention	
30 mins for Q&A with audience		
SESSION 5: WRAP UP		
Conclusions from Day 1 and Outline of Agenda for Day	Mr Teddy Ditsabatho, Director, Water Resources, Water Utilities Cooperation, Botswana	16:45hrs – 17:00hrs
End of Day 1		
DINNER RECEPTION @ 18:30 hrs		

Day 2 – 26 October 2023

Arrival/Registration (9:00am-9:30hrs)		
SESSION 6: MILESTONES, ACTORS & CHALLENGES FOR BOTSWANA IN ACCEDING TO THE WATER CONVENTION		
<i>Chair / Facilitator: Mr. Remy Kinna, Legal Officer, Water Convention Secretariat</i>		
Setting the scene: What is a road map to accession and why is it of value		
Presentation on Key issues to address and milestones to cover in Botswana's accession process	Ms Bogadi Mathangwane, Director Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Lands and Water Affairs, Botswana	09:30 – 09:45hrs
Developing Botswana's integrated road map to accession		
Presentation on basic common steps in the accession process summarized from previous experiences, as outlined in the Convention FAQs publication	Mr. Peter Kovacs, Water Director, Hungary, Member of the Bureau to the Water Convention	09:45-09:50hrs
Presentation on Botswana Legal requirements for accession to the Roadmap	Representative of Office of Attorney Generals Chamber, Botswana	09:50-10:00 hrs
Break out Groups (1 Rapporteur each group)	<p align="center">Discuss:</p> <p>Key milestones, actors and challenges for Botswana in acceding to the Convention.</p> <p>How to address needs, gaps and synergies.</p> <p>Potential benefits of accession short, medium and long terms.</p>	10:00-10:45 hrs
Tea/Coffee break (10:45 – 11:00hrs)		
Report back in Plenary by Rapporteurs from the break out Groups	<p>Each group (6 groups) presents for 5 minutes on highlights of the 3 main discussion items and then 5 minutes Q&A</p> <p><i>Draft road map will be annotated and updated</i></p>	11:00-12:00 hrs
SESSION 7: AGREEING ON THE ROAD MAP TO ACCESSION, NEXT STEPS & RESPONSIBILITIES		
<i>Chair / Facilitator: Dr. Kobamelo Dikgola, Deputy Director: Dept. of Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Lands and Water Affairs, Botswana</i>		
Plenary discussion on road map and roles and responsibilities plus immediate next steps to take		
Sharing of the integrated Accession Roadmap and discussing the steps, milestones and responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Kobamelo Dikgola, Deputy Director: Dept. of Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Lands and Water Affairs, Botswana • Mr. Remy Kinna, Legal Officer, Water Convention Secretariat 	12:00–12:25 hrs

Q&A in Plenary	All	12:25–12:45 hrs
Remarks and Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Sonja Koepfel, Secretary to the Water Convention • Mr Ephraim Balebetse, Deputy Permanent Secretary ,Policy and Research & Development, Ministry of Lands and Water Affairs, Botswana 	12:45-13:00 hrs
End of Day 2 workshop		
Lunch		