

# WMO – GWP Consultation Meeting on Integrated Drought Management Programme

*An Overview of GWPSA's Involvement on Drought Issues in  
Southern African Region*

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# Outline

- ☯ Regional Drought Realities
- ☯ Drought Management Efforts
- ☯ GWPSA Engagement
- ☯ Way Forward
- ☯ Epilogue

# Regional Drought Realities

☯ **Jan - Mar 2007 Drought**, Characterized by Hot, Dry Weather, Wilted Crops in SADC:

- ♣ High Temperatures
- ♣ Lack of rainfall
- ♣ Extensive Crop Damage
- ♣ Anticipate Corn Crop Yield Drop Highly
- ♣ Fresh Water Supplies Dwindled
- ♣ Public Health Compromised
- ♣ Socio-economic Activities Slumped Down



Source: NASA Earth Observatory Website

☯ **The impact of the drought**, specifically on vegetation, is illustrated by the map atop

- ♣ Brown areas show where plants were less thick or where fewer plants grew than average
- ♣ Green areas, by contrast, indicate that vegetation was thicker and more lush than average



# Drought Management Efforts

## ☯ Drought Prevalence

- ♣ Floods are usually seen spectacular & short term
- ♣ Droughts, on the other hand, are slow - on setting that tend to claim more unnoticed lives over time
- ♣ A devastating famine, provoked by drought, is steadily moving north from Southern Africa, where it has affected more than 13 million lives



## ☯ Due to Cross-Sectoral Nature, Presently Drought Management Elements are Articulated in, among others, following:

- ♣ SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses (2000)
- ♣ SADC Regional Water Policy-2005/Strategy-2006
- ♣ Zambezi River IWRM Strategy-2008; ZAMCOM
- ♣ SADC Disaster Risk Reduction Strategic Plan (2006-2010) – under Civil Protection Division
- ♣ On-going SADC CCA Strategy Development
- ♣ EC's 2008 Decision for 1<sup>st</sup> Continental DIPECHO's SE Africa & SW Indian Ocean Regional Programme, with initial focus on Malawi, Madagascar & Mozambique
- ♣ Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas' Cooperation (KAZA-TFCA/ ZiMoza-TBNRMA)



# GWPSA Engagement

## ☯ National Level

- ♣ Support the development of IWRM Plans in most countries
- ♣ Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation in National Development Plans, e.g. Zambia's 6<sup>th</sup> five-year SNDP, 2010

## ☯ Regional Level

- ♣ SADC Regional Water Policy/Strategy Stakeholder Participation
- ♣ Facilitating SADC Multi-stakeholder Water Dialogues on CCA
- ♣ Supported multi-stakeholder participation in Zambezi IWRM Strategy evolution
- ♣ Collaborating with SADC Groundwater and Drought Management Programme to provide a comprehensive approach to drought management
- ♣ Liaising with SADC Drought Monitoring Centre (Climate Services) that carries out climate monitoring and early warning systems
- ♣ Currently supporting SADC Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy formulation process

# Way Forward

## ☯ Drought planning

- ♣ Consider more as the key instrument to achieve the mainstreaming of drought
- ♣ Focus on both improvement of appropriate responses to drought emergencies & on greater attention to reducing risks drought associated cases

## ☯ Closing the information gap

- ♣ Sciences of observing & monitoring conditions on the ground through remote sensing/weather forecasting – significant advances made. Crucial to integrate this information sharing at macro (Scientific) and micro (risky communities) levels

## ☯ Mainstreaming Drought

- ♣ Drought in all its manifestations requires a much more planned and developmental, rather than crisis management approach

## ☯ New risk management focus

- ♣ Efforts to reduce risk & vulnerability needs to be done through a variety of measures at local, regional and national level. There is strong need to Strengthen Vertical/Horizontal Interactions of sectors

## ☯ Traditional knowledge

- ♣ Enhanced research knowledge is needed at grassroots as well as national and international level so that policies can be properly translated into actions that are rich in local content, planned in conjunction with local people

## ☯ Who Can Make the Difference?

- ♣ Integrated drought management will only have a chance of success in the sub-Saharan region if a variety of role-players start playing their crucial parts – All the Partners

## ☯ Water Country & Regional Partnerships have a big role to play

# Epilogue

*In Partnership,  
Let's Put Our Hands in One  
And Collectively Work to Save  
those **Many Silent Lives that  
Perish unnoticed, At the  
hands of the Lethal Drought,  
And Contribute to Curbing  
Wide-spread Starvation***

*I Thank You  
for your attention*

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Sadly, the poor man passed on, shortly after 16 Feb, 2007 visit.  
Anjamahavelo, semi-arid South-eastern Madagascar,.  
M.H.S.R.I.P.