

Water and Sanitation

Improving Water Management in the Southern Africa Region

Hydrological information & observation system

EC Partners

- Governments of recipient countries
- World Meteorological Organisation
- World Bank

Facts and Figures

- **EC contribution €1.87 million** granted **1998-2001**
- **43 hydro-meteorological stations** based on the METEOSAT satellite located in **10 countries**
- **A Pilot Regional Centre** established as a permanent institution providing support in application of the Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems



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The water resources in Southern Africa are unevenly distributed over time (seasonally) and space (geographically). This region suffers from water scarcity, the waters are shared and this could be a source of conflict and political instability. This project contributes to promoting regional integration by enhancing common water management.



Context: **Water: a potential for cooperation in Southern Africa community**

The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) countries recognized the need for improvement of regional co-operation in the fields of water resources information, flood and drought management, land management, watershed protection and management of international waters. The solutions to these problems were dependent on the existence of reliable information systems at both national and regional levels, covering not only collection and analysis, but also the exchange and dissemination of water resources data. The project responded to these needs in 10 countries: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Objective: **Manage water resources together**

- To provide the SADC with a regional hydrological information system
- To assist participating countries to improve their capacity in the fields of water resources assessment, monitoring and management
- To work, together with other national, regional and international projects towards the modernization, rationalization and improvement of the water resources information system in the region.

Impact: **What has been achieved?**

- Better assessment of water resources availability thanks to the development of a software database system with accurate and up-to-date regional data;
- Easier and cost-effective exchange of information thanks to the establishment of an electronic network linking the national databases;
- Local hydrologists and technicians have been trained in operation and maintenance of the system.