SADC Council of Ministers meet

H.E MASISI IS BOTSWANA’S NEW PRESIDENT

SADC-EU MINISTERIAL POLITICAL DIALOGUE HELD

SADC MOURNS WINNIE MADIKIZELA MANDELA

Highlights from the SADC Council of Ministers meeting held in Pretoria, South Africa on page 2 - 4

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY
08 MARCH 2018

“Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women’s lives”
The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Council of Ministers Meeting was held at the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), O R Tambo Building, in Pretoria, South Africa, on 26 and 27 March 2018.

The main objective of the Council of Ministers meeting was to receive progress on the implementation of the 2017/18 Plan, and to consider the SADC Secretariat’s proposed Plan and Budget for 2018/19. During the two days, the SADC Council of Ministers successfully deliberated on several issues of importance to the region’s priority programmes contained in the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2015-2020 (RISDP); the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO II); and the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063.

In her welcoming remarks, South Africa’s Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, and Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers, Hon. Dr Lindiwe Sisulu urged the delegates to explore ways of intensifying industrialisation in the region to boost economic growth.

“Industrialisation remains a core pre-requisite for prosperity in the region and has to be achieved through a strong partnership with the private sector. It is therefore clear that all SADC Member States should focus on the need to strengthen the region’s capabilities both inside and outside of government in order to advance regional industrialisation,” Dr Sisulu said.

“It is our belief that SADC governments should identify priority value chains and take steps to attract the private sector into these specific sectors,” Minister Sisulu said, and added that industrial development should be underpinned by sound infrastructure.

The SADC Chair of Council singled out the lack of interconnectivity and poor transport within the region as key stumbling blocks for the region to fully move forward with industrialisation and beneficiation.

In her remarks, the SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax highlighted some of the milestones achieved by the Secretariat during the year under review in the quest to regional integration.
Dr Tax explained that in line with the 37th SADC Summit theme of “Partnering with the Private Sector in developing industry and regional value chains,” the Secretariat profiled value chains in the identified priority sectors of Leather, Soya, aquaculture, iron and steel, copper, cement and manufacturing of Anti-Retroviral (ARV) drugs.

Council received progress reports on the implementation of decisions it had taken in August 2017; as well as progress on the implementation of the 2017/18 Corporate Plan of the SADC Secretariat, and approved the operational Plan and Budget for 2018/19.

Council noted the progress on the development of the SADC Regional Resource Mobilisation Framework and directed the Secretariat to finalise the framework and other viable and alternative options of financing regional projects.

Council noted the progress made towards the operationalisation of the SADC University of Transformation which will contribute towards capacity building in the region, as well as deliver educational training using the vocational education training model.

Council approved the establishment of Regional Financing Facility for SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas to be supported by International Cooperating Partners resources and directed SADC Secretariat to finalise modalities to operationalise the Facility.

Council noted the process that has unfolded from the time a decision to reform the African Union was made by the AU Assembly, and while acknowledging that the reform is an absolute necessity, highlighted that the decisions on the reform should have followed the appropriate procedure, and their implementation should not violate the AU Constitutive Act, Rules of Procedure, national frameworks and other international treaties.

Council approved that SADC should be represented by the Chairperson of SADC, Incoming Chairperson of SADC and Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation in the Committee of 15 Ministers of Foreign Affairs; and that the SADC representatives in the Committees of 15 Ministers of Foreign Affairs and 15 Ministers of Finance should regularly report to the SADC Council of Ministers on the specific issues relating to the AU Reform Process.

Council mandated the SADC Ambassadors accredited to the AU to constantly engage with the African Union Commission Chairperson and the Head of the Reform Implementation Unit; and directed Secretariat in consultation with SADC Ambassadors accredited to the AU, to submit regular reports highlighting areas that require further engagements and follow-up to SADC Council of Ministers.
In response to the outbreak of Listeriosis in the SADC Region, Council urged Member States to harmonize Prevention, Detection and Response procedures; strengthen the control of food industries in terms of compliance to food safety standards; and to enforce policies that are aligned to international codes.

Council further, urged Member States to strengthen cross border collaboration in the importation of processed foods; and to establish mechanisms for inter-sectoral and multi-sectoral coordination and effective communication to facilitate implementation of core public health capacities, all hazards risk assessment approach including addressing risk management for Listeriosis outbreak.

The SADC Council of Ministers was preceded by the meeting of the SADC Standing Committee of Senior Officials on 22 March 2018, and the meeting of the Finance Committee on 23 March 2018. The Council of Ministers oversees the functioning of SADC institutions and ensures that policies and decisions are implemented. The Council consists of ministers from each of the SADC Member States, usually from the ministries of foreign affairs, economic planning or finance, and meets twice a year.

New SADC Foreign Affairs Ministers welcomed at SADC Council

South Africa’s Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers, Hon. Dr Lindiwe Sisulu extended a special welcome to the SADC Foreign Affairs Ministers who were attending Council for the first time.

“Allow me to extend a special word of welcome to the following Foreign Ministers who are, like me, attending the Council meeting for the first time: Hon Minister, Mr Manuel Augusto of the Republic of Angola; Hon Minister, Mr Jose’ Pacheco of the Republic of Mozambique; Hon Minister, Mr Joseph Malanji of the Republic of Zambia; and Hon Minister, Retired Major General Dr Sibusiso Moyo of Republic of Zimbabwe,” Dr Sisulu said. The SADC Chair of Council also welcomed to the SADC family, the 16th new Member State, the Union of Comoros represented by the Honourable Minister, Mr Souf Mohamed El-Amin, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, who attended under observer status.
H.E Mokgweetsi E. K. Masisi is Botswana’s new President

By Letso S. Mpho

His Excellency President Mr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi became the 5th President of the Republic of Botswana on the 1st of April 2018. H.E Masisi ascended to the position of President following former President Lieutenant General Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama’s end of tenure after his 10 years’ rule.

The Constitution of the Republic of Botswana stipulates that a president is elected to a five-year term that runs concurrently with the term of the national Assembly, and since 1997, the country had endorsed a presidential limited term of a total of 10 years in office (equivalent to two full terms).

President Masisi served under the Khama administration, and is a renowned figure within the government enclave. His first appointment into position of power was in 2009 after winning his first Parliamentary Seat which after he was appointed Assistant Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration in October 2009.

He thereafter ascended to the position of Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration in 2011. He was also Minister of Education and Skills Development in 2014, subsequently became Vice President in the same year after winning the

Botswana’s leading party, Botswana Democratic Party’s chairpersonship.

President Masisi is a graduate from the Florida State University and has worked for the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). In his inauguration address he affirmed that he was taking up the presidency when Botswana “is faced with a myriad of challenges, such as unemployment, poverty, crime, HIV/AIDS, alcohol and drug abuse”, amongst others and vowed to address social ills swamping his nation as well as improving government efficiency to create job opportunities especially for the youthful population.

Masisi selected Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Mr. Slumber Tsogwane as Vice President of the Republic of Botswana, who is also currently the Botswana Democratic Party chairman. The two are expected to lead the ruling party in the next year’s general elections in October 2019.

The SADC Secretariat congratulated the new President of the Republic of Botswana and assured him that the Secretariat remained dedicated and committed to continue working with the Government and people of the Republic of Botswana in accelerating the regional integration agenda.
The Secretariat of SADC extended its deepest condolences to His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa of the Republic of South Africa, the Madikizela and Mandela families, and the people of the Republic of South Africa on the passing of Mrs. Winnie Madikizela Mandela, who died on 2nd April, 2018 at Milpark Hospital in Johannesburg.

In a message of condolence, the SADC Executive Secretary, Her Excellency Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax said "Winnie Madikizela Mandela was indeed one of the greatest heroines of the struggle against the repressive regime of the apartheid South Africa. Mrs. Winnie Madikizela Mandela represents a generation of courageous and fearless leaders who sacrificed and risked their lives to secure a better future for others. She was a female leader worth emulating".

Dr. Tax added; "Winnie Mandela will forever be remembered by all for enduring years of suffering and for standing up against repressive apartheid forces, even in dangerous times. The SADC Region is proud and fortunate to have shared the illustrious life of such a great African leader, the late Mrs. Winnie Madikizela Mandela, South Africa’s Mother of the Nation".

SADC Secretariat Mourns the late Winnie Madikizela Mandela

The SADC Secretariat Monthly Newsletter Issue 3, March 2018

By Kelejwang Moichubedi

Dr. Tax meets Honourable Dr. Lt Gen(Rtd) Moyo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Zimbabwe

The SADC Executive Secretary, Her Excellency Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax met with Honourable Dr. Lieutenant General (Rtd) Sibusiso B. Moyo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Zimbabwe, on the 26 March 2018, in the margins of the SADC Council of Ministers meeting, in Pretoria, South Africa.

Honourable Moyo highlighted the vision of the new administration, in particular, the ongoing reforms geared towards the consolidation of the political transition and economic recovery in Zimbabwe. He stated that preparations for elections scheduled to take place this year were on course and that the country was looking forward to receiving technical support from SADC as and when required.

The Minister pledged support for SADC programmes and commitment to abide by SADC ideals, indicating that the industrialization agenda remains a key priority for Zimbabwe, in the quest to integrate SADC economies. For her part, Her Excellency Dr. Tax welcomed the Honourable Minister and informed him that the Secretariat was looking forward to working closely with him, as a member of the SADC Council of Ministers. Dr. Tax assured the Minister that SADC remains committed to support the Government and people of Zimbabwe. She pointed out that SADC Pre-elections Observation Mission was deployed to Zimbabwe in March 2018,
By Barbara Lopi

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the European Union (EU) held a Ministerial Political Dialogue in the margins of the SADC Council of Ministers meeting on 28 March 2018, in Pretoria, South Africa.

The meeting is in line with the Berlin Initiative launched in 1994, and marked 24 years since the commencement of the SADC-EU Dialogue.

The Meeting was co-chaired by Hon. Manuel Augusto, Foreign Affairs Minister of Angola and Chairperson of the SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, and Hon Deputy Prime Minister Ekaterina Zaharieva, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria - on behalf of the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Hlangusemphi, Hon. Minister of Economic Planning and Development of the Kingdom of Swaziland, outgoing Chair of SADC Council of Ministers, and H.E Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, Executive Secretary of SADC, accompanied by senior officials of the SADC Double Troika Member States, (South Africa, Namibia, Swaziland, Angola, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia), the SADC Secretariat, the European Union External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission (EC).

The Political Dialogue was opened by Hon. Augusto and Hon. Zaharieva, who highlighted the importance of the Dialogue in building a common understanding and reinforcing cooperation between the two regions. The two sides reiterated their commitment to pursuing a comprehensive and broad dialogue, with the aim of establishing and maintaining a constructive and enduring partnership at global, African and regional levels.

The meeting recognized the importance of achieving a modern and relevant partnership, ready to address emerging and evolving issues including global governance, trade, migration, climate change, resilience and the environmental/security nexus, and recommitted themselves to effective multilateralism including rules based trade relations.

They reaffirmed their continuing commitment to achieve consolidated, sustainable and inclusive growth to create jobs, and endorsed the focus by SADC on industrialization, the development of value chains and infrastructure development - with a clearly defined role for the private sector - as key pillars to sustainable growth and development.

The meeting discussed the development of an EU-funded programme Strengthening Institutional Mechanisms for Migration Management in the Southern Africa Region’ whose objective is to promote legal and regular migration and tackle irregular migration, taking into account the development-security-migration nexus, and also identifying positive
spill-over effects of migration on regional integration and regional economic development. This is in line with the initiative for the development of a comprehensive SADC Migration Policy Framework to harmonise and better coordinate the implementation of relevant regional programmes and activities which is currently being pursued in the context of the Regional Action Plan on Irregular and Mixed Migration that was adopted at the last Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa held in Swaziland in August 2017.

Meanwhile, SADC welcomed the announcement by the European Union to adopt a €15 million new programme for Support to Peace and Security in the region including capacity building of a number of key institutions under the umbrella of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation. The programme was endorsed as an important contribution to strengthening conflict prevention, mitigation and resolution as well as promoting and maintaining democratisation across the region, notably through the deployment of long term election observation missions.

The two sides discussed the political and security situation in the region; the importance of supporting a national dialogue process in the Kingdom of Lesotho, aimed at securing an inclusive consensus on reforms; the elections scheduled to take place during the year in Zimbabwe, Madagascar and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); and emphasised their joint commitment to enhancing democratic processes, focusing on achieving inclusive, credible and transparent elections in a conducive political environment including full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

and that SADC will observe elections in Zimbabwe in line with SADC principles. H.E. Dr. Tax further thanked Zimbabwe for championing the Industrialization agenda during their Chairmanship in 2014, and said a tremendous progress has since been recorded as evidenced by the job done in developing the costed action plan and profiling value chains in mining, pharmaceuticals and agro-processing sectors.
Ms. Moono Mupotola (left) and Dr. Tax

**By Kelejwane Moichubedi**

The African Development Bank Director for Regional Integration Ms. Moono Mupotola met with the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax on the 24th March 2018, in the margins of the SADC Council of Ministers meeting, in Pretoria, South Africa.

The meeting took stock of progress being made in the implementation of agreed actions between the Secretariat and the African Development Bank, following the Aide Memoire signed in February 2018, where the Bank agreed to among other things, support SADC in the identification and categorization of priority projects from SADC’s Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan, development of bankable value chains projects, development of financial instruments, and Operationalization of the SADC Regional Development Fund.

Her Excellency Dr. Tax, while appreciating progress made thus far, emphasised the necessity for SADC Member States to see the benefits of their membership to the African Development Bank, through among others, the implementation of tangible regional projects, which will contribute to socio-economic development of SADC economies. She also called upon the Bank to help expand the capacity of the Development Finance Institutions in Member States given their role in project preparation and resource mobilisation.

In her response, Ms. Mupotola acknowledged the list of infrastructure projects received from the SADC Secretariat and reiterated the Bank’s commitment to provide technical support to identify, prioritise and develop infrastructure and value chain projects in order to develop them to bankability, and to also identify various financial instruments for use by Member States to mobilise resources.

Furthermore, Ms. Mupotola informed the SADC Executive Secretary about the upcoming Africa Investment Forum to be organised by the Bank scheduled for November 2018, in South Africa. Both parties agreed that the forum will offer opportunity to mobilise resources for some of the SADC priority projects, and in this regard agreed to work together.

**Youths call for increased role in DRR**

*By Innocent Mbvundula & Liwakala Mudengi*

Youth representatives at the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Conference held in Pretoria, South Africa on 26-28 March, 2018 called for an increased role of young people in DRR initiatives in the SADC Region.

One of the youth representatives, Odwa Nsika Mtebu from the Republic of South Africa who is currently working as SADC Youth Volunteer under the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY), the UN General Assembly space for children and youth to contribute to and engage in certain intergovernmental and allied policy processes at the UN, said the youth have the potential to contribute to the reduction of disaster risks, owing to their ability to harness innovation, creativity and energy to further the development agenda.

Mtebu said the youth have social networks that can be used productively to reach a large and scattered group of people across social, cultural and political divide. He cited the uptake of social media by the youth as an opportunity that can be effectively used to mobilise society and the youth in particular, to enhance programmes aimed at reducing disaster risks.

*to page 10*
Ms Shriliv Mohur, a Global Youth Ambassador from Mauritius under United Nations MGCY said the youth stand ready and eager to be the agents of change in the area of DRR, recognizing that frequent climate induced disasters are making lives and livelihoods very vulnerable.

As one way of mobilising the youth in disaster risk reduction initiatives, Ms. Mohur cited as an example, the creation of Apps for disaster notification which is easily accessible on smartphones by the younger generation as well as educate Children and Youth on DRR Resilience to secure the future of upcoming generation.

Adding her voice to the importance of youth participation in DRR, a youthful Civil Engineer working in the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities in Mauritius, Ms. Priya Devi Rambojun Geerum said, as a young Engineer, every time she looks at infrastructure, she thinks of designs and quality of the infrastructure that can withstand adverse weather conditions and disaster risks. She said mainstreaming DRR in the education system, including in the Engineering field can go a long way in reducing disaster risks.

Stakeholders at the SADC Regional DRR Conference committed themselves to promoting the inclusion of the youth in the design and implementation of integrated approaches for disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development.

South Africa hosts 2018 SADC Quality Awards

By Innocent Mbevundula

The Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in collaboration with the South African Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) on 14th March, 2018 hosted the 8th SADC Quality Awards at the Emperors Palace in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The SADC Quality Awards were endorsed by the SADC Ministers of Trade in 2010 to raise awareness on the quality infrastructure in the SADC Region. The Awards have been presented since 2011 to business entities in recognition of their outstanding performance in successfully implementing quality standards in their business operations. Speaking at the presentation of the Awards, the Chief Director in the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for South Africa, Dr Tshenge Demana congratulated winners of the 2018 SADC Quality Awards for their dedication to the norms of quality systems and conformity assessment procedures.

Dr Demana said a highly developed and robust technical infrastructure is an essential prerequisite for the goods and services of the SADC Region and Africa, as a whole, to have access to the international markets through compliance to the global quality principles.
South Africa hosts 2018 SADC Quality Awards

Through a video message, the Director of Industrial Development and Trade (IDT) at the SADC Secretariat, Mr Tapiwa Samanga also congratulated the entrants and winners, saying he was encouraged by the diversity of the winners both in scope of businesses and in geographical spread throughout the SADC region.

Mr Samanga said the Annual Quality Awards give SADC an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the business entities in the region that have successfully applied quality principles in their daily operations. He underscored the need and importance of standardisation to support the attainment of the SADC Industrialisation agenda, particularly in the operationalisation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063.

“As we strive towards industrialisation, regional and continental integration and increased trade among ourselves, it is important that issues of quality are mainstreamed in every aspect of business operations and processes,” said Mr Samanga, adding that improved standards will lead to the reduction of technical barriers to trade, and encourage more domestic and foreign investment into the SADC regional value chains.

The Chairman of the Judging panel, Mr Cyprian Mokhoro said the 2018 SADC Quality Awards attracted an increased number of entries and participation from more SADC Member States than in previous years. He interpreted that to mean that the competition was gaining popularity due to the marketing opportunity that it presents to the winning companies. The Member States whose business entities are on the winning list are; the Kingdom of Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa, Kingdom of Swaziland and Zimbabwe as follows;

- Thatha Ubeke Manufacturing of South Africa - Company of the Year - Large Enterprise
- Schweppes Limited of Zimbabwe - Product of the Year-Large Enterprise
- Baharan Lda of Mozambique - Product of the Year-SME
- Swaziland Railway of Swaziland - Service of the Year -Large Enterprise
- Botho University -Lesotho Campus - Service of the Year-SME
- Aerosud Proprietary Limited of South Africa - Exporter of the Year-Large Enterprise
- ZimTrade of Zimbabwe - Company of the Year- SME
- Baharan Lda of Mozambique - Product of the Year-SME

The awards presentation ceremony was supported by the international cooperation agency of the Federal Republic of Germany, Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB).

The event was graced by, among others, leaders of delegation from SADC Member States representing trade and industry ministries, officials from South Africa Department of Trade and Industry and participants of the SADC Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Cooperation Structures Annual Meetings representing TBT Institutions of the SADC region.
The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat in collaboration with its strategic partners; the Sustainable Infrastructure Foundation (SIF) and Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), convened a capacity building workshop on the SOURCE software from the 28 -29 March 2018 in Ebene, Mauritius.

On the 26th March 2018 the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sustainable Infrastructure Foundation (SIF), Mr. Christophe Dossarps, first held a Train the Trainers session on the SOURCE Software, assisted by the Trainers from SADC Secretariat and DBSA. The session was also attended by officers from the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) Agency.

The Workshop was the first of its kind as Mauritius was the first SADC Member State who requested the SADC Secretariat for such assistance.

In his keynote address, Mr. Reshad Jewon, a Member of the Procurement Policy Office (PPO) from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development of Mauritius, welcomed the Members. “Mauritius has been waiting for such an opportunity since receiving a recommendation in a report from a South African consultant to use SOURCE as a project management tool in the public sector in Mauritius” he said.

Speaking on behalf of the SADC Director of Infrastructure, the Acting Senior Programme Officer for Communications and ICT Dr. George Ah Thew emphasized that the Region needed a major stimulus and the right tool used by the right people, in order to realise more bankable Infrastructure projects for implementation to enable the Region to bridge the gap and meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2030 targets.

“The SIF SOURCE which has now become the Global Standard for Project Preparation is the solution that the Region has been waiting for and its exposure to the Multi-Lateral Development Banks (MDBs), will take the Region’s pipeline of projects to a wider market for financing,” he said.

The SIF SOURCE software is a free, cloud-based software as a service (SAS) and an advanced project preparation solution, which provides support to Governments and its agencies in improving infrastructure project bankability, quality and delivery, in strengthening their technical capacities and abilities to manage risks and maximize their financial options. Simply, SOURCE provides the public sector with a vital infrastructure project preparation tool, a project selection, coordination, financing, funding, promotion, and monitoring tool.

SOURCE was developed by the Sustainable Infrastructure Foundation (SIF), a Swiss Foundation based in Geneva, Switzerland. This software was developed as a result of G20 Leaders wish to bridge the global infrastructure gap and facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development. They requested the Multi-Lateral Development Banks (MDBs) to develop a tool that would serve as a Global Knowledge Platform that provides its users with Project Preparation Best Practices by collecting and aggregating the Standards and returns of experience that are developed by public and private Infrastructure professionals globally.

The development of SOURCE started in 2010 by the Asian Development Bank (AsDB) and was globally launched on the 27th January 2016 and is now used by at least 43 Governments. It has already become the Global standard for Infrastructure Project Preparation!

At the conclusion of the Workshop on the SOURCE Software, participants received their Certificates of Participation. Mauritius will prepare a detailed report for submission to the SADC Secretariat which may assist in enhancing the delivery of this capacity building initiative on the SIF SOURCE Software. Similar workshops are planned to be convened in Mozambique, Zambia and Swaziland. The SADC Secretariat Team was composed of Dr. George Ah-Thew, Mr. Ahid Maeresera, SADC Infrastructure Technical Expert and Mr. Robin Unuth, the Head of ICT.
SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre attends the Svalbard Global Seed Vault 10th Anniversary & deposits plant genetics

By Justify Shava

February 2018 marked ten years since the establishment of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. During the same month, deposits of accessions at the Svalbard from all over the world including from the SADC region surpassed One million.

To mark and celebrate this milestone achievement, the Crop Trust and the NordGen, organised the 10th Anniversary Celebrations of establishment of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault to which the SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC) as a global player in conservation of plant genetic resources was invited. The Head of SPGRC, Mr Justify Shava, joined the world’s plant genetic resources community and donors in celebrating the establishment and the 10th anniversary of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault where he deposited samples of Sorghum (Sorghum bicolor) and Maize (Zea mays) on the foundation stone.

Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) are a key component in the food security value chain of the Southern African Development Community. Apart from providing food and nutrition to the majority of the SADC population, the region’s plant genetic resources are a rich source of valuable novel genes making it a key ingredient in the crop improvement industry of the region and the entire world with all its downstream industries. Through the SPGRC, SADC promotes and coordinates the conservation of plant genetic resources in the region and provide a safe facility for the storage of the region’s plant genetic resources based in Lusaka, Zambia.

To provide insurance against unforeseen disasters and ensure continuity for the conservation program of the region, the SPGRC keeps duplicates of all the plant genetic resources material kept at the SPGRC at the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. The Svalbard Global Seed Vault is located in the Svalbard Archipelago on the Spitsbergen Islands in the town of Longyearbyen located within the Arctic Circle, about 1 050 KM from the North Pole. The Spitsbergen Islands are safe with remote chances of being affected by political upheavals and other natural disasters making the place one of the safest places in the world to establish a global genebank. In addition, the Islands are permafrost with average annual temperatures of – 20°C. With the genbank strategically located underground in a disused coal mine, ever sub-zero temperature conditions reduce the need for artificial energy to keep the PGR material viable for very long periods of time.

SADC Secretariat Monthly Newsletter Issue 3, March 2018

13
Southern African Pesticides Regulators Forum agree to develop a regional strategy on Highly Hazardous Pesticides

By Esaiah Tjelele

The SADC Sub-committee to the Plant Protection Technical Committee named Southern African Pesticides Regulators Forum (SAPReF) convened a workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa from the 5 - 9 March, 2018 where they resolved to develop a regional strategy on Highly Hazardous Pesticides. The workshop was a collaborative work between the Food, and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Regional Office for Southern Africa, Swedish Chemical Agency (KEMI) and University of Cape Town (UCT).

The workshop was convened on the understanding that the agricultural sector is one of the major consumers of pesticides in the fight against pests and diseases. The use of pesticides contributes significantly to the improvement of the agricultural productivity, especially in the management of pests and diseases. Although the pesticides play such a crucial role in the performance of the agricultural sector, their use needs great consideration for both human and animal health as well as the environment.

The SAPReF workshop was convened to build capacity of SADC Member States to judiciously use pesticides in accordance of internationally recognized frameworks. It was noted that during the Fall armyworm (FAW) outbreak some farmers used pesticides that are not registered as well as mixtures that may be toxic and contribute to the contamination and integrity of the environment.

The meeting was also an opportunity for Member States to provide an update on the status of Fall armyworm. The reports indicated a continued spread and damage caused by the pests in all Member States with an exception of Lesotho and Mauritius which are not affected by the pest in the region.

The workshop was conducted through presentations made by experts from UCT and FAO. Other presenters included experts from Rotterdam Convention and (KEMI). This was an opportunity for participants to share and exchange ideas and experiences on the management of chemicals.

The FAO and KEMI committed to providing support to the development of the regional strategy on Highly Hazardous Pesticides. The participants agreed to further implement the acquired skills on the registration of pesticides focusing on bio-pesticides and botanicals as low risk pesticides in their respective countries.

Registration is a process undertaken at national level to allow use and selling of a pesticide.
Southern African Pesticides Regulators Forum

Among the areas that guide registration the following are important in the registration of low risk pesticides:

- Efficacy of the pesticides
- Human health and environmental risk assessment,
- Availability of alternatives to the pesticides to be registered, and the
- Cost implications inherent in the application of the pesticides

Member States managed to develop their own action plans that would form the basis to implement the skills acquired during the training. The developed workplans were also focusing on ways to improve coordination and effective engagement of all stakeholders at national level. In his closing remarks, the SAPReF chairperson Mr. Loitseng Sebetwane thanked all for making the workshop a success and requested all delegates to make strict follow-up and implement the resolutions and workplans respectively for the benefit of the farming communities.

Ownership of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault deposited plant genetic material resides with the depositors who can claim their material whenever a need arises. By depositing the SADC region’s plant genetic resources at the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, the SADC ensures that the region’s plant genetic resources are safeguarded against common natural and humanmade risks like political upheavals, fires, extreme weather conditions etc., guaranteeing safe storage forever and accessibility whenever there is need by the owners (Member States).
SmartFish Programme holds its last Fish Trade and Development Event in Mauritius

By Dr Motseki Hlatshwayo & Dr Sunil Sweenarain

The SmartFish Programme on 15-17 March 2018 held the Fish Trade and Development Event under the theme; Making money through small-scale fisheries in Bambous, Republic of Mauritius as part of the Programme’s last events before it comes to an end in April 2018.

The Fish Trade and Development Event brought together scientists, government officials, development practitioners, and the private sector represented by small-scale fishers and fish farmers, fish processors and fish traders to discuss and showcase some of the highlights of the programme while also providing a platform for networking among these sector operators.

The event identified the need to create a better enabling environment for fish trade in the SADC region as the trade has a huge potential to improve food and nutrition security of the people as well as its potential to reduce poverty, owing to the fact that the majority of women fish processors and traders are found across the South West Indian Ocean (SWIO) countries, including SADC, and they play a key role in the small-scale fisheries value chains of both freshwater and marine fish species, some of which are traded within the SADC region.

Through various exhibitions from fishers, fish farmers, fish processors and traders, the Fish Trade and Development event highlighted the successes that the SmartFish Programme has made in, among others, promoting processed fish and highly value-added fish products.

For instance, in Zambia, through the SmartFish Programme, women processors showed that they have found ways of adding value to their products, by creating different fish products which have niche markets in Zambia, and have also been marketed in other countries in the region. Their products, include fish sausages, fish burgers, fish crackers, fish mince and fish powder which is normally used as a protein supplement for most cereal-based diets.

Through various exhibitions from fishers, fish farmers, fish processors and traders, the Fish Trade and Development event highlighted the successes that the SmartFish Programme has made in, among others, promoting processed fish and highly value-added fish products.

The event also highlighted the important role that fish plays in promoting regional economic integration, and the need to further develop fish value chains.

Dr Motseki Hlatshwayo is a Technical Advisor-Fisheries in FANR, SADC Secretariat

Dr Sunil Sweenarain is a Coordinator for SmartFish Programme based at IOC Secretariat
The SmartFish Programme whose main objective was to support the implementation of a Cross-Regional Fisheries Strategy for the Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean (EA-SA-IO) region comes to an end at the end of April 2018 and will be replaced by a new programme called €COFISH.

The objective of the €COFISH Programme is to enhance the contribution of Sustainable Fisheries to the Blue Economy of the EA-SA-IO region and it is aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular the eradication of poverty, improvement of nutritional and food security and the conservation of marine biodiversity. The Programme is also in line with the proposed SADC Blue Economy Initiative as prioritised in the SADC revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063. SmartFish programme which was funded by the European Union (EU) through the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) was implemented in two phases (March 2011-March 2014 and 2015-2018). Among other activities, the Programme addressed issues of fisheries management and governance, monitoring control and surveillance (MCS), fish trade and food security in the EA-SA-IO region, mainly in the South West Indian Ocean (SWIO) and partly, inland waters of Eastern and Southern Africa. Among other achievements, the SmartFish Programme helped in the implementation of fisheries management planning, promotion of value chain approaches and support for infrastructure for marketing and value addition, including efforts to decrease post-harvest losses, as well as improved regulations for access by small-scale fishers.

For traders and producers, the SmartFish Programme helped to provide a platform to support networking and linkages between regional operators such as producers and traders through Trade and Development Events; promotion of intra and inter regional trade through development of Border Fish Inspection Manual and training of border fisheries inspectors to improve their roles in assessing food safety. The SmartFish Programme operated in the Union of Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Mozambique and South Africa were involved as members of SADC and through the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) framework.

Dr Motseki Hlatshwayo is a Technical Advisor- Fisheries in FANR, SADC Secretariat

Dr Sunil Sweenarain is a Coordinator for SmartFish Programme based at IOC Secretariat
Interview with Mr Clement Kalonga-Senior Programme Officer, Disaster Risk Reduction at the SADC Secretariat

The SADC Secretariat with support from the European Union in collaboration with the World Bank and the Republic of South Africa on 26 – 28 March 2018 hosted a three-day SADC Regional Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Conference in Pretoria, South Africa. Held under the theme; “Resilience for Sustainable Development” the objective of the conference was to review progress made by the SADC Regional DRR Programme towards the management of uncertainty, reducing vulnerability and building resilience for SADC Member States and communities in view of the global and regional frameworks that guide DRR, resilience and sustainable development.

After the conference, Innocent Mbwundula (IM) from the Communications and Public Relations Unit had an interview with Mr. Clement Kalonga (CK), Senior Programme Officer-Disaster Risk Reduction at the SADC Secretariat

IM: You have just successfully concluded a three-day SADC Regional DRR Conference, to what extent are disaster risks a challenge in the SADC Region?

CK: The SADC Secretariat recognizes the increasing frequency and impact of disasters in the SADC region coupled by the vulnerability context of the region exacerbated by climate change and variability, environmental degradation, rapid land uses changes and increasing urbanization. Such a context seriously affects livelihoods; threatens life and undermines the achievement of sustainable development including the unique context and specific vulnerability of the island states with the SADC region.

While the memories of the impact of the El Niño induced drought of 2015 and 2016 are still very fresh there are preliminary indications of reduced food production in selected Member States owing to dry spells that were experienced between December 2017 and February 2018. At the same time, some SADC Member States are also facing acute water shortages attributed to prolonged drought conditions. Other Member States are responding to impacts of floods and cyclones experienced during this season. So it very clear that disaster risks are high in the region and there is an urgent need all stakeholder to act to reduce these risk and building resilience

IM: During the conference, there was a discussion around involving women and the youth in DRR programmes, why is it critical in DRR?

CK: True, there was a call from the participants to promote mainstreaming of gender and the inclusion of the youth in DRR programmes, why is it critical in DRR?

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it is well documented that disasters affect women more than men, hence the need to bring women on the table when designing and implementing DRR initiatives.

IM: This Conference brought together a wide range of stakeholders, what are some of the commitments made by these stakeholders?

CK: At the end of the conference stakeholders committed to a number of priorities, among the key ones is the need to move from policy development to more action and also prioritizing disaster risk and climate change informed investments for sustainable development, enhancing the prevention of new and reducing existing disaster risks through the implementation of integrated and inclusive measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disasters and increase preparedness for response, recovery and reconstruction thereby strengthening resilience.

To ensure that there is evidence based impact, a commitment around the implementation of integrated monitoring and impact reporting at community, sub-national, national and regional levels of initiatives was made aimed at reducing existing disaster risk, hazard exposure and vulnerability to climate change and disasters coherent with Sustainable Development Goals’ Indicators.

IM: In the discussion, there was a constant reference to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, could you briefly explain what this Framework entails and what SADC is doing in this regard?

CK: The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 is a key global agreement on DRR within the post-2015 development agenda, with seven targets and four priorities for action. It was endorsed by the UN General Assembly following the 2015 Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDR). At the continental level, through the African Union Commission, to which SADC belongs, a dedicated Programme of Action (PoA) for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa was developed. This PoA is key guiding framework to SADC DRR programming and it seeks to achieve the global DRR outcome in Africa as outlined in the Sendai Framework: “The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.”

IM: This meeting was also well attended by representatives of SADC Member States, what take-home message did the Conference have for them?

CK: Based on the deliberations, SADC Member States were called to significantly increase the allocation of annual national budgets for disaster risk reduction specially to support local DRR actions, this in recognition that ultimately disasters are local events and that States have the primary responsibility to ensure safety of their people from impact of disasters. The conference equally had a key message for the donor partners and UN agencies to sustain the financial support to the SADC Secretariat to enable it to continue the role of facilitating and coordinating regional disaster risk reduction initiatives in the SADC Region. It was also felt that there is need to create a conducive environment for building and exchanging academic and research expertise and promote learning and continued professional education on disaster risk reduction in the SADC region.
The following have served as SADC Executive Secretaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Frederick Arthur Blumeris</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>1982 – 1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Simba Makoni</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>1984 – 1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Kaire Mbuende</td>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>1994 - 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Prega Ramsamy</td>
<td>Mauritius</td>
<td>2001 – 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Tomáz Augusto Salomão</td>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>2006 - 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>2013 - present</td>
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The SADC Secretariat has restructured. There are now 10 Directorates and 6 Stand-Alone units.

**Directorates:**
- Internal Audit and Risk Management
- Organ on Politics Defence and Security Affairs
- Policy Planning and Resource Mobilization
- Industrial Development and Trade
- Finance, Investment and Customs
- Infrastructure
- Social and Human Development
- Food Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Human Resources and Administration
- Finance

**Stand Alone Units**
- Communications & Public Relations
- Legal Services
- Procurement
- Information, Communication & Technology
- Gender
- Disaster Risk Reduction

**Location**
- SADC Secretariat Headquarters are located in Gaborone, Botswana in the Central Business District
In December 1991, the Constitution was amended to make Mauritius a Republic within the Commonwealth. Mauritius became a Republic on 12 March 1992, with the last governor general, Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo, as interim president. He was succeeded by Cassam Uteem on 30 June 1992. Dr. Navin Ramgoolam led a MLP-MMM coalition to victory at the 1995 general elections, replacing Sir Aneerood Jugnauth QC as Prime Minister, a post the latter had occupied for 13 years. The governing coalition split in 1997, with the MMM going back to the Opposition and Dr. Navin Ramgoolam staying on as prime minister. At the next elections in 2000, Sir Anerood Jugnauth's MSM, in coalition with Paul Bérenger's MMM was returned to power, with Sir Anerood Jugnauth QC appointed as Prime Minister.


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In 18 April 1980, Southern-Rhodesia gained independence from the British, taking the name Zimbabwe. The day marked the end of racial segregation. In the ninety year span that Zimbabwe was a colony, it was administered by the British South African Company (BSAC).

In 1965, Zimbabwe became autonomous and was led by a white segregationist government after Ian Douglas Smith made a Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) from Britain. This was after the British government had made majority rule a condition for the independence of Rhodesia from Britain. From June 1979, the Republic of Southern Rhodesia was replaced by Zimbabwe-Rhodesia after Abel Tendekayi Muzorewa won the first majority elections. Lacking international recognition, after about three months, the country was taken back into the hands of Britain, as per the Lancaster House Agreement which was meant facilitate transition. The country once again became a British colony known as Southern Rhodesia. In the April 1980 elections, Robert Mugabe, head of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) won the majority and became the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe.

Source: http://www.sahistory.org.za/dated-event/zimbabwe-an-independence-day
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBER STATE</th>
<th>HOLIDAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>3 April</td>
<td>Easter –variable Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4 April</td>
<td>Day of Peace and Reconciliation</td>
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<td>Botswana</td>
<td>02 April</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
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<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>01 April</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>7 April</td>
<td>Women's Day</td>
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<td>South Africa</td>
<td>27 April</td>
<td>National Day</td>
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<td>Swaziland</td>
<td>19 April</td>
<td>King's Birthday</td>
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<td></td>
<td>25 April</td>
<td>National Flag Day</td>
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<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>7 April</td>
<td>The Sheik Abeid Amani Karume Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26 April</td>
<td>Union Celebrations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>18 April</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
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