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SADC Mission

The SADC Mission Statement is to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development through efficient, productive systems, deeper cooperation and integration, good governance, and durable peace and security; so that the region emerges as a competitive and effective player in international relations and the world economy.

SADC Vision

The SADC Vision is to build a region in which there will be a high degree of harmonisation and rationalisation, to enable the pooling of resources to achieve collective self-reliance in order to improve the living standards of the people of the region.

The vision of SADC is one of a Common Future, a future within a regional community that will ensure economic well-being, improvement of the standards of living and quality of life, freedom and social justice and peace and security for the people of Southern Africa.

SADC Objectives

The main objectives of SADC are to achieve economic development, peace and security, and growth, alleviate poverty, enhance the standard and quality of life of the peoples of Southern Africa, and support the socially disadvantaged through Regional Integration. These objectives are to be achieved through increased Regional Integration, built on democratic principles, and equitable and sustainable development.





WELCOME MESSAGE BY H.E. MATAMELA CYRIL RAMAPHOSA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND HOST OF THE 46TH SUMMIT OF SADC HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

FELLOW HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT, Your Majesties, Distinguished Delegates and citizens from across our region,

It is with great honour that we welcome you to the Republic of South Africa, and to the city of eThekweni in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, a place of rich heritage, living history and enduring African spirit.

Here, along these shores, generations before us shaped a legacy of courage, resilience and renewal while laying the foundation for a nation state. This is a city where history is not confined to memory, but lives in the character of its people, their warmth, their strength and their abiding belief in a better future.

It is with deep pride and a profound sense of purpose that we gather as the Southern African Development Community. We are united not merely as sovereign nations, but as a family of peoples bound together by a shared past, common aspirations and a steadfast commitment to the advancement of human dignity and prosperity.

As the wisdom of this land reminds us, 'Umntu ngumuntu ngabantu', a person is a person through others. In this enduring dictum lies the essence of our community: that our destinies are interconnected and that our progress is realised through unity and cooperation.

We gather here under the aegis of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) not only to deliberate, but to affirm our common vision of a Southern Africa that is peaceful, inclusive, resilient and prosperous.

This 46th Summit of our Organisation convenes to take stock of the progress we have made and to reflect on the path that lies ahead under the theme: "Resilient, Sustainable and Inclusive Industrialisation through Infrastructure Development, Agricultural and Critical Minerals Transformation in Pursuit of a Just World."

This theme calls upon us to act with purpose and foresight. It challenges us to harness our natural endowments for sustainable economic transformation, unlock the potential of our people and invest in infrastructure that enables economic growth while ensuring that the wealth of our region translates into opportunity, dignity and shared prosperity for all.

We meet at a time when the global environment is marked by uncertainty and transition, where shifting geopolitical and economic realities demand clarity of purpose, firmness of resolve and unity of action. In such a moment, the strength of our region will be defined by our ability to act together in pursuit of our common goals.

The task before us is clear: we must deepen regional integration, strengthen intra-regional trade, invest in infrastructure, advance industrialisation and secure food systems that sustain our people. We must nurture the knowledge, skills and capabilities required to meet the demands of a changing world.

Stability, security and good governance are essential to the realisation of human potential. We are therefore called upon to strengthen our collective commitment to dialogue, cooperation and the peaceful resolution of conflict.

As we reflect on these responsibilities, we are reminded that the future of Southern Africa will be shaped not by circumstance, but by the choices we make together, choices guided by our shared values and common vision.

It is in this spirit that we welcome you to this Summit.

We invite all delegates to experience the warmth and generosity of the people of eThekweni. We invite you to enjoy the golden coastline and the warm Indian Ocean that have long made eThekweni a place of rest and renewal, and to immerse yourselves in the rich cultural traditions that define this province.

May your time here be both productive and enriching, as together we engage constructively in shaping a more resilient, inclusive and prosperous Southern Africa for the benefit of all our peoples.

Ngiyabonga! Thank you! Muito obrigado! Merci beaucoup! Asante sana!

H.E. MATAMELA CYRIL RAMAPHOSA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



MESSAGE DE BIENVENUE PRONONCEE PAR S.E. MATAMELA CYRIL RAMAPHOSA, PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE D'AFRIQUE DU SUD ET HOTE DE LA 46E REUNION DU SOMMET DES CHEFS D'ÉTAT ET DE GOUVERNEMENT DE LA SADC



EXCELLENCES CHEFS D'ÉTAT ET DE GOUVERNEMENT, Majestés, Distingués Délégués, Chers concitoyens de notre région,

C'est un immense honneur de vous accueillir en République d'Afrique du Sud, dans la ville de Thekwini, au cœur de la province du KwaZulu-Natal, une terre au riche patrimoine, chargée d'histoire et habitée par l'esprit immuable de l'Afrique.

Ici, le long de ces rivages, des générations nous ont précédés, façonnant notre pays, nous léguant en héritage le courage, la résilience et la volonté du renouveau, et posant les fondations d'un État-nation. Ici, dans cette ville, l'histoire ne se réduit pas aux archives de la mémoire, mais continue de vivre au quotidien dans la personnalité de ses habitants, leur chaleur, leur force et leur foi inébranlable en un avenir meilleur.

Nous sommes aujourd'hui très fier de voir la Communauté de développement de l'Afrique australe s'y réunir, investie d'un sens aigu de sa mission. Nous sommes unis non seulement en tant que nations souveraines, mais aussi comme une famille de peuples liés par un passé partagé, des aspirations communes et un engagement indéfectible en faveur du progrès, de la dignité humaine et de la prospérité.

« Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu » : ainsi que le rappelle la sagesse de cette terre, l'homme n'est homme que par les autres. Dans ce précepte intemporel réside l'essence même de notre communauté : nos destins sont interdépendants et notre progrès ne peut se réaliser que dans l'unité et la coopération.

Nous nous rassemblons ici en tant que la Communauté de développement de l'Afrique australe (SADC) à la fois pour délibérer, et pour réaffirmer notre vision commune d'une Afrique australe paisible, inclusive, résiliente et prospère.

Ce 46e Sommet de notre Organisation se réunit pour dresser le bilan des progrès accomplis et mener une réflexion sur la voie à suivre, autour du thème : Une industrialisation résiliente, durable et inclusive par le développement des infrastructures, la transformation agricole et la valorisation des minéraux critiques, pour un monde plus équitable

Ce thème nous appelle à agir avec détermination et prévoyance. Il nous oblige à mobiliser nos richesses naturelles au service d'une transformation économique durable, de libérer le potentiel de nos populations et d'investir dans des infrastructures qui stimulent la croissance et nous incite en même temps à veiller à ce que les richesses de notre Région ouvrent des possibilités et offrent dignité et prospérité partagée à tous.

Nous nous réunissons à un moment où l'environnement mondial est marqué par l'incertitude et les transitions, une époque où les mutations géopolitiques et économiques exigent de notre part une grande clarté dans nos intentions, une fermeté de résolution et une unité d'action. Dans de tels moments, la force de notre Région se mesurera à notre capacité à agir de concert pour atteindre nos objectifs communs.

La tâche qui nous attend est claire : nous devons approfondir l'intégration régionale, intensifier le commerce intrarégional, investir dans les infrastructures, faire progresser l'industrialisation et consolider des systèmes alimentaires capables de nourrir nos populations. Il nous incombe en outre de cultiver les connaissances, les compétences et les aptitudes requises pour répondre aux exigences d'un monde en mutation.

Par ailleurs, la stabilité, la sécurité et la bonne gouvernance sont indispensables à la réalisation du potentiel humain. Nous sommes donc appelés à renforcer notre engagement collectif en faveur du dialogue, de la coopération et du règlement pacifique des conflits.

Lorsque nous prenons la mesure de l'ampleur de ces responsabilités, nous gardons à l'esprit que l'avenir de l'Afrique australe ne sera pas dicté par les circonstances, mais bien par les choix que nous ferons ensemble, des choix guidés par nos valeurs partagées et notre vision commune.

C'est dans cet esprit que nous vous accueillons à la présente réunion du Sommet.

Nous invitons l'ensemble des délégués à découvrir la chaleur et la générosité des habitants de Thekwini. Nous vous invitons à apprécier ce littoral doré et les eaux chaudes de l'océan Indien, qui font depuis longtemps de Thekwini un lieu où il fait bon se reposer et se ressourcer, et nous vous invitons à vous imprégner des riches traditions culturelles qui caractérisent cette province.

Puisse votre séjour ici être à la fois productif et enrichissant, alors que nous nous engageons ensemble, de manière constructive, à façonner une Afrique australe plus résiliente, inclusive et prospère, pour le bien-être de tous nos peuples.

Ngiyabonga! Thank you! Muito obrigado! Merci beaucoup! Asante sana!

**S.E. MATAMELA CYRIL RAMAPHOSA
PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE D'AFRIQUE DU SUD**



INTERVENÇÃO DE BOAS-VINDAS DE SUA EXCELÊNCIA MATAMELA CYRIL RAMAPHOSA, PRESIDENTE DA SADC E PRESIDENTE DA REPÚBLICA DA ÁFRICA DO SUL, E ANFITRIÃO DA 46.ª CIMEIRA DE CHEFES DE ESTADO E DE GOVERNO DA SADC

EXCELÊNCIAS SENHORES CHEFES DE ESTADO E DE GOVERNO, Vossas Majestades, Distintos Delegados e cidadãos de toda a nossa região,

É com muita honra que damos as boas-vindas à República da África do Sul e à cidade de eThekweni, na província de KwaZulu-Natal, um local de rico património, história viva e espírito africano duradouro.

Aqui, ao longo destas margens, as gerações que nos antecederam moldaram um legado de coragem, resiliência e renovação, ao mesmo tempo que lançaram as bases para um Estado-nação. Esta é uma cidade onde a história não se limita à memória, mas vive no carácter do seu povo, no seu calor humano, na sua força e na sua convicção inabalável num futuro melhor.

É com grande orgulho e um profundo sentido de missão que nos reunimos enquanto Comunidade de Desenvolvimento da África Austral. Estamos unidos não apenas como nações soberanas, mas como uma família de povos conectados por um passado partilhado, aspirações comuns e um compromisso inabalável com a promoção da dignidade humana e da prosperidade.

Como nos lembra a sabedoria desta terra, «Umntu ngumuntu ngabantu», [uma pessoa só é pessoa através dos outros]. Nesta máxima intemporal reside a essência da nossa comunidade: que os nossos destinos estão interligados e que o nosso progresso se concretiza através da unidade e da cooperação.

Reunimo-nos aqui sob a égide da Comunidade de Desenvolvimento da África Austral (SADC) não apenas para deliberar, mas também para reafirmar a nossa visão comum de uma África Austral pacífica, inclusiva, resiliente e próspera.

Esta 46.ª Cimeira da nossa Organização reúne-se para fazer um balanço dos progressos alcançados e para reflectir sobre o caminho que temos pela frente, sob o tema: «Industrialização Resiliente, Sustentável e Inclusiva através do Desenvolvimento de Infra-estruturas e da Transformação dos Sectores Agrícola e dos Minerais Críticos, em prol de um Mundo Justo.»

Este lema apela a que tomemos medidas com determinação e visão de futuro. Este lema desafia-nos a aproveitar os nossos recursos naturais para uma transformação económica sustentável, a libertar o potencial da nossa população e a investir em infra-estruturas que possibilitem o crescimento económico, garantindo simultaneamente que a riqueza da nossa região se traduza em oportunidades, dignidade e prosperidade partilhada para todos.

Reunimo-nos num momento em que o contexto global é marcado pela incerteza e pela transição, em que as realidades geopolíticas e económicas em constante mudança exigem clareza de propósitos, firmeza de determinação e unidade de acção. Nesse momento, a força da nossa região será determinada pela nossa capacidade de agir em conjunto na prossecução dos nossos objectivos comuns.

A tarefa que temos pela frente é clara: temos de aprofundar a integração regional, reforçar o comércio intra-regional, investir em infra-estruturas, impulsionar a industrialização e garantir sistemas alimentares que sustentem a nossa população. Temos de cultivar os conhecimentos, as competências e as capacidades necessárias para responder às exigências de um mundo em constante mudança.

A estabilidade, a segurança e a boa governação são essenciais para a concretização do potencial humano. Somos, por isso, chamados a reforçar o nosso compromisso colectivo com o diálogo, a cooperação e a resolução pacífica dos conflitos.

Ao reflectirmos sobre estas responsabilidades, lembramo-nos de que o futuro da África Austral não será moldado pelas circunstâncias, mas pelas escolhas que fizemos em conjunto, escolhas orientadas pelos nossos valores partilhados e pela nossa visão comum.

É nesse espírito que vos damos as boas-vindas a presente Cimeira.

Convidamos a todos os delegados a conhecerem a cordialidade e a generosidade do povo de eThekweni. Convidamos a desfrutar da costa dourada e das águas quentes do Oceano Índico, que há muito fazem de eThekweni um local de descanso e renovação, e a mergulhar nas ricas tradições culturais que caracterizam esta província.

Que a vossa estadia aqui seja produtiva e enriquecedora, à medida que, em conjunto, nos empenhamos de forma construtiva na construção de uma África Austral mais resiliente, inclusiva e próspera, em benefício de todos os nossos povos.

Ngiyabonga! Thank you! Muito obrigado! Merci Beaucoup! Asante Sana!

SUA EXCELÊNCIA MATAMELA CYRIL RAMAPHOSA
PRESIDENTE DA REPÚBLICA DA ÁFRICA DO SUL



**MESSAGE BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF SADC,
H.E. PRESIDENT MATAMELA CYRIL RAMAPHOSA,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

17 AUGUST 2026



ON THIS SADC DAY 2026, I extend warm greetings to the people of Southern Africa.

I invite you all to celebrate this important moment of commemoration – a moment that belongs to us all, united by a shared history, common aspirations and a collective commitment to a better future.

Today, we celebrate Southern Africa itself – a region of vast landscapes where winter gives way to renewal; where the great waterways of the Zambezi, Limpopo and Okavango bind our nations across natural frontiers; and where wildlife moves in quiet harmony across borders.

I extend greetings to our Member States, our eminent special guests, international cooperating partners, private sector stakeholders and all who continue to advance the ideals of regional integration, unity and shared prosperity.

This year's commemoration coincides with the 46th SADC Summit, convening in the city of eThekweni, in the historic heartland of King Shaka kaSenzangakhona.

His legacy of leadership and statesmanship stands as a powerful reminder that unity, strategic foresight and collective strength have long shaped our region.

As we mark forty-six years since the founding of our community, we are reminded that our destinies are profoundly interconnected.

Our shared resilience – tempered through hardship and strengthened by adversity – continues to anchor our journey.

The theme of this year's SADC Summit is "Resilient, Sustainable and Inclusive Industrialisation through Infrastructure Development, Agricultural and Critical Minerals Transformation in Pursuit of a Just World."

This theme captures both the aspirations and the evolving capabilities of our region. It reflects our determination to advance industrialisation, strengthen food security, expand value addition and build modern, integrated infrastructure.

Above all, it affirms the principle that our development must be driven by our own resources, our own people and our own vision.

Regional integration is an indispensable instrument for economic transformation.

Trade is a catalyst for industrialisation, job creation and economic empowerment.

To unlock the full potential of intra-regional trade, we need to strengthen value chains, reduce non-tariff barriers, enhance trade facilitation and increase investment in productive sectors.

The future of Southern Africa depends on our collective ability to accelerate beneficiation, support small and medium-sized enterprises and create opportunities for our growing and dynamic youth population.

The African Continental Free Trade Area presents a historic platform to position SADC as a competitive, integrated and industrialised economic hub.

In a global environment marked by geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty, climate challenges and intensifying competition for strategic resources, the peoples of Southern Africa must deepen political cohesion and economic cooperation.

We are encouraged that our region remains defined by relative peace and stability, foundations that are essential for development and growth.

We extend our appreciation to the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, to the men and women who continue to put their lives in harm's way in our peace missions, and to all SADC institutions and personnel who work tirelessly to safeguard these gains.



Over the years, SADC has made meaningful progress across key sectors, reflecting the collective will of Member States to translate shared commitments into tangible improvements in the lives of our people.

As Chairperson of SADC, South Africa reaffirms its unwavering commitment to advancing this shared agenda in close partnership with all Member States.

Guided by SADC Vision 2050, the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020–2030 and the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap, our focus remains firmly on implementation, coordination and measurable impact.

In a rapidly changing world, it is essential that we deepen regional unity and cohesion, and project a coherent, collective voice in global affairs.

At its core, SADC is defined by its people – by their resilience, ingenuity and enduring hope for a better future.

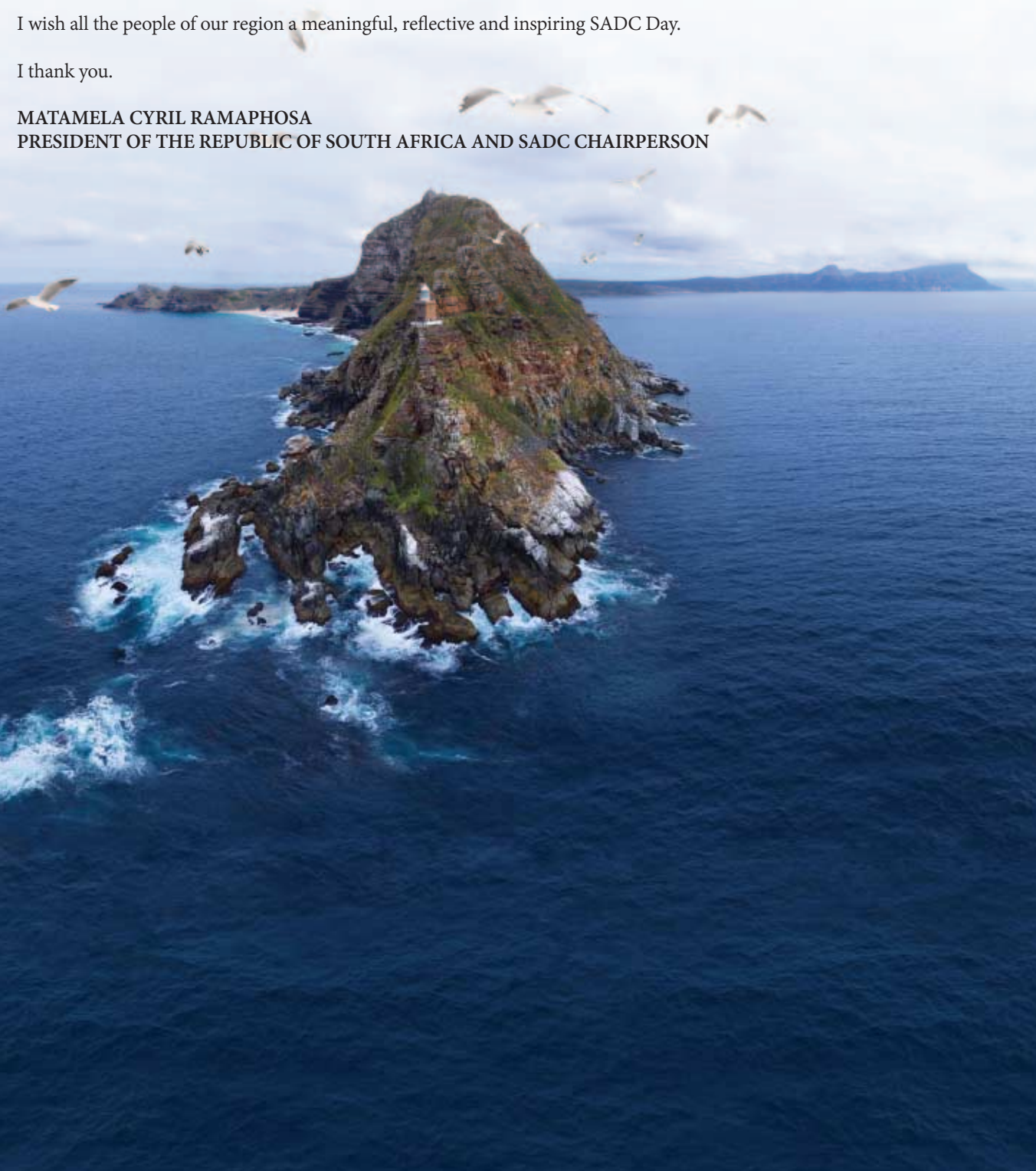
The true measure of our progress lies in the lived experiences of our citizens.

As we commemorate SADC Day 2026, I call upon all in our region to celebrate the enduring bonds that unite us and to renew our collective commitment to building a peaceful, integrated and prosperous Southern Africa.

I wish all the people of our region a meaningful, reflective and inspiring SADC Day.

I thank you.

MATAMELA CYRIL RAMAPHOSA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND SADC CHAIRPERSON





MESSAGE POUR LA JOURNÉE DE LA SADC DU PRÉSIDENT EN EXERCICE DE LA SADC, S. E. MATAMELA CYRIL RAMAPHOSA, PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'AFRIQUE DU SUD

LE 17 AOUT 2026



EN CETTE JOURNÉE DE LA SADC 2026, j'adresse mes salutations les plus chaleureuses aux citoyens de l'Afrique australe.

Je vous invite tous à participer à cette importante commémoration – un moment qui nous appartient à tous, unis par une histoire partagée, partageant des aspirations communes et un engagement collectif en faveur d'un avenir meilleur.

Aujourd'hui, nous célébrons l'Afrique australe elle-même : une Région aux vastes paysages, où l'hiver cède la place au renouveau, où les grands fleuves du Zambèze, du Limpopo et de l'Okavango relient nos nations par-delà les frontières naturelles, et où nos animaux sauvages traversent, en toute harmonie, un pays à l'autre.

J'adresse mes salutations à nos États membres, à nos éminents invités spéciaux, à nos partenaires internationaux de coopération, aux acteurs du secteur privé et à tous ceux qui continuent de faire progresser les idéaux d'intégration régionale, d'unité et de prospérité partagée.

Cette année, la commémoration de la Journée de la SADC coïncide avec la tenue de la 46^e réunion du Sommet de la SADC, qui se tient dans la ville de Thekwini, au cœur des terres historiques du Roi Shaka kaSenzangakhona.

L'héritage que nous a laissé le Roi en leadership et en gouvernance nous rappelle que l'unité, la prévoyance stratégique et la force collective façonnent notre Région depuis longtemps.

Nous marquons le quarante-sixième anniversaire de la fondation de notre communauté et à cette occasion, nous mesurons pleinement à quel point nos destins sont profondément liés.

Notre résilience commune, forgée dans les épreuves et renforcée par l'adversité, demeure le pilier de notre parcours.

Cette année, le Sommet de la SADC place ses délibérations sous le thème d'« Une industrialisation résiliente, durable et inclusive par le développement des infrastructures, la transformation agricole et la valorisation des minéraux critiques, pour un monde plus équitable », qui reflète à la fois les aspirations et les capacités grandissantes de notre Région.

Il exprime notre détermination à faire progresser l'industrialisation, à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire, à accroître la valeur ajoutée et à bâtir des infrastructures modernes et intégrées.

Ce thème réaffirme en particulier le principe selon lequel le développement au sein de notre communauté doit être porté par nos propres ressources, nos propres populations et notre propre vision.

Rappelons que l'intégration régionale est un instrument indispensable à la transformation économique.

Le commerce est un catalyseur d'industrialisation, de création d'emplois et d'autonomisation économique.

Pour réaliser le potentiel du commerce intrarégional, nous devons renforcer les chaînes de valeur, réduire les barrières non tarifaires, améliorer la facilitation des échanges et accroître les investissements dans les secteurs productifs.

L'avenir de l'Afrique australe dépend de notre capacité collective à accélérer la valorisation locale de nos ressources, à soutenir les petites et moyennes entreprises et à créer des opportunités pour notre jeunesse, population croissante et dynamique.

La Zone de libre-échange continentale africaine (ZLECAf) constitue une plateforme historique, permettant à la SADC de se positionner comme un carrefour économique compétitif, intégré et industrialisé.

Dans un environnement mondial marqué par des tensions géopolitiques, l'incertitude économique, les bouleversements climatiques et l'intensification de la concurrence pour les ressources stratégiques, les peuples d'Afrique australe doivent approfondir leur cohésion politique et leur coopération économique.

Nous nous réjouissons de constater que notre Région connaît une paix et une stabilité relatives, fondements essentiels au développement et à la croissance.

Nous sommes reconnaissants à l'Organe chargé de la coopération en matière de politique, défense et sécurité, aux hommes et aux femmes qui continuent de mettre leur vie en péril dans le cadre de nos missions de paix, ainsi qu'à toutes les institutions et au personnel de la SADC qui travaillent sans relâche pour préserver ces acquis.

Au fil des ans, la SADC a accompli des progrès significatifs dans des secteurs clés, reflétant la volonté collective des États membres de transformer leurs engagements partagés en améliorations concrètes dans la vie de nos populations.

En sa qualité de Président en exercice de la SADC, l'Afrique du Sud réaffirme son engagement indéfectible à faire progresser ce programme commun, en partenariat étroit avec tous les États membres.



Guidés par la Vision 2050 de la SADC, le Plan indicatif régional de développement stratégique (RISDP 2020-2030) et la Stratégie d'industrialisation de la SADC et sa feuille de route (2015-2063), nous maintenons fermement le cap sur la mise en œuvre et la coordination de mesures ainsi que l'obtention de résultats mesurables.

Dans un monde en mutation rapide, nous estimons indispensable d'œuvrer vers la consolidation de l'unité et de la cohésion régionales, et que nous nous fassions entendre d'une voix commune et cohérente dans les questions mondiales.

Au fond, la SADC est définie par ses citoyens, par leur résilience, leur ingéniosité et leur espoir inébranlable en un avenir meilleur.

C'est véritablement à l'aune du quotidien de nos citoyens que nous pouvons mesurer l'effet de nos progrès.

À l'occasion de la commémoration de la Journée de la SADC en 2026, j'appelle chacun dans notre Région à célébrer les liens indéfectibles qui nous unissent et à renouveler notre engagement collectif à bâtir une Afrique australe paisible, intégrée et prospère.

Je souhaite aux citoyens de notre Région une Journée de la SADC pleine de sens, de réflexion et d'inspiration.

Je vous remercie.

S. E. MATAMELA CYRIL RAMAPHOSA,
PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE D'AFRIQUE DU SUD





**MENSAGEM DO PRESIDENTE DA SADC, SUA EXCELÊNCIA O
PRESIDENTE MATAMELA CYRIL RAMAPHOSA,
PRESIDENTE DA REPÚBLICA DA ÁFRICA DO SUL,
POR OCASIÃO DO DIA DA SADC**

17 DE AGOSTO DE 2026



NESTE DIA DA SADC DE 2026, tenho o prazer de endereçar as minhas calorosas saudações ao povo da África Austral.

Convido-vos a todos a celebrar este importante momento de comemoração – um momento que pertence a todos nós, unidos por uma história partilhada, aspirações comuns e um compromisso colectivo rumo a um futuro melhor.

Hoje, celebramos a própria África Austral – uma região marcada por vastas paisagens onde o inverno dá lugar à renovação; onde os grandiosos cursos de água do Zambeze, do Limpopo e do Okavango unem as nossas nações para além das fronteiras naturais; e onde a vida selvagem circula em silêncio e harmonia por todo o lado, atravessando as fronteiras.

Estendo as minhas saudações aos nossos Estados-Membros, aos nossos ilustres convidados especiais, aos parceiros de cooperação internacionais, às partes interessadas do sector privado e a todos aqueles que continuam a promover os ideais da integração regional, da unidade e da prosperidade partilhada.

A comemoração deste ano coincide com a 46.^a Cimeira da SADC, que se realiza na cidade de eThekweni, no coração histórico do Rei Shaka kaSenzangakhona.

O seu legado de liderança e habilidade política constitui uma poderosa lembrança de que a unidade, a visão estratégica e a força colectiva têm, desde há muito, moldado a nossa região.

À medida que comemoramos os quarenta e seis anos desde a fundação da nossa comunidade, lembramo-nos de que os nossos destinos estão profundamente interligados.

A nossa resiliência comum — forjada pelas dificuldades e reforçada pela adversidade — continua a ser o pilar da nossa jornada.

O lema da Cimeira da SADC deste ano é «Industrialização resiliente, sustentável e inclusiva através do desenvolvimento de infra-estruturas e da transformação dos sectores agrícola e dos minerais críticos, em prol de um mundo justo.»

Este lema reflecte tanto as aspirações como as capacidades em constante evolução da nossa região.

reflecte a nossa determinação em promover a industrialização, reforçar a segurança alimentar, aumentar a agregação de valor e construir infra-estruturas modernas e integradas.

Acima de tudo, o lema reafirma o princípio de que o nosso desenvolvimento deve ser impulsionado pelos nossos próprios recursos, pelo nosso próprio povo e pela nossa própria visão.

A integração regional é um instrumento indispensável para a transformação económica.

O comércio é um catalisador da industrialização, da criação de emprego e do empoderamento económico.

Para explorar todo o potencial do comércio intra-regional, precisamos de reforçar as cadeias de valor, reduzir as barreiras não tarifárias, melhorar a facilitação do comércio e aumentar o investimento nos sectores produtivos.

O futuro da África Austral depende da nossa capacidade colectiva de acelerar o processo de valorização, apoiar as pequenas e médias empresas e criar oportunidades para a nossa população jovem, em crescimento e dinâmica.

A Zona de Comércio Livre Continental Africana constitui uma plataforma histórica para posicionar a SADC como um polo económico competitivo, integrado e industrializado.

Num contexto global marcado por tensões geopolíticas, incerteza económica, desafios climáticos e uma concorrência cada vez mais acirrada pelos recursos estratégicos, os povos da África Austral devem aprofundar a coesão política e a cooperação económica.

Somos encorajados pelo facto de a nossa região continuar a caracterizar-se por uma paz e estabilidade relativas, alicerces essenciais para o desenvolvimento e o crescimento.

Estendemos os nossos agradecimentos ao Órgão de Cooperação nas Áreas de Política, Defesa e Segurança, aos homens e mulheres que continuam a arriscar as suas vidas nas nossas missões de paz e a todas as instituições e ao pessoal da SADC que trabalham incansavelmente para salvaguardar estas conquistas.

Ao longo dos anos, a SADC tem vindo a registar progressos significativos em sectores-chave, o que reflecte a vontade colectiva dos Estados-Membros de traduzir os compromissos comuns em melhorias concretas na vida dos nossos povos.

Na qualidade de presidente da SADC, a África do Sul reafirma o seu compromisso inabalável em levar por diante esta agenda comum, em estreita parceria com todos os Estados-Membros.



Orientados pela Visão 2050 da SADC, pelo Plano Estratégico Indicativo de Desenvolvimento Regional (RISDP) 2020–2030 e pela Estratégia e Roteiro para a Industrialização da SADC, continuamos firmemente focados na implementação, na coordenação e no impacto mensurável.

Num mundo em constante mudança, é essencial que aprofundemos a unidade e a coesão regionais e que nos manifestemos de forma coerente e colectiva nos assuntos globais.

Na sua essência, a SADC define-se pelos seus povos – pela sua resiliência, engenhosidade e esperança inabalável por um futuro melhor.

A verdadeira medida do nosso progresso reside nas experiências vividas pelos nossos cidadãos.

Ao comemorarmos o Dia da SADC de 2026, apelo a todos na nossa região para que celebrem os laços duradouros que nos unem e renovem o nosso compromisso colectivo com a construção de uma África Austral pacífica, integrada e próspera.

Desejo a todos os povos da nossa região um Dia da SADC rico de significado, de reflexão e de inspiração.

Muito obrigado!

SUA EXCELÊNCIA O PRESIDENTE MATAMELA CYRIL RAMAPHOSA,
PRESIDENTE DA REPÚBLICA DA ÁFRICA DO SUL, POR OCASIÃO DO DIA DA SADC





His Excellency Dr. Patrick Herminie President of The Republic of Seychelles



DR. PATRICK HERMINIE was sworn into office, as the President of the Republic of Seychelles on 26th October 2025 during a public ceremony held at Stad Linite.

“Leadership, for me, is not about power - it is about service, empathy, and ensuring that every Seychellois can live with dignity and hope.”

Born on 22nd September 1963 at Baie Ste Anne on Praslin, Seychelles’ second largest island, Dr Herminie is the fourth of six children born to Louis Herminie, a dedicated police officer, and Christa Herminie (née Jules), a devoted homemaker and former seamstress.

Growing up in a modest, close-knit household, young Patrick learned the values of discipline, humility, and service to others-principles that would later define both his professional and political life.

Dr. Herminie pursued his early education at Seychelles College, then one of the country’s leading academic institutions. A Seychellois by nationality and a devoted Roman Catholic, Dr. Herminie is fluent in English, French, Creole, and Czech.

A diligent student and gifted sportsman, he excelled both in his studies and on the football field, captaining the Seychelles College football team in several inter-school tournaments. Upon completing his O-Levels and A-Levels, he pursued higher education at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, where he obtained his Doctorate in General Medicine in 1990.

Returning home in 1990, Dr. Herminie began his medical career as Medical Officer at Victoria Hospital where he rose through the ranks and was appointed Director of the Environmental Health Section at the Ministry of Health in 1995. That same year, he was awarded the prestigious Chevening Scholarship and subsequently completed a Master’s Degree in Public Health at the Nuffield Institute, University of Leeds, United Kingdom.

Throughout the late 1990s and early 2000s, Dr. Herminie held several key leadership roles within the Ministry of Health. To strengthen his expertise, he completed additional professional training, including: Training of Trainers in Epidemic Control – World Health Organization (Addis Ababa, 1997) and Certificate in Aviation Medicine – King’s College London (1998).

From 2016 to 2020, Dr. Herminie served as Secretary of State for the Prevention of Drug Abuse and Rehabilitation, spearheading national strategies for substance abuse prevention and rehabilitation services.

Dr. Herminie’s political journey began in 1992 when he was appointed as a Member of the Commission drafting the Constitution of the Third Republic. In 1993, he was elected Member of the National Assembly for the English River Constituency, a seat he would hold through several subsequent elections.

Between 1998 and 2007, he served as Leader of Government Business (Majority Leader) in the National Assembly. During this time, he was also a Member of the Central Committee of the Seychelles People’s Progressive Front (SPPF) from 1998 to 2010, later known as Parti Lepep and United Seychelles. He was elected Speaker of the 4th National Assembly in 2007, a position he held until 2011, and subsequently re-elected as Speaker of the 5th National Assembly from 2011 to 2016.

From 2015 to 2020, Dr. Herminie was a National Executive Committee Member of Parti Lepep/United Seychelles. In 2021, he was elected President of the United Seychelles Party, a role that marked a new phase of leadership and political renewal.

Dr. Herminie’s parliamentary and diplomatic leadership extended beyond national boundaries. In 2012, he was elected Chairperson of the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) – Africa Region, serving until 2013.

Between 2015 and 2016, he served as both Member of the Executive Committee of the SADC Parliamentary Forum and Chairperson of the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (International).

In 2017, he was appointed Chairperson of the Agency for the Prevention of Drug Abuse and Rehabilitation (APDAR), a role he held until 2020. Under his leadership, APDAR became a driving force in Seychelles’ national response to drug abuse and rehabilitation initiatives.

Beyond his distinguished career in medicine and politics, Dr. Herminie is a devoted husband and father. He and his wife Veronique, married since 1991, share two children, Venessa and Martin. – **State House, Office of the President of The Republic of Seychelles**





SADC MOURNS H.E MOGAE

THE PEOPLE and governments of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) received with profound sorrow and deep sadness the news of the passing of His Excellency Festus Gontebanye Mogae, Third President of the Republic of Botswana, on 8 May 2026 at the age of 86.

On behalf of the SADC Heads of State and Government and indeed the citizens of the SADC region, we extend our heartfelt condolences to Her Excellency Mrs. Barbara Gemma Mogae, former First Lady and the bereaved family, President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko, the Government and the people of the Republic of Botswana on this great loss.

His Excellency Former President Mogae was a distinguished statesman whose wisdom, humility, and commitment to peace, good governance, and health advocacy continue to inspire the SADC region and beyond.

His courageous and principled leadership in the development and deepening Public Health care and capacity to respond to the HIV and AIDS pandemic stands out as an example of high-level leadership and commitment to be remembered for generations to come.

President Mogae rallied the nation of Botswana in responding to the pandemic with compassion and resolve. His example inspired the nation and lifted SADC as a region. We remember him with gratitude and salute his remarkable contribution to public health.

His Excellency Mogae's unwavering commitment to democracy, good governance, and public service was recognised globally when he was awarded the prestigious Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership in 2008.

As Chairperson of SADC from August 2005 to August 2006, Former President Mogae provided exemplary leadership during a pivotal period in the organisation's history.

Upon assuming the Chairship of SADC at the 25th Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government in Gaborone, Botswana on 17th August 2005, he reaffirmed the collective resolve of SADC Member States to pursue the shared vision of prosperity through deeper regional integration.

On the margins of the 25th SADC Summit, the Silver Jubilee Summit commemorating 25 years of SADC's existence, President Mogae led his fellow SADC Heads of State and Government in laying a foundation stone to mark the commencement of the construction of the new SADC Headquarters, in Gaborone, Botswana. Today, the SADC Building, which President Mogae championed, remains a towering symbol of regional integration and cooperation of 16 SADC Member States and positioning SADC as key player in international relations and diplomacy.

Former President Mogae will be remembered as a firm advocate of opening borders to facilitate free movement of goods, services, and other factors of production in the SADC region. During President Mogae's tenure, the first cross-border conservation park in southern Africa was launched, the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. Through this important project SADC demonstrated that it is possible to share our resources for the advancement of our countries and to create a conducive environment to foster regional cooperation and integration.

May his legacy continue to inspire us as we work towards the attainment of the SADC Vision 2050 where all citizens enjoy sustainable economic well-being, justice and freedom.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Issued on behalf of SADC by

**HIS EXCELLENCY MR. MATAMELA CYRIL RAMAPHOSA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND
CHAIRPERSON OF SADC**



SADC | VISION 2050

A peaceful, inclusive, competitive, middle- to high-income industrialised region, where all citizens enjoy sustainable economic well-being, justice and freedom

Une région industrialisée pacifique, inclusive et compétitive, à revenu moyen ou élevé, où tous les citoyens jouissent d'un bien-être économique durable, de justice et de liberté

Uma região industrializada pacífica, inclusiva, competitiva, de média a alta renda, onde todos os cidadãos desfrutam de bem-estar económico sustentável, justiça e liberdade

Cross Cutting Issues/ Questions transversales/ Questões Transversais

Gender, Youth, Environment and Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management

Genre, jeunesse, environnement et changement climatique, et gestion des risques de catastrophes

Género, Juventude, Meio Ambiente e Mudanças Climáticas e Gestão de Riscos de Desastres



Industrial Development and Market Integration

Développement industriel et intégration des marchés

Desenvolvimento Industrial e Integração de Mercado



Infrastructure Development in Support of Regional Integration

Développement des infrastructures à l'appui de l'intégration régionale

Desenvolvimento de Infraestrutura de Apoio à Integração Regional



Social and Human Capital Development

Développement du capital social et humain

Desenvolvimento do Capital Social e Humano



Peace, Security, and Good Governance

Paix, sécurité et bonne gouvernance

Paz, Segurança e Boa Governança





Southern Africa enters the 46th Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government with renewed confidence, determination and a shared vision for a prosperous future. At a time when the global landscape is being reshaped by evolving geopolitical dynamics, rapid technological advancement, climate-induced vulnerabilities and widening economic and development inequalities, the SADC region continues to demonstrate resilience and purpose. These global transitions also present opportunities for regions that are united, prepared, coordinated, innovative and forward-looking.

This year's Summit theme – Resilient, Sustainable and Inclusive Industrialisation Through Infrastructure Development, Agricultural and Critical Minerals Transformation in Pursuit of a Just World – reflects the ambition, and collective resolve of our Community.

Industrialisation remains the heart of SADC's regional integration agenda and development agenda. Guided by the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063), Member States are making strides in developing productive capacity, strengthening regional value chains and leveraging the region's abundant natural and human resources to drive inclusive growth.

Across the region, industrial parks, special economic zones and manufacturing hubs are emerging as centres of innovation, and job creation. Supported by improved trade facilitation, harmonised standards, and coordinated investment promotion, these initiatives and positioning SADC as an increasingly competitive and integrated production and investment destination.

Infrastructure development remains central to this vision. Reliable energy systems, efficient transport corridors, digital connectivity and sustainable water infrastructure are essential enablers of industrial growth and regional competitiveness. Over the past year, notable progress has been achieved in implementing priority projects under the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan. Advances in regional power interconnections, transport corridors, ports and railways, and digital infrastructure and strengthening connectivity are expanding opportunities for trade and investment. Strategic corridors, including the North-South, Beira, Lobito, Nacala, and Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Development Corridors continue to drive economic integration and unlock new opportunities across the region. At the same time, investments in renewable energy, including solar, wind and green hydrogen initiatives, helping to close the energy access gap while supporting a sustainable and climate-resilient future.

Agriculture remains the livelihood foundation for millions of our citizens and its transformation is essential for inclusive development. SADC has continued to implement the Regional Agricultural Policy and the SADC Food and Nutrition Security Strategy, focusing on climate-smart agriculture, improved seed systems and strengthened early warning mechanisms.

The region has expanded its work on transboundary pest management, water-efficient irrigation technologies and market access for smallholder farmers. The SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre has played a critical role in coordinating responses to climate-related shocks, including droughts and floods that have affected several Member States. These efforts are helping to build a more resilient agricultural sector capable of supporting agro-processing, reducing food imports, and strengthening regional food systems.

The global shift towards clean energy has placed Southern Africa's critical minerals at the centre of new economic possibilities. The region holds some of the world's most important deposits of lithium, cobalt, nickel, manganese and rare earth elements – minerals essential for batteries, electric vehicles and renewable technologies. SADC is working to ensure that this endowment becomes a catalyst for industrialisation rather than a source of extraction without development. Through the SADC Protocol on Mining, Member States are strengthening governance frameworks, promoting local beneficiation and encouraging responsible investment that creates jobs, transfers technology and supports community development. The establishment of regional value chains in battery minerals and green industrial technologies is no longer aspirational; it is underway.

Underlying these efforts is SADC's commitment to a just world, one in which development is inclusive, equitable and sustainable. The region continues to advocate for fairer global financial architecture, climate justice and multilateralism that reflects the needs and aspirations of developing countries. SADC's coordinated positions in continental and global forums, including the African Union, the United Nations, and the G77, reflect our belief that no nation or region should be left behind in the global transition.

Our progress is anchored in peace, stability and democratic governance. SADC's mediation, election observation and security cooperation mechanisms continue to safeguard the region's stability, enabling Member States to focus on development. The consolidation of peace in several Member States, alongside ongoing efforts to address emerging security threats, demonstrates the strength of our collective security architecture.

As we gather in South Africa for the 46th SADC Summit, we do so with renewed confidence in the region's capacity to shape its own destiny. The achievements highlighted in this Brochure reflect the dedication of our Member States, the resilience of our citizens and the unwavering commitment of SADC institutions to regional integration. The path ahead demands even greater cooperation, innovation and solidarity. By deepening industrialisation, expanding infrastructure, transforming agriculture, and harnessing critical minerals for development, SADC is laying the foundation for a prosperous, inclusive and just future.

I extend my appreciation to the Government and people of South Africa for hosting this Summit, and to all Member States and partners for their continued support to the SADC integration agenda. Together, we will continue to build a region that is resilient, competitive and united in its pursuit of shared prosperity.

It is my hope that you find this publication very useful. I am pleased to share with you the 46th SADC Summit brochure, and I wish to express my very special gratitude to our knowledge partner, the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), for their dedicated work in preparing this publication.



H.E. Elias Mpedi Magosi
SADC Executive Secretary



L'Afrique australe entame le 46e Sommet ordinaire des chefs d'État et de gouvernement avec une confiance renouvelée, une détermination affirmée et une vision commune d'un avenir prospère. À l'heure où le paysage mondial est transformé par l'évolution des dynamiques géopolitiques, les progrès technologiques rapides, les vulnérabilités induites par le changement climatique et l'aggravation des inégalités économiques et de développement, la région de la SADC continue de faire preuve de résilience et de détermination.

Ces transitions mondiales offrent également des opportunités aux régions unies, préparées, coordonnées, innovantes et tournées vers l'avenir. Le thème du Sommet de cette année – « Une industrialisation résiliente, durable et inclusive par le développement des infrastructures, la transformation agricole et la valorisation des minéraux critiques, pour un monde plus équitable » – reflète l'ambition et la détermination collective de notre communauté.

L'industrialisation reste au cœur du programme d'intégration régionale et du programme de développement de la SADC. Guidés par la stratégie et la feuille de route de la SADC en matière d'industrialisation (2015-2063), les États membres réalisent des progrès significatifs dans le développement des capacités de production, le renforcement des chaînes de valeur régionales et la mise à profit des ressources naturelles et humaines abondantes de la région, afin de favoriser une croissance inclusive. Dans toute la région, les parcs industriels, les zones économiques spéciales et les pôles manufacturiers émergent comme des centres d'innovation et de création d'emplois. Soutenues par une facilitation accrue des échanges commerciaux, des normes harmonisées et une promotion coordonnée des investissements, ces initiatives positionnent la SADC comme une destination de production et d'investissement de plus en plus compétitive et intégrée.

Le développement des infrastructures reste au cœur de cette vision. Des systèmes énergétiques fiables, des corridors de transport efficaces, une connectivité numérique et des infrastructures hydrauliques durables sont des facteurs essentiels à la croissance industrielle et à la compétitivité régionale. Au cours de l'année écoulée, des progrès notables ont été réalisés dans la mise en œuvre des projets prioritaires prévus dans le cadre du Plan directeur régional de développement des infrastructures. Les progrès réalisés en matière d'interconnexions électriques régionales, de corridors de transport, de ports et de chemins de fer, ainsi que d'infrastructures numériques et de renforcement de la connectivité, élargissent les opportunités en matière de commerce et d'investissement. Les corridors stratégiques, notamment les corridors de développement Nord-Sud, Beira, Lobito, Nacala et Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi, continuent de favoriser l'intégration économique et d'ouvrir de nouvelles opportunités dans toute la région. Parallèlement, les investissements dans les énergies renouvelables, notamment les initiatives en matière d'énergie solaire, éolienne et d'hydrogène vert, contribuent à réduire les inégalités d'accès à l'énergie tout en favorisant un avenir durable et résilient face au changement climatique.

L'agriculture demeure le pilier des moyens de subsistance de millions de nos citoyens et sa transformation est essentielle à un développement inclusif. La SADC a poursuivi la mise en œuvre de la politique agricole régionale et de la stratégie de la SADC en matière de sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, en mettant l'accent sur l'agriculture intelligente face au climat, l'amélioration des systèmes de semences et le renforcement des mécanismes d'alerte précoce. La région a intensifié ses activités en matière de lutte transfrontalière contre les ravageurs, de technologies d'irrigation efficaces en matière d'eau et d'accès des petits exploitants agricoles aux marchés. Le Centre des opérations humanitaires et d'urgence de la SADC a joué un rôle crucial dans la coordination des interventions face aux chocs climatiques, notamment les sécheresses et les inondations qui ont touché plusieurs États membres. Ces efforts contribuent à bâtir un secteur agricole plus résilient, capable de soutenir la transformation agricole, de réduire les importations alimentaires et de renforcer les systèmes alimentaires régionaux.

La transition mondiale vers les énergies propres a placé les minerais stratégiques de l'Afrique australe au cœur de nouvelles perspectives économiques. La région recèle certains des gisements les plus importants au monde de lithium, de cobalt, de nickel, de manganèse

et d'éléments de terres rares – des minéraux essentiels à la fabrication des batteries, des véhicules électriques et des technologies renouvelables. La SADC s'efforce de faire en sorte que ces ressources naturelles deviennent un catalyseur de l'industrialisation plutôt qu'une source d'exploitation sans développement. Grâce au Protocole de la SADC sur l'exploitation minière, les États membres renforcent les cadres de gouvernance, favorisent la valorisation locale des ressources et encouragent les investissements responsables qui créent des emplois, favorisent les transferts de technologies et soutiennent le développement des communautés. La mise en place de chaînes de valeur régionales dans le domaine des minerais destinés aux batteries et des technologies industrielles vertes n'est plus un simple objectif ; elle est déjà en cours.

Ces efforts s'inscrivent dans le cadre de l'engagement de la SADC en faveur d'un monde juste, où le développement est inclusif, équitable et durable. La région continue de plaider en faveur d'une architecture financière mondiale plus équitable, de la justice climatique et d'un multilatéralisme qui reflète les besoins et les aspirations des pays en développement. Les positions coordonnées de la SADC au sein des forums continentaux et mondiaux, notamment l'Union africaine, les Nations unies et le G77, reflètent notre conviction qu'aucune nation ni aucune région ne doit être laissée pour compte dans la transition mondiale.

Nos progrès reposent sur la paix, la stabilité et la gouvernance démocratique. Les mécanismes de médiation, d'observation électorale et de coopération en matière de sécurité de la SADC continuent de garantir la stabilité de la région, permettant ainsi aux États membres de se concentrer sur le développement. La consolidation de la paix dans plusieurs États membres, parallèlement aux efforts continus visant à faire face aux nouvelles menaces pour la sécurité, témoigne de la solidité de notre architecture de sécurité collective.

Alors que nous nous réunissons en Afrique du Sud à l'occasion du 46^e sommet de la SADC, nous le faisons avec une confiance renouvelée dans la capacité de la région à façonner son propre destin. Les réalisations mises en avant dans cette brochure témoignent du dévouement de nos États membres, de la résilience de nos citoyens et de l'engagement sans faille des institutions de la SADC en faveur de l'intégration régionale. Le chemin qui nous attend exige encore davantage de coopération, d'innovation et de solidarité. En approfondissant l'industrialisation, en développant les infrastructures, en transformant l'agriculture et en exploitant les minerais stratégiques au service du développement, la SADC jette les bases d'un avenir prospère, inclusif et équitable.

Je tiens à exprimer ma gratitude au gouvernement et au peuple sud-africains pour avoir accueilli ce sommet, ainsi qu'à tous les États membres et partenaires pour leur soutien constant au programme d'intégration de la SADC. Ensemble, nous continuerons à bâtir une région résiliente, compétitive et unie dans sa quête d'une prospérité partagée.

J'espère que vous trouverez cette publication très utile. Je suis heureux de vous présenter la brochure du 46^e Sommet de la SADC, et je tiens à adresser mes remerciements particuliers à notre partenaire expert, le Centre de recherche et de documentation de l'Afrique australe (SARDC), pour le travail dévoué qu'il a accompli dans la préparation de cette publication.

Son Excellence Elias Mpedi Magosi.
Secrétaire exécutif de la SADC





PREFÁCIO



A África Austral chega à 46.^a Cimeira Ordinária de Chefes de Estado e de Governo com confiança renovada, determinação e uma visão comum de um futuro próspero. Numa altura em que o panorama global está a ser moldado pela evolução das dinâmicas geopolíticas, pelos rápidos avanços tecnológicos, pelas vulnerabilidades induzidas pelas alterações climáticas e pelo agravamento das desigualdades económicas e de desenvolvimento, a região da SADC continua a demonstrar resiliência e determinação. Estas transições globais também representam oportunidades para as regiões que se mostram unidas, preparadas, coordenadas, inovadoras e com visão de futuro. O lema da Cimeira para este ano é “Industrialização resiliente, sustentável e inclusiva através do desenvolvimento de infra-estruturas, da transformação dos produtos agrícolas e dos minerais essenciais, por um mundo justo” que reflecte a ambição e a determinação colectiva da nossa comunidade.

A industrialização continua no cerne da agenda de integração regional e da agenda de desenvolvimento da SADC. Orientados pela Estratégia e Roteiro de Industrialização da SADC (2015-2063), os Estados-Membros estão a dar passos importantes no desenvolvimento da capacidade produtiva, no reforço das cadeias de valor regionais e na valorização dos abundantes recursos naturais e humanos da região, com vista a impulsionar um crescimento inclusivo. Em toda a região, os parques industriais, as zonas económicas especiais e os pólos industriais estão a emergir como centros de inovação e de criação de emprego. Apoiadas por uma maior facilitação do comércio, normas harmonizadas e uma promoção coordenada do investimento, estas iniciativas posicionam a SADC como um destino de produção e investimento cada vez mais competitivo e integrado.

O desenvolvimento das infra-estruturas continua a ser fundamental para esta visão. Sistemas energéticos fiáveis, corredores de transporte eficientes, conectividade digital e infra-estruturas hídricas sustentáveis são factores essenciais para o crescimento industrial e a competitividade regional. Ao longo do último ano, registaram-se progressos notáveis na implementação de projectos prioritários no âmbito do Plano Director de Desenvolvimento de Infra-estruturas Regionais. Os avanços nas interligações eléctricas regionais, nos corredores de transporte, nos portos e nas vias-férreas, bem como nas infra-estruturas digitais e no reforço da conectividade, estão a ampliar as oportunidades de comércio e investimento. Os corredores estratégicos, incluindo os corredores de desenvolvimento Norte-Sul, da Beira, do Lobito, de Nacala e de Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi, continuam a impulsionar a integração económica e a abrir novas oportunidades em toda a região. Ao mesmo tempo, os investimentos em energias renováveis, incluindo iniciativas nas áreas da energia solar, eólica e do hidrogénio verde, contribuem para colmatar as disparidades no acesso à energia, apoiando simultaneamente um futuro sustentável e resiliente às alterações climáticas.

A agricultura continua a ser a base do sustento de milhões dos nossos cidadãos e a sua transformação é essencial para um desenvolvimento inclusivo. A SADC continuou a implementar a Política Agrícola Regional e a Estratégia de Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional da SADC, centrando-se na agricultura adaptada às alterações climáticas, na melhoria dos sistemas de sementes e no reforço dos mecanismos de aviso prévio. A região tem vindo a alargar o seu trabalho na gestão transfronteiriça de pragas, nas tecnologias de irrigação eficientes em termos de consumo de água e no acesso ao mercado para os pequenos agricultores. O Centro de Operações Humanitárias e de Emergência da SADC tem desempenhado um papel fundamental na coordenação das respostas a crises relacionadas com o clima, incluindo secas e inundações que afectaram vários Estados-Membros. Estes esforços estão a contribuir para a construção de um sector agrícola mais resiliente, capaz de apoiar a transformação agrícola, reduzir as importações de alimentos e reforçar os sistemas alimentares regionais.

A transição global para as energias limpas colocou os minerais essenciais da África Austral no centro de novas possibilidades económicas. A região possui alguns dos mais importantes depósitos mundiais de lítio, cobalto, níquel, manganês e elementos de terras raras, minerais essenciais para baterias, veículos eléctricos e tecnologias renováveis. A

SADC está a trabalhar no sentido de garantir que esta riqueza natural se torne um catalisador da industrialização, em vez de uma fonte de exploração sem desenvolvimento. Através do Protocolo da SADC sobre Mineração, os Estados-Membros estão a reforçar os quadros de governação, a promover a beneficiação local e a incentivar o investimento responsável que cria postos de trabalho, transfere tecnologia e apoia o desenvolvimento comunitário. A criação de cadeias de valor regionais no domínio dos minerais para baterias e das tecnologias industriais ecológicas já não é uma mera aspiração; está em curso.

Na base destes esforços está o compromisso da SADC com um mundo justo, em que o desenvolvimento seja inclusivo, equitativo e sustentável. A região continua a defender uma arquitectura financeira global mais justa, a justiça climática e um multilateralismo que reflecta as necessidades e aspirações dos países em desenvolvimento. As posições coordenadas da SADC nos fóruns continentais e globais, incluindo a União Africana, as Nações Unidas e o G77, reflectem a nossa convicção de que nenhuma nação ou região deve ser deixada para trás na transição global.

O nosso progresso assenta na paz, na estabilidade e na governação democrática. Os mecanismos de mediação, observação eleitoral e cooperação em matéria de segurança da SADC continuam a salvaguardar a estabilidade da região, permitindo que os Estados-Membros se concentrem no desenvolvimento. A consolidação da paz em vários Estados-Membros, a par dos esforços contínuos para fazer face às ameaças emergentes à segurança, demonstra a solidez da nossa arquitectura de segurança colectiva.

Ao reunirmos-mos na África do Sul para a 46.^a Cimeira da SADC, fazemo-lo com uma confiança renovada na capacidade da região de moldar o seu próprio destino. As conquistas destacadas nesta brochura reflectem a dedicação dos nossos Estados-Membros, a resiliência dos nossos cidadãos e o empenho inabalável das instituições da SADC para a integração regional. O caminho que temos pela frente exige ainda mais cooperação, inovação e solidariedade. Ao aprofundar a industrialização, expandir as infra-estruturas, transformar a agricultura e aproveitar os minerais essenciais para o desenvolvimento, a SADC está a lançar as bases para um futuro próspero, inclusivo e justo.

Gostaria de expressar o meu agradecimento ao Governo e ao povo da África do Sul por acolherem esta Cimeira, bem como a todos os Estados-Membros e parceiros pelo seu apoio contínuo à agenda de integração da SADC. Juntos, continuaremos a construir uma região resiliente, competitiva e unida na sua busca pela prosperidade partilhada.

Espero que esta publicação seja muito útil. Tenho o prazer de partilhar a brochura da 46.^a Cimeira da SADC e de igual modo expressar a minha gratidão muito especial ao nosso parceiro de conhecimento, o Centro de Investigação e Documentação da África Austral (SARDC), pelo seu trabalho dedicado na preparação desta publicação.

S. Ex.^a Elias Mpedi Magosi
Secretário Executivo da SADC





Caution Against Infringement of SADC Trademarks

It has come to the attention of the SADC Secretariat that there are organisations that are using the name "Southern African Development Community" or the acronym "SADC" and the SADC logo to identify their organisation, products, services or their causes.

The SADC Secretariat wishes to inform the general public that the name "Southern African Development Community"; the acronym "SADC"; and the SADC logo are registered and protected trademarks for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat, hence the use of these trademarks without prior authorisation from the SADC Secretariat infringes on its Intellectual Property Rights. The fact that an organisation is conducting business in the Southern African region does not necessitate the usage of the SADC brand. The Secretariat will take legal action against anyone who uses the SADC trademarks without permission.

We, therefore, urge the general public to desist from using these registered and protected trademarks, as they can only be exclusively used by the Southern African Development Community, a regional body comprising 16 Member States, namely: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

For more information or advice, please contact the Communication and Public Relations Unit at the SADC Secretariat, Gaborone, Botswana on prinfo@sadc.int or telephone +267 395 1863



SADC LIBRARY

Discover the SADC History



The Library of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) based at the SADC Headquarters in Gaborone, Botswana, has now become a central node of the network of all libraries in the SADC region. It contains specialised information about SADC including general collection of periodicals, books and reports. SADC recognises that access to information is key and the SADC Library has always been a hub of organisational information that drives knowledge management for business continuity.

The following are the key collections in the SADC Library

- **SADC Collection:** This collection includes a wide range of topics and themes such as Gender, HIV and AIDS, Water, Food Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) and Southern Africa Transport and Communications Commission (SATCC) publication.
- **Hashim Mbita Publication:** Consists of nine volumes of a comprehensive record of liberation struggle which is designed to assist the present and future generations to remember the sacrifice made by millions of their

forefathers and mothers in the struggle, in pursuit of freedom. This publication which has been published in English, French and Portuguese, is a well-researched compilation of verbatim oral text and data from sources in the SADC Member States and outside the SADC region.

- **SADC Council and Summit Records:** The SADC Library has a collection of the decisions taken by the SADC Council of Ministers and Summit of Heads of State and Government from 1980.
- **Historical Photographs:** This collection contains photographs depicting the history of the SADC from its inception was as the Southern African Development Coordinating Conference (SADCC) in 1980 to its transformation to SADC in 1992 at the signing of the Treaty.

- **General Collection:** This is a collection on various classes of knowledge as classified by the Dewey Decimal Classification, including Economics, Politics, Trade, Investment and others.

The SADC Secretariat library also subscribes to the electronic journals such as Fitch Solutions and Oxford Economics Africa guaranteeing its users have access to up-to-date expertise and specialized information.

Fitch Solutions provides invaluable insights, robust data, and powerful analytics to help clients navigate credit markets, credit risk, developed and emerging markets, across industries, sectors, entities, and transactions, whereas Oxford Economics Africa examines the political and macroeconomic conditions of 30 African countries and assesses country risk. The library also subscribes to local Botswana newspapers and provides a reading and working space with computers for research purposes to Library patrons.

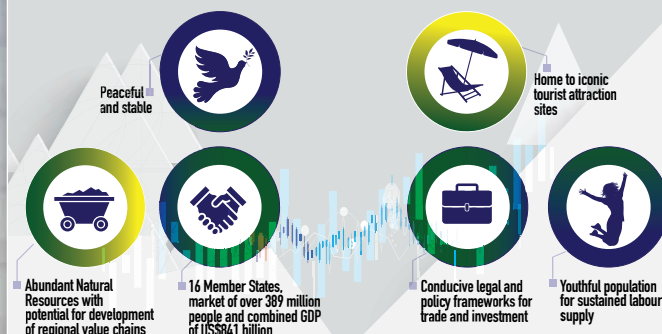
Contact Us:

The operating hours for the SADC Library are on weekdays from: 0900hrs-1600hrs (closes for lunch, during the weekends and on holidays). Library staff can be contacted on email: lmudengi@sadc.int/ kgosekwang@sadc.int.

www.sadc.int



Key reasons to trade and invest in SADC





Mise en garde contre la contrefaçon des marques déposées de la SADC

Il a été porté à l'attention du Secrétariat de la SADC que certaines organisations se servent du nom « Communauté de développement de l'Afrique australe » ou de l'acronyme « SADC » et du logo de la SADC pour identifier leur organisation, leurs produits, leurs services ou leurs causes.

Le Secrétariat de la SADC informe le public que le nom « Communauté de développement de l'Afrique australe » ou l'acronyme « SADC » ; ainsi que le logo de la SADC sont des marques déposées et protégées du Secrétariat de la Communauté de développement de l'Afrique australe (SADC). Par conséquent, l'utilisation de ces marques sans l'autorisation préalable du Secrétariat de la SADC enfreint ses droits de propriété intellectuelle.

Une organisation exerçant ses activités commerciales dans la région de l'Afrique australe n'a pas d'office le droit d'utiliser la marque SADC. Le Secrétariat intentera une action en justice contre toute personne qui utilise les marques déposées de la SADC sans autorisation.

Nous exhortons donc le grand public à s'abstenir d'utiliser ces marques déposées et protégées, en raison de son exclusivité réservée qu'à la Communauté de développement de l'Afrique australe, un organisme régional composé de 16 États membres, à savoir : Angola, Botswana, Comores, Eswatini, République démocratique du Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Maurice, Mozambique, Namibie, Seychelles, Afrique du Sud, République-Unie de Tanzanie, Zambie et Zimbabwe.

Pour plus d'informations ou renseignements, veuillez contacter le département de communication et de relations publiques au Secrétariat de la SADC, Gaborone, Botswana sur prinfo@sadc.int ou par téléphone au +267 395 1863



BIBLIOTHÈQUE DE LA SADC

Découvrez l'histoire de la SADC



La bibliothèque de la Communauté de développement de l'Afrique australe (SADC), située au siège de la SADC à Gaborone (Botswana), est devenue un nœud central du réseau de toutes les bibliothèques de la région de la SADC. Elle contient des informations spécialisées sur la SADC, y compris une collection générale de périodiques, de livres et de rapports. La SADC reconnaît que l'accès à l'information revêt une importance capitale et la bibliothèque de la SADC a toujours été un centre d'information organisationnel qui favorise la gestion des connaissances pour la continuité des activités.

Les principales collections de la bibliothèque de la SADC sont les suivantes :

- **Collection de la SADC:** Cette collection comprend un large éventail de sujets et de thèmes tels que le genre, le VIH et le sida, l'eau, l'agriculture et les ressources naturelles (FANR) et la publication de la Commission des transports et des communications d'Afrique australe (SATCC).
- **Publication de l'ouvrage Hashim Mbitia:** L'ouvrage comporte neuf volumes d'un compte rendu approfondi sur les luttes de libération, conçus pour aider la génération d'aujourd'hui et celle de demain à se

rappeler le sacrifice de millions de leurs ancêtres dans la quête de la liberté. Cette publication, qui a été publiée en anglais, en français et en portugais, est une compilation bien documentée de textes originaux et de données provenant de sources des États membres de la SADC et en dehors de la région de la SADC.

- **Comptes rendus du Conseil des ministres et du Sommet de la SADC:** La bibliothèque de la SADC dispose d'une collection des décisions prises par le Conseil des ministres et le Sommet des chefs d'État et de gouvernement de la SADC depuis 1980.
- **Photographies historiques:** Cette collection contient des photographies qui illustrent l'histoire de la SADC depuis sa création sous le nom de Conférence de coordination du développement de l'Afrique australe (SADC) en 1980 jusqu'à sa transformation en Communauté de développement de l'Afrique australe (SADC) en 1992, lors de la signature du traité.
- **Collection générale:** Il s'agit d'un corpus de connaissances classées selon le système de catégorisation décimale de Dewey, notamment l'économie, la politique, le commerce, l'investissement et d'autres domaines.

La bibliothèque du secrétariat de la SADC est également abonnée à des revues électroniques telles que Fitch Solutions et Oxford Economics Africa, ce qui permet à ses utilisateurs d'avoir accès à une expertise actualisée et à des informations spécialisées.

Fitch Solutions fournit des informations précieuses, des données solides et des analyses puissantes permettant aux clients de naviguer sur les marchés du crédit, le risque de crédit, les marchés développés et émergents, à travers les industries, les secteurs, les entités et les transactions, tandis qu'Oxford Economics Africa examine les conditions politiques et macroéconomiques de 30 pays africains et évalue le risque pays. La bibliothèque est également abonnée aux journaux locaux du Botswana et met à la disposition de ses utilisateurs un espace de lecture et de travail équipé d'ordinateurs à des fins de recherche.

Nous contacter: La bibliothèque de la SADC est ouverte en semaine de 09h00 à 16h00 (elle ferme à l'heure du déjeuner, le week-end et les jours fériés). Les bibliothécaires peuvent être contactés à l'adresse électronique suivante: lmudeng@sadc.int ou kgosokwang@sadc.int.

www.sadc.int



Raisons principales pour faire du commerce et investir dans la SADC

Paisible et stable



Des sites d'attraction touristique emblématiques



Ressources naturelles abondantes offrant un potentiel élevé pour le développement de chaînes de valeur régionales



16 États membres, un marché de plus de 389 millions de personnes et un PIB global de 841 milliards d'USD



Cadres juridiques et politiques propices au commerce et à l'investissement



Population jeune permettant une offre de travail soutenue



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Aviso sobre a violação das Marcas registadas da SADC

O Secretariado da SADC tomou conhecimento da existência de organizações que utilizam a designação "Southern African Development Community" ou o acrónimo "SADC", incluindo o seu logótipo para identificar a sua organização, produtos, serviços ou as suas causas.

O Secretariado da SADC tem a honra de levar ao conhecimento do público em geral que a designação "Southern African Development Community"; o acrónimo "SADC", incluindo o logótipo são marcas registadas e protegidas do Secretariado da Comunidade de Desenvolvimento da África Austral (SADC), daí que a utilização destas marcas sem autorização prévia viola os seus Direitos de Propriedade Intelectual. O facto de uma organização estar a realizar actividades comerciais na região da África Austral não requer a utilização da marca da SADC. No entanto, o Secretariado tomará medidas legais contra qualquer pessoa que utilize as marcas registadas da SADC sem autorização prévia.

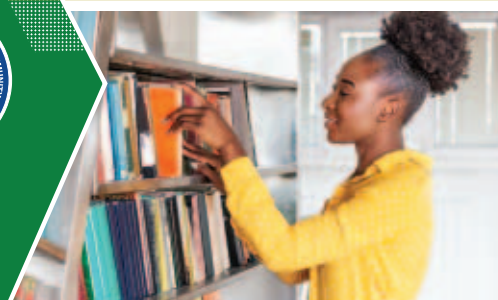
Assim, apelamos ao público, em geral, a abster-se de utilizar estas marcas registadas e protegidas, uma vez que só podem ser utilizadas exclusivamente pela Comunidade de Desenvolvimento da África Austral (SADC), um órgão regional constituído por 16 Estados-Membros, nomeadamente: Angola, Botswana, Comores, Eswatini, República Democrática do Congo, Lesoto, Madagáscar, Malawi, Maurícias, Moçambique, Namíbia, Seychelles, África do Sul, República Unida da Tanzânia, Zâmbia e Zimbábue.

Para mais informações, queira contactar a Unidade de Comunicação e Relações Públicas do Secretariado da SADC, em Gaborone, Botswana por correio electrónico: prinfo@sadc.int ou por telefone +267 395 1863.



BIBLIOTECA DA SADC

Descubra a História da SADC



A Biblioteca da Comunidade de Desenvolvimento da África Austral (SADC), situada na sede da SADC em Gaborone, Botswana, tornou-se um nó central da rede de todas as bibliotecas da região da SADC. A Biblioteca contém informações especializadas sobre a SADC, incluindo uma colecção geral de publicações periódicas, livros e relatórios. A SADC reconhece que o acesso à informação é fundamental e a Biblioteca da SADC sempre foi um centro de informação organizacional que impulsiona a gestão do conhecimento para a continuidade das actividades.

As principais colecções da Biblioteca da SADC são as seguintes:

- **Colecção da SADC:** Esta colecção inclui uma vasta gama de tópicos e temas, tais como o Género, VIH e a SIDA, Água, Alimentação, Agricultura e Recursos Naturais (FANR) e as publicações da Comissão de Transportes e Comunicações da África Austral (SATC).
- **Publicação Hashim Mbita:** Consiste em nove volumes de um registo exaustivo da luta de libertação, concebido para ajudar as gerações actuais e futuras a recordar o

sacrifício feito por milhões dos seus antepassados na luta pela liberdade. Esta publicação, editada em inglês, francês e português, é uma compilação bem estudada de textos orais literais e dados provenientes de fontes dos Estados-Membros da SADC e fora da região da SADC.

- **Actas do Conselho e da Cimeira da SADC:** A Biblioteca da SADC possui uma colecção das decisões tomadas pelo Conselho de Ministros e pela Cimeira dos Chefes de Estado e de Governo da SADC desde 1980.

- **Fotografias históricas:** Esta colecção contém fotografias que retratam a história da SADC desde a sua criação como Conferência de Coordenação do Desenvolvimento da África Austral (SADCC em 1980) até à sua transformação em SADC em 1992, aquando da assinatura do Tratado.

- **Colecção geral:** Esta é uma colecção sobre várias classes de conhecimento, tal como designadas pela Classificação Decimal de Dewey, incluindo Economia, Política, Comércio, Investimento e outras.

A Biblioteca do Secretariado da SADC também é assinante de revistas electrónicas como a Fitch Solutions e a

Oxford Economics Africa, garantindo as pessoas que utilizam a Biblioteca o acesso a conhecimentos actualizados e a informações especializadas. A Fitch Solutions fornece informações valiosas, dados robustos e análises concisas para ajudar os clientes a navegar nos mercados de crédito, risco de crédito, mercados desenvolvidos e emergentes, entre indústrias, sectores, entidades e transacções, enquanto a Oxford Economics Africa examina as condições políticas e macroeconómicas de 30 países africanos e avalia o risco do país. A Biblioteca também é assinante dos jornais locais do Botswana e disponibiliza aos seus utilizadores um espaço de leitura e de trabalho com computadores para fins de investigação.

Não hesite entrar em contacto: O horário de funcionamento da Biblioteca da SADC é das 09h00 às 16h00 nos dias úteis da semana (encontra-se encerrada na hora do almoço, durante os fins-de-semana e nos feriados). Os funcionários da biblioteca podem ser contactados pelos seguintes endereços de correio electrónico: lmudeng@sadc.int / kgosekwang@sadc.int.

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Principais razões para fazer negócios e investir na SADC

Paz e estabilidade



Local icónico de atracção turística



Abundância de recursos naturais com potencial para o desenvolvimento de cadeias de valor regionais



16 Estados-Membros, um mercado de mais de 389 milhões de pessoas e um PIB combinado de 841 mil milhões de USD



Possui estruturas jurídicas e políticas favoráveis ao comércio e ao investimento



Possui uma população jovem para fornecimento de mão-de-obra sustentada



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SADC and Germany – Trusted Partners since 1985

Over the past 41 years, SADC and Germany have enjoyed a rich history of cooperation that models mutual respect, shared vision, and enduring friendship.

Germany has been a stable financial and political supporter of SADC's Vision, the priorities of its Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), of the 2030 Agenda and of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Aligned with SADC's mission to promote economic well-being, environmental sustainability, and human rights for its citizens, SADC-German cooperation facilitates regional economic integration, regional value addition and trade. Germany provides capacity building to manage transboundary water resources, for example in ORASECOM and OKAKOM, or funds the building of potable water infrastructure via the SADC Water Fund.

Germany funds biodiversity conservation that mitigates

human-wildlife conflict, enhances livelihoods and boosts eco-tourism in the region – inter alia via the SADC TFCA Financing Facility.

Germany supports SADC's peace and security mandate of law enforcement, anti-poaching and arms control.

Germany strengthens SADC institutions through targeted trainings, including at member states level.

Germany provides capacity to SADC's regional energy masterplan, economic corridor development, and funds the SADC Project Preparation and Development Facility. On top of that, Germany supports SADC in disaster risk management, gender-based violence prevention, gender equality, digitalisation and sustainable aquatic foods.



SADC Executive Secretary, H.E. Elias Magosi, highlighting the region's economic priorities during the IMF and World Bank Group Spring Meetings from 13–18, April 2026 in an interview in Washington, D.C. His engagements underscored Southern Africa's commitment to elevating its visibility, securing global partnerships, and ensuring the region's voice is heard in shaping international economic governance.

SADC IN PICTURES 2025-2026



Family Photo: SADC leaders converged in Madagascar for the 45th Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government in Antananarivo, Madagascar in August 2025. The meeting was held under the theme, "Advancing Industrialisation, Agricultural Transformation and Energy Transition for a Resilient SADC."



The government of Zimbabwe, in conjunction with the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, the hosted the second edition of the SADC Sustainable Energy Week from 23 to 27 February 2026 in Victoria Falls. The meeting, which was held under the theme "Driving Regional Economic Growth through Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency", serves as a regional platform to promote investment, partnerships and innovation in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors across the energy value chain.



Dr. Mathew Antonio Patrick Herminie was sworn into office on 26 October 2025 as the Sixth President of Seychelles. Dr Herminie, who leads the United Seychelles party, won an election run-off that was held on 9 October 2025.



Inaugurated: United Republic of Tanzania President Samia Suluhu Hassan was sworn into office for her second term on 3 November 2025 at the Tanzania People's Defence Force Parade Grounds in Dodoma following her victory in the October 2025 presidential election.



Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika was inaugurated as the Seventh President of Malawi on 4 October 2025 at the Kamuzu Stadium in Blantyre. This followed his victory in presidential elections held on 16 September 2025. Prof. Mutharika previously served as the Fifth President of Malawi from 2014 to 2020 before his latest electoral victory.



South Africa, in its capacity as the SADC Council of Ministers Chairperson, hosted the SADC Foreign Ministers Retreat from 22 to 24 May 2026 to craft a unified regional response to global geopolitical and economic pressures.



South Africa made history in November 2025 by successfully hosting the G20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg - the first time the summit was held on African soil



Namibia's President, Her Excellency Dr. Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah, welcomed SADC Executive Secretary, His Excellency Mr. Elias Mpodi Magosi, for a courtesy call at State House in Windhoek on 3 December 2025. She reaffirmed Namibia's commitment to peace, security, and regional integration, while calling for accelerated programmes to strengthen value chains and drive sustainable development across Southern Africa.



SADC Executive Secretary H.E. Mr. Elias M. Magosi, on 20 January 2026, paid a courtesy call on H.E. Col. Michael Randrianirina, President of the Refoundation of the Republic of Madagascar, at the Presidential Office in Antananarivo to discuss regional priorities and national transition process



Botswana President, Advocate Duma Boko signing two SADC agreements: the Operationalisation of the Regional Development Fund (RDF) and the Amendment to the Protocol on Finance and Investment on 31 March 2026



Global Support: With overwhelming support from SADC, the African Union and the majority of the developing world, Zimbabwe was on 3 June 2026 elected to a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.



FIFA World Cup 2026: The Democratic Republic of Congo and South Africa represented Southern Africa at the 2026 FIFA World Cup co-hosted by Canada, Mexico and the United States. The two teams made history by qualifying for the knockout stages of the tournament before both being eliminated in the Round of 32.

FOCUS ON HOST NATION

SOUTH AFRICA AT A GLANCE



Official Name

Republic of South Africa

Head of State

President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa

System of Government

Constitutional multiparty democracy, with three spheres – local, provincial and national government
Freedom Day, 27 April. Commemorates the first democratic elections held in South Africa on 27 April 1994

National Day

Population

63.02 million – 51 percent females and 49 percent males (Stats SA, 2026)

Official languages

2 official languages, each guaranteed equal status: Afrikaans, English, isiNdebele, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, siSwati, Tshivenda, Xitsonga and Sign Language. Attention is also paid to the Khoi, Nama and San languages.

Religion

South Africa is a secular democracy with freedom of religion. 79.8% of South Africans are Christian.

Land Surface Area

1,219,602 km²

Capitals

Pretoria (administrative); Cape Town (legislative); Bloemfontein (judicial). Constitutional Court is in Johannesburg.

Provinces

Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West and Western Cape

Currency

Rand (ZAR) – 100 cents equals one rand

Time Zone

GMT +2 hours

International Dialling Code +27





South Africa: The Cradle of Humankind

South Africa is a country where various cultures merge to form a unique nation proud of its heritage. South Africa's biggest asset is its people – a rainbow nation with rich and diverse cultures. The country boasts some of the world's most breathtaking scenery and features an amazing display of bird and wildlife species, which include the Big Five (lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo and rhino). South Africa is often called "The Cradle of Humankind," for this is where archaeologists discovered 2.5-million-year-old fossils of our earliest ancestors, as well as 100,000-year-old remains of modern man.

History

The first European settlement in southern Africa was founded by the Dutch East India Company at Table Bay in 1652 to supply passing ships, later expanding as farmers settled to grow crops. South Africa's democracy emerged from a long struggle and stands as a triumph of diversity. Its rich cultures and complex history shape a unique national identity, while the end of apartheid and the creation of a multiracial democracy remain global benchmarks for peace, freedom, equality and dignity.

Geography

South Africa sits at the southern tip of the continent, with a 1,600 mile coastline, deserts, forests and mountain ranges that make it one of the world's most scenic destinations. The oceans on its east and west coasts shape its subtropical and temperate conditions, while interior plateaus create cool, wet weather in the Drakensberg, subtropi-

cal warmth in the northeast and a Mediterranean climate in the southwest. Covering 1,221,037 square kilometres, South Africa borders Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Eswatini, with Lesotho entirely enclosed within its territory.

The oceans

South Africa's largest neighbours are the Atlantic and Indian oceans, which meet at the continent's southwest. The warm Mozambique–Agulhas Current runs along the east and south coasts, while the cold Benguela Current moves north along the west coast, creating sharp climatic and vegetation contrasts. The country's more than 3,000km coastline is largely even and closed, with few natural bays suitable for harbours.

Climatic features

Although South Africa is classified as semi arid, its climate varies widely. Seasons run opposite those of Europe and North America, and the country's position in the subtropical high pressure belt makes it generally dry with abundant sunshine. Despite lying on similar latitudes, Durban and Port Nolloth differ by at least 6°C in mean annual temperature. National temperature patterns reflect three features: they are lower than in regions at comparable latitudes due to the country's elevation; average annual temperatures remain surprisingly uniform across 13° of latitude; and sharp contrasts exist between the east and west coasts. Because the plateau rises toward the northeast, temperatures show little increase from south to north. Summer temperatures above 32°C are common and often exceed 38°C in the lower Or-





ange River Valley and Mpumalanga Lowveld. Seasons in South Africa are as follows:

- Spring: September, October, November
- Summer: December through February
- Autumn: March, April, May
- Winter: June through August

People, cultures and languages

South Africa is a multilingual nation with 12 official languages, including South African Sign Language. The spoken languages are English, isiZulu, isiXhosa, isiNdebele, Afrikaans, Siswati, Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, Tshivenda and Xitsonga. As of 2024, the population stands at 63.02 million, with women making up 51 percent. The country's cultural diversity is reflected in a strong sense of collective responsibility rooted in Ubuntu, the philosophy meaning "I am because you are."

Government system

South Africa is a constitutional democracy with three spheres of government – national, provincial and local – each with its own legislative and executive authority, defined in the Constitution as distinctive, interdependent and interrelated. Advisory bodies of traditional leaders operate at national and provincial levels, supporting the system of cooperative governance aimed at building a free, non-racial, non-sexist and united country.

Parliament comprises the National Assembly (NA) and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), with all sittings open to the public and measures in place to enhance accessibility and accountability. The NA has 350 to 400 members elected through proportional representation for five years; it elects the President and oversees the executive. The NCOP, with 54 permanent members and 36 special delegates, represents provincial interests in the national sphere.

The Constitution

South Africa's Constitution is one of the most progressive in the world and enjoys high acclaim internationally. Human rights are given clear prominence in the Constitution. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996 is the supreme law of the land and was approved by the Constitutional Court on 4 December 1996 and took effect on 4 February 1997. No other law or government action can supersede the provisions of the Constitution.

Judicial system

Judicial authority in South Africa rests with independent courts subject only to the Constitution and the law. No person or state body may interfere with their functioning and court orders bind all to whom they apply. The Constitution provides for the Constitutional Court, Supreme Court of Appeal, High Courts, Magistrates' courts and other courts created by Parliament. Decisions of the Constitutional Court, Supreme Court of Appeal and high courts form an important source of law and uphold the Constitution. Additional specialised courts include the Labour Court, Labour Appeal Court, Land Claims Court, Competition Appeal Court, Electoral Court, divorce courts, small-claims courts, military courts and equality courts.

International relations

South Africa's approach to global issues is rooted in Ubuntu, a philosophy that shapes its diplomacy by respecting all nations and recognising that advancing others' development serves the national interest. This outlook places priority on Africa, cooperation with countries of the South to tackle underdevelopment and promote equity, partnership with the North for a fairer global order, and strengthening a multilateral system that reflects global diversity and remains central to international governance.

By championing Africa's renewal and development, South Africa advances its core foreign-policy goal of



building a better continent. After 1994, the country shed its pariah status, re-joined the international community and emerged as a democracy with a foreign policy committed to constructive global engagement. South Africa maintains diplomatic relations through missions abroad and accredited representatives in Pretoria, with these missions implementing foreign policy, enhancing the country's international profile and advancing the national interest. South Africa is a member of numerous regional, continental and international organisations.

Economy and investment

South Africa offers an attractive business climate with relatively low operating costs, a strong regulatory framework and stable monetary and fiscal policies, making it a preferred base for companies expanding into Africa. It hosts the largest concentration of multinational firms on the continent, supported by an affluent consumer base and a growing middle class. The Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan further strengthens investor confidence by outlining clear post-pandemic growth strategies.

The African Continental Free Trade Area, which began trading in 2021, gives South Africa wider market access, reinforcing its role as a gateway for investors seeking entry into Africa. The country benefits from a well-developed industrial ecosystem, a diversified economy and established manufacturing value chains. Its world-class physical infrastructure, extensive transport and logistics networks integrated with southern Africa, and advanced ICT systems enhance competitiveness. Additional advantages include a supportive operating environment, favourable trade regime, sophisticated financial markets and reliable access to key production inputs.

Business environment

South Africa offers one of Africa's most advanced and diversified economies, with strong mining, finance, manufac-

turing and technology sectors. Its rich reserves of gold, platinum and chromium make it a global mining leader, and metals remain among its top exports. With a GDP of about US\$373 billion in 2024, South Africa is the continent's largest economy, ahead of Egypt and Algeria, and continues to attract investors seeking a stable, sophisticated market.

The country is deeply integrated into regional and global economic systems through SADC, the World Trade Organisation, the Group of 20 (G20) and the Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS), offering a business environment conducive to growth. As a leading supporter of the AfCFTA, South Africa provides investors with easier access to African markets. Its well-developed industrial base, established manufacturing value chains, world-class infrastructure, extensive transport and logistics networks and advanced ICT systems further strengthen its competitiveness.

Transport

South Africa has a modern, well-developed transport system, with the continent's largest air and rail networks and extensive, good-quality roads. Its ports serve major global routes linking Europe, the Americas, Asia, Australasia and both African coasts. The main international airports are OR Tambo, Cape Town and King Shaka, supported by several regional airports such as Kruger Mpumalanga. The Gautrain is an 80-kilometre high-speed commuter rail linking Johannesburg, Pretoria, Kempton Park and OR Tambo International Airport, offering 15-minute trips from Sandton to the airport and 35-minute trips from Pretoria to Johannesburg. It has 10 stations, with bus, shuttle and midibus services connecting most of them.

Mineral wealth

South Africa's mineral wealth translates into, among others, 96 percent of known global reserves of platinum-group metals, 74 percent of chrome, 80





percent of manganese, 25 percent of vanadium and 11 percent of gold reserves. Mining is one of the centres of South Africa's economy. It accounts for 7.9 percent of GDP and employs almost 460,000 people.

Tourism and environment

South Africa's natural scenery is one of its strongest attractions, ranging from vast savannahs and dramatic coastlines to the Drakensberg Mountains. It is a premier safari destination, home to iconic wildlife and the Big Five, drawing millions of visitors each year. Geopolitically distinctive, the country combines natural and cultural diversity, bordered by two oceans and occupying just two percent of global land area while hosting 10 percent of the world's plant species, seven percent of its reptiles, birds and mammals, and 15 percent of its coastal marine species. It supports roughly 850 bird species and 300 mammal species.

This ecological richness spans nine biomes and is showcased across five UNESCO World Heritage Sites, 22 national parks and hundreds of reserves. South Africa's heritage sites include the Cradle of Humankind, Mapungubwe, Richtersveld, Robben Island, the Cape Floral Region, Vredefort Dome, uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park, Mandela Legacy Sites, Pleistocene Occupation Sites, Khomani Cultural Landscape, Barberton Makhonjwa Mountains and iSimangaliso Wetland Park.

SANParks manages 22 national parks across seven provinces, covering over four million hectares – 67 percent of protected areas under state management – and is recognised globally for excellence in conservation.

Biodiversity

South Africa hosts about 24,000 species, including seven percent of the world's vertebrates and 5.5 percent of known insects. Its endemic mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians underscore its biological uniqueness. Marine biodiversity is also high, with over 11,000 species – about 15 percent of global totals – and more than 3,400 en-

demic to South African waters. Many of these species face threats, particularly in river ecosystems and estuaries.

Communications

South Africa has a well-developed communications infrastructure, with nationwide mobile coverage, reliable landlines and widespread urban Internet access. According to Statistics South Africa, 77.5 percent of households have at least one member using the Internet at home, work, school or public hotspots, with the Western Cape province highest at 89.1 percent. About 40 percent of the population are active social-media users.

Media

South Africa has a vibrant, independent media sector. The Constitution's Bill of Rights guarantees freedom of expression, including press freedom, the right to receive and share information, artistic creativity, academic freedom and scientific research. The South African Broadcasting Corporation is the country's public broadcaster, alongside numerous private and community radio and television stations. South Africa's print media is technically advanced, helping newspapers and magazines remain competitive despite rapid digital expansion. Most publications are grouped under major publishing houses.

Health

South Africa is renowned for medical excellence, dating back to Professor Christiaan Barnard's first successful human heart transplant in 1967. The country has world-class private hospitals and strong state facilities such as Groote Schuur Hospital. Most of South Africa is malaria-free, but visitors to Kruger National Park and low-lying northern KwaZulu-Natal should take prophylactic precautions.

Food

South Africa is known for its warm hospitality and hearty cuisine, reflected in world class chefs, culinary excellence and renowned wines. As a cultural melt-



ing pot, its food blends Dutch, French, Malaysian and Indian influences – from pap and mogodu to Cape Malay curry and roti. This rich fusion consistently captivates first time visitors.

Sports

South Africa is one of the few countries to have competed in World Cups for cricket, football and rugby. It has hosted major global events, including the 1996 Africa Cup of Nations, the 2003 Cricket World Cup, the 2007 World Twenty20 and, in 2010, became the first African nation to host the FIFA World Cup. In 2023, it again made history as the first African host of the Netball World Cup.

South African athletes consistently excel internationally. The country's Olympic and Paralympic teams returned from the 2024 Special Olympics World Games with numerous medals. Banyana Banyana won the 2022 Women's Africa Cup of Nations, while the Springboks claimed the 2023 Rugby World Cup, becoming the only team to win every final they have played. These achievements cement South Africa as one of the world's most decorated sporting nations.

Beyond national pride, sport also drives tourism and economic growth. Events such as the Comrades Marathon and Two Oceans Marathon attract thousands of visitors, generating revenue for accommodation, food and services. Continued investment in stadiums and infrastructure strengthens South Africa's capacity to host major events and boosts the broader economy.

South Africa's national symbols: a reflection of our identity and heritage

South Africa's national symbols express its identity, values and history, reflecting cultural diversity, natural beauty and a commitment to unity and democracy. They serve as powerful reminders of national identity and shared values, reinforcing who South Africans are and what the nation stands for.

The National Flag

South Africa's national flag, adopted on 27 April 1994, features six colours: black, green, gold, white, red and blue. Its distinctive Y-shape symbolises the convergence of diverse communities moving forward in unity, reflecting national reconciliation, nation-building and the country's shared democratic future.

The National Coat of Arms

South Africa's Coat of Arms is the country's highest visual symbol, launched on Freedom Day, 27 April 2000. At its centre is the secretary bird with uplifted wings, symbolising protection and ascendance. Above it, the rising sun represents life, enlightenment and the triumph of knowledge. Below the bird, the protea reflects beauty, cultural harmony and the nation in bloom. Ears of wheat signify land fertility, while elephant tusks denote wisdom, steadfastness and strength.

The central shield represents generational protection. Above it, a spear and knobkierie assert the defence of peace rather than war. The shield's drum-like form conveys a people rooted in culture. Inside the shield are some of the world's earliest human depictions – the Khoisan figures from the Linton Stone, honouring South Africa's first inhabitants.

The motto !KE E: /XARRA //KE, in the /Xam language, means "diverse people unite," capturing the Coat of Arms' core message of unity in diversity.

The National Anthem

South Africa's national anthem is unique in the world, combining several languages and musical traditions. It incorporates parts of Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika and Die Stem van Suid-Afrika and is sung in five languages: Xhosa, Zulu, Sesotho, Afrikaans, and English. The anthem symbolises reconciliation, inclusivity, and the country's multicultural character.





The National Animal: The Springbok

The springbok, a graceful antelope found across southern Africa, is South Africa's national animal. Known for its speed, agility, and resilience, the springbok represents endurance and strength. It is also widely recognised through its association with South African sporting teams and serves as a source of national pride.

The National Bird: The Blue Crane

The blue crane is South Africa's national bird. Endemic to southern Africa, it is admired for its elegance and beauty. The blue crane symbolises grace, dignity, and freedom. Historically, its feathers were regarded as symbols of honour and bravery among some indigenous communities.



The National Flower: The King Protea

The king protea, one of the largest and most striking flowering plants in the world, is South Africa's national flower. It represents beauty, diversity, and resilience. The protea thrives in challenging conditions, symbolising the strength and adaptability of the South African people.

The National Fish: The Galjoen

The galjoen is South Africa's national fish. Found along the country's coastline, it is known for its ability to survive in rough waters. As a symbol, it represents perseverance, adaptability, and the close relationship between South Africans and their natural environment.



The National Tree: The Real Yellowwood

The real yellowwood, South Africa's national tree, symbolises longevity, endurance and growth. Its deep roots and towering form reflect the nation's resilience.







Driving SADC Progress, Delivering National Gains

ZIMBABWE was a strategic driver of SADC regional cooperation in 2025, translating policy commitments into real economic gains and strengthened resilience. Through targeted investments, upgraded infrastructure and high-level regional engagement, the country demonstrated how coordinated SADC programmes can accelerate national development while advancing regional integration.

In September 2025, Zimbabwe launched the second phase of the Support Towards the Operationalization of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy (STOSAR II), reinforcing its leadership in harmonizing food safety standards and boosting cross-border agricultural trade. Two months later, Harare hosted the SADC Regional Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum, attracting financing for irrigation, mechanization and agro-processing value chains – investments that directly support Zimbabwe’s agricultural recovery and food security ambitions.



The blue economy also registered a major milestone when the SADC Secretariat handed over a specialized refrigerated truck to the Zimbabwe Fish Producers Association in July 2025. This intervention dramatically reduced post-harvest losses for more than 3,600 small-scale fishers and opened access to higher-value regional markets.



Zimbabwe continued to drive regional trade facilitation by accelerating the establishment of One-Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) at Forbes–Machipanda and Nyamapanda–Cuchamano, scheduled for completion in 2026. These modernized border posts will cut delays, reduce non-tariff barriers and enhance the seamless movement of goods under both SADC and AfCFTA frameworks. In March 2026, Harare also hosted the validation workshop for the SADC AfCFTA Coordination Plan, which will ensure that regional industrialization strategies align with continental trade priorities.



In the transport sector, Zimbabwe signed key Memoranda of Agreement for the Beira and North-South Development Corridors, unlocking new opportunities for trade expansion, job creation and GDP growth along these vital regional routes.

Zimbabwe also assisted to strengthen SADC’s humanitarian and environmental agenda. In August and September 2025, Nyanga hosted the SADC Emergency Response Team (ERT) Induction Course, training rapid-deployment teams from 13 Member States to respond swiftly to climate-induced disasters. On the conservation front, Zimbabwe convened the 2025 SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCA) Summit, marking 25 years of regional cooperation and advancing anti-poaching efforts, human-wildlife conflict mitigation and community-centred conservation.

In 2025, Zimbabwe did more than participate in SADC programmes. It helped shape them, demonstrating regional leadership and delivering tangible benefits for its people and the wider SADC community. 🇿🇼



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Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Zimbabwe



IMPLEMENTATION OF RISDP 2020–2030



Approved by the SADC Summit in August 2020, the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020–2030 and Vision 2050 articulate the integration and development trajectory of the region. As a 10-year framework, the RISDP outlines priority areas and policy strategies aimed at driving inclusive growth, socio-economic transformation and regional cooperation, anchored on clearly defined strategic pillars:

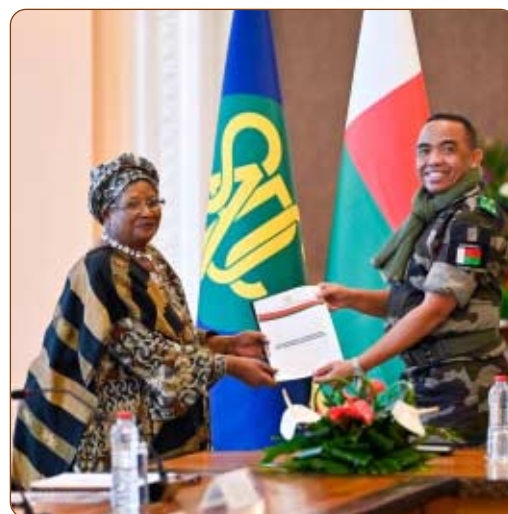
- ◆ **The Foundation:** Peace, Security and Good Governance
- ◆ **Pillar I:** Industrial Development and Market Integration
- ◆ **Pillar II:** Infrastructure Development to Support Regional Integration
- ◆ **Pillar III:** Social and Human Capital Development, and
- ◆ Cross Cutting Issues (Gender, Youth, Environment and Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management)

FOUNDATION:

PEACE, SECURITY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

The RISDP 2020–2030 is anchored on a firm foundation of peace, security and good governance, which are considered as the necessary preconditions and key enablers of regional integration and development. These priorities are coordinated through the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, which serves as the institutional framework for coordinating regional policies and activities on politics, defence and security.

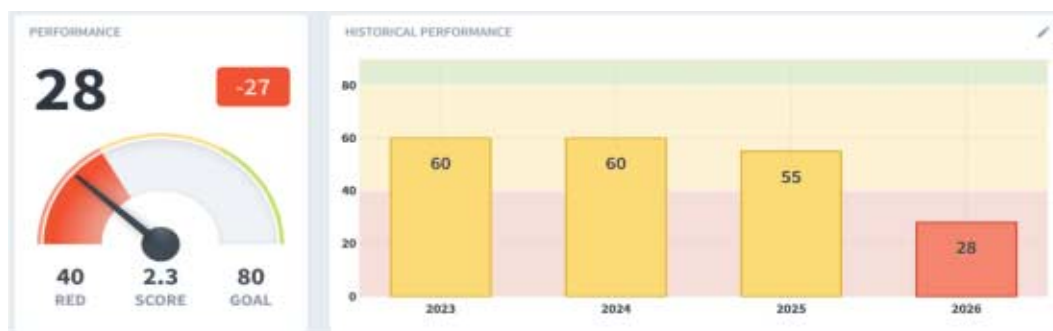
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The political, social, and economic situation in the SADC Region remained relatively stable during the period under review. That notwithstanding, security challenges in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and northern Mozambique persisted. On the political front, the region remained relatively stable. Three Member States successfully held elections during the period under review, namely Malawi, Seychelles and Tanzania. Meanwhile, in Madagascar, the administration of former President Andry Rajoelina was brought to an end following mass civic action spearheaded by youths self-identified as the Generation-Z (Gen-Z) Movement.

On the security front, the presence of other terror groups operating in eastern DRC and northern Mozambique continued to pose a threat to the SADC Region.

On the socio-economic front, food insecurity remained a challenge in the region, driven by the negative effects of climate change, such as droughts and floods. Climate change also negatively impacts water and energy security, thereby affecting economic productivity. In ad-





dition, poverty and inequality levels continued to rise, driven by various internal and external factors.

Other socio-economic challenges that plagued the region were the disease burden where HIV and AIDS and Malaria were prevalent. In addition, rising unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, as well as the fluid global economic systems, which resulted in the escalation of prices of essential commodities in most Member States, remained a huge concern.

Concerning Transnational Organized Crimes (TOCs), the region noted the increase of criminal networks, which were facilitating drug and human trafficking, theft of motor vehicles and livestock, as well as the kidnapping rackets.



Safeguarding the Region from Armed Conflicts

Despite recurrent conflicts across the African continent, the SADC region has remained relatively stable and largely free from widespread armed conflict.

Nevertheless, the protracted conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, the insurgency in northern Mozambique, and episodes of political instability, including recent violent protests and unconstitutional changes of government in Madagascar, continue to pose significant challenges to regional peace, security, and stability.



Conflict in Democratic Republic of Congo

The Extraordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government terminated the SADC Mission in DRC (SAMIDRC) mandate in March 2025 and commenced a withdrawal from DRC due to the deteriorated security situation, particularly the capture of Goma town and the destruction of the Goma International Airport. Meanwhile, the March 23 Movement (M23) terrorist group continued to destabilise eastern DRC, also occupying Bukavu since February 2025 and briefly seizing Uvira in December 2025.

The region is collaborating with the DRC government and other stakeholders through diplomatic and political means to contain the volatile security and humanitarian situation. Sustained engagement is vital to prevent further destabilisation and find a lasting solution.

Political Developments in Madagascar

Madagascar has remained largely calm since the 2009 unrest, but the September 2025 protests exposed persistent governance challenges with regional implications for peace and constitutional order. The violence and leadership change triggered SADC fact-finding and mediation missions, which laid the foundation for a 24-month national refoundation plan (2026–2027) aimed at reforms leading to credible elections. SADC is now assessing areas of support and has called for an inclusive, Malagasy-led dialogue to guide the transition and enable the peaceful return of political exiles. Summit leaders reaffirmed the region's commitment to constitutional rule, democratic governance and helping Madagascar restore stability.

Rapid Deployment of the SADC Standby Force

The response time in deploying the SADC Standby Force to conflicts and humanitarian emergencies remains moderate with the potential to improve, following the completion and operationalisation of the SADC Regional Logistic Depot (RLD).

The construction of the RLD is making good progress, considering the need to attain initial operational capability by November 2026 (Phase 1) and full operational capability by 2030 (Phase 2).

However, Phase 1 is likely to extend to March 2027, while Phase 2 remains scheduled for 2030, subject to funding. Staffing modalities remain under review, with Council urging a lean, cost-effective structure. In the face of evolving but challenging geopolitical dynamics, already showing a decline in funding (as partners prioritise domestic needs), the region must mobilise US\$45 million to complete the RLD and enhance rapid deployment capability, prompt reaction, and ultimately save lives.

Capacity for Early Warning to Track and Monitor Threats

SADC has a functional Early Warning System capable of tracking, detecting and monitoring political, security and socioeconomic threats. A Regional Early Warning System has been established, comprising the Regional Early Warning Centre at the Secretariat and National Early Warning Centres in Member States. Through a secure communication network, Member States can share information, monitor developments, and coordinate responses to emerging threats, thereby contributing to regional peace, security, and stability.

In 2024, the system detected 55 threats, while 28 threats were recorded in 2025. These included terrorism and violent extremism, armed conflict, election-related tensions, organised crime, cyber threats, irregular migration, climate-related disasters, food insecurity, and threats to critical infrastructure.

The persistent conflict in eastern DRC and the ongoing terrorist insurgency in Cabo Delgado Province in Mozambique, continue to undermine regional stability and create a platform for the expansion, recruitment, facilitation, financing and operation of terrorist and extremist networks. Current trends indicate increasing convergence between terrorism and transnational organised crime, including arms traf-

ficking, drug trafficking, illicit mineral exploitation, human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

There is a close synergy between early warning and terrorism which requires that significant investment be made to strengthen the SADC Regional Counter Terrorism Centre (RCTC) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The Centre remains only partially resourced, limiting its transition into a Regional Centre of Excellence capable of providing strategic intelligence analysis, specialised training, research, policy guidance and technical support to member states. Equally important is the need for Member States to establish and strengthen National Counter Terrorism Centres from the current five to ensure coordinated responses to terrorism and violent extremism.

Consolidation of Democracy and Inclusive Governance

The region continued to implement activities aimed at consolidating democracy through the deployment of SADC Electoral Observation Missions (SEOMs) to Member States holding elections. In 2025/26, three SEOMs were deployed to Malawi, Seychelles and Tanzania during this reporting period. Post-election review missions were also undertaken in Lesotho and Zambia to strengthen democratic processes and reinforce stability.



SEOM Deployments Between 2020 and 2025

Year	No of Elections	SEOM Deployments	Member States
2019	7	7	Botswana, Namibia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Madagascar, South Africa & Malawi
2020	2	2	Zambia, Presidential election re-run in Malawi (Virtual Deployment due to COVID-19)
2021	2	2	Seychelles and United Republic of Tanzania (Virtual deployment due to COVID-19)
2022	2	2	Lesotho and Angola
2023	4	4	DRC, Eswatini, Madagascar and Zimbabwe.
2024	6	6	Botswana, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, and South Africa
2025	3	3	Malawi, Seychelles and United Republic of Tanzania

Source: SADC Secretariat

The number of Member States reported as adhering to the SADC Principles on Democratic Elections in 2025 was two out of three, compared to five out of six in 2024. For the two Member States which did not adhere to the Principles on Democratic Elections, the election outcomes were disputed thereby threatening the gains made in consolidating democracy. In addition, implementation of the recommendations stands at 20 percent while 47 percent have not been implemented and 33 percent are at various stages of implementation. Table 3 shows the SEOM deployments in the SADC Member States holding elections over the period 2022-2024.

In the past five years, voter turnout stood at 60 percent, showing moderate participation. Turnout increased from 55 percent in 2023 to 64 percent in 2024 and to a significant 80.20 percent in 2025. Overall, the region has made progress in consolidating democracy.

Violent protests surrounding elections have demonstrated that contested legitimacy can destabilise governance and threaten the stability of the region, reinforcing need for deeper institutional reforms and consistent enforcement of SADC's electoral standards if the consolidation of democracy and inclusive governance is to be sustained.

Prevention, Management and Resolution of Conflicts

The region continues to strengthen conflict prevention, mediation and resolution spearheaded by the Panel of Elders (PoE) and the Mediation Reference Group (MRG), with important milestones achieved in Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho and Zimbabwe.

Democratic Republic of Congo

The PoE advised on strategies for peaceful transition, emphasising that long-term stability requires sustained regional monitoring, diplomatic engagement and logistical support to the Armed Forces to repel insurgent advances.

Kingdom of Lesotho

The PoE and the MRG's regional oversight, coupled with the country's own decade-long efforts to maintain momentum in national security reforms through continued political engagement, facilitated Lesotho's removal from the SADC Organ Troika's security agenda, following the enactment of the 10th Amendment to the country's constitution. This milestone was acknowledged by the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government and acknowledged by the Kingdom of Lesotho.



Malawi's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Dr. George Thapatula Chaponda, signed the SADC Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons on 16 July 2026, bringing the number of signatory Member States to 10.

Republic of Madagascar

The region's intervention in Madagascar combined political mediation, technical fact-finding, and regional partnerships. The PoE and MRG have been mandated to support the assessment of Madagascar's crisis roadmap, alongside Organ Troika Member States and the Secretariat, with deployment approved for 2026 to guide dialogue and reform implementation.

In February 2026, Former Malawi President, Her Excellency Dr. Joyce Banda, Member of the SADC Panel of Elders led a delegation to President of Refoundation of Madagascar, Colonel Michaël Randrianirina in Antananarivo as mandated by the SADC Summit as part of the SADC's shuttle diplomacy on interventions and support for the ongoing processes in the Republic of Madagascar.

Combatting Corruption and Money Laundering

Corruption remains a major obstacle to sustainable development, governance, service delivery, and growth in SADC. In 2024/25, the investigation completion rate held at 46 percent, prosecutions rose and the conviction rate recovered to 64 percent, while asset recovery reached US\$268.4 million - an improvement from the previous cycle though still below historic peaks. These gains reflect Member States' determination, yet persistent backlogs and systemic weaknesses highlight the need for deeper reforms and stronger investigative capacity. Its effects extend beyond financial losses, eroding public confidence in institutions and undermining transparency, accountability, and inclusive development, even as Member States continue to strengthen legal frameworks and enforcement measures to safeguard public resources and promote integrity.

Increased Women and Youth Representation in Peace Support Operations

Women's representation in defence and peace support positions stagnated below 10 percent between 2023 and 2025, raising concerns for governance, diplomacy and conflict resolution. Across deployments, women made up 9.66 percent in SAMIM and 7.6 percent in SAMIDRC, averaging 8.6 percent overall, which remains short of the 15 percent regional target for 2030.

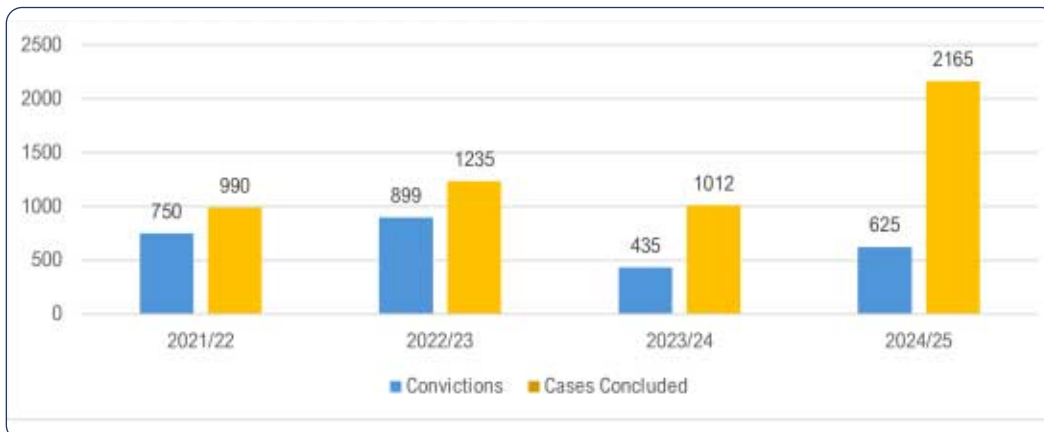
Similarly, the number of women holding high-level peace support operation positions remains significantly low at less than five percent in 2025/26, compared to 20 percent in 2024/25, signalling institutional tendencies and structural constraints that favour men over women at senior ranks within national militaries. In addition, limited recruitment of women in national defence forces persists, coupled with deployment bias towards combat roles, which are traditionally male-dominated and logistical constraints in terms of accommodation, equipment and gender-sensitive planning

Facilitation of Movement of Persons Across the Region

The Protocol on the Facilitation of the Movement of Persons in the SADC Region (2005) is not yet in force, as the requisite number of ratifications has not been attained. Of the 16 SADC Member States, seven have ratified the Protocol, four have signed but not ratified and five have neither signed nor ratified.

Notwithstanding its non-entry into force, Member States continue to implement the aspirations of the Protocol. Fifteen of the 16 Member States implement a 90-day visa regime for SADC citizens. The Kingdom of Lesotho applies a 30-

Number of Convictions vs Concluded Cases (2021/22-2024/25)



Source: SADC Secretariat, 2024/25



day visa regime for SADC citizens, except South African nationals who are granted 90 days, while Comoros operates a 45-day visa regime.

Member States have continued to make progress towards greater visa openness across the region. Mauritius, Seychelles and Zimbabwe exempt citizens of all SADC Member States from visa requirements. The DRC remains the most restrictive visa regime in the region, exempting only four SADC Member States from visa requirements.

Progress was also reported on the SADC Tourism UNIVISA. The Draft Agreement Establishing the SADC Tourism UNIVISA has been recommended for consideration by Council and Summit in August 2026. The revenue collection, sharing and distribution model remains under consideration by the relevant SADC finance structures, and the Committee

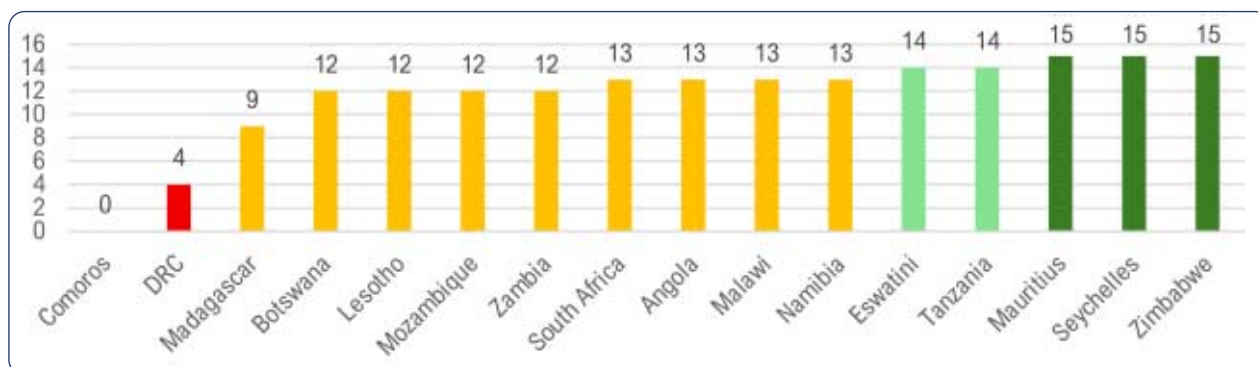
emphasised the need for its expeditious finalisation. Overall, Member States continue to advance regional integration and facilitate the movement of persons through visa exemptions, harmonised visa regimes and other practical mobility arrangements despite the Protocol not yet being in force.

Combating Transnational Organised Crime

Transnational organised crime remains a serious threat to peace, security and economic development across the SADC region, with drug and arms trafficking, human smuggling and illicit financial flows persisting as urgent challenges.

In 2025, member states recorded 1,779 arrests, a sharp decline from 7,930 in 2024. This decrease is attributed to underreporting rather than a reduction in criminal activity. Motor ve-

Visa Openness in the SADC Region



Source: MCO record. NB: No available data for Comoros.



hicle theft, particularly in South Africa continues unabated, with several countries serving as sources, transit routes, or markets. Drugs such as cannabis, cocaine, and heroin remain widely trafficked.

The illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons fuels conflict and organised crime. The SADC Protocol on Small Arms was reviewed and amended in 2024, prompting several member states to strengthen domestic legislation. Enhanced cross-border operations led by the Southern Africa Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation resulted in seven joint operations, dismantling sophisticated syndicates and rescuing trafficking victims - demonstrating that coordinated regional action yields tangible results.

SADC PoE and MRG pledge to strengthen regional conflict prevention and mediation

The SADC Panel of Elders (PoE) and Mediation Reference Group (MRG) convened in Johannesburg on 11 April 2026, reaffirming their collective resolve to deepen mediation, conflict prevention, and preventive diplomacy across the region.

The joint statutory meeting, preceded by two days of MRG deliberations, brought together distinguished former leaders including H.E. Dr.

Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, H.E. Dr. Joyce Banda, and H.E. Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, alongside SADC Secretariat representatives.

Chairperson Dr. Kikwete stressed the urgency of strengthening early warning systems amid a rapidly evolving security landscape. He called for sustainable financing to operationalise the SADC Mediation, Conflict Prevention and Preventive Diplomacy Structure, enabling timely intervention in inter- and intra-state conflicts.

Professor Kula Theletsane, Director of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Affairs, acknowledged the Panel's invaluable contribution to regional peace consolidation.

The meeting endorsed the revised SADC Mediation Framework, designed to enhance structures including the Panel of Elders, the MRG, and the Network of Women Mediators.

H.E. Dr. Banda presented an overview of her leadership in the Madagascar mediation process, deployed by the SADC Summit to restore political stability, constitutional order, and democratic governance. The Panel commended her stewardship.

Established in 2004, the SADC Panel of Elders comprises eminent former Heads of State and Government with proven expertise in conflict resolution and diplomacy. Their work remains central to fostering peace and security across the region.



Members of the SADC Panel of Elders and the Mediation Reference Group



Zimbabwe's Agricultural Transformation: Growing a Food-Secure, Industrialised Future

The Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Water Resources Development is proud to showcase a new era of agricultural excellence under the National Development Strategy 1 (2020-2025). Zimbabwe has moved from managing decline to driving growth, powered by the Agriculture Food Systems and Rural Transformation Strategy. Today, agriculture stands as the backbone of economic recovery, rural development and national food sovereignty.

A Nation Feeding Itself Again

Zimbabwe has achieved one of its most significant milestones in decades: national food security. The 2024/25 summer season delivered 2.9 million metric tonnes of cereals, far surpassing the national requirement of 1.8 million tonnes. Through the Pfumvudza/Intwasa Presidential Input Support Scheme, 3.5 million farmers cultivated over one million hectares, resulting in a 290% surge in cereal output. Winter wheat production also reached historic highs, with 563,961 metric tonnes in 2024 and 640,195 metric tonnes in 2025, securing year round supply and strengthening the strategic grain reserve.

Water and Infrastructure: The Foundation of Growth

Recognising water as the anchor of industrialisation, Zimbabwe accelerated dam construction across the country. Twelve major dams are under development, with Muchekerano, Chivhu and Marovanyati already completed. Gwayi Shangani lake and Kunzvi dam are nearing completion, unlocking irrigation, hydropower, fisheries, potable water and tourism opportunities. Irrigation development has expanded to 256,598 hectares, with a target of 496,000 hectares by 2030. Grain storage capacity is being upgraded from 500,000 to 1.5 million metric tonnes, supported by new smart silos and dryers to reduce post harvest losses.

Mechanisation for Modern Farming

To boost productivity, the Ministry distributed 5,450 units of farm machinery and equipment, surpassing annual targets (1,470 units in 2024 against a target of 1,200). Through partnerships with Belarus and New Holland, farmers now operate over 16,350 functional tractors, strengthening national capacity for commercial and smallholder production.

Transforming Rural Economies

The innovative Village Business Unit (VBU) model is reshaping rural livelihoods. Each VBU integrates solar powered boreholes, drip irrigated horticulture, fishponds and livestock watering systems – turning villages into centres of production, nutrition and income generation. This model is driving rural industrialisation and building climate resilient communities.

Livestock and Agro Industry on the rise

The Livestock Recovery and Growth Plan has expanded the national cattle herd to 5.9 million, supported by 1,620 Ward Drought Mitigation Centres that protected 2.8 million cattle during drought. Milk production reached 114.7 million litres in 2024, narrowing the gap to national demand. Tobacco production hit a record 355 million kg, generating US\$1.178 billion and surpassing NDS1 targets.

Science, Innovation and Land Reform Progress

Zimbabwe is investing in a knowledge driven agricultural future. The country now hosts the region's largest semen processing centre, a modern livestock feeds laboratory and produces 16 million doses of Newcastle vaccine annually. Agricultural Education 5.0 is expanding through the Zimbabwe Online Agricultural College, which graduated its first cohort in 2024. A new land policy now provides title deeds unlocking investment and bankability.

Towards a US\$15.8 Billion Agriculture Sector by 2030

Zimbabwe's agricultural transformation is real, measurable and accelerating. With the launch of Agriculture Food Systems and Rural Transformation Strategy 2, the nation is firmly on course to build a US\$15.8 billion agriculture sector by 2030.

Zimbabwe is growing. Zimbabwe is producing. Zimbabwe is transforming.



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Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Water Resources Development Zim



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PILLAR I:

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND MARKET INTEGRATION

This core pillar is directed towards realising an industrialised regional economy that utilises its natural resources sustainably. It focuses on building an industrialised regional economy through industrialization and value addition of raw natural resources, deepened regional market integration and free movement of goods as well as macroeconomic stability and financial market cooperation

Increased Manufacturing Value-Added to GDP

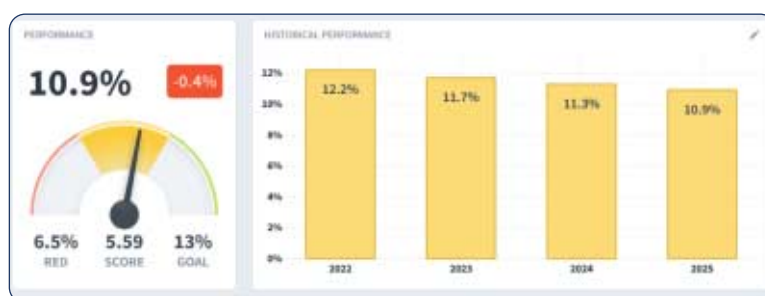
The manufacturing sector maintained a consistent contribution to GDP but declined between 2023 and 2025. Manufacturing Value-Added (MVA) as a percentage of GDP fell to 10.9 percent in 2025 from 11.3 percent in 2024, far below the regional target of 30 percent of GDP by 2030. This is attributed to global economic conditions, domestic policy changes and economic shifts.

Since 2020, MVA has remained within a narrow range of 10.9 percent to 12 percent. This suggests that manufacturing growth has not kept pace with overall economic expansion. The region remains dependent on primary commodities, with limited value addition and weak diversification. Infrastructure gaps, energy supply challenges and low technological investment further constrain industrial progress. With this trend, the region may not attain the MVA to 2030 GDP target, thereby threatening the attainment of the region's industrialisation objectives.

Increased Manufacturing Employment

Manufacturing employment in SADC rose only slightly from 14.39 percent in 2023 to 14.45 percent in 2024, with persistent gender disparities (women at 9.3 percent, men at 19 percent). While the regional average remains far from the 30 percent industry employment target for 2030, Lesotho has already achieved the 30 percent benchmark, standing out as a leader in in-

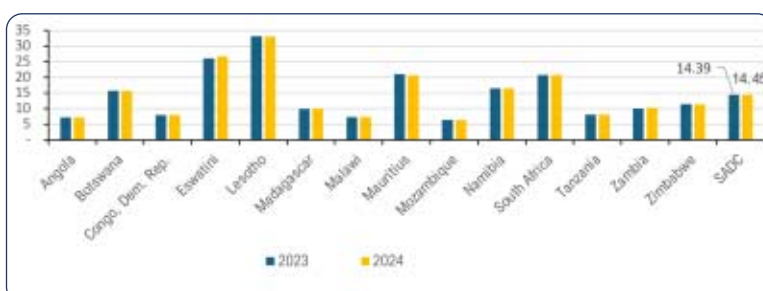
Percentage of Manufacturing Value-Added to GDP



Note: The years are in fiscal years. 2025 denotes 2024/25 (2024)

dustrial employment. Eswatini, Mauritius and South Africa are relatively close, recording industry employment levels between 20 percent and 33 percent. This uneven progress represents one of the many challenges facing industrialisation in the region.

Manufacturing Employment by Member State as a % of Total Employment



Source: World Development Indicators: <https://databank.worldbank.org/source/world-development-indicators>, downloaded June 2026. Data on Mauritius is not available



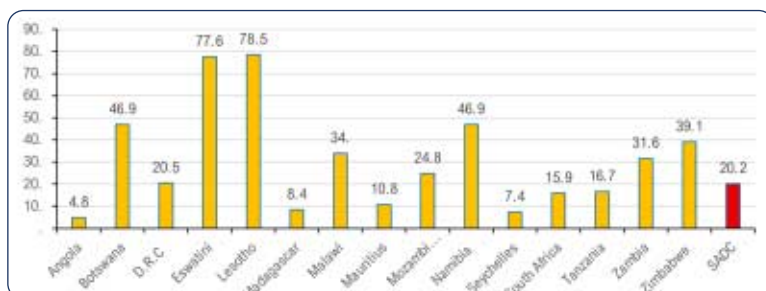
Increased Intra-SADC Trade

Intra-SADC trade as a share of total regional trade rose marginally from 19.8 percent in 2024 to 20.2 percent in 2025, driven by exchanges in manufactured goods, fuels, machinery, vehicles and agricultural products. South Africa remains the region's leading intra-regional exporter and industrial anchor.

Performance still lags behind the pre-pandemic level of 20.4 percent recorded in 2020, owing to global trade tensions and persistent supply chain disruptions. Moreover, extra-SADC trade continues to dominate in both value and share, reflecting a preference among Member States to trade more with external partners than with each other.

To unlock the region's full trade potential, SADC is prioritising the removal of structural barriers, enhanced trade facilitation, and current account liberalisation. These measures are essential not only for boosting trade volumes but also for building resilience against external economic shocks.

Intra-SADC Trade as a percentage of SADC Total Trade percentage by Member State, 2025



Source: SADC Statistics, 2025

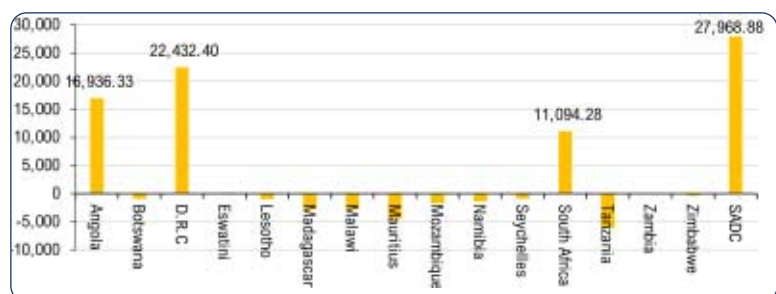
Total Merchandise Trade Balance

SADC's merchandise trade surplus declined to US\$27,969 million in 2025, down US\$2,231 million from the previous year. Only three Member States - Angola, DRC and South Africa - recorded surpluses.

The remaining 13 Member States registered deficits, exposing deep structural weaknesses including narrow export baskets, limited industrialisation and weak participation in regional and global value chains. The surpluses remain concentrated in resource-driven economies, while others lag behind.

To redress this imbalance, SADC is prioritising faster industrialisation, mineral beneficiation, agro-processing and product diversification. Reducing non-tariff barriers and improving transport infrastructure are critical to boosting intra-regional trade and reducing dependence on external markets. These measures are essential for building a resilient, diversified and competitive regional economy that benefits all Member States.

Total Merchandise Trade Balance in Member States (Millions of US\$)



Source: SADC Statistics, 2025

Enhanced Industrial and Value Chain Development Focusing on Priority Value Chains

Regional industrial and value-chain development shows limited progress: Leather policy domestication increased to 37.5 percent in 2025 from 25 percent in 2024, with 10 Member States still outstanding.

Mineral beneficiation implementation focused on strengthening regional mining policy dialogue, deepening public-private engagement and revising the SADC Protocol on Mining to support coordinated regional action on value-chain development; in addition, an in-depth analysis of key agricultural value chains such as soybean, wheat, rice and cotton has been conducted to identify and prioritise investment opportunities.

Implementing policies of exporting processed raw materials could potentially increase

mining value chains as seen by Zimbabwe's 2022 ban on raw lithium ore exports which coincided with investment in lithium concentrator facilities in 2022 and 2023 and the subsequent tightening of that policy in May 2026, which extended the ban to lithium concentrates and catalysed a further round of investment in lithium sulphate processing plants. Similarly, in the DRC, copper and cobalt smelters contributed to an increase in refined copper cathodes exports (African Economic Research Consortium, 2026).

Spending on Research and Development, and Innovation

Research and Development (R&D) investment across SADC Member States remains low and uneven, with all Member States falling below the regional (one percent) and AU (1.5 percent) Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) as a percentage of GDP targets.

Few Member States - Namibia (0.73 percent), South Africa (0.62 percent), and Tanzania (0.52 percent) - demonstrate relatively stronger commitment, while the majority fall below 0.5 percent, and some such as Angola (0.07 percent) and Madagascar (0.01 percent) show critically low investment levels. This suggests limited prioritisation of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in national budgets, weak private sector investment in R&D and underdeveloped innovation financing.

In addition, persistent data gaps and outdated figures for several countries highlight weaknesses in monitoring STI performance, underscoring the need for Member States to invest in digitising national surveys to reduce costs and improve consistency in R&D and innovation data.

FINANCIAL MARKET INTEGRATION, MONETARY COOPERATION & INVESTMENT

Improve Access to Banking and Non-Banking Financial Services

The region increased the level of financial inclusion by one percentage point, with 79 percent of adults being financially included in 2025 from 78 percent achieved in 2024. The region has maintained a notable improvement from the 57 percent baseline recorded in 2011, driven largely by mobile money adoption and instant payment systems.

The 22-percentage point increase represents one of the most significant achievements in global financial inclusion, bringing financial services to an additional 24 million adults across the region.



SADC Financial Access Strand

Mobile phones and the internet are revolutionising financial inclusion in SADC, enabling more people to access and use digital financial services to manage their financial lives. From mobile money accounts accessible on basic phones to bank-account-linked wallets used on smartphones, digital services are fulfilling their promise of being more accessible and affordable than alternatives that are not digitally accessible, bringing benefits such as the ability to make daily savings deposits using local agents, to manage loan disbursements and repayments using an app, and to purchase pay-as-you-go renewable electricity directly from a phone, to name just a few.

Nevertheless, recent and ongoing crises across the African continent and the world have deepened the barriers to financial inclusion. From refugees without identity papers unable to receive remittances, farmers affected by severe floods or drought unable to access relief funds due to missing paperwork, remote residents unable to access even basic banking services or women and young entrepreneurs refused loans due to lack of collateral or formal employment.

Increased Real-Time Gross Settlement Transactions

The continued growth of the SADC Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system has reinforced efficient cross-border payments in 15 Member States. The region's RTGS system settled transactions increased to R19.2 trillion in 2025 from R16.2 trillion the year before. The SADC-RTGS system demonstrated significant performance, with 6,879,517 transactions valued at R19.2 trillion settled by the end of May 2026.

Eighty-eight participants comprising central banks and commercial banks from 15 Member States (excluding Comoros) are electronically linked for real-time cross-border payments and settlements. The Transactions Clearance on Immediate Basis payment scheme was active in six Member States (Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South



Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) and eight participants, including both bank and non-bank financial institutions, with reduced transaction costs and processing times for regional trade.

Real Time Gross Settlement System – Settled Transactions in ZAR Trillion



Source: CCBG (2025) Note: The years are in fiscal years. 2026 denotes 2025/26

Capital Market Development

Market capitalisation across SADC capital markets, measured as a proportion of GDP, remains highly concentrated in a small number of leading economies. The region's performance has transitioned from a stabilisation phase (2023-2024) to an active recovery phase (2025). The current performance has improved from a 49.7 score in 2024 to a 65 score in 2025, reflecting a narrowing of the gap toward the target and enhanced resilience within the regional financial ecosystem.

However, the regional performance remains below the 2021 peak level (75.6), suggesting that full structural recovery has not yet been achieved. The current performance level corresponds to approximately 86.7 per cent of the defined regional target, indicating that while momentum is positive, gaps remain in achieving optimal market depth and investment mobilisation.

Stock Market Capitalisation as a Percentage of GDP Across Member States

At country level, South Africa continues to dominate the region, recording the highest levels of capitalisation, followed by Botswana.

Some smaller markets, notably Malawi, have shown measurable improvements, particularly between June 2024 and June 2025.

Foreign Direct Investment Promoted

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) increase from US\$9 billion in 2024 to US\$11 billion in 2025. The increase is driven largely by activity in Mozambique and South Africa. Angola attracted US\$8 billion in greenfield investment marking a more than twelvefold increase. Zambia's inflows rose from US\$0.1 billion to US\$1.2 billion, supported by a major merger and acquisition deal. Despite this, the announced greenfield investment value decreased by 16 percent.

Moreover, investment policies in 2026 are heavily influenced by geopolitical instability, global supply chain fragmentation, and capital concentration in high-tech sectors. These factors increase uncertainty, making investors more selective and reducing long-term infrastructure and green project investments. UNCTAD and the World Bank recommended targeted investment promotion measures, including reducing regulatory uncertainty, strengthening value chains, and supporting new project launches.

In summary, while 2025 saw a rebound in FDI, 2026 faces heightened uncertainty due to geopolitical tensions.

Macroeconomic Stability and Convergence

Macroeconomic convergence performance improved from a 2.8 score in 2024 to a 3.1 score in 2025. Historically, individual performance of primary targets varied over the period under review, with public debt of 57.3 percent of GDP against the target of 60 percent of GDP in 2025, while the other three primary indicators were missed.

Public debt, measured as a percentage of GDP, recorded a slight improvement in 2025, declining from 59.6 percent in 2024 to 57.3 percent in 2025, remaining within the SADC convergence target of less than 60 percent of GDP, while other three primary indicators were missed.

Macro-Economic Convergence in SADC



Source: SADC Regional Economic Report 2025



Macroeconomic Convergence Assessment has shown a region characterised by gradual but uneven progress towards macroeconomic convergence in Member States. Within individual Member States, Eswatini, Tanzania and Zimbabwe met the set targets of the primary macroeconomic convergence indicators (Inflation, Fiscal Deficit and Public Debt) in 2024 and 2025. Only Zimbabwe met all the primary targets in 2025.

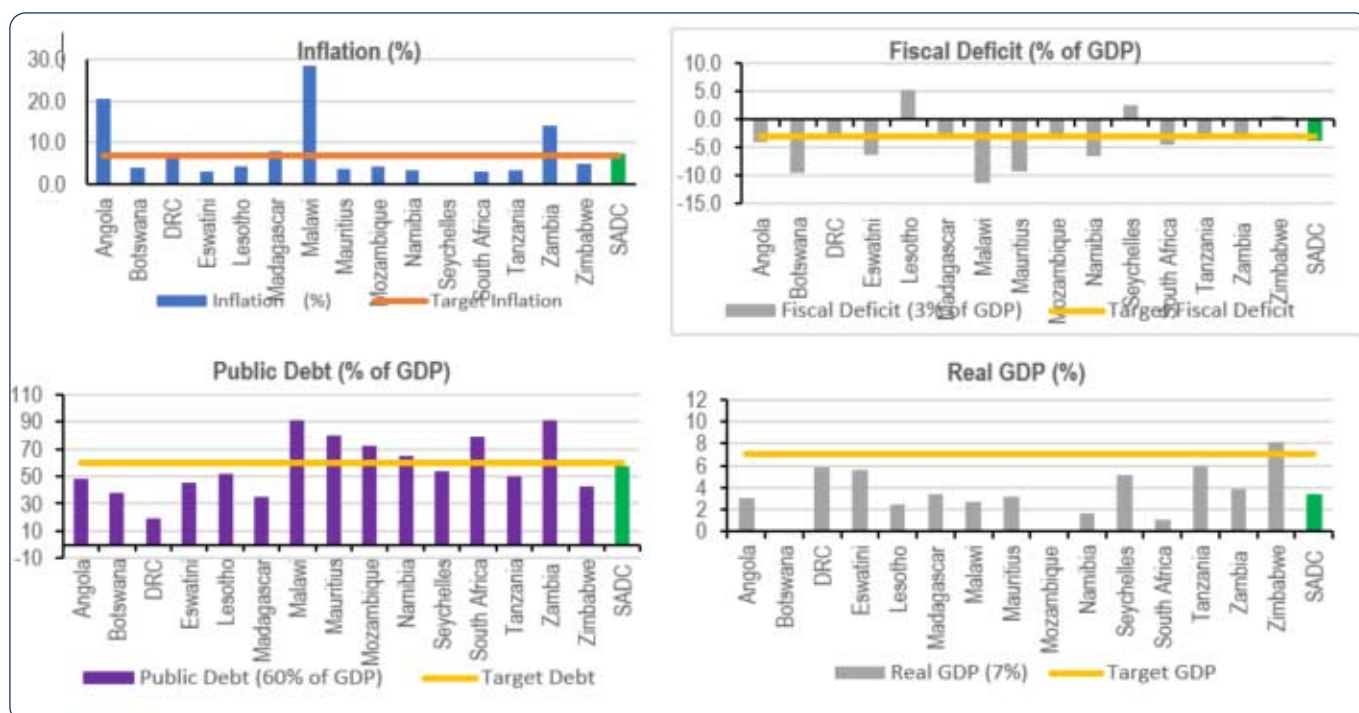
Weak global demand has dampened growth and current account balances. Contributing factors include geopolitical tensions, Middle East conflicts, trade frictions and drought conditions. The resulting low growth spilled over into fiscal performance, with some countries experiencing expenditure overruns and rising deficits.

Nine Member States - Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe - met the inflation and public debt targets. Seven Member States - DRC, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Seychelles and Tanzania - achieved the fiscal deficit target.

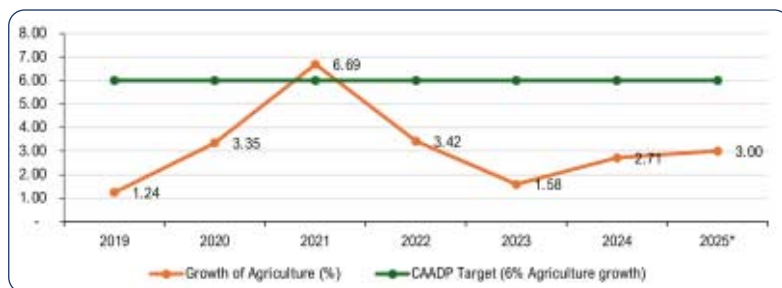
Only Zimbabwe met the regional growth target and distinguished itself as the only Member State to achieve all primary convergence criteria.

Agriculture and Food Security Situation in the Region

SADC registered a modest recovery in agricultural performance in 2025, following severe climate-induced shocks experienced in the previous season. Agricultural growth is estimated to have grown at between two and three percent in the 2025 season over the previous year's -1 to 0 percent but remains below the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) target of six percent needed to reduce poverty. The recovery is due to improved rainfall after the 2023/24 El Niño induced drought, which had significantly reduced crop output and agricultural incomes.



Source: SADC Regional Economic Report 2025



Source: <https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data>, =* denotes estimated growth based on RVAA 2025



Agricultural production in 2025 varied across Member States. Improved rainfall in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, and parts of South Africa supported cereal recoveries, while arid zones in Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe remained constrained by moisture stress and depleted assets. The slight productivity gain reflected recovery from the drought-affected 2024 season, with average cereal yields, especially maize, rising as rainfall normalised and governments provided emergency inputs such as seed and limited fertilizer.

These gains were weather-driven rather than from sustained advances in technology, mechanisation, irrigation or extension. Agriculture in SADC remains heavily rain-fed, with limited access to quality inputs, weak value chains and



low agro-processing. Accelerated implementation of climate-smart and productivity-enhancing measures under the Regional Agricultural Policy is needed to build resilience and drive structural transformation.

Food Security in the Region

Food insecurity in the SADC region improved by 2.1 percentage points in 2025, with the proportion of food-insecure people declining from 17.1 percent to 15.0 percent, driven by recovery from the previous year's drought. Despite this progress, an estimated 58 million people across 12 Member States remain food insecure during the 2025/2026 consumption period.

Significant reductions were recorded in Tanzania (73 percent), Zambia (71 percent), Zimbabwe (61 percent) and Namibia (51 percent). However, the DRC and Botswana experienced increases of nine percent and 10 percent respectively. High caseloads persist in the DRC, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and South Africa and where food insecurity affects between 19 and 25 percent of national populations.

The region's vulnerability is compounded by limited fiscal space, high inflation and subdued investment in productive sectors, leaving it exposed to climate and economic shocks. Addressing these structural challenges through sustained investment in agriculture, social protection, and economic diversification remains critical to achieving lasting food and nutrition security across the region.

Tourism Development in the Region

Tourism remains a vital engine for economic growth, employment and foreign exchange in the region. In 2024, the sector contributed US\$70.66 billion to regional GDP, an 8.52 percent share, up from 7.4 percent in 2023.

International arrivals reached 25.9 million, generating US\$41.95 billion in direct expenditure. The sector supported 6.29 million jobs, cementing its role as a key employment driver.

Performance varies widely. Island economies Seychelles and Mauritius are heavily tourism-dependent, contributing 63 percent and 23.5 percent to GDP respectively. Mainland countries like Namibia, Botswana and Tanzania show strong but more balanced contributions. South Africa remains the regional hub, recording the highest revenue and arrivals.

Despite steady growth, challenges persist: overreliance on international markets, uneven infrastructure and unequal distribution of benefits. To sustain momentum, SADC is prioritising intra-regional travel, improved transport connectivity, market diversification and

investment in sustainable eco-tourism. These measures are essential to building a resilient, inclusive, and competitive tourism sector that benefits all Member States.

Domestication of the Regional Leather Model Policy

SADC promoted efforts to strengthen the regional leather value chain by supporting Member States to domesticate the Regional Leather Model Policy. Building on earlier progress in Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, the Secretariat – with the support of the Germany Government – helped the DRC and Mozambique finalise their implementation plans, bringing the total to six countries. Angola and Botswana have since expressed interest in similar assistance.



SADC and German Government support leather value chain development in DRC and Mozambique

SADC with support from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has supported national efforts in the DRC and Mozambique to strengthen leather value chains as part of its broader agenda to accelerate industrialisation, promote value addition and enhance employment creation in the region.

In December 2025, SADC and the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Development hosted a two-day validation workshop, bringing together over 100 leather stakeholders.

In Mozambique, a two-day National Stakeholder Workshop for the Development of the

National Strategic Work Plan for Leather was conducted in February 2026 in coordination with the Ministry of Economy.

The objective is to enhance competitiveness and deepen integration of the regional leather value chain in line with the SADC Regional Model Policy Framework on Leather and Leather Products.

Through these workshops, Member States are undertaking actions to align national implementation with the regional framework to unlock value addition, strengthen competitiveness and foster enhanced cross-border cooperation within the SADC leather sector.

SADC Ministers call for coordinated action on animal disease control

SADC Ministers responsible for Agriculture, Food Security, Fisheries and Aquaculture convened their meeting on 29 May 2026 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, calling for coordinated regional action to protect food systems by, amongst others, controlling animal diseases such as Food and Mouth (FMD).

The Ministers urged Member States to prioritise cross-border surveillance, traceability, coordinated vaccination and a stronger 'One Health' approach linking animal health, trade and ecosystems.

They acknowledged that animal diseases do not respect borders, stating that the "collective resilience depends on the resilience of neighbours and preparedness is always less costly than prolonged outbreaks."

Ministers urged Member States to establish progressive FMD zoning and compartments for inter-regional trading; establish a Regional FMD Vaccine Bank; update their disease control legislation and ensure enforcement; and implement SADC One Health Roadmap.





SADC SUCCESS STORIES

Driving Regional Integration, Quality Services
& Sustainable Development



1

ACHIEVING WHEAT SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN ZIMBABWE

SADC Agricultural Transformation Programme



THE CHALLENGE

- Low productivity in communal farming systems
- Limited irrigation and energy access
- Weak access to finance for smallholder farmers
- Heavy dependence on wheat imports



THE SOLUTION

- Establishment of Irrigation Scheme Business Units (ISBUs)
- Implementation of the V30 Accelerator Model
- Expansion of solar-powered irrigation systems
- Strengthened public-private partnerships (ARDA, banks, investors)
- Input subsidies (seed, fertiliser, fuel)



THE RESULTS

- 600,000+ tonnes of wheat produced
- Surpassed national requirement (360,000 tonnes)
- Yield increase:
 - Communal: 2.5 → 3–4 t/ha
 - Commercial: 5.5–6 t/ha
- Over 50% of output from partnerships
- Zimbabwe becomes self-sufficient with surplus production

OVERALL REGIONAL IMPACT



Strengthened regional food security systems



Reduced dependency on imported wheat



Promoted agricultural commercialisation



Scalable model for SADC Member States



Improved livelihoods and economic resilience

KEY SUCCESS DRIVERS



Political commitment at national level



Strong member state ownership



Effective public-private collaboration



Structured agricultural programmes



Investment in energy, irrigation and mechanisation



One Region, One Future:
Towards a Common Future



www.sadc.int

SADC calls for stronger Public-Private partnership to accelerate mineral investment, job creation, and economic growth in the region

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has called for stronger Public-Private partnership and collaboration to accelerate mineral investment, job creation, and economic growth in the region.

The call was made during the first SADC Ministerial High-Level Public Private Mining Forum held on 10 February 2026 on the margins of the 2026 Investing in African Mining Indaba in Capetown, South Africa.

The Forum was attended SADC Ministers responsible for Mining and Minerals, private sector under the Mining Industry Association of Southern Africa (MIASA), representatives of the Chambers of Mines from SADC Member States and other industry leaders.

Honourable Phumzile Mgcina, the Deputy Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources of the Republic of South Africa, on behalf of Honourable Minister Gwede Mantashe, Chairperson of the Committee of SADC Ministers responsible for Mining, highlighted the importance of strengthened cooperation between governments, private sector, and communities through policy harmonisation, optimisation of resource use and access, and the need for collective voice on African mining issues globally.

The Deputy Minister highlighted that regional competitiveness improves when Member States move from fragmented competition to complementarity, and when SADC institutions are used to drive coordination and implementation across borders.

The SADC Executive Secretary His Excellency Mr. Elias Mpedi Magosi emphasised that SADC's position on minerals is anchored in a regional approach to the exploitation of minerals such that the developmental impact of finite mineral extraction is optimised for sustainable economic growth, industrialisation, and inter-generational equity.

He highlighted SADC's regional instruments, including the SADC Mining Protocol, Regional Mining Vision and the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap (2015–2063) as key policy and strategic blueprints for the development of the mining sector in the SADC region.

H.E. Magosi outlined SADC's value proposition to investors, citing the region's potential as a coordinated, competitive, and investment-ready mining destination. He reiterated SADC's vision for a sustainable, well-governed mining industry that drives regional industrialisation and adds value to raw minerals, benefiting current and future generations.

The leadership of MIASA affirmed Private Sector's readiness to engage Ministers and the Secretariat through structured mechanisms that advance implementation of the SADC Regional Mining Vision, which aims to foster transparent, equitable, and optimal exploitation of mineral resources to drive sustainable growth and industrialisation across the SADC region.

The Forum agreed on key strategies to promote responsible mining in the region. these key



strategies include leveraging SADC regional instruments and mechanisms under the Regional Mining Vision and Action Plan to ensure coherent implementation and reduce duplication across SADC Member States; implementing community benefit mechanisms, including formalisation pathways for artisanal miners to operate legally and safely, while reducing environmental harm; and strengthening regional training capacity and technology capability to support beneficiation, safety, and competitiveness in the mining sector.

To strengthen Mining cooperation in the SADC region, the Forum outlined key next steps to drive regional mining development. These include:

- ❖ The SADC Secretariat will convene regular follow-up engagements, including extraordinary meetings for urgent issues, to sustain ministerial and technical cooperation.
- ❖ Member States and MIASA will support private sector participation in strengthening regional mining governance and improving regulatory coherence.
- ❖ SADC Member States and industry partners will prioritize cooperation on responsible mining, artisanal mining formalisation, skills development, technology capability, and policy harmonisation to support value addition.

The 2026 African Mining Indaba provided a platform for SADC to showcase its potential as a premier mining investment destination and promote regional integration and cooperation in the sector. □



Celebrating 50 Years of ARIPO

A golden jubilee of shaping the IP landscape in Africa

The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) commemorates a legacy of unity, impact, and **Fostering innovation, creativity, and a sustainable future for Africa.**



www.aripo.org

ABOUT 50 YEARS OF ARIPO

The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) is an intergovernmental Organization that promotes and administers intellectual property (IP) rights across 22 Member States in Africa. Headquartered in Harare, Zimbabwe, ARIPO provides regional systems for the protection of patents, trademarks, industrial designs, plant varieties, utility models, copyright-related rights, and traditional knowledge, helping innovators, creators, researchers, and businesses protect and commercialize their ideas.

For 50 years, ARIPO has played a vital role in strengthening Africa's innovation and creative economy through a regional IP framework, building capacity, and fostering an environment that supports investment, technological advancement, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development across the continent.

In December 2026, ARIPO will celebrate its 50th Anniversary (Golden Jubilee), marking five decades of advancing intellectual property protection and contributing to Africa's economic transformation. The milestone offers an opportunity to reflect on the Organization's achievements while reaffirming its commitment to fostering innovation, creativity, and a sustainable future for Africa.

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PILLAR II:

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN SUPPORT OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION

The RISDP 2020-2030 places importance on the development of good infrastructure that will spur economic activity across the SADC Region. Under Infrastructure Development in support of Regional Integration, SADC aims to promote an interconnected, integrated and quality seamless infrastructure and networks, including cross-border infrastructure, which will be pivotal in facilitating the movement of people, goods, services and knowledge.

Installed Electricity Generation Capacity

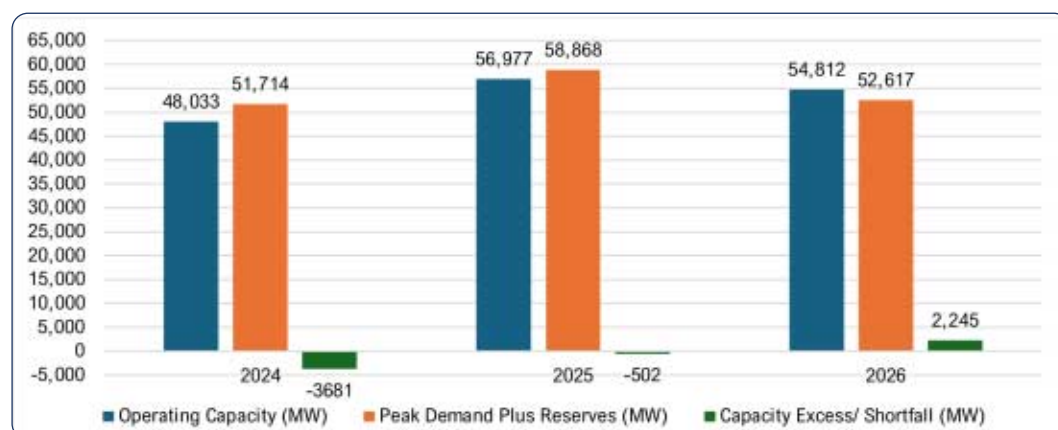
Energy plays a pivotal role in the region's progress towards industrialisation, economic growth and improved livelihoods. However, persistent challenges exist regarding energy availability, affordability and access, particularly in rural areas, as well as inadequate transmission infrastructure and limited policy harmonisation affecting cross-border power trade.

In terms of electricity, the region experienced power supply constraints in the year under review, with available generation capacity continuing to fall short of peak demand. In 2025/26, the new installed generation capacity across 12 mainland Member States reached 3,253 MW. The total generation capacity for Oceanic Member States stands at 1,611 MW, bringing the regional total to 88,202 MW with

mainland SADC Member States contributing 86,591 MW. This represents an increase from 83,874 MW in 2024/25. The operating capacity stands at 54,812 MW against the peak demand and reserve of 52,617 MW.

In 2025/26, mainland SADC Member States recorded a cumulative generation surplus of 2,245 MW contributed by Angola, Mozambique, South Africa and Tanzania, which maintained power plants and expanded generation capacity. However, this excess capacity remains inaccessible to other Member States due to inadequate transmission infrastructure and missing interconnectors linking Angola, Malawi and Tanzania. Notably, the number of Member States with surplus generation capacity increased from three in 2024/25 to four in 2025/26, reinforcing the positive supply outlook.

Trend of Operating Capacity vs Peak Demand



Source: SADC Secretariat, Record – Joint Meeting of Ministers of Energy of Water, 2024-26

Population with Access to Electricity

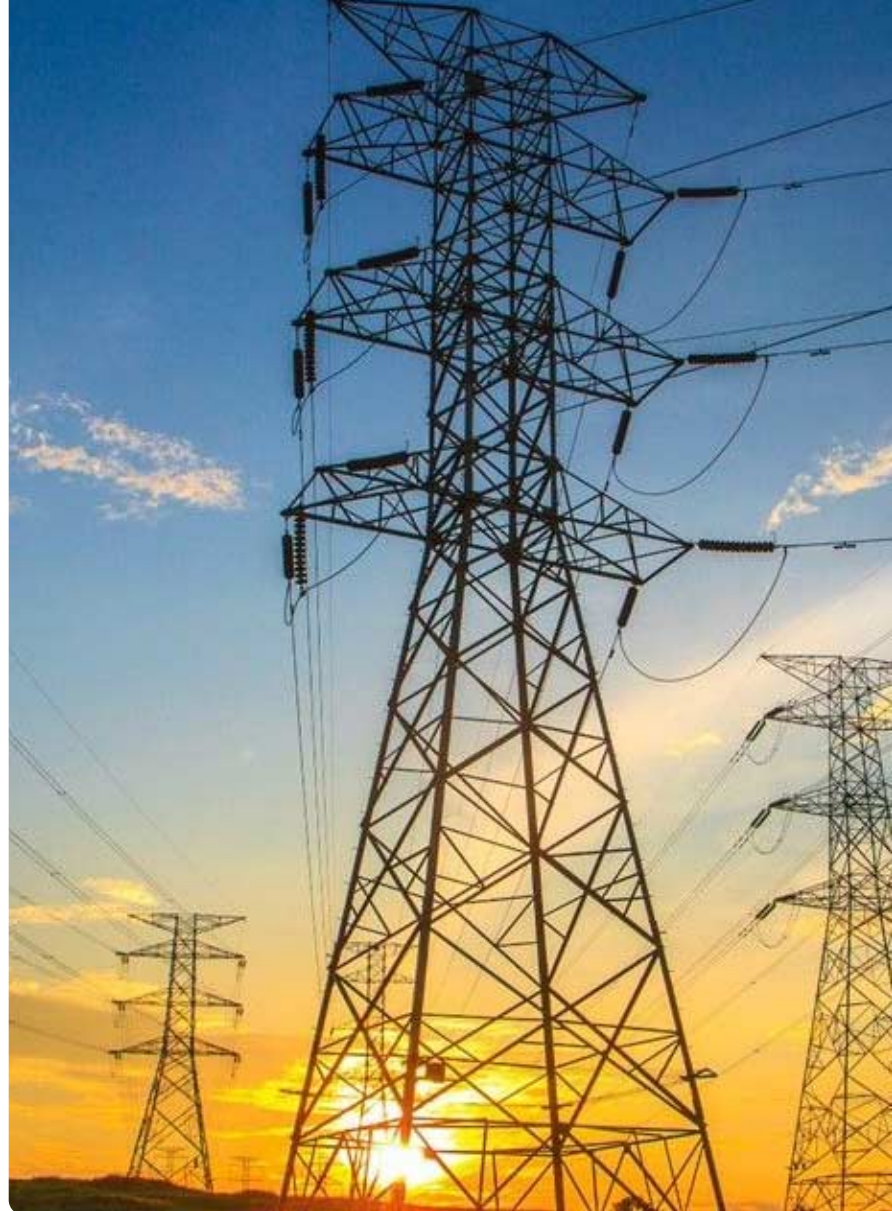
The percentage of the population with access to electricity increased from an average of 56 percent in 2024 to 60 percent in 2025, remaining substantially lower than the regional target of 85 percent by 2030. However, this is an aggregate figure, masking significant disparities, with Mauritius and Seychelles achieving 100 percent while DRC and Malawi remain below 20 percent.

Regional Electricity Markets

The SADC power grid forms the backbone of regional energy security, with South Africa's Eskom serving as its anchor through interconnections with Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and Mozambique. Zambia and the DRC are firmly integrated, enabling north-south power flows, while Malawi and Tanzania have joined through new and planned links. Angola's future integration will complete the loop, connecting Cabinda and Luanda.

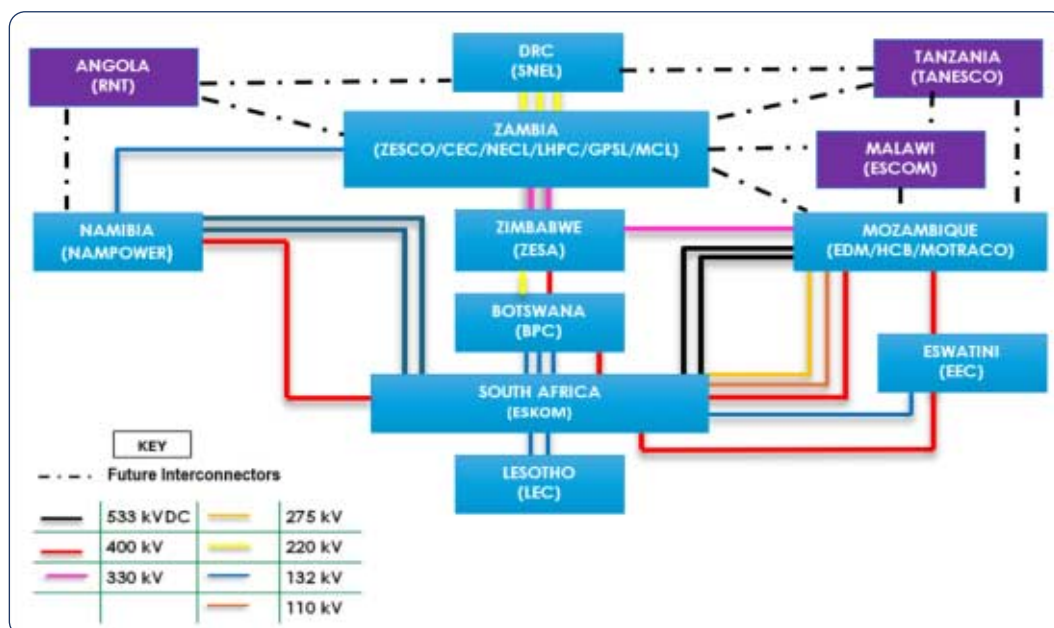
However, competitive electricity trading has declined sharply from a peak of 32 percent in 2018/19 to 13 percent in 2025/26. Bilateral contracts now dominate, accounting for 87–93 percent of traded power. The decline reflects supply constraints, regulatory hurdles and reduced generation due to drought, which has led Member States to favour negotiated contracts over competitive markets.

Despite this setback, the grid's expanding infrastructure- ranging from 400 kV high-capacity lines to smaller 132 kV links - points toward a fully interconnected system. Achieving this vision requires deeper reforms to stabilise



supply, harmonise regulations and reduce electricity costs, ultimately bolstering energy security for industrialisation and cross-border power sharing.

SADC Regional Power Grid for Mainland States

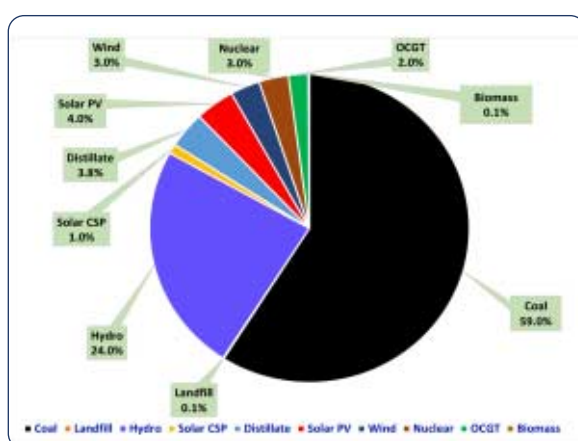


Source: Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), 2025

Energy Sources

The region relies heavily on coal and hydropower, with significant potential to increase hydropower generation and adopt renewable energy technologies. Coal constitutes 59 percent and hydropower 24 percent of the energy mix. To ensure a reliable power supply, the mix should be diversified by increasing the adoption of renewables, promoting integration and cross-border energy trade, investing in energy efficiency measures and encouraging private sector participation. The region has also made progress in developing regional strategies for hydro-carbon resources.

SADC Regional Generation Mix



Source: Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), 2025

Renewable Energy Uptake

From 2019 to 2025, the percentage share of renewable energy increased from 25 percent to 36 percent, with a two-percentage point rise from 2024. A significant gap remains to reach the 2030 target. Member States are to attract private sector investment, accelerate the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon energy future and promote renewable energy uptake in the region.

Notwithstanding the abundant natural resources such as coal, water, gas and wind, energy deficits remain a challenge in the attainment of the SADC region's regional integration objectives, directly affecting the industrialisation agenda.

Opportunities exist to turn the tide against energy related challenges guided by the Amended Protocol on Energy and focusing on the following strategic actions:

- (i) The region is to continue prioritising energy integration by fast-tracking interconnectors (Angola-Namibia, Malawi-Mozambique and Tanzania-Zambia) to expand power trading through SAPP and scaling up mini-grids, rooftop solar, and off-grid solutions to achieve universal access by 2030. Regulatory harmonisation will attract the private sector, while energy efficiency standards and financing mechanisms are promoted.
- (ii) Diversification into solar, green hydrogen and other clean technologies is to be accelerated alongside efforts to electrify transport and promote clean cooking.

Progress on Regional Gas Infrastructure Investment Blueprint

Country	Progress to Date
Malawi	Signed Power Purchase Agreements for Gas Powered Power Plants with ASPIN Ltd and UR Energy for 142MW and 75MW respectively for development by 2030. EGENCO Ltd conducting feasibility study for a 50MW Combined Cycle Gas Power Plant for development by 2029.
Mauritius	Development of a 450 – 500 MW LNG power plant is being considered by Government. Feasibility study will be commissioned shortly/in the near future.
Mozambique	Temane combined cycle gas power plant with capacity of 450 MW is targeted to be commissioned in 2027. Development of the Matola Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal as a priority project for the Region.
United Republic of Tanzania	185 MW Kinyerezi I Extension Gas Fired Power Plant has been commissioned Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) and Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos (ENH), respectively, signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation related to Oil and Gas business in November 2023 TPDC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with KS Energy (Botswana) on 10th January 2024 with the objective of cooperating in the distribution of natural gas in liquefied form through the Mini-LNG.

Source: SADC Secretariat

Regional Power Project Development

S/N	Energy Projects	Projects Objectives/ Status	Member States
Projects Under Construction			
1.	Julius Nyerere Hydropower project	The implementation of Julius Nyerere Hydropower plant project 2,115 MW commenced in December 2018. Plant has been fully commissioned.	URT
Projects Under Construction			
1.	Mozambique Malawi Transmission Interconnector	Project entails construction of a 400 kV transmission interconnector from Phombeya substation in Malawi to the Matambo 220/400 kV substation in Mozambique. Most construction activities are nearing completion, with commercial operation expected by the end of the second quarter of 2026.	Malawi and Mozambique
2.	Tanzania – Zambia Interconnector	The project involves construction of a 400kV power transmission interconnector line to bolster energy security between Tanzania and Zambia. The project is expected to be commissioned in 2028.	United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia
3.	Namibia, Obib Sub-station – Oranje-mond Substation South Africa, Alexander Bay 400kV Transmission Project	The project is a 400kV power transmission line to bolster energy security between Namibia and South Africa. The project is expected to be commissioned in the second half of 2026. The estimated cost of the project is \$63.5 million.	Namibia and South Africa
4.	Temane Gas Power Project	The Temane combined cycle gas power plant with capacity of 450 MW is under construction and is 80% complete. Commissioning would start in 2026 with target commercial operation in 2027.	Government of Mozambique
Projects with Complete Feasibility Studies and Ready for Implementation			
1.	Botswana – South Africa Transmission Interconnector	Feasibility and ESIA studies were completed, and the Project Information Memorandum finalized in February 2021. However, the project has stalled as it is not included in South Africa's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP).	Botswana and South Africa
2.	Angola Namibia Transmission Interconnector	Project secured USD 350 million financing from the World Bank for Angola's transmission line, while Namibia approved funding through its National Energy Fund on 14 April 2026. Construction is expected to finish in 2029.	Angola and Namibia
3.	2nd Alaska – Sherwood transmission project	Transactional advisory work was completed in August 2021, with ZESA pursuing the EPC + Finance option based on Norconsult's evaluation. Procurement of the EPC contractor is in progress, and construction is expected to begin in 2022, subject to resettlement and compensation processes.	Zimbabwe
4.	Kolwezi-Solwezi Transmission Interconnector	The two utilities are soliciting for project implementation funding.	DRC and Zambia
5.	ZIZABONA	Project stalled after completion of studies in 2017. Meridiam, a consortium of infrastructure fund managers have expressed interest in the project and have committed to presenting a development proposal by July 2022.	Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe
6.	Mozambique – Zambia	The project feasibility and ESIA study have been completed. The ESIA study is pending Government Agency approval in the two Member States. The next phase of the project is to prepare the Final Design Report and Tender Documents.	Mozambique and Zambia



Regional Power Project Development

S/N	Energy Projects	Projects Objectives/ Status	Member States
Projects with Complete Feasibility Studies and Ready for Implementation			
7.	Batoka Gorge Project	Studies and the ESIA were completed. Project Information Memorandum was finalised in February 2021. SAPP was formally requested by the Zambezi River Authority, and later informally by project developers (Trade & Development Bank, Power China, and General Electric), to assist with transmission and power evacuation for the Batoka Hydro Power Project. SAPP now awaits further details and an official request to define its role.	Zambia and Zimbabwe
8.	SADC Regional Gas Market and Infrastructure Study.	Study identified anchor projects across midstream and downstream value chains. 3 key projects – a GTL facility in Palma, a fertilizer plant in Nacala, and a GTP plant in Beluluane – alongside two infrastructure projects (North–South Pipeline and a small–scale LNG facility in Palma) underwent detailed techno–economic evaluation. Their locations were chosen based on regional demand for natural gas and products, existing infrastructure, ease of construction, and transport considerations.	Mozambique and South Africa
9.	Oxbow Hydropower Project	The Government of Lesotho informed the SADC Secretariat that the oxbow project is at a sensitive stage of procurement and any discussions on the project should be put on hold until after this stage.	Lesotho
10.	Mpanda Nkuwa Hydropower Plant (HMNK)	Feasibility study has been completed. Project is now undergoing financial structuring. The Mphanda Nkuwa Hydropower Project is being developed by a strategic consortium of EDF and TotalEnergies (France), together with Mozambican public partners EDM and HCB, reflecting strong collaboration between international investors and national authorities.	Mozambique



Robust Transport Infrastructure and Networks

The region's industrial development relies on robust and well-functioning transport infrastructure in its various modes (air, road, rail and ports) as well as unimpeded networks providing access to services and amenities.

The Regional Trunk Road Network:

In 2025/26, the transport system continued to demonstrate relative strength. The Regional Trunk Road Network (RTRN) currently stands at 65,000km, below the 85,000km target. The network has established vital links to strategic cities, production centres and ports, serving as the backbone of the SADC multi-modal transport corridors and facilitating trade, industrialisation and integration across the region. However, the networks face demands that exceed capacity limits. Traffic is projected to grow exponentially into the 2030s, calling for efforts to address the capacity constraints.

Total Regional Trunk Road Network



Several regional trunk roads have been upgraded and rehabilitated, all aimed at improving transport efficiency and strengthening connectivity across the region.

The following projects are being upgraded and developed: the Kasomeno-Mwenda Toll road project between DRC and Zambia; the upgrade of the Francistown to Pandamatenga road in Botswana; the expansion of the Great North Road to a dual carriage in Zambia along the North South Corridor; the Kibaha-Chalinze-Morogoro Expressway (163.5km) and the Makambako-Songea road (295km) in Tanzania; including project preparation for the six designated Ports of Entry targeted for infrastructure improvement into One-Stop Border Posts with South Africa at: Beitbridge-Zimbabwe, Lebombo - Mozambique, Oshoek-Eswatini, Kopfontein-Botswana and Maseru Bridge and Ficksburg-Lesotho

Facilitation of Cross-Border Movement and Development of Corridors

Development of One-Stop Border Posts (OSBPs)

Effective intra-regional trade and movement of persons depend on efficient, predictable and well-coordinated border processes between neighbouring countries. However, SADC Member States currently conduct border operations using different systems, thereby limiting efficiency at border posts and, more importantly, contributing to trade facilitation bottlenecks.

In 2025, the region advanced the rollout of OSBPs to consolidate border controls, allowing goods and persons to stop only once when crossing. This initiative is expected to cut cross-

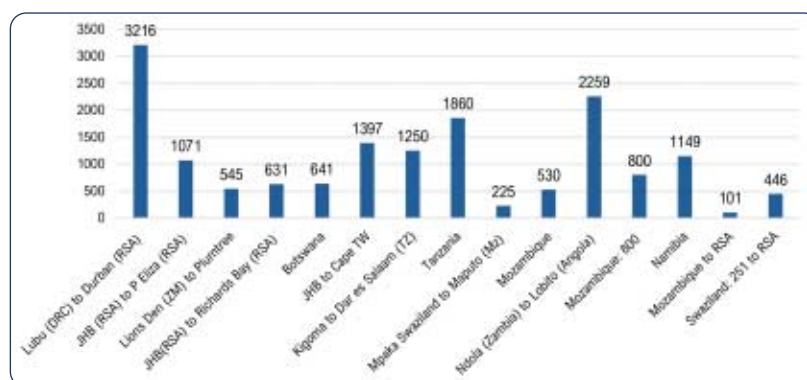
border transit time, which is currently about 4.5 days and has shown little improvement since 2024.

Currently, six OSBPs in the region are operational, three are under construction and the remainder are in the planning phase. The operational OSBPs are Kazungula (Botswana-Zambia), Chirundu (Zambia-Zimbabwe), Beitbridge (South Africa-Zimbabwe), Lebombo/Ressano Garcia (South Africa-Mozambique), Oshoek (South Africa-Eswatini) and Maseru Bridge (South Africa-Lesotho). Under construction are Kasumbalesa, Kipushi and Mokambo (DRC-Zambia corridor).

Corridor Development in the Region

Strategic corridors continue to link production centres, cities and ports, but missing links in Angola and the DRC still constrain full integration. The total length of regional road corridors in SADC increased from 16,121km in 2023, to 42,000km in 2024, and to a modest 44,500km in 2025.

Corridor Development in the SADC Region



Source: SADC Secretariat





split in favour of road transport. This imbalance leads to faster road deterioration due to the shift of rail-friendly cargo to road transport, causing congestion on crucial road corridors and ports.

Radical policy and regulatory reforms are needed to transition from state-owned railways to Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models. These reforms can attract private sector investment and allow third-party operator access. Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia have begun this shift, which should be encouraged and replicated across the region.

It is also worth noting that the Lobito Corridor Agreement has been signed and ratified by Angola, DRC, and Zambia, establishing its management institute with the SADC Secretariat support. The North-South Corridor has reached the two-thirds signing threshold, with five Member States endorsing the MoU, but still awaits ratification and completion of domestic legal processes for its Corridor Management Institution.

Meanwhile, the Beira Corridor was signed in January 2026, the Nacala Corridor has been amended and ratified, the Central Corridor expanded to include Malawi and Zambia to consolidate traffic through Dar-es-Salaam and the Trans-Kalahari and Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi agreements remain operational, with feasibility studies for a parallel railway due mid-2026.

Revitalising Regional Railway Networks

The total Regional Railway Network has a wide coverage but faces some infrastructure, capacity, quality, and efficiency challenges. The network is estimated to be a total of 50,000km.

Revitalising SADC railways is crucial in rebalancing the current unsustainable 80:20 modal

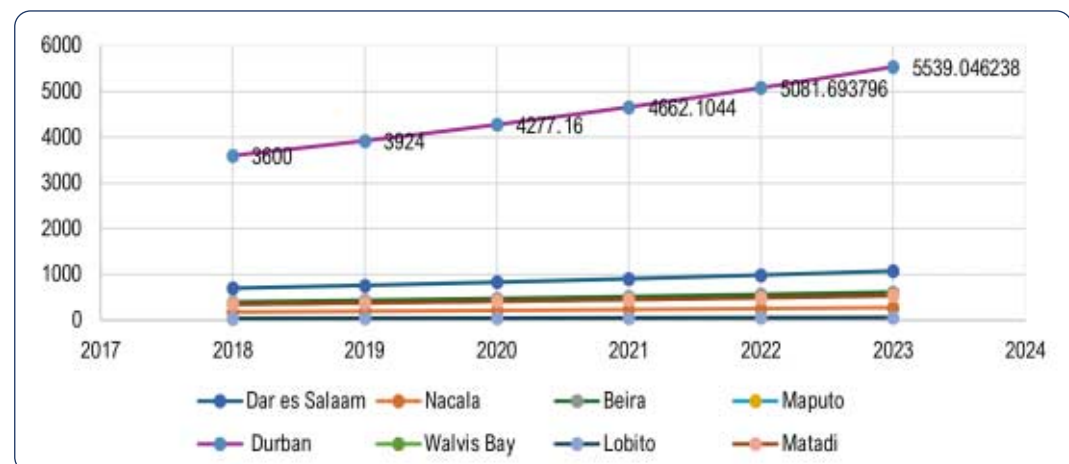
Development of the Regional Ports

Airports and ports traffic growth is already outpacing capacity. Port traffic in the region is projected to rise from 92 million tonnes to 500 million tonnes by 2027, growing exponentially larger by 2030. However, port development, capacity and growth has been modest, thereby requiring attention to boost regional integration through trade capacity, improved transport networks, maritime security and smart ports transition.

Apart from the Port of Durban, which has seen a significant capacity increase from 4,277 in 2022 to 5,530 in 2023, regional ports have shown moderate expansion. Investments are required to meet the demand and improve efficiency. Port interface with road and rail transport is crucial as it remains a significant contributor to the delays and high transport costs.

A mix of transport projects are being advanced in the region. These range from road upgrades and OSBPs under construction to feasibility studies for new rail links, port modernisation, and corridor developments. These projects involve multiple Member States and aim to strengthen connectivity, reduce trade bottlenecks and support industrialisation.

SADC Volume Change in Capacity of Regional Ports



Source: Southern African Railway Association Secretariat

Regional Transport Project Development

S/N	Transport Projects	Projects Objectives/Status	Member States
Projects Under Construction			
1.	Manyoni-Tabora - Kigoma Road	Project is being implemented. The Nyahua-Chaya section is 26 percent complete. The Urambo-Kaliua leg is 35% complete. Financial mobilisation has been a challenge.	United Republic of Tanzania
2.	Nakonde/Tunduma OSBP	Construction of the Zambian side completed. Detailed feasibility study and designs completed for the Tanzanian side. A similar structure needs to be constructed in Tanzania; construction of multiple lanes on both sides needs to be done; construction of OSBP storage facilities.	United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia
3.	Pioneer Gate Skilpadhek OSBP	South African side completed. Botswana side under construction.	Botswana and South Africa
4.	Beitbridge OSBP	South Africa and Zimbabwe are holding bilateral consultations to upgrade the Beitbridge border post into a phased OSBP. South Africa is shortlisting contractors for its side, while Zimbabwe has completed and commissioned upgraded facilities including water, sanitation, approach roads, and staff housing.	Zimbabwe and South Africa
5.	Kasumbalesa OSBP	The building on the Zambia side is constructed and hardware setup completed. Similar work is set to commence on the DRC side of the border.	DRC and Zambia
6.	Upgrading and modernization of border post facilities at Mwanza and Dedza/Calomue into OSBP	Construction works for OSBP for Mwanza and Dedza are at an advanced stage and are expected to be finalized by end of December 2022.	Malawi & Mozambique
7.	Kasomeno-Mwenda toll road project	The final feasibility study report was completed in December 2020. The two Member States have commenced preparatory works and construction mobilisation of the project.	DRC and Zambia
Projects with Complete Feasibility Studies and Ready for Implementation			
1.	Serenje Mpika Road	Feasibility studies completed – serves to link the central corridor	Zambia
2.	Upgrading and modernization of border post facilities at Songwe/Kisumulo into OSBP	Procurement for contractor for the construction of Songwe OSBP has commenced and works are expected to commence by November 2022.	Malawi United Republic of Tanzania
List of Additional Projects with Feasibility Study Reports			
1.	Feasibility Study and Detailed Projects for the CFB Rail Link to ZAMBIA	Prefeasibility study	Angola and Zambia
2.	Mtwara-Mbamba Bay-Mchuchuma/Liganga	Feasibility study	Tanzania
3.	Trans Zambezi Railway (Grootfontein - Rundu - Katima Mulilo) Line link project	Feasibility study	Botswana, Namibia and Zambia



Regional Transport Project Development

S/N	Transport Projects	Projects Objectives/Status	Member States
List of Additional Projects with Feasibility Study Reports			
4.	Modernisation of the Port of Mpulungu	Feasibility study	Zambia
5.	North South Corridor Rehabilitation Serenje – Mpika Road	Feasibility study	Zambia
6.	Multinational Nacala Road Corridor Development Project Phase V: (i) Construction of Nsipe-Liwonde Road; and (ii) Construction of OSBP between Malawi and Mozambique at Chiponde.	Feasibility study	Malawi and Mozambique
7.	Upgrading to bitumen standard of Matai – Kasesya Road (50km) linking Tanzania and DRC through Kasanga Port.	Feasibility study	DRC and United Republic of Tanzania

Increase Internet and Mobile Connectivity

In 2025, average internet penetration in the Region rose to 59.8 percent from 57.2 percent in 2024, showing continued progress but with persistent disparities across Member States. While Botswana, Eswatini, Mauritius, Seychelles and

South Africa remain above the RISDP 2030 target of 90 percent, countries like Madagascar (19 percent) and Mozambique (21 percent) are yet to make progress.

Percentage of Population with Access to Internet (per 100 inhabitants)

3G mobile network coverage in SADC increased from 86.7 percent in 2023 to 88.5 percent in 2024, against the RISDP 2030 target of 95 percent. In 2025, coverage remained at 88.5 percent, showing stability but still short of the target.

Significant strides have also been made on 4G coverage. Population within a 4G mobile network coverage increased from 75.2 percent in 2023 (from a very low 22.3 percent in 2020) to an impressive 79.2 percent in 2024, which puts SADC on track towards the 95 percent RISDP target by 2030. Six Member States - Eswatini, Mauritius, Seychelles and South Africa - have already achieved the 2030 4G coverage target of 95 percent, enhancing digital inclusion across healthcare, education and agriculture. Thirteen Member States have also met the 2025 broadband target, ensuring 80 percent population coverage.



Population within a 3G and 4G Mobile Network Coverage in SADC Member States



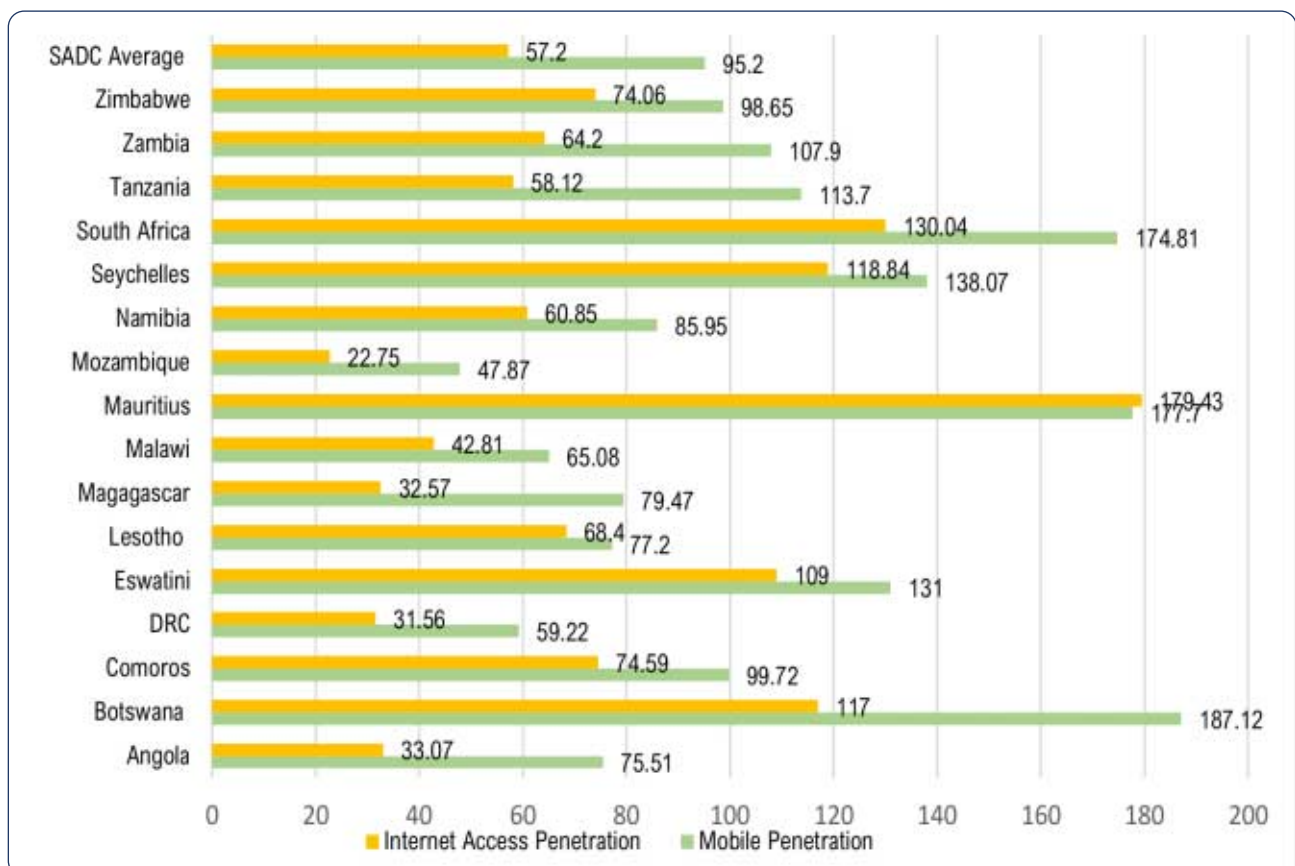
Mobile penetration reached 95.2 percent in 2024/25, exceeding the 95 percent regional target. Nine Member States have surpassed this milestone, with internet access growing faster at 6.3 percent. Meanwhile, 5G coverage expanded to 32.1 percent of the population, with South Africa leading.

Progress in digital infrastructure includes the completion of the 500 km Paratus Bots-

wana–Zambia fibre route, delivering 800 Gb capacity. The Borderless Fibre Network under the North - South Corridor is strengthening connectivity, linking subsea cables and data centres to position the region as an emerging digital hub. These developments underscore SADC's commitment to building a robust and inclusive digital economy.



Internet Access and Mobile Penetration in SADC Member States



SADC Secretariat ICT Observatory Portal



Eleven SADC Member States now operate Computer Incident Response Teams, with Namibia and Lesotho recently joining. Ten countries have established Data Protection Authorities, collectively upholding the SADC Harmonised Cybersecurity Framework to protect critical infrastructure and personal information.

Thirteen Member States have active Internet Exchange Points, while nine have completed the analogue switch-off for digital television, advancing broadcasting modernisation.

Progress is also evident in affordability- eight countries have achieved the UN's target of mobile broadband costing two percent or less of

monthly income, down from the regional average of 3.39 percent. These milestones reflect SADC's commitment to building a secure, inclusive, and affordable digital future for all citizens.

Regional ICT Projects

The SADC region is also prioritising ICT connectivity, with fibre-optic links and broadband backbone extensions under construction or at the feasibility stage. These projects aim to strengthen digital infrastructure, improve redundancy and enhance cross-border connectivity to support trade, industrialisation and regional integration.

Regional ICT Project Development

S/N	ICT Projects	Projects Objectives/Status	Member States
Projects Under Construction			
1.	Luanda-Kinshasa Optic Link	Construction of the Angola link has begun to establish fibre-optic connectivity between Angola and the DRC, initially linking Cabinda-Muanda and later Noqui-Matadi. The project aims to connect southwest and central DRC cities while providing redundancy for the Kinshasa-Muanda and Kinshasa-Kasumbalesa backbones in case of disruption.	Angola and DRC
Projects Under Construction			
1.	Extension of ICT broadband backbone from Tanzania to Mozambique	Feasibility study	Mozambique and United Republic of Tanzania
2.	Extension of ICT broadband backbone from Tanzania to DRC	Feasibility study	DRC and United Republic of Tanzania
3.	Lesotho South Africa Fibre Optic connection/link	Feasibility study	Lesotho and South Africa

Access to Water and Sanitation



The SADC region is making gradual progress in water supply, sanitation and governance, though significant challenges remain. Annual per capita freshwater withdrawal stands at 210 cubic metres - far below the 1,000 m³ global benchmark - reflecting scarcity driven by climate change, droughts, limited storage, population growth and underinvestment.

Access to safely managed water improved from 63 percent in 2024/25 to 69 percent in 2025/26. Sanitation services also edged upward, with safely managed facilities rising from 37 percent to 42 percent over the same period. South Africa, Botswana, and Mauritius lead in access, while Malawi, Mozambique, and the DRC lag behind.

To sustain progress, SADC must prioritise sustainable water management, infrastructure investment, and expanded storage, while ensuring sanitation access reaches underserved rural populations. These measures are essential for building water security and resilience across the region.

Implementation of the SADC Water Fund Projects and Transboundary Water Cooperation

The €12 million (approx. US\$13.7million) Kazungula Water Project in Zambia is complete, providing clean water to about 20,000 residents and border users. The €18.6 (approx. US\$21.2 million) million Lomahasha/Namaacha (LoNa) Cross-Border Water Supply Project between Es-

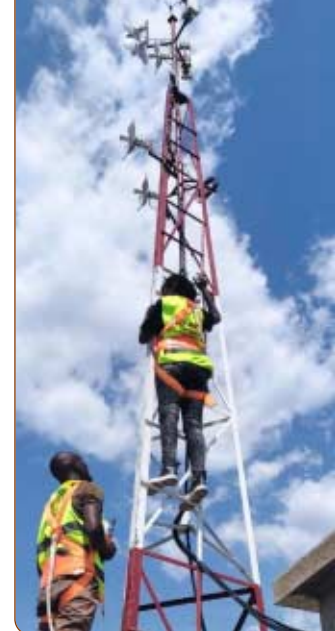
watini and Mozambique is over 80 percent complete and will serve more than 40,000 people by 2030, with commissioning expected by September 2026.

At least 15 of SADC river basins are transboundary, which makes the establishment, functioning and maintenance of transboundary River Basin Organisations (RBOs) essential. RBOs promote transboundary water cooperation, thereby preventing water utilisation conflicts and ensuring sustainable and equitable utilisation of shared water resources.

The region has made good progress already in the establishment of RBOs. An additional RBO was established in this reporting period; that is, the Ruvuma/Rovuma Watercourse Commission, comprising Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania, bringing the number of functional RBOs to nine. The establishment of the RBOs has resulted in mobilisation of over US\$55 million to drive design and implementation of water investment programmes in the basin.

Regional Water Projects

Water infrastructure development remains a critical priority for SADC, with projects ranging from completed supply and sanitation schemes to ongoing cross-border initiatives and feasibility studies for basin management and urban systems. These efforts aim to strengthen water security, improve sanitation and support regional integration.



Regional Water Project Development

S/N	Water Projects	Projects Objectives/Status	Member States
Completed Projects			
1.	Kazungula Water Supply and Sanitation in Zambia	SADC Water Fund as implementation agent and project managers on the project had indicated that the appointed Project Advisors Inco West and Rankin Engineering Consultants have progressed significantly with the updating of draft feasibility study on the project. The draft feasibility report was updated and completed in 2021, and the detailed designs were completed in January 2022. Construction works for the project was launched on 2nd February 2023 and commissioned in June 2025.	Zambia
Projects Under Construction			
1.	Lesotho Highlands Water Project (Phase 2)	Construction of the Lesotho Highlands phase 2 has commenced.	Lesotho and South Africa
2.	Lomahasha/Namaacha Cross Border Water Supply Project between	SADC Water Fund as implementation agent and project managers on the project had indicated that the appointed Project Advisors FICHTNER and Knight Piesold Consultants have completed the update to the feasibility study in April 2021 and the detailed design work. Procurement of EPC contractors has also been completed. Construction works for the project was launched on 6th June 2024.	Eswatini and Mozambique
Projects With Complete Feasibility Studies and Ready for Implementation			
1.	Songwe River Basin Development Project	Project detailed designs completed	URT and Malawi
2.	Chirundu Cross-Border Water Supply Project	Feasibility study completed and SADC Water Fund Board approval of application obtained for resource mobilisation.	Zambia and Zimbabwe
List of Additional Projects with Feasibility Study Reports			
1.	Antananarivo urban water supply and Sanitation Andriantany Channel	Feasibility study	Madagascar
2.	New Roche Bois Wastewater Pumping Station and Baie Du Tombeau Wastewater Treatment Plant in Mauritius	Feasibility study	Mauritius

Meteorological Observation and Seasonal Forecasting

SADC has made significant progress towards enhancing its network of meteorological observations, thereby improving agricultural planning, early warning, disaster preparedness and climate resilience, as well as reducing the impact of droughts and floods on food security. Namibia and South Africa have fully automated their synoptic observation networks. By 2025, the number of standalone Automatic Weather Stations (AWS)

in the SADC region had increased to about 280, moving closer to the target of 305 by 2030.

The region is to intensify resource mobilisation to strengthen observation networks, replace old equipment, increase the number of Automatic Weather Stations across the region and address data-sharing constraints. This will improve the availability and exchange of meteorological and climate data and supporting more accurate forecasting and climate services at regional and national levels.

1. WHO WE ARE

The Regional Energy Regulators Association of Southern Africa (RERA) is a SADC association of energy regulators established in 2002 in terms of the *SADC Protocol on Energy (1996)*, the *SADC Energy Co-operation Policy and Strategy (1996)*, the *SADC Energy Sector Action Plan (1997)*, and the *SADC Energy Activity Plan (2000)*, and in pursuit of the broader objectives of the African Energy Commission. The Association was endorsed by SADC Ministers responsible for Energy on **12 July 2002 in Maseru, Lesotho**, and officially launched on **26 September 2002 in Windhoek, Namibia**, in alignment with the SADC Protocol on Energy (1996). RERA today brings together **twelve national regulatory authorities** — one designated regulator from each SADC Member State — working collectively to harmonise regulation and advance an integrated regional energy market.

FOUNDED	MEMBERS	LEGAL BASIS	HQ
2002, Windhoek	12 National Regulators	SADC Energy Protocol, 1996	Windhoek, Namibia

2. OUR MANDATE

Vision: “To be the leading regional regulatory authority advancing an integrated, sustainable and efficient energy sector in the SADC region.”

RERA’s mandate is to drive strategic collaboration that harmonises regulation, fosters technological innovation, enhances data exchange, and attracts investment across the region’s energy sector. In practical terms, this mandate covers:

- Harmonising **national regulatory frameworks and technical standards** to enable seamless cross-border electricity trade;
- Building **regulatory and institutional capacity** through training, peer exchange, and establishing a Centre of Regulatory Excellence (CoRE);
- Monitoring **utility and regulatory performance** through regional Key Performance Indicators benchmarked against continental best practice;
- Advancing **tariff transparency** and supporting Member States’ migration toward cost-reflective electricity pricing;
- Promoting **renewable energy integration, climate resilience** and an inclusive, low-carbon energy transition; and
- Safeguarding **consumer protection** across the region’s electricity markets.

3. KEY ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Dissemination and domestication of the SADC Regional Grid Code

RERA working with SADC Secretariat and Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) developed the **SADC Regional Grid Code**, which was **endorsed by SADC Ministers responsible for Energy in May 2024** as the technical document to ensure quality, safe, reliable, and efficient cross-border electricity exchange. Member States are now in the process of aligning their national grid codes with the regional Code. The Association is tracking alignment progress, providing regulatory support where necessary, and further conducting stakeholder awareness to ensure consistent implementation throughout the SADC interconnected power system.

Regional Harmonisation of Regulatory Tools and Frameworks (AfDB-funded)

With financing from the African Development Bank, RERA is implementing a four-component programme to harmonise regulatory frameworks and tools across the region: **Regional Electricity Regulatory Principles & KPIs**; expanded **Regional Utility KPIs**; a **Harmonised Tariff Comparison and Cost-Reflectivity Assessment Tool**; and a centralised **Energy Information & Database Management System**. The development of the first four components has been completed and are currently prepared for implementation. These will ensure improved electricity regulation in the SADC Region.

Transformation of RERA into SARERA: A Binding Regional Energy Regulator

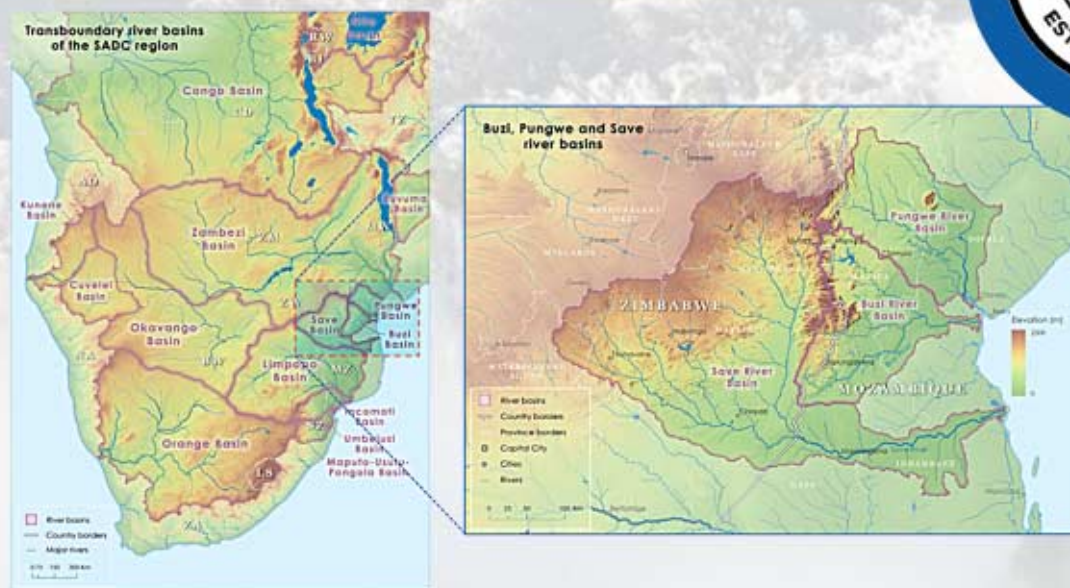
Following a directive of the SADC Council of Ministers Responsible for Energy, RERA is transitioning from a voluntary association into the **SADC Regional Energy Regulatory Authority (SARERA)** — a binding regional regulator empowered to enforce cross-border market rules. Anchored in the SADC Treaty and the 1996 Protocol on Energy, SARERA is proposed to be funded primarily through user-pays transaction levies, reducing reliance on Member State contributions, while extending RERA’s mandate into renewables integration in the region. With technical assistance from the African Union Commission, RERA in collaboration with the SADC Secretariat and other stakeholders is in the process of revising the draft SARERA Charter to ensure that it aligns with the SADC legal framework and other applicable protocols. This process including stakeholder consultations, is expected to run until December 2026.

	RERA (CURRENT)	SARERA (PROPOSED)
Legal status	Regional association; advisory only	Regional regulator with binding enforcement powers
Enforcement	Recommendations only	Binding decisions; appeal on law to SADC Tribunal
Funding	Member contributions and donor/grant funding	User-pays transaction levies, market fees and Member contributions.

“For further details on RERA activities, please visit our website on www.rerasadc.com ”

Buzi, Pungwe and Save Watercourses Commission (BUPUSACOM)

"Sustainable River Basins For All"



Across the Buzi, Pungwe and Save river basins, more than six million people in Mozambique and Zimbabwe depend on the same waters for life, livelihoods and resilience. Flowing from the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe to the Indian Ocean, these rivers nourish farms, power local economies, sustain ecosystems and anchor communities facing rising climate risks. Yet they also carry a deeper story — one of cooperation, solidarity and shared responsibility.

The BUPUSA Journey

For over two decades, Mozambique and Zimbabwe have worked side by side to safeguard these vital watercourses. Beginning with the establishment of the Joint Water Commission in 2002, the two governments have steadily strengthened their collaboration, culminating in a historic series of bilateral agreements: the Pungwe Watercourse Agreement (2016), the Buzi Watercourse Agreement (2019), the Save Watercourse Agreement (2023), and the landmark creation of the Buzi, Pungwe and Save Watercourses Commission (BUPUSACOM) in 2023.



Key Intervention Areas

BUPUSACOM is now the engine driving a new era of transboundary water governance — one rooted in science, cooperation and long term sustainability. Through its Strategic Action Plan, the Commission is tackling the region's most pressing challenges: declining water availability, deteriorating water quality, land degradation, shifting flow regimes and increasingly severe floods and droughts.

Its work focuses on five crosscutting priority areas: strengthening institutional and technical capacity; improving data and information exchange; applying harmonised management instruments; operationalising source to sea coordination; and building national level capacity for integrated basin management.

BUPUSACOM represents more than agreements — it is a commitment to shared prosperity. A commitment to communities who rely on these rivers. A commitment to resilience in the face of climate change. And a commitment to ensuring that the Buzi, Pungwe and Save basins continue to sustain life for generations to come.

BUPUSACOM — Sustainable River Basins for All



SADC leads sub-Saharan Africa in electricity access

Southern Africa is emerging as a continental leader in the push towards universal energy access, with SADC now recording the highest electricity access rate in sub-Saharan Africa and 11 of its 16 Member States having developed national energy compacts to accelerate progress.

This dual milestone was highlighted at the 2026 SADC Sustainable Energy Week (SEW) held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe where regional leaders reaffirmed their commitment to a just, secure and inclusive energy transition.

Across Africa, electricity access remains uneven and constrained by structural challenges. The State of African Energy 2026 Outlook Report identifies four major barriers slowing progress: inadequate generation and transmission infrastructure, limited financing, weak regulatory frameworks, and the high cost of electrifying sparsely populated rural areas.

These constraints have left millions without reliable power, undermining industrialisation, education, health services and economic growth.

Against this backdrop, SADC stands out. While the continental average remains low, SADC's weighted electricity-access rate has reached 56 percent, ahead of the East African Community (39 percent) and ECOWAS (53 percent).

Mauritius and Seychelles have already achieved universal access, and several other Member States are steadily expanding national grids and off-grid solutions.

SADC Executive Secretary Elias Magosi told delegates that energy access is not merely a technical matter but a human development imperative.

"Energy is not just about kilowatt-hours, joules or infrastructure such as transmission lines and substations. At its core, energy is about people, families, communities, businesses and the survival of nations," he said.

"Through our shared commitment as SADC, we will continue to pursue universal access, energy security, deeper regional integration, and the industrialisation and development our region deserves."

SADC's progress is anchored in a long-term programme to expand generation and transmission capacity across the region.

The bloc's installed generation capacity now stands at 83,055 MW, including contributions from its oceanic Member States. Yet Magosi cautioned that the region still faces shortages due to ageing infrastructure, limited transmission capacity and climate-related shocks.

Coal remains dominant, accounting for 59 percent of regional electricity generation, while hydropower contributes 24 percent. However, the share of lower-carbon sources – solar, wind and natural gas – has grown from three percent to 12 percent over the past decade. Magosi described this as "steady progress in diversifying the regional energy mix" but emphasised the need for further action.

The region is advancing several flagship interconnectors to strengthen cross-border electricity trade.

The Malawi-Mozambique interconnector is nearing completion, while the Tanzania-Zambia interconnector is expected by 2028.

Efforts to link Angola to the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) through Namibia are also progressing. These projects will enable surplus power to flow to deficit areas, easing congestion and stabilising regional markets.

SADC is simultaneously reviewing its Generation and Transmission Master Plan (2026–2040) to integrate renewable energy, natural gas and emerging technologies such as green hydrogen and virtual power plants.

Magosi stressed that "the most affordable and sustainable energy is the energy we save," underscoring the importance of energy-efficiency measures across all sectors.

One of the most significant developments highlighted at SEW 2026 is the rapid uptake of national energy compacts – country-level commitments outlining pathways to expand access, attract investment and accelerate clean-energy deployment.

Across Africa, 30 of 55 countries have now completed these compacts. In SADC, the number has surged from four in January 2025 to 11 by January 2026, representing 69 percent of the region.

Magosi described this as a breakthrough.

"This milestone, achieved within one year of the inaugural SADC Sustainable Energy Week, demonstrates strong political commitment to advancing energy access, security and sustainability across the region."

The compacts are aligned with Mission 300, a global initiative to connect 300 million people to electricity by 2030. For SADC, they provide a structured framework for scaling up off-grid solutions, mobilising finance, strengthening regulatory governance and accelerating rural electrification.

Despite progress, the region faces a substantial financing gap. The SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (2023–2027) estimates that US\$18 billion is required to meet short-term energy infrastructure needs.

Magosi urged Member States and partners to support priority projects and operationalise the SADC Regional Development Fund to mobilise both traditional and innovative financing.

He also welcomed the establishment of national energy regulators in all SADC Member States, calling on those not yet part of the Regional Electricity Regulators Association (RERA) to join and promote regulatory harmonisation.

The 2026 SEW, held under the theme Driving Regional Economic Growth Through Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency, reaffirmed SADC's commitment to inclusive, sustainable energy development.

Magosi noted that "energy security and universal access remain fundamental enablers of regional integration, industrialisation and sustainable economic growth."

As the region prepares for the 2027 edition of SEW in Eswatini, the momentum generated in Victoria Falls signals a renewed determination to close access gaps, diversify energy sources, and build a resilient power system capable of supporting SADC's long-term development ambitions.

sardc.net



PILLAR III:

SOCIAL AND HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

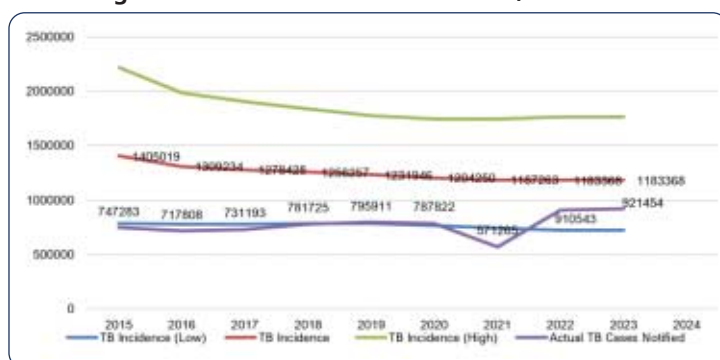
Social and human capital development is essential for SADC to achieve its objectives of regional integration, economic development and improving the livelihoods of citizens. Social and Human Capital Development ensures that socio-economic development is achieved in a human-centred, inclusive, and sustainable manner. Specifically, RISDP 2020–2030 seeks to develop modern and well-resourced health systems that are accessible and responsive in addressing the burden of disease and emergencies. This includes scaling-up of efforts to fight HIV and AIDS and communicable diseases, as well as investments to address all forms of malnutrition.

Improved, Accessible and Responsive Regional Health Systems

Reduction of Incidence and Death from Tuberculosis



SADC Region TB Incidence Trends Per 100,000



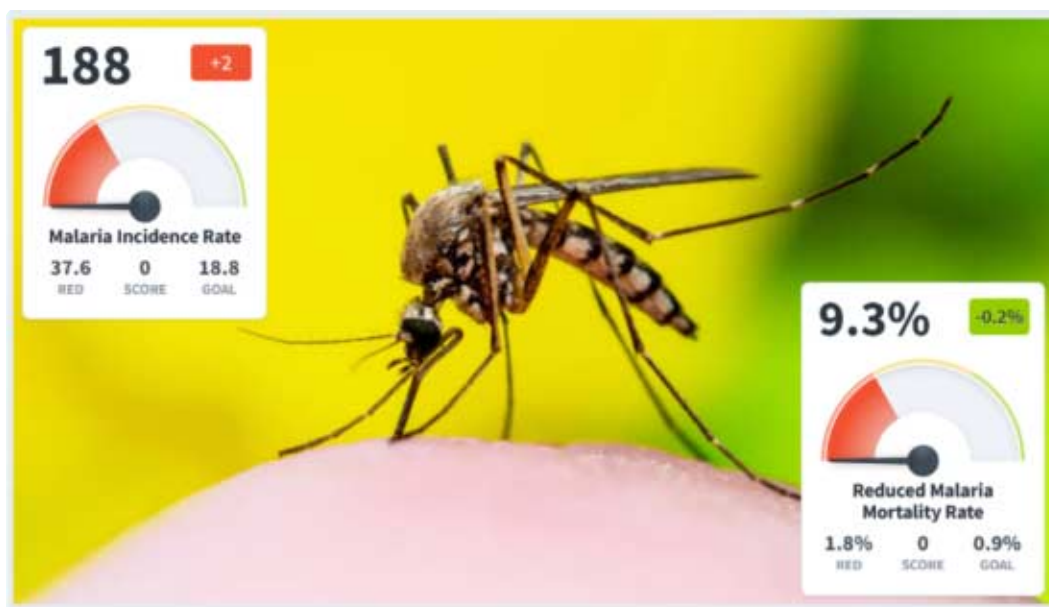
Source: Global TB Report; Ministry of Health Reports; TB Incidents Reports

Progress in reducing the number of new TB cases in the region is plateauing with an aggregated TB incidence across SADC countries at 258 cases per 100,000 population. This represents a 26 percent reduction from the 2016 baseline of 348 cases per 100,000 population.

Notwithstanding this significant reduction, the region still falls short of the targeted 50 percent reduction. Only two Member States achieved the 50 percent reduction milestone while eight Member States - Angola, DRC, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia - are among the 30 highest TB-burdened countries globally, making Southern Africa the TB epicentre in Africa.

Most Member States recorded declines in TB-related mortality. Comoros is the only country that reported an increase, with mortality estimates rising by 30 percent. Data analysis show that six Member States - Eswatini, Malawi, Mozambique, Seychelles, Tanzania and Zambia - have achieved or remain on track towards meeting the 2025 End TB milestone of a 75 percent reduction in mortality relative to the 2015 baseline. The remaining Member States are unlikely to meet the 2025 target based on current incidence patterns.

Incidence and Death from Malaria



Malaria cases spiked dramatically in Botswana and Namibia in 2025, with 79 million cases reported regionally in 2024 - 188 per 1,000 people. Malaria deaths rose marginally to 38,827, despite a 9.6 percent decline recorded between 2021 and 2024.

The funding outlook is alarming as domestic and external financing dropped in 2024, widening the resource gap to 47 percent. Over 90 percent of malaria funding comes from external sources, raising sustainability concerns. These funding shortfalls threaten hard-won gains and the region's elimination agenda. Sustained investment and diversified financing are critical to protecting progress and saving lives.

Efforts to Address High Maternal Mortality Rate

The number of Member States on track towards meeting the SDG maternal mortality target increased from 12.5 percent (two out of 16) at baseline in 2019 to 44 percent (seven out of 16) in 2025. Mauritius has met its SDG target, while South Africa and Tanzania are on track.

Nine countries - Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe - have recorded significant improvements in their maternal mortality indicators. Four Member States - DRC, Eswatini, Lesotho and Madagascar - require accelerated efforts to stay on track for 2030.

Investment in nutrition

The region continues to experience a nutrition crisis, with outcomes intricately tied to poverty and food insecurity. Exclusive breastfeeding im-

proved modestly, rising from 47 percent in 2024-2025 to 49 percent in 2025-2026, a two-percentage point gain.

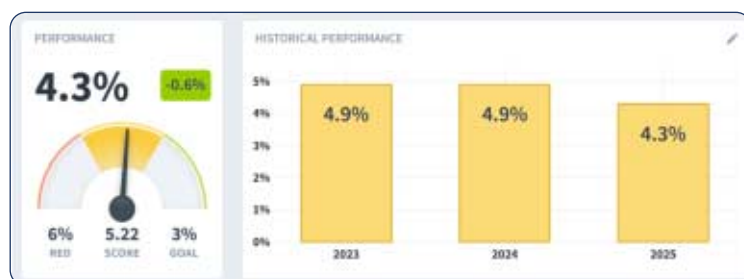
While this reflects progress, it remains uneven across Member States and is undermined by persistent malnutrition resulting from poor dietary diversity, poverty, disease and climate-related shocks.

As such, Member States are embedding breastfeeding promotion into health systems and social protection programmes, including scaling up integrated, gender-responsive and nutrition-sensitive interventions.



Prevalence of Wasting in Children Under 5 Years

Wasting data shows a slight improvement from 4.9 percent in 2024 to 4.3 percent in 2025, remaining below the WHO five percent emergency threshold and suggesting relative stability in acute malnutrition control at the population level. Like breastfeeding, wasting remains highly sensitive to shocks, including droughts, floods, disease outbreaks and food price volatility.



Acute malnutrition remains a significant public health challenge, requiring targeted investments in prevention, early detection, and treatment. It is also recommended that Member States Strengthen Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) programmes, particularly during the first 1,000 days, expand access to fortified foods and micronutrient interventions to address underlying nutritional deficiencies and Integrate nutrition into social protection and food security programmes, especially in drought- and climate-affected areas.

Anaemia Among Women of Reproductive Age

Anaemia among women of reproductive age remains persistently high and largely unchanged across the three reporting periods (33 percent to 34 percent), indicating a chronic public health problem rather than a short-term fluctuation. This reflects underlying challenges related to poor dietary quality, micronutrient deficiencies in terms of iron and folate, infections, as well as limited access to quality maternal nutrition services.

Percentage of Stunted Children Under the Age of Five

Stunting levels among children under the age of five in the region have remained stagnant but high between 2023/24 and 2024/25 (26.6 percent) and are showing a sharp increase at 34 percent in 2025/26. These trends signal worsening chronic undernutrition outcomes and reflect long-term deprivation, often driven by poor maternal nutrition, inadequate infant and young child nutritious feeding, recurrent infections, poverty, inequality and climate-related shocks affecting most Member States.

Prevalence of Overweight among Children Under 5 Years of Age

The decline in overweight prevalence from 6.1 percent in 2024 to 5.2 percent 2025 suggests early signs of progress in addressing unhealthy diets, though the levels remain concerning. This indicator highlights the double burden of malnutrition, where undernutrition and overweight coexist within the same populations. Consistent monitoring childhood overweight is essential for preventing future non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and aligns with SADC priorities on obesity prevention, healthy food environments and regulation of unhealthy foods.

Slight improvement in diet for children

Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) coverage remains very low, having increased from 14 percent in 2024 to 15 percent in 2025. This means that more than eight in ten children aged 6–23 months are not receiving diets that meet minimum standards for both dietary diversity and meal frequency.

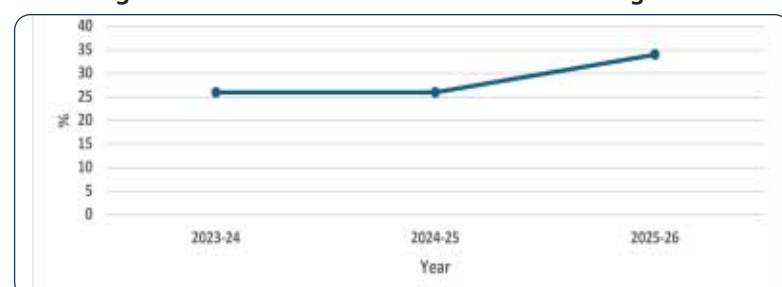
As an indicator of diet quality at the most critical stage of child growth and brain development, the low MAD levels highlight the urgency of scaling up interventions that improve infant and young child feeding practices. These data point to constraints including limited dietary options, restricted access to nutritious foods, recurrent climate stresses and uneven multisectoral implementation.

Prevalence of Anaemia Among Women of Reproductive Age (15–49 Years) in SADC



Source: *The State of the World's Children 2025* | UNICEF

Percentage of Stunted Children Under 5 Years of Age in SADC



Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group, *Joint Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 Edition*

Accelerated action is required at national level to improve caregiver counselling, access to diverse nutrient-rich foods, social protection, food fortification and integrated nutrition services, particularly in food-insecure and high-burden communities.

Education and Skills Development

SADC has advanced key initiatives to strengthen regional education and skills systems. Ministers of Education, Training, Science, Technology and Innovation endorsed new frameworks that will accelerate mobility of learners and workers across the region, including updated tools for recognition of prior learning and credit transfer.

At national level, Member States such as Zimbabwe, Angola, Seychelles, Mauritius and Botswana have begun consolidating their qualifications frameworks, laying the foundation for greater harmonisation and mutual recognition across SADC.

In addition, the operational plan for the SADC University of Transformation has been endorsed, marking a decisive step towards building human capacity in priority sectors. Engagements with ICPs are underway to fast-track implementation, signalling strong momentum.

Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training

High NEET rates across the SADC region reveal a generation excluded from education, employment, and training. Lesotho recorded the highest at 49.6 percent in 2024, while Mauritius reported the lowest at 11.4 percent. Female NEET rates exceed male rates in 13 of 16 Member States.

Beyond wasted human capital, these exclusion levels are linked to rising crime, mental health crises, and social unrest, undermining cohesion and stability. Addressing this challenge requires targeted investments in skills development, livelihood programmes, and

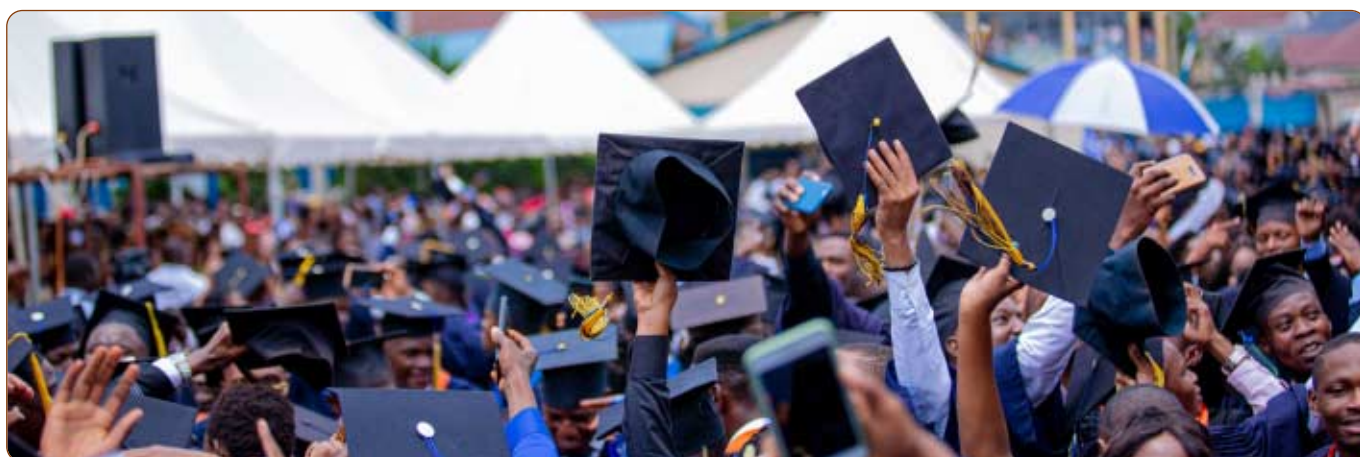


economic integration. By equipping young women and men with opportunities, SADC can transform a growing crisis into a demographic dividend.

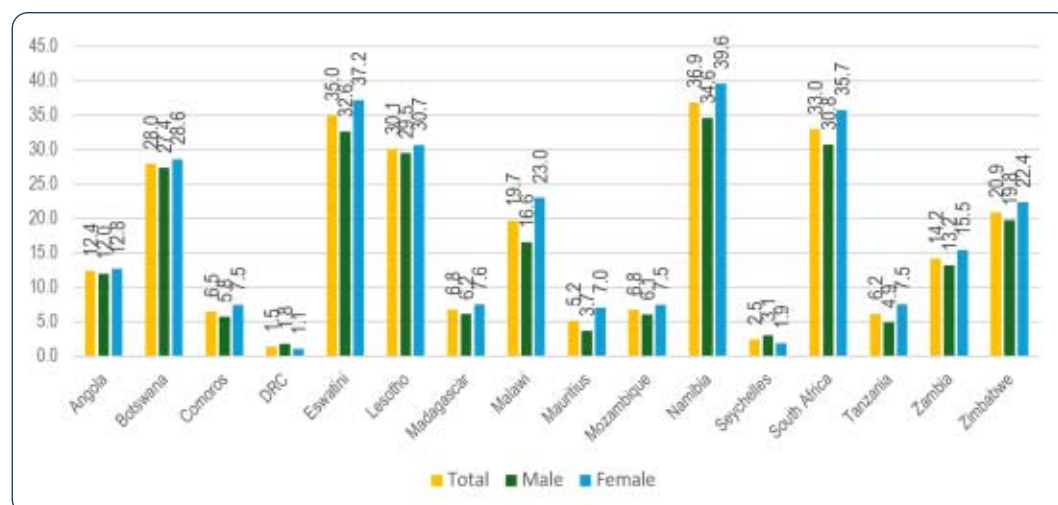
Employment and Labour Markets

The indicative regional unemployment rate is estimated to have risen from 9.0 percent in 2024 to 9.6 percent in 2025, remaining above the regional target of five percent. While the average is not a precise point estimate (as country data vary by reference year, 2020-2025), it reveals that unemployment remains elevated and continues to move away from the regional target of five percent, highlighting persistently elevated unemployment.

Unemployment rates ranged from lowest in DRC at 1.5 percent and highest being 36.9 percent in Namibia, with nine countries above 10 percent: Angola (12.4 percent), Botswana (28 percent), Eswatini (35 percent), Lesotho (30.1 percent), Malawi (19.7 percent), Namibia (36.9 percent), South Africa (33 percent), Zambia (14.2 percent), and Zimbabwe (20.9 percent). Notable increases since the last report include Botswana (+3.6 percentage points), Zambia (+2.2), and Zimbabwe (+9.4). It is highlighted that the unemployment rate of females is higher than that of males in 14 Member States, exceptions being DRC and Seychelles.



Unemployment Rate in SADC Member States, 2020-2025



Source: SADC Secretariat (February 2026). SADC Labour Market Situation Report (based on actual data submitted by Member States to ILOSTAT)

In terms of trends since 2014, the unemployment rate is on the increase in Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho and Zimbabwe. Although the unemployment rate has increased steadily over the years in South Africa, the latest data points indicate a decreasing trend. A decreasing trend is also observed in Angola, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zambia.

Besides the high unemployment rate, high informality remains a major labour market concern, with proportions exceeding 90 percent in DRC, Mozambique, Angola, Madagascar and Malawi. These persistently high levels reflect weak formal job creation and limited social protection,

which forces many into low productivity, precarious work that drives working poverty and undermines structural transformation toward higher productivity.

There is need for SADC Member States to develop more responsive employment policies and formalisation strategies. Identified priorities include strengthening governance and inter-ministerial coordination, integrating employment objectives into mac-

roeconomic and sectoral policies and setting realistic, evidence-based employment targets.

Prevalence of Child Labour

Regional alignment with the SADC Regional Code on Child Labour helps protect children, harmonize laws and enforcement, strengthen human capital, improve economic competitiveness, and ensure that no country becomes a weak link in the regional effort to eliminate child labour.

In 2025, overall regional alignment rate to the SADC Regional Code on Child Labour stood at 82 percent compared to 70 percent recorded in 2023, due to significant progress in the domestication of the SADC Regional Code on Child Labour and alignment of national laws and policies to regional commitments.

SADC steps up efforts on Ebola response

SADC Ministers of Finance and Ministers of Health held a dedicated session on regional preparedness and response to the Ebola (Bundibugyo Virus Disease) Outbreak on 3 July 2026 in Harare, Republic of Zimbabwe.

During the meeting the Ministers noted the epidemiological situation of the Ebola outbreak in the DRC and the neighbouring Uganda which poses a high risk of spread in the region.

Following their discussions the Ministers urged Member States, in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO) and Africa Centre for Disease Control (Africa CDC), to share information on disease outbreaks in a timely manner to ensure that measures to prevent cross-border transmission are implemented effectively, and support the Democratic Republic of Congo's efforts to contain the spread of the Ebola virus in line with the com-



muniqué of the Head of States meeting on the Ebola Bundibugyo Virus Disease Outbreak in the DRC and Uganda of 16th June 2026.

The Ministers also urged Member States to enhance their preparedness for outbreaks through the implementation of recommended measures, such as the development of contingency plans and the conduct of readiness self-assessments; and strengthen the actions under the One Health approach.

On 16 June 2026, SADC Executive Secretary, Mr. Elias M. Magosi, participated in the High-Level Virtual Meeting of African Heads of State, Governments and Partners on the Ebola Outbreak, convened by His Excellency Évariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi and Chairperson of the African Union. The meeting brought together African leaders, regional economic communities, international partners and global health institutions to mobilise political leadership, financial support and co-ordinated action to address the outbreak.

SADC, UNFPA and other partners launch High-Level Policy Brief on Accelerating access to essential postpartum haemorrhage interventions

On 2 July 2026, on the margins of the Joint Meeting of SADC Ministers of Finance and Ministers of Health, SADC, UNFPA and other partners joined hands to launch the:

“High-Level Policy Brief: Accelerating access to essential postpartum haemorrhage interventions”.

The Brief provides guidelines on closing the policy, regulatory, financing and access gaps that keep proven postpartum haemorrhage tools out of reach across Africa.

The Brief calls on the global postpartum haemorrhage community-including SADC Member States-to move from fragmented, slow adoption to an integrated, ‘end-to-end’ implementation model that prioritises access to recommended health tools and interventions-linking policy, procurement, financing, and pre-and in-service training.

The launch was attended by, amongst others, Ministers of Finance and Health from the SADC Member States, and heads and representatives of the African Union Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, Africa CDC, WHO and UNAIDS. The Brief was produced with support from European Union in partnership with UNFPA and UN-ITAID.

SADC Pooled Procurement Services on track with the development of Charter

Since 2007, the SADC region has been developing mechanisms to ensure sustainable availability of essential medicines, to help reduce the burden of diseases of major public health con-



cern. The main purpose is to improve access, quality and safety of essential medicine at an affordable cost to all citizens of the region.

In this regard, the SADC Pooled Procurement Services (SPPS) of health commodities and medicines has been conceived as one of the tools to foster a common development agenda in line with the quest for regional integration, specifically intended to address disparities in the prices of medicines among Member States, harmonisation of pharmaceutical procurement practices and medicine quality assurance, while ensuring adherence and compliance to international standards in pharmaceutical supply chain management.

The SADC Council of Ministers, at its meeting of March 2025 held in Harare, Zimbabwe, approved the establishment of SPPS as an institution of subsidiarity and endorsed the initiation of SPPS under the Group Contracting model to operate on the principle of variable geometry.

Following the Council decision, a Steering Committee has been established and operationalised to provide leadership and oversight during the interim period, with 14 Member States having designated focal points. A draft SPPS Charter has been developed and reviewed by Member States and will be tabled to the relevant SADC structures, including Ministers of Health and thereafter to the Ministers of Justice for legal clearance.

Sport, Culture and Creative Excellence: Advancing SADC Regional Integration through Shared Identity and Youth Empowerment

Regional integration within SADC is strengthened not only through economic cooperation and political collaboration but also through sport, culture and the creative industries. These sectors promote shared identity, foster social cohesion and empower young people, making them essential pillars of regional development.

Recent achievements in football and athletics have demonstrated Southern Africa's growing excellence on the global stage. Participation by SADC Member States in major football competitions such as the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), the FIFA World Cup 2026, the Four Nations Football Tournament, and the World Athletics Relays reflects the region's expanding talent and competitiveness.

At the AFCON, Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe, showcased the depth of football talent within Southern Africa. Beyond competition, the tournament celebrated the region's cultural diversity, bringing together communities through music, dance, fashion, and shared national pride. Football continues to unite people across borders, reinforcing a common regional identity.

The FIFA World Cup 2026, co-hosted by Canada, Mexico and the United States of America, further highlighted Southern Africa's progress, with South Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo advancing to the Round of 32. Their achievements underscored the importance of sustained investment in youth development, grassroots football, quality coaching and modern sporting infrastructure. These successes inspire young people across the region, demonstrating that talent, dedication and opportunity can lead to international recognition.

Botswana's hosting of the Four Nations Football Tournament, involving Botswana, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe also illustrated how sport strengthens regional cooperation through friendly competition, cultural exchange and people-to-people connections.

Southern Africa also celebrated outstanding success in athletics. Botswana's historic victory in the men's 4×400 metres relay at the World Athletics Relays held in Gaborone in May 2026, alongside South Africa's second-place finish, reflected the region's progress in world-class athletics through investment in youth talent, sports science and high-performance programmes.

Beyond sport, the arts and creative industries remain powerful instruments of cultural diplomacy and economic growth. Artists, musicians, filmmakers, and other cultural practitioners showcase Southern Africa's rich heritage while contributing to tourism, employment, innovation and regional visibility. Expanding cultural exchanges, festivals, heritage programmes and artist mobility initiatives will further strengthen regional integration and unlock opportunities within the creative economy.

As SADC advances its integration agenda, investing in sport, arts, culture, education and youth development will remain essential. Empowering young people as athletes, creators, innovators and leaders will strengthen social cohesion and build a more inclusive and prosperous region.





**MINISTRY OF SKILLS AUDIT
AND DEVELOPMENT**

Building Zimbabwe's **Human Capital** for an Upper-Middle Income Society

His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, President Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, established the Ministry of Skills Audit and Development (MOSAD) as the arrowhead to spearhead a skills revolution, audit and align national talent with economic ambition and reduce dependency on imported expertise.

Established to bridge the gap between Zimbabwe's abundant natural and human resources, the Ministry of Skills Audit and Development sits at the heart of the nation's Vision 2030. By auditing skills across critical economic sectors, the Ministry is ensuring that Zimbabwe's growth story is driven by Zimbabweans, ensuring investment in human capital development and responding to the needs of industry and social development.



4+

Critical sectors under active audit
(Agriculture, Manufacturing, Tourism, Mining)

ZGSPP

Zimbabwe Global Skills
Partnership Programme to provide
safe migration

Inclusive

Improving employability of youths
and women

Future

Green Skills

VISION 2030
★
SADC REGION

Aligned with Zimbabwe Vision 2030 & SADC Regional Integration

MOSAD's work directly supports Zimbabwe's commitment to producing a skilled, adaptable and globally competitive workforce, contributing to the SADC region's human capital agenda and driving shared prosperity across Southern Africa.

The Ministry of Skills Audit and Development
9th Floor, Pax House, 89 Kwame Nkrumah Avenue, Harare, Zimbabwe, Info@zimskills.gov.zw

<https://www.zimskills.gov.zw/> <https://x.com/SkillsAuditDvt>



CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

These cross-cutting issues including Gender, Youth, Environment and Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management are important for the successful implementation of the SADC regional integration agenda as they ensure that the formulation, deliberation, adoption and implementation of regional protocols, strategies, policies and programmes are undertaken in a manner that does not marginalise some sections of SADC's population.

GENDER PARITY

Regional performance in promoting women's representation in leadership positions remains below average, mixed and uneven, reflecting slow and inconsistent progress across executive, legislative, and diplomatic levels. While a few Member States have made notable advances and, in some cases, reached or exceeded established benchmarks, the majority continue to fall short, with modest gains, stagnation, and even regression observed in several countries.

Overall, women's representation remains concentrated at lower levels across most Member States, underscoring persistent structural barriers, uneven implementation of commitments, and the need for accelerated, targeted interventions to achieve parity in leadership.

Women in the Executive

Women's representation in the Executive continues to be mixed across the region with the average score below 3.8. Only two Member States (Namibia and Seychelles) exceeded 50 percent at 55 percent and 57 percent respectively, while South Africa improved from 42.6 percent to 44 percent and Zimbabwe from 30.8 percent to 32.5 percent in 2024 to 2025 respectively. Other Member States are showing mixed results.

It is worth noting that Namibia and Tanzania have female Presidents while Eswatini, Lesotho, Angola, Malawi, Mozambique and Mauritius Namibia and Zambia had either female Deputy Prime Ministers, or Vice Presidents, achieving an important though limited milestone in recognising the participation and leadership of women at senior executive levels. Most Member States continue to show varying levels of progress, including stagnation and uneven gains,

SADC Performance on Gender Equality in Leadership Positions



Source: SADC Secretariat, 2026



highlighting ongoing challenges in advancing women's representation across leadership positions.

Women's Representation in Legislature

Performance in women's representation in the legislature remains uneven and below the 50 percent target with a score of 3.8 having dropped 3.9 percentage point from previous performance of 32.4 percent, reflecting slow and inconsistent progress across Member States except for Namibia (50.9 percent in 2024, though declining to 40 percent in 2025) and South Africa (remaining above 40 percent).

Overall, the trends highlight stagnation, regression in some cases, and slow gains, underscoring the need for accelerated and sustained efforts to achieve gender parity in legislative representation.

Women's Representation at Ambassadorial Level

Performance in women's representation at ambassadorial level remains uneven and inconsistent across Member States, marked by fluctuating trends. While countries such as Lesotho (50 percent), Botswana (47 percent), and Malawi (46 percent) have made notable progress in recent years, others such as DRC (8 percent) and Zambia (19 percent) continued to record low or declining representation in 2025. Several countries have shown volatility over time (e.g., Botswana rising to 52 percent then dropping and recovering, Seychelles fluctuating between 50 percent and 38 percent). While limited Member States' data has constrained comprehensive monitoring, the trends indicate slow progress, inconsistency.

Women's Representation in Public Sector Management Positions

Performance in women's representation across senior public sector leadership positions remains below target and uneven, with mixed trends observed across the different levels. Representation at Permanent/Principal Secretary and equivalent levels stands at 30.9 percent, indicating only marginal improvement (+0.4 percent) and continued underrepresentation.

Similarly, representation among Directors in the public sector is 34.9 percent, reflecting a decline of 3.5 percent, and indicating persistent gaps at mid-to-senior leadership levels. Overall, despite some pockets of progress, the declining trends in key categories and the failure to reach the 50 percent parity target highlight ongoing structural barriers, inconsistent advancement, and the need for targeted efforts to accelerate women's participation in senior leadership.

At Permanent Secretary level, only Mauritius demonstrated notable improvement (48.7 percent to 58.8 percent), while Lesotho (40 percent), Seychelles (37 percent), and Zimbabwe (30 percent) remain below parity, with all other countries below 30 percent, indicating limited advancement. At the Deputy/Principal Secretary level, women's representation stands at 37.3 percent but has declined by 3.6 percentage points.

Mauritius (60.8 percent) and Botswana (52 percent) have achieved parity, while Lesotho is close at 47 percent. Other Member States remain between 30 percent and 37 percent or below 22 percent. At the Director level, no Member State has reached parity, though Namibia (49.8 percent), Botswana (49 percent), South Africa (47 percent), and Mozambique (40 percent) are approaching it, while the majority remain well below. Overall, the trends show incremental gains in some areas but also gaps and slow progress.

Women's Representation in the Judiciary

Performance in women's representation in the judiciary shows that gender parity is progressing but has not yet been achieved, with performance ranging from 41.8 percent to 48.7 percent from Women Registrars, Chief Justice and Presidents of Courts to Women Judges and Magistrates, all remaining below the 50 percent parity target. The strongest performance is observed among women and magistrates (48.7 percent), which is close to parity despite a slight decline, while the lowest representation is among Presidents of Courts (41.8 percent). Modest gains have been noticed among judges (+1.7 percent) and court presidents (+1.6 percent).



Women Registrars, Chief Justice and President of Courts

Thirteen Member States that reported on the women Registrars and Chief Justice, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho Mauritius and South Africa reached parity. The United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia reported over 40 percent. Democratic Republic of Congo and Mozambique reported above 30 percent whilst the rest of Member States are below 10 percent as presented.



Women Judges and Magistrates

In terms of Women Judges, three Member States (Mauritius Lesotho, and Seychelles) reached parity at 61.5 percent, 61 percent, and 50 percent respectively. Malawi, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia reported between 42 percent and 49 percent whilst Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe ranged between 30 percent and 40 percent and the rest of the Member States reported below 30 percent.

In terms of women Magistrates, seven (7) Member States reached parity namely, Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Eswatini, Mozambique and Tanzania reported above 40 percent whilst Zambia reported 35 percent and the rest of the Member States are below 30 percent.

Women Leaders in State-Owned Enterprises

Gender parity in state-owned enterprises remains significantly low and is deteriorating, with women's representation at 23.4 percent, far below the 50 percent parity target and under the 25 percent minimum threshold, indicating severe underrepresentation.

The -2 percent decline signals regression rather than progress, highlighting persistent structural barriers limiting women's participation in leadership roles within economic governance. All Member States reported below 40 percent with Lesotho at 35 percent and South Africa 33 percent. The rest of the Member States reported below 30 percent.

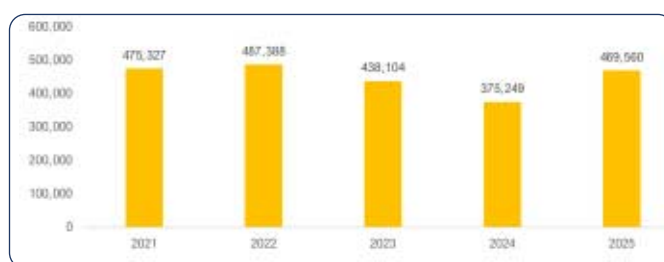
Overall, to accelerate women leadership in various governance sectors, Member States should set clear representation targets, strengthening leadership pipelines, institutionalize sponsorship programmes, reform appointment processes, and ensure qualified women are considered for leadership positions in strategic economic and technical sectors, eliminat-

ing bias in promotion processes, and holding leaders accountable for achieving gender diversity outcomes. Such measures are essential to achieving more balanced, inclusive, and effective governance across the region.

Elimination of Gender-Based Violence

GBV remains a critical challenge in the region. Reported GBV cases rose sharply to 469,560 in 2025, reversing a brief decline. Women comprise 82 percent of victims, with physical violence most prevalent (52 percent), followed by sexual (28 percent), emotional (14 percent), and economic violence (7 percent).

Only 12 percent of cases were prosecuted. Of concluded cases, 58 percent were dismissed, while convictions stood at just 32 percent. The 2025 rebound and weak justice outcomes highlight urgent gaps in prevention, protection, and legal accountability—threatening to reverse hard-won gains in combating GBV across the region. Only 10 Member States submitted data on prosecution of GBV cases.



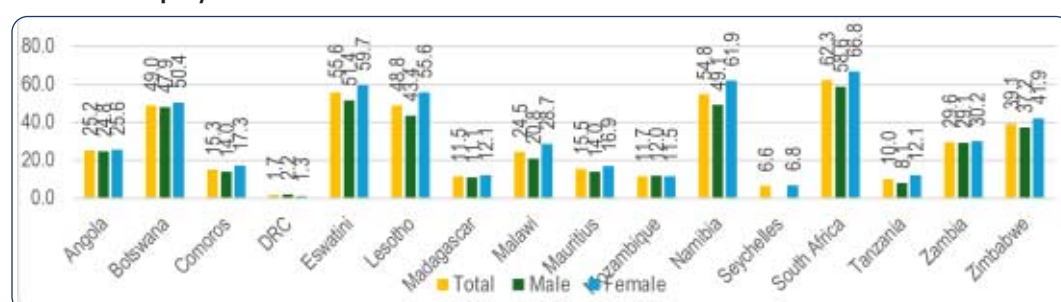
Source: SADC ICT Observatory – Gender-Based Violence Data, 2025

Youth Unemployment Increasing

Youth unemployment shows an increase of five percentage points after relatively stable trend between the first two reporting periods at 12.31 percent in 2024 and 17.29 percent in 2025.

Overall, youth unemployment exceeds 30 percent in six Member States. Female unemployment is higher than male unemployment in most countries due to factors like unpaid care work, early marriage and other discriminatory social norms.

Youth Unemployment Rate of SADC Member States, 2020–2025



Source: SADC Secretariat (February 2026). SADC Labour Market Situation Report (based on actual data from Member States to ILOSTAT)

Advancing Biodiversity, Climate Resilience and Nature-Based Growth in SADC

The sector recorded strong performance in 2025/26, with notable progress in climate governance, biodiversity conservation, fisheries, wildlife, forestry and Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs). Achievements included strengthened policy frameworks, improved institutional coordination, and increased resource mobilisation, delivering socio-economic and environmental benefits across Member States.

Fisheries and the Blue Economy

The fisheries sector contributed three percent of regional GDP in 2025, supporting 3.3 million livelihoods, up from 2.8 percent and 3.1 million in 2024. Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Tanzania spearheaded marine production and exports.

Production remains uneven across Member States, with Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and United Republic of Tanzania driving marine output, while inland states such as Malawi, Zambia, the DRC, and Lesotho's trout aquaculture provide vital contributions to food security and rural employment.

Investments of over US\$10 million in the blue economy have strengthened governance, expanded SME participation, and promoted women's and youth inclusion, highlighting both the sector's growing economic weight and the need to bridge disparities across Member States to unlock its full potential.

Wildlife Economy

Southern Africa's wildlife remains a strategic asset. In 2025, the wildlife economy was valued at US\$31.5 billion (4.6 percent of SADC GDP), compared to US\$30 billion in 2024, supporting 6.3 million jobs through tourism and related activities.

Regional coordination intensified, with 14 Member States participating at CITES CoP20, adoption of a common SADC position on over 50 proposals, and mobilisation of €4.5 million under the LEAP Programme. The Wildlife Economy Roadmap (2025) and Human Wildlife Conflict Roadmap (2026–2032) were completed, accelerating transition from policy development to structured implementation.

Forestry

Forests are a critical natural resource and asset for SADC, underpinning biodiversity, climate resilience and rural livelihoods. The forests cover about 375 million hectares of diverse ecosystems, providing both challenges and opportunities for tailored management. While pressures such as agriculture expansion, char-



coal production, illegal logging, wildfires and unsustainable harvesting drive deforestation and biodiversity loss, many Member States are prioritising sustainable management of indigenous forests to secure socio-economic benefits, watershed protection, climate mitigation, and biodiversity conservation.

Despite improved reporting, with 13 Member States submitting State of Forest Reports in 2025 compared to 11 in 2024, forest cover declined from 312 million ha to 310 million ha and deforestation continues to erode ecosystems and community wellbeing. Member States expanded protection, with 15 percent of forests now under conservation, while US\$500 million was mobilised for the Miombo restoration pipeline. The Miombo Restoration Initiative offers significant opportunities for landscape restoration, carbon finance, ecosystem



protection, and green job creation, underscoring both progress and the urgency of halting forest loss as a foundation for resilience and prosperity.

Expanded and Better-Financed Transfrontier Conservation Areas

The SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCA) Programme delivered strong regional outcomes during the period, marked by significant growth in conservation financing, strengthened regional cooperation and expanded conservation landscapes. The number of SADC TFCAs increased from 12 in 2024 to 13 in 2025, with the addition of the (Mozambique-Zambia-Zimbabwe) ZIMOZA TFCA, further expanding ecological connectivity across the region.

In 2024, the TFCA Financing Facility stood at €44 million, rising to €54 million in 2025 with new German and EU commitments and reaching €69.7 million by 2026 from cumulative partner contributions.

The May 2025 TFCA International Conference mobilised €24 million, while overall

growth from €12 million in 2018 to €69.7 million in 2026 represents a 481 percent increase toward the €100 million target. Complementary investments – NaturAfrica (€7.5 m), KAZA Regenerative Tourism (€3.7 m), EU Competitive Grant (€10 m), EU-IUCN Green Economy (€10 m), and Kgalagadi TFCA (€2.5 m) – further strengthened conservation, tourism, and livelihoods.

These efforts enhanced governance, expanded sustainable tourism and green economy opportunities, and strengthened ecosystem protection, while the inclusion of Liuwa Plains-Mussumu TFCA increased the network from 13 to 14, positioning TFCAs as one of SADC's most successful integration initiatives. These advances highlight progress in mobilising finance and expanding protection. They underscore the urgency of halting deforestation and safeguarding biodiversity, reinforcing delivery of the RISDP 2020-2030, Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. They further position SADC as a global leader in biodiversity conservation, climate resilience and nature-based economic growth.



President Chapo Inaugurates and Hands Over SADC Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre



His Excellency President Daniel Francisco Chapo of the Republic of Mozambique officially inaugurated and formally handed over the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC)

in Katembe, Republic of Mozambique, to the SADC Secretariat on 11 June 2026. The inauguration marked a significant milestone in strengthening regional cooperation on fisheries governance, maritime security and the sustainable management of marine and aquatic resources.

The MCSCC is a regional facility established under the direct coordination of the SADC Secretariat to strengthen Member States' collective efforts to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, enhance fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance systems, and improve regional coordination in addressing fisheries-related crimes and other illegal activities in the region's waters. The Centre will also support the sustainable use and management of marine and aquatic resources across the SADC region.

The establishment of the Centre is aligned with the priorities of the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020–2030 and the SADC Protocol on Fisheries, which emphasise enhanced regional cooperation, strengthened governance of shared marine resources and the protection of marine ecosystems to support sustainable development for present and future generations.

Speaking during the inauguration ceremony, President Chapo reaffirmed the Government of Mozambique's commitment to regional cooperation in safeguarding shared marine resources and strengthening maritime governance. He underscored Mozambique's strategic role in advancing initiatives aimed at combating maritime crime, promoting ocean sustainability and supporting the growth of the blue economy.

President Chapo described the MCSCC as one of the region's flagship initiatives for strengthening fisheries management and combating fisheries-related crimes. He noted that



the Centre would significantly enhance regional capacity to address organised illegal activities at sea, improve maritime surveillance and protect marine resources that support the livelihoods of millions of people across Southern Africa.

His Excellency Mr Elias Magosi, Executive

Secretary of SADC, described the establishment of the Centre as a landmark achievement in advancing regional integration and cooperation in fisheries governance. He noted that the MCSCC will significantly strengthen the region's capacity to combat fisheries-related crimes, safeguard shared marine resources and support livelihoods that depend on sustainable fisheries for food security, employment and economic development.

H.E Magosi further highlighted the growing threat posed by IUU fishing, noting that it continues to undermine the sustainability of marine resources and causes economic losses estimated at more than US\$400 million annually across the SADC region.

Both leaders commended SADC Member States, co-operating partners, development partners, civil society organisations and the private sector for their invaluable contributions towards the establishment of the Centre. They noted that the successful completion and operationalisation of the facility reflect the region's shared commitment to strengthening regional integration, promoting sustainable development and ensuring the responsible management of marine resources.

The MCSCC represents a strategic regional investment in strengthening fisheries governance, maritime security and regional cooperation. The facility was constructed with financial support from the World Bank amounting to US\$1.8 million, while the Government of Mozambique provided the land for its establishment. As a regional centre of excellence, it is expected to play

a pivotal role in enhancing fisheries monitoring and surveillance, improving information sharing and operational coordination among Member States, combating IUU fishing as well as promoting the sustainable use of marine and aquatic resources throughout the SADC region.



Reducing New HIV Infections, Expanding Treatment and Eliminating AIDS

SADC continues to register a decline in estimated new HIV infections, recording 490,000 cases in 2024 (a 57 percent reduction compared to 2010) and 441,000 cases in 2025 (a 58 percent reduction). This decline is above the global average and ranks among the highest worldwide.

Greater emphasis is required on prevention as the most effective strategy to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. It is worth noting that, while progress is significant, the decline remains below the -90 percent target that Member States committed to in 2016. Significant changes have also been observed, as HIV incidence has declined across SADC Member States, with Zimbabwe (-81 percent) recording the steepest reduction of above -70 percent, followed by Es-

swatini and Malawi. However, it is projected that no SADC Member State will reach the UNAIDS 2025 targets on HIV prevention.

With respect to achieving the 95-95-95 targets for treatment, seven Member States, namely Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia

and Zimbabwe, have achieved the targets ahead of the deadline, while several other Member States are on the path to achieving these targets in order to reach the 2030 goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat.

Disaster Risk Reduction

The 2025/26 rainfall season highlighted a significant escalation in the frequency, intensity and transboundary nature of climate-related disasters across the SADC region, confirming a shift toward more complex and interconnected risk patterns.



Despite expectations of near-normal rainfall conditions, the region experienced multiple overlapping hazards including flooding, cyclones, droughts, wildfires, pest infestations, and disease outbreaks affecting most Member States. These cascading shocks exposed growing vulnerabilities in infrastructure, livelihoods, and socio-economic systems.

Overall, the humanitarian impact was severe, with over two million people affected, more than 700 lives lost, and over 180,000 people displaced, reflecting both the scale of exposure and the limitations in preparedness and early response systems.

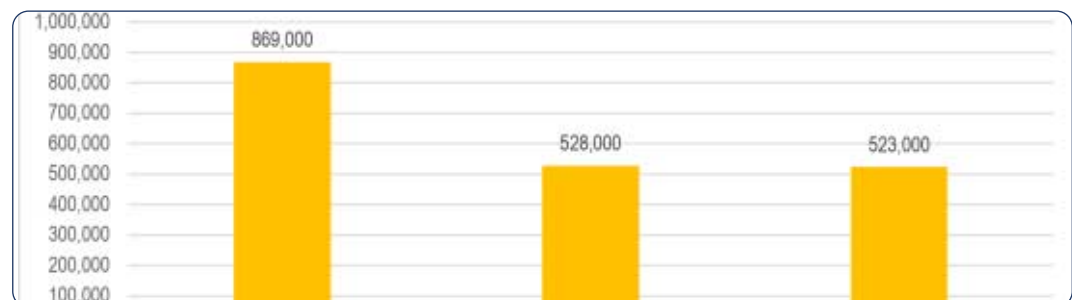
The impacts were geographically widespread but highly concentrated in a few countries, particularly Mozambique, Madagascar and Malawi. Mozambique recorded approximately 869,000 affected people due to severe flooding, while Madagascar experienced over 528,000 affected people from tropical cyclones, and Malawi reported more than 523,000 affected individuals from repeated flood events.

Additional impacts were observed across South Africa, Zimbabwe, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Eswatini, Botswana, Namibia, Angola, and Lesotho, demonstrating the regional scale of the crisis.

At the same time, outbreaks of cholera, malaria, Mpox and Foot-and-Mouth Disease compounded humanitarian needs and placed additional pressure on fragile health systems. The chart below highlights the comparative scale of impacts among the most affected countries, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions and strengthened resilience in high-risk areas.



Number of People Affected by Disasters, 2025



Source: SADC ICT Observatory – Disaster Funding Data, 2025

Regional Solidarity in Action: SADC's Disaster Response in Mozambique, Madagascar and South Africa

Over the past 12 months, SADC has demonstrated its commitment to regional solidarity and collective disaster response through humanitarian interventions in the Republics of Mozambique, South Africa and Madagascar.

Following severe floods in Mozambique and South Africa and the devastating impact of Tropical Cyclone Gezani in Madagascar, SADC deployed its Emergency Response Team (ERT) and technical assessment missions to support government-led response, humanitarian co-ordination, and early recovery efforts. These operations highlighted the growing role of SADC in strengthening regional disaster preparedness, response and resilience.

The first activation of the SADC ERT under the framework of the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC) followed severe flooding in Mozambique, where more than 700,000 people were affected across Gaza, Maputo, Sofala, Inhambane and Zambézia provinces. Working within the Government of Mozambique's coordination framework, the multidisciplinary team supported rapid needs assessments, information management, shelter assessments, public health analysis, logistics, and coordination. The deployment strengthened collaboration among national authorities, humanitarian partners, and regional mechanisms, providing evidence to guide response planning and early recovery efforts.

At the same time, SADC supported South Africa following devastating floods that led to the declaration of a State of National Disaster. An assessment mission to Limpopo Province evaluated humanitarian needs, response capacities and coordination arrangements after flooding affected thousands of households and caused significant damage to homes, roads, bridges and other infrastructure.

The mission engaged with national, provincial and municipal authorities to identify response gaps, assess recovery priorities and strengthen regional cooperation, including on the management of transboundary water resources to reduce future flood risks across Member States.

In February 2026, SADC deployed its ERT to Madagascar following the landfall of Tropical Cyclone Gezani, which affected more than 400,000 people and caused widespread destruction across five regions. Integrated into the national disaster management authority, the Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et des Catastrophes (BNGRC), the team supported rapid assessments, search and rescue, information management and technical coordination. By the conclusion of the mission, critical services, including health facilities, electricity, water supply and food distribution, had largely been restored, marking an important transition from emergency response to recovery.

These deployments were implemented in close partnership with governments, humanitarian organisations and regional and international partners, including the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC), the World Food Programme (WFP), the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), MapAction and Rescue South Africa.

Together, these operations highlight SADC's growing operational capacity to deliver timely, coordinated regional assistance, strengthen disaster preparedness and response, and support Member States in building resilience through collective action and shared responsibility.



STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT OF THE RISDP 2020–2030



Source: SADC ICT Observatory – Disaster Funding Data, 2025

Coordination of the RISDP at National and Regional Levels

The region has made progress in establishing SADC National Committees (SNCs). The number of SNCs increased from 10 in 2023 to 11 in 2025 with four more Member States yet to establish an SNC. Coordination structures at national and regional levels play a pivotal role in the strategic management of the RISDP. Member States which have established SNCs include the following -Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa and Zambia.

Two Member States (Eswatini and Lesotho) have established cluster sub-committees to co-ordinate SADC activities at the national level. They are currently undertaking measures to establish an overarching SNC in compliance with provisions of the Treaty.

Lesotho developed a Regional Integration Policy to provide a framework for the establishment of its SNC and coordination of SADC programmes at the national level.

The United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe have both expressed interest in securing support towards the establishment of SADC National Committees. Overall Member States have indicated the importance of SNCs. However, key constraints towards establishing and operationalising these national structures include high turnover of officials in the ministries responsible for coordinating regional integration programmes, inadequate financial, technological, and human resources to drive the work of the SNCs, and low levels of inclusion of Non-State Actors in the SNCs.

As pronounced in Article 16A of the SADC Treaty, SNCs provide input in the formulation of SADC policies, strategies and programmes of action and ensure rapid implementation of the programmes.

Operationalisation of the SADC Regional Development Fund

Member States remain committed to the full operationalisation of the SADC Regional Development Fund (RDF), whose objective is to mobilise resources from Member States, Development Partners and the Private Sector to support regional development and deepen regional integration. This initiative aims to establish a regional financing mechanism that promotes economic development and sustainable growth within SADC.

The operationalisation of the RDF advanced significantly in 2025/26, with momentum building under the Stage 1 Proof of Concept. To date, 10 Member States (Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) have signed the Agreement on the Operationalisation of the SADC Regional Development Fund. Of these, four Member States (Angola, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe) have ratified the Agreement, which is an improvement from the prior year. Namibia has committed to signing the Agreement in the margins of the Summit of Heads of State and Government meeting in August 2026.

SADC Legal Instruments

Noticeable progress has been achieved over the years, in the signing and ratification, as well as

implementation of SADC Legal instruments, there remain slow or no progress by Member States in the signing and ratification of several important Protocols and other SADC legal instruments that have already been adopted by our Heads of State or Government. This has resulted in delayed or non-implementation of some of the key objectives of SADC and the RISDP 2020-2030, more particularly in the areas of industrialisation, agriculture, politics defence and security cooperation, dispute resolution, regional resource mobilisation, environmental management and employment and labour.

In an effort to accelerate the pace of signature or ratification of SADC Legal Instruments that are yet to enter into force, the Secretariat through the relevant sectoral Ministerial Committees has been engaging Member States to periodically provide updates on how far they are progressing in signing and ratifying the relevant SADC Legal Instruments.

A noticeable impact of this reporting mechanism is the movement of ratifications of the Agreement on the Operationalization of the SADC Regional Development Fund of 2016 which has received four ratifications and Protocol on Environmental Management for Sustainable Development of 2014 which has received eight ratifications, after a number of years without being ratified.

Strengthened Institutional Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms

Since the Secretariat institutionalised the Balanced Scorecard (BSC) approach in May 2022, an organisation-wide strategy map was developed, enabling the monitoring of strategic,

high-impact regional integration interventions and generating corresponding outcome level reports.

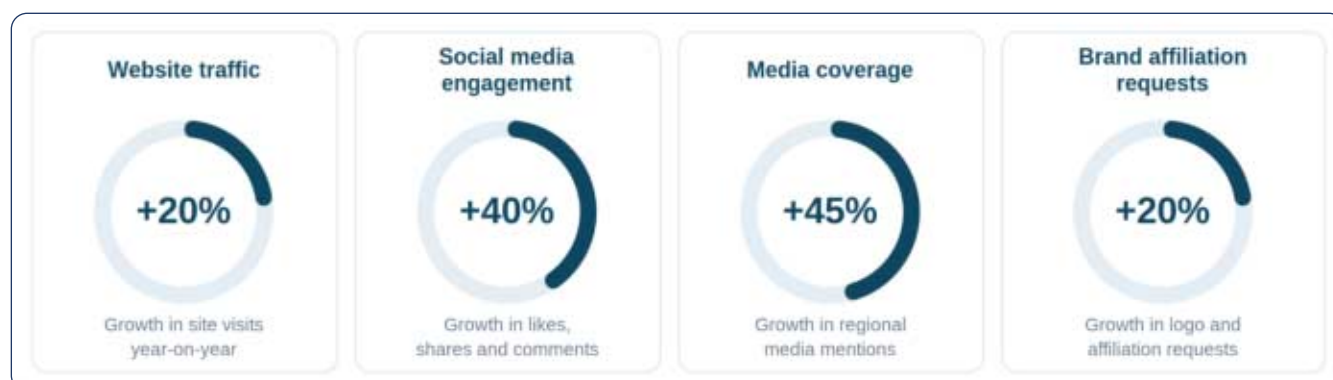
Capacity for monitoring has expanded, with 14 Member States now equipped and actively using the Online M&E System, up from 12 in 2024/25. The strategy map will be cascaded to embed evidence-based planning, integrated monitoring and accountability for results, giving the Secretariat and Member States clearer proof of progress towards regional integration objectives.

Trademark registration in 15 of 16 countries, supported by 18 brand protection activities, safeguarded institutional identity and reinforced recognition of the SADC brand. A decentralised communication network, involving 16 National Media Coordinators, 16 National Contact Points, and over 50 regional media stakeholders, extended reach beyond Secretariat capacity, ensuring national-level presence. Public awareness was strengthened through educational outreach to more than 1,200 learners, academics and researchers, while flagship events such as the SADC Annual Awards, the 45th Summit and the 7th Industrialisation Week generated broad media coverage and citizen engagement.

These measures have enhanced SADC's visibility among citizens, media, and institutions, embedding its mandate within national structures and public discourse. However, further progress is needed for SADC to tell a compelling story of its tangible impact on citizens' livelihoods in all regional integration areas, particularly trade, infrastructure and security, by working more closely with Member States, regional media, and partners.



SADC Communication and Visibility



Source: SADC Reports, 2026

CONTINENTAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION



SADC is one of the eight African Union-recognised Regional Economic Communities (RECs) under the Abuja Treaty, serving as building blocks of the African Economic Community. The Region contributes to Agenda 2063 and AU flagship initiatives such as the AfCFTA. It also plays a pivotal role in the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite arrangement, which seeks to harmonise markets and regulatory frameworks.

Agenda 2063 Implementation

The First Biennial Progress Report (2024-2025) shows that there is strong political commitment and improved institutional coordination across the continent, but progress in actual development outcomes remains moderate. The report highlights a significant gap between well-established frameworks and weak implementation at national and local levels, indicating that Africa's main challenge is no longer planning, but delivery.

The overall performance assessment reveals that the continent scored 79 percent on implementation enablers, reflecting strong governance systems, policy alignment, and institutional readiness. However, the overall performance score stands at only 53 percent, demonstrating that these enabling conditions are not yet translating into tangible development results. This 26-percentage-point gap underscores systemic weaknesses in execution, including limited financial resources, weak institutional capacity, and insufficient integration of Agenda 2063 into national development planning and budgeting processes. Closing this gap is, therefore, critical to meeting the 2033 targets of the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) of the AU Agenda 2063.

Performance across the seven Agenda 2063 "Moonshots" is uneven. Strong progress has been recorded in responsive institutions (64 percent) and human capital development (63 percent), showing advances in governance and social sectors. Moderate progress is seen in

achieving middle-income status and promoting African identity, while the weakest areas remain integration and connectivity (35 percent), peace and security (37 percent), and global influence and financing (41 percent). These poorly performing areas are structurally constrained and present major risks to the successful realisation of Agenda 2063, particularly in relation to economic integration, regional stability and sustainable financing.

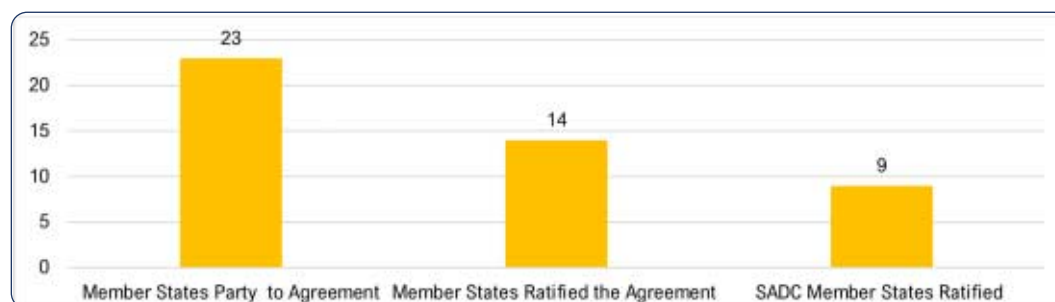
Although flagship continental initiatives such as the AfCFTA, Single African Air Transport Market and African Single Electricity Market have strengthened policy alignment and regional cooperation, their full implementation is affected by financing gaps, infrastructure deficits and slow domestic execution. In addition, challenges such as weak data and monitoring systems, poor alignment between planning and budgeting and fiscal pressures caused by debt, inflation, and external shocks continue to undermine progress. From a regional perspective, SADC has demonstrated leadership by being among the few RECs to submit its STYIP report, reflecting strong commitment to accountability. However, the region still faces challenges related to macroeconomic vulnerabilities, climate shocks, and institutional capacity limitations in some Member States.

Going forward, the report emphasises the need to shift decisively from planning to implementation by strengthening national delivery systems, accelerating flagship projects, improving data and monitoring frameworks and building resilience against shocks. SADC advocates for enhanced domestication of Agenda 2063 at the national level, improved financing mechanisms including the establishment of a dedicated Agenda 2063 Development Fund, as well as stronger alignment with the SDGs under the principle of "One Framework, Two Agendas". Ultimately, the success of Agenda 2063 will depend on Africa's ability to translate strong institutional frameworks into measurable development outcomes, particularly in the remaining years leading up to 2033.

COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area

Since the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) Agreement entered into force in July 2024, implementation has progressed at a moderate pace. Progress in membership and legal compliance reflects a mixed performance. While 23 Member/Partner States have signed the Agreement, only 14 have ratified it translating to only 61 percent, indicating a gap between political commitment and legal domestication.

Performance of SADC-COMESA-EAC Tripartite Agreement Ratification



Source: SADC Reports 2026

Among the ratifying countries, SADC Member States with nine Member States (Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe) account for the majority, demonstrating stronger engagement within the bloc.

However, delays in ratification, accession and the gazetting of tariff offers continue to constrain the start of reciprocal trade. As a result, no actual trade has yet taken place under the TFTA framework, highlighting the urgent need for accelerated national-level processes and greater political commitment ahead of the 2026 Summit.

On a positive note, programmatic implementation has shown strong performance, particularly through the Simplified Trade Regime (STR) pilot supported by AGRA. Implemented in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia, the initiative has enhanced access to trade information, strengthened trader associations and promoted inclusive participation by women and youth through capacity building and institutional support at border posts. Scaling up such interventions while addressing policy and operational gaps will be critical to unlocking the full benefits of the TFTA.

Other strategic partners include the African Development Bank (AfDB), African Union (AU), African Union Development Agency (AUDA NEPAD), the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), Sweden, People's Republic of China, Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), United Kingdom, United Nations Agencies, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Swiss Confederation, and the World Bank.

COLLABORATION WITH ICPs

The Secretariat continues to engage International Cooperating Partners (ICPs), to mobilise resources for supporting the implementation of the regional integration agenda. For the reporting period, FY 2025/26, US\$54.4 million was mobilised from ICPs.

Both the European Union and the Federal Republic of Germany remain the largest partners to the implementation of the SADC Regional Integration Agenda, as they account for 68 percent and 22 percent, respectively, of the resources mobilised in 2025/26 (1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026).



H.E. Mr. Elias Magosi, SADC Executive Secretary, and H.E. Ambassador Ms. Petra Pereyra, Head of the European Union Delegation to Botswana, after the first EU-SADC quarterly meeting of the 2026/27 financial year. The EU has mobilised €195.9 million to support 10 regional projects in peace and security, agriculture, trade, natural resources management, digital transformation, and infrastructure development across the SADC region.

These ICPs, amongst others, have supported the various pillars of the RISDP 2020-2030 such as peace and security, industrialisation, infrastructure development, social and human development and cross cutting issues such as gender, environment and climate change, disaster risk reduction and youth.

The recently concluded Mid-Term Review of the RISDP 2020-2030 highlighted the urgent need for enhancing the sustainable financing of regional integration. Beyond the valuable and consistent resource inputs from SADC Member States, there is a clear need for additional ICP support and heightened exploration of other domestic avenues.

Key amongst the regional initiatives that require urgent support include peace and security, strategic corridors development, energy, industrialisation, manufacturing, health, trade facilitation, environment and climate change, disaster risk management, and institutional strengthening, to mention only a few.

Notwithstanding the evolving geopolitics, global shocks, and the constrained global economy, SADC will continue to position itself as a strategic partner of choice and a preferred global destination for investment, international finance, and technology.

SADC and Japan sign Memorandum of Cooperation to Strengthen Strategic Partnership

SADC signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with Japan in Gaborone, Botswana, on 9 April 2026, marking a significant step in deepening their strategic partnership.

The MoC was signed by His Excellency Mr. Elias M. Magosi, Executive Secretary of SADC, and His Excellency SHINDO Yusuke, Amba-

sador of Japan to the Republic of Botswana and Permanent Representative to SADC.

This agreement follows the approval by the SADC Council of Ministers during their meeting held from 12-13 March 2026 in Pretoria, South Africa.

The Memorandum of Cooperation aims to enhance collaboration in key priority areas aligned with the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020–2030 and SADC Vision 2050, with particular emphasis on:

- Infrastructure with a focus on energy, transport, water, and digital transformation.
- Trade, investment, tourism, private sector development, including support for small medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs).
- Manufacturing and value chains development, agriculture, rural development, and mining.
- Education, health, and skills development.
- Natural resources management, environment, and climate change.
- Peace and security, stability, and governance.

In his welcome remarks, Mr. Magosi highlighted that the signing ceremony reaffirmed a partnership that is growing stronger, broader, and increasingly responsive to the needs and aspirations of the citizens of both regions. As we append our signatures today, we pledge our strategic role to ensure that the MoC delivers tangible and impactful results for the benefit of our peoples, he said.

For his part, Ambassador Yasuke emphasised that the agreement provides a framework for both SADC and Japan to better align their priorities. He highlighted opportunities to support SADC's efforts in developing transport corridors and enhancing efficient logistics systems, noting that seamless trade is essential to deepen regional integration.

SADC and WFP sign renewed MoU to improve food security, build resilience

SADC and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), renewing their partnership to tackle food insecurity and strengthen regional resilience, as Southern Africa continues to recover from climate shocks, food insecurity, and humanitarian needs.

SADC Executive Secretary His Excellency Mr. Elias Magosi and WFP Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa His Excellency Mr. Eric Perdison signed the renewed MoU in Gabo-





rone, Botswana on 28th April 2026. The MoU replaces the previous one that expired in 2024.

The SADC-WFP MoU provides a framework of cooperation to contribute to improved food and nutrition security in the SADC region with the view to reducing social and economic vulnerability of the SADC population.

Mr. Magosi hailed the signing of the MoU as a reaffirmation of a partnership that has grown stronger and remains relevant to the people of the SADC region in addressing the pressing challenges posed by climate change and food insecurity.

The SADC Executive Secretary applauded the inclusion of the youth as one of key areas of focus in the SADC-WFP MoU, adding that “empowering youth is an investment in stability”.

He pledged strategic oversight in the implementation of the MoU and a pragmatic partnership with tangible and impactful results on the lives of SADC citizens.

On his part, His Excellency Mr. Perdison reiterated that the SADC-WFP partnership will continue to focus on high impact results through interventions aimed at reducing vulnerability and ensuring that the Southern African region is better prepared to anticipate, respond to and recover from shocks.

The WFP Regional Director hailed the renewed MoU as an instrument that moves beyond projects to “systems strengthening,” by helping Member States put into practice the SADC’s strategic frameworks such as the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020–2030, the Regional Disaster Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan, the SADC Regional Resilience Framework, and the Climate Change Action Plan.

The renewed SADC-WFP MoU comes at a time when the SADC region is still recovering from the severe 2024 drought that triggered a US\$6.4 billion humanitarian appeal.

The main focus areas of the MoU include.

- Food security and nutrition; boosting climate-resilient agriculture, strategic grain reserves, and regional food systems.

- School meals and social protection: Scale up Home-Grown School Feeding, which already reaches 22 million children, and link it to local farmers and nutrition.
- Disaster Risk Management: Disaster preparedness which includes strengthening early warning, anticipatory action, and support to the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC) in Nacala, Mozambique.

The renewed MoU places women and youth as pillars for a resilient SADC region. In this regard, the MoU sets out to expand youth participation in agricultural value chains, strengthen skills development, and drive innovation in food systems. It also prioritises involving young people in climate adaptation initiatives and creating opportunities in data, early warning systems, and emergency response, turning their energy and creativity into practical tools for withstanding shocks.

Recognising that women are pivotal to food production, household nutrition, and community resilience, the MoU emphasises gender-responsive programmes that promote women’s leadership in agriculture, broaden access to technology, and ensure disaster preparedness and social protection to address the specific needs of women and girls.

Over the years, the SADC–WFP partnership has delivered several milestones including stronger regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis, with better data on nutrition, gender, and HIV; support for national school feeding plans and SADC’s entry into the Global School Meals Coalition; Regional food fortification standards and local procurement systems.

Germany pledges €26.1 million in support of regional integration



SADC Executive Secretary H.E. Elias Mpedi Magosi and Ms. Birgit Gerhardus of Germany’s BMZ co chair bilateral talks in Gaborone on 6 November 2025, reaffirming over four decades of partnership. German Ambassador H.E. Gabriela Bennemann joined the discussions, as Germany pledged €26.1 million to support regional priorities including economic integration, water management, biodiversity conservation, and institutional strengthening.



KAZA: A REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR CONSERVATION, GROWTH AND INTEGRATION

ACROSS ANGOLA, BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA, ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE, THE KAVANGO ZAMBEZI TRANS FRONTIER CONSERVATION AREA (KAZA TFCA) STANDS AS A PRACTICAL MODEL OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION – SHOWING HOW A SHARED LANDSCAPE CAN ADVANCE CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH.

Established through a 2011 Treaty, building on a 2006 Memorandum of Understanding, KAZA spans approximately 520,000 km² across the Kavango and Zambezi river basins. Larger than Malawi and Zimbabwe combined and home to around 3 million people, it is globally recognised for its rich biodiversity across interconnected ecosystems such as wetlands, forests and grasslands, including more than 227,900 elephants and significant populations of other threatened species.

The landscape also holds exceptional cultural and natural heritage value, with three UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the Okavango Delta, Tsodilo Hills and Mosi-oa-Tunya/ Victoria Falls. KAZA stands as one of the world's most ambitious transboundary conservation and development initiatives and a practical example of regional integration.

GOVERNANCE AND DECISION-MAKING

KAZA forms part of SADC's wider TFCA Programme, which provides a regional framework for Member States to advance transboundary conservation, regional integration and sustainable development through shared landscapes. KAZA's value lies not only in its scale, but in the governance architecture that turns regional integration into practice. Anchored in the Treaty, coordinated governance structures and mechanisms for joint decision-making, this governance architecture strengthens the TFCA's effectiveness. Partner States plan and act through coordinated institutional structures, facilitated by the KAZA Secretariat and supported by transboundary technical mechanisms. The inaugural 2024 Heads of State and Government Summit reaffirmed high-level political commitment to the TFCA's shared vision.

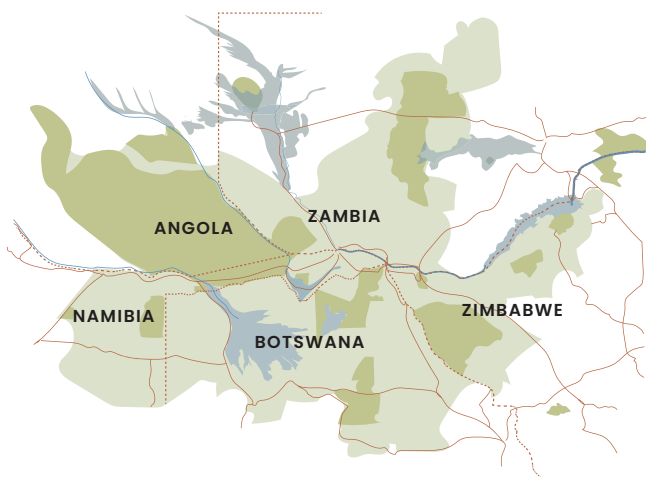
Decision-making is grounded in shared evidence, like the synchronised 2022 KAZA Elephant Survey – the largest aerial wildlife survey ever conducted – which produced a comparable population estimate across all Partner States.

Implementation is guided by strategic frameworks, performance tracking tools and the GIS-based KAZA Impact Monitoring System, underpinned by institutionalised collaboration and data sharing, and delivering a unified transboundary platform for accountability, adaptive management and measurable outcomes.

WHERE WILDLIFE AND LIVELIHOODS COEXIST

KAZA is a living, working landscape where conservation and development are planned together. Six Wildlife Dispersal Areas provide the spatial framework for coordinated land use, supporting wildlife movement while enabling community-based natural resource management, conservation-compatible enterprises and practical approaches to human-wildlife coexistence. These interventions create tangible local benefits through community-based tourism, small and medium-sized enterprises, skills development, One Health systems, education and other social services.

Beyond its conservation value, KAZA is an integrated regional economic landscape. Tourism, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry and other natural resource-based sectors underpin rural livelihoods and offer opportunities to expand cross-border value chains, attract private investment and generate employment.



Aligned with SADC priorities on infrastructure, corridor development and regional integration, KAZA functions as both an ecological corridor and an emerging development gateway – connecting ecosystems, markets and communities. Strategic investment in transport, digital connectivity and energy can unlock inclusive growth while safeguarding the ecological integrity that underpins its comparative advantage.

WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Water is the foundation of KAZA. Anchored in the Kavango and Zambezi river basins, the TFCA depends on shared river systems that sustain ecosystems, agriculture, households and hydropower generation beyond its borders.

These rivers are critical natural infrastructure, underpinning livelihoods, regional growth and climate resilience. Through basin-level cooperation and partnerships, KAZA helps maintain flows, strengthen water security and support adaptation across borders.

As climate change increases water stress, erratic rainfall and competition among users, KAZA's large, connected ecosystems provide nature-based solutions for adaptation, biodiversity protection and carbon storage. Safeguarding water systems and ecosystem services is therefore central to long-term prosperity.

A SHARED DESTINATION THAT NO SINGLE COUNTRY COULD OFFER ALONE

Embedded in the KAZA vision and positioned as a strategic development pathway, tourism connects conservation to investment, enterprise and community benefit while strengthening regional connectivity and a shared destination identity.

Through the "Rivers of Life" destination brand and the Great Kavango Zambezi Birding Route - Africa's first cross-border avitourism product of its scale, spanning more than 650 bird species across twelve key birding areas - the Partner States are building a regional offer that no single nation could present alone.

A MODEL TO BE FINANCED SUSTAINABLY

Financing the KAZA vision requires durable partnerships and sustained, long-term investment. Germany has been an anchor partner to KAZA from its formative stages, supporting the development of the TFCA through

the process leading to the 2011 Treaty and successive phases of implementation, including emergency-response support, and continues to support KAZA's long-term development through further phases of cooperation. This sustained partnership has helped establish the institutional and programmatic foundations on which a broader financing ecosystem has grown, including support from the European Union and the Global Environment Facility, as well as the establishment of the KAZA Fund.

The aim is to transition KAZA from fragmented, project-based funding to a sustained, landscape-scale financing model. Central to the longer-term financing strategy is the establishment of a conservation trust fund – a hybrid mechanism that combines endowment and drawdown windows. This fund will be underpinned by bankable nature-based solutions, wildlife credits, payments for ecosystem services, and blended finance. The objective is to create a resilient financial architecture that reflects both the scale of the landscape and the ambition of its Partner States.

Tourism development illustrates this opportunity. Products such as the Great Kavango Zambezi Birding Route can develop high-value niche markets, generate revenue, create jobs and stimulate local enterprise across hospitality, transport and guiding services.

AN OPEN INVITATION

As Southern Africa advances its regional integration agenda, KAZA stands as a practical model – an integrated, investment-ready landscape linking conservation, development and regional cooperation. Its continued success depends on strengthened partnerships across governments, communities, investors and development partners, positioning KAZA not only as a conservation flagship, but as a platform for inclusive, shared prosperity. The invitation to collaborate remains open.

KAVANGO ZAMBEZI AT A GLANCE

- **FIVE NATIONS, ONE SHARED VISION:**
Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe
- **A VAST, CONNECTED LANDSCAPE:**
Spanning 520,000 km² – around 60% of the total area covered by SADC's Trans Frontier Conservation Areas
- **PEOPLE AT ITS HEART:**
Nearly 3 million residents living alongside nature
- **GLOBALLY RECOGNISED HERITAGE:**
Three UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- **CRITICAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS:**
Six key dispersal areas sustaining ecological connectivity
- **ELEPHANT STRONGHOLD:**
Nearly half of Africa's savanna elephant population
- **TWO MAJOR RIVER SYSTEMS:**
Linking the Kavango and Zambezi basins
- **CONSERVATION ACTION AT SCALE:**
nearly 70% conservation-related use, including 19 national parks

SADC Plant Genetic Resource Centre

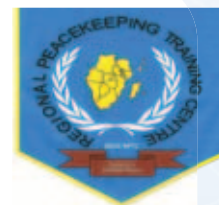
The SADC Plant Genetic Resource Centre (SPGRC) is based in Lusaka, Republic of Zambia. It falls under the Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources. It coordinates and promotes conservation and sustainable utilisation of plant genetic resources to improve agricultural production and ensure sustainable food and nutrition security for the region.



The Centre works in conjunction with national plant genetic resources centres (NPGRCs) located in each SADC Member State to conserve and preserve the plant genetic diversity and variability of Southern Africa for use in crop improvement for the benefit of present and future generations. In partnership with the NPGRCs, the SPGRC performs important roles in research, documentation, training and educating experts and communities on the best ways of conserving plant genetic resources for sustainable agriculture development. As part of the preservation of plant genetic resources, over 19,000 accessions have been duplicated by the SADC Member States at the SADC regional gene-bank at SPGRC for long term storage. Additionally, through the SPGRC, SADC has safely duplicated 68 percent of germplasm in its regional gene-bank to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway as a risk mitigation measure against negative effects of climate change. Through this initiative, the SADC region has to date collected and secured in regional and national gene-banks over 80,000 unique accessions of plants that form the core sources of food for the people in SADC.

SADC Regional Peacekeeping and Training Centre

Based in Harare, Republic of Zimbabwe, the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (RPTC) was established in 1996 to provide training for peace support missions in the SADC region. The Centre forms part of the core objectives of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, contributing to regional efforts towards creating a peaceful and politically stable and secure environment.



Among other things, the Centre promotes regional cooperation in peace and security among SADC Member States; builds the capacity of SADC at the regional level to participate in peace keeping or Peace Support Operations (PSOs) by fulfilling the training needs of the SADC Standby Force in all components, namely civilian, military and police components; addresses SADC training needs for deployment in line with African Union and United Nations standards; and trains peacekeeping practitioners and provides training enabling all SADC Member States to take part in PSOs.

Through its capacity building work, the RPTC ensures that the SADC region is in step with contemporary dynamics and trends through its multi-dimensional PSOs.



SADC Regional Counter-Terrorism Centre

Located in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, the SADC Regional Counter-Terrorism Centre (SADC RCTC) was established in accordance with the provisions of the SADC Treaty, the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation of 2001 and the SADC Mutual Defence Pact of 2003, all which are geared towards the preservation of peace, security and stability in the SADC region. The Centre was created to ensure enhanced coordination, strengthened partnerships, as well as to foster timely response to terrorism and violent extremism within the region.

The RCTC advises SADC on counter-terrorism, prevention of violent extremism programmes and policies and deployment within the region. It also coordinates implementation of the SADC Regional Counter Terrorism Strategy (2021) as well as facilitates research, assessment, analysis and dissemination of counter-terrorism information to national, regional, continental and international partners.

The RCTC promotes and coordinates intelligence-sharing among SADC Member States as part of the fight against terrorism and violent extremism and related trans-national organised crime. Since its establishment, the Centre has been working to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; preventing and combatting terrorism; building the capacity of Member States to prevent and combat terrorism and violent extremism; and ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law.



SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre

Headquartered in Nacala in Nampula Province in the Republic of Mozambique, the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC) is responsible for the coordination of regional disaster risk preparedness, response and early recovery to support Member States affected by disasters. The Centre facilitates the supply chain management of equipment and supplies that SADC responders require during deployment of humanitarian support to Member States.

Through the SHOC, SADC realises that enhanced regional preparedness and timely response are crucial in the face of El Nino-induced droughts and floods that have brought about loss of lives, damage to infrastructure and property, and increased food insecurity situation in the SADC region, thereby worsening people's vulnerabilities.



SADC MEDIA AWARDS WINNERS 2026

THE 31st meeting of the Regional Adjudication Committee on the SADC Media Awards was held from 22-25 June 2026. The SADC Media Awards, held every year since 1996, aim to promote regional integration through information dissemination as well as to encourage journalism excellence in the region.

The names of the winners will be officially announced during the 46th Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government to be held in the city of Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa on 17 August 2026.

The winners of the 2026 SADC Media Award will receive prize money of US\$2,500 per category and runners-up will receive US\$1,000.

PHOTOJOURNALISM CATEGORY

Mr Dome Arsénio Semedo from Angola was awarded the first prize of US\$2,500 for his entry, captioned "The Lobito Corridor has the potential to connect Africa to the rest of the world, with the port of Lobito serving as the main gateway to and from SADC". The entry highlighted that the Lobito Corridor is not merely a transport route but also a link for regional integration, capable of driving economic growth, attracting investment and strengthening trade relations between countries in the SADC region and the global market.



Mr Siyabulela Duda from South Africa was awarded the second prize of US\$1,000 for his entry captioned, "Former Deputy President of South Africa, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka congratulates newly inaugurated Namibian President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah at State House in Windhoek, Namibia". Under the headline "Women's Hour", the entry highlighted how the SADC region has progressed in placing women in high-level decision-making positions, including the Presidency.



TELEVISION JOURNALISM CATEGORY

Ms. Elago Ndapewa Shitaatla from Namibia was awarded the first prize of US\$2,500 for her entry titled, "Namibia a link to the SADC Region". The entry examined Namibia's strategic role in advancing regional integration within the SADC region by highlighting how dry ports at the Port of Walvis Bay and transport corridors drive trade, support inland countries, strengthen cross-border cooperation while positioning Namibia as a vital gateway to the global markets.



Mr Delfim Anacleto Uatanle from Mozambique was awarded the second prize of US\$1,000 for his entry highlighting how Mueda-Negomano Road in Cabo Delgado in northern Mozambique, strengthens ties between Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania and accelerates regional development. The entry highlighted that the rehabilitation of the road is facilitating the movement of people and goods between Mozambique and Tanzania, reducing travel times and



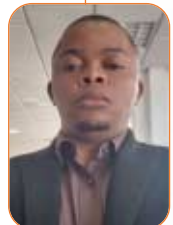
boosting cross-border trade which is at the core of the SADC regional economic integration agenda.

PRINT JOURNALISM CATEGORY

Mr Pilatos Pires Munguambe from Mozambique was awarded the first prize of US\$2,500 for his entry titled "Mphanda Nkuwa Hydroelectric Project, financial closure depends on the completion of the studies." The article highlighted that the completion of the Mphanda Nkuwa Hydroelectric project in Tete, Mozambique, would assist in increasing energy access, not only in Mozambique, but also in some of the SADC Member States including Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



Mr Aurélio Janeiro from Angola was awarded the second prize of US\$1,000 for his entry titled "Lobito Corridor-a vital gateway for economic transformation". The article examined the role of the Lobito Corridor as a strategic route with regional and continental significance, linking the Port of Lobito to Angola's main production centres and to neighbouring countries in the SADC Region.



RADIO JOURNALISM CATEGORY

Mr Horácio Romão from Mozambique was awarded the first prize of US\$2,500 for his entry on the impact of Cahora Bassa Hydroelectric Power Plant Energy on the SADC Regional Economy. The entry provided an in-depth analysis of the impact of the power generated from the Cahora Bassa Hydroelectric Power Station in Mozambique on the economic development of the SADC region.



Mr Seakga Relebogile Tladi from South Africa was awarded the second prize of US\$1,000 for his entry on "SADC Solidarity and Sanctions in Zimbabwe," which analysed the impact of sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe and the resilience of Zimbabwe in the face of these sanctions. The entry featured officials from SADC Member States including Lesotho, Namibia and Zimbabwe who highlighted SADC's solidarity with Zimbabwe and called for the lifting of the sanctions.



The SADC Secondary School Essay Competition is held annually pursuant to Council Decision 5.1.2.3 of August 2000 in Windhoek, Namibia coupled with Council Decision 13.2.2.8 of August 2004 in Grand Baie, Mauritius. The competition is open to secondary school learners from all SADC Member States.

The competition is part of the implementation of the SADC Communication and Promotional Strategy (2025 - 2030) and is in response to SADC Council Decision to effectively communicate and publicise the mandate and activities of the regional bloc.

Secondary school learners are given a topic on which to write an essay of 900 to 1,000 words. Each year, three education experts drawn from SADC Member States meet to adjudicate or mark the essay to select the three winning essays.

The topic for the 2026 SADC Secondary School Essay Competition was *“How can SADC achieve industrialisation, agricultural transformation and energy transition for a resilient future?”* The topic was derived from the theme of the 45th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Antananarivo, Madagascar, on 17 August 2025, which was *“Advancing Industrialisation, Agricultural Transformation and Energy Transition for a Resilient SADC.”*

The Summit theme together with the Secondary School Essay Competition theme underscore the region's commitment to accelerating inclusive and sustainable development through strengthened industrial capacity, modernised agricultural systems, resilient regional value chains and expanded access to clean and affordable energy.

The adjudication exercise for the 2026 SADC Secondary Schools Essay Competition was held virtually from 6 - 11 July 2026. The competition entries were adjudicated by education experts from Mozambique, Seychelles and Zambia. The following winners were awarded:

WINNERS



1st prize – US\$1,500.00 was awarded to **Mr Thulani Mahambire** from Zimbabwe with a score of 86.33 percent.



2nd prize –US\$1,000.00 was awarded to **Ms Dirse Carmem Francisco** from Mozambique with a score of 85.6 percent.



3rd prize –US\$750.00 was awarded to **Mr Siyambonga Makhoba** from South Africa with a score of 84 percent.

The three winners will be officially announced during the 46th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government scheduled to take place in Durban, South Africa on 17 August 2026.

THE SADC Tertiary Institution Essay Competition is held annually since 2021 pursuant to Council Decision of August 2020 held in Maputo, Mozambique as part of the operationalisation of the Mechanism in Honour of the Founders of SADC. The competition is open to students in tertiary institutions from all SADC Member States with the aim of raising awareness amongst the youth regarding the history of the liberation of Southern Africa, cooperation and regional integration, as well as to recognise the contribution by Founders of SADC to the SADC.

Learners are given a topic on which to write an essay of 4,000 words. Each year, three education experts drawn from the SADC Organ Troika Member States meet to adjudicate and select the three winning essays.

The topic for the 2026 SADC Tertiary Institution Essay Competition was: “Compare and Contrast the Challenges Faced by the SADC Founders in the 20th Century Against the Current Challenges. Which Lesson(s) from the SADC Founders Would You Advise or Adapt to Address Today’s Regional Dilemma(s)?”

The objective is to enhance awareness of SADC citizens through evidence-based research of the historical genesis and process of regional integration and the pivotal role played by Founders of SADC. The SADC Founders were King Sobhuza II of Eswatini and King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho, as well as Presidents António Agostinho Neto of Angola, Seretse Khama of Botswana, Kamuzu Banda of Malawi, Samora Machel of Mozambique, Julius Nyerere of the United Republic of Tanzania, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, and Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

The adjudication exercise for the 2026 SADC Tertiary Institution Essay Competition was held from 20-24 April 2026. The competition entries were adjudicated by education experts from Malawi, Eswatini and Tanzania and the following winners were awarded.



1st prize – US\$2,000.00 was awarded to **Ms Vuyelwa Karabo Simelane** from Eswatini with a score of 89 percent.



2nd prize - US\$1,500.00 was awarded to **Ms Yamikani Glory Bottomani** from Malawi with a score of 88 percent.



3rd prize - US\$1,000.00 was awarded to **Ms Liezel Bernies Mujoro** from Namibia with a score of 87 percent.

The three winners will be announced at the 46th Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government scheduled to take place in the city of Durban, South Africa on 17 August 2026.

Transforming Research into Regional Impact – Reflections Beneficiaries

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Founders Scholarship Programme, titled “SADC Annual Scholarship for 2022” was more than a financial support initiative. It is an investment in the region's future leaders, researchers and policymakers. By enabling postgraduate scholars to pursue advanced studies, the programme is developing the expertise needed to address Southern Africa's most pressing development challenges while advancing the vision of regional integration championed by the Founders of SADC.



Dr. Nhlane



Dr. Omotoye

For Dr. Abiodun Marumo Tito Omotoye of Botswana, who completed a PhD in Public Policy at the University of Pretoria, the motivation to pursue doctoral studies stemmed from a desire to understand how stronger public institutions can deliver effective, accountable and equitable development outcomes. His work focused on strengthening governance, improving institutional capacity and addressing corruption through evidence-based policymaking. He credits the SADC scholarship with providing the opportunity to undertake advanced research that would otherwise have been difficult to pursue.

Reflecting on his doctoral journey, Dr. Omotoye describes evidence-based policymaking as one of the most valuable lessons he gained. Beyond strengthening his analytical and research capabilities, the programme exposed him to scholars and practitioners from across Africa, reinforcing the value of regional collaboration in addressing common governance and development challenges.

Today, as a Policy Analyst and Researcher, he is committed to advancing transparency, accountability and ethical public administration through policy research, advisory services and institutional reform. Looking ahead, he hopes to contribute to regional policy dialogue and knowledge-sharing initiatives that strengthen cooperation among SADC Member States.

Similarly, Dr. Msokera Treassar Nhlane of Malawi, who earned a PhD in Development Studies from Chancellor College, was driven by a passion to develop practical, research-based solutions to the region's development challenges. Her research explored how intellectual property can stimulate innovation, promote economic growth and reduce SADC's dependency on foreign aid. The SADC scholarship enabled her to undertake research with direct relevance to Malawi and the wider region.

For Dr. Nhlane, one of the defining lessons from her studies was that sustainable development cannot depend solely on external assistance. Instead, long-term prosperity requires investment in local knowledge, innovation, institutions and people. Her research highlighted the importance of strengthening intellectual property systems and promoting regional collaboration to unlock Africa's potential. She has already translated her research into practice by contributing to the review of Malawi's National Intellectual Property Policy, advocating for intellectual property to be recognised as a strategic tool for innovation-led development.

Both scholars expressed profound appreciation to SADC for investing in higher education and regional human capital. They believe the scholarship programme not only transforms individual careers but also builds a generation of researchers and leaders equipped to develop evidence-based solutions for the region. Their shared message to future beneficiaries is to embrace the opportunity with dedication, pursue excellence and use their knowledge to create meaningful impact in their communities, countries and across the SADC region. Their experiences exemplify how the SADC Founders Scholarship Programme is nurturing home-grown expertise that is shaping public policy, strengthening institutions and driving sustainable regional development.





SADC ANTHEM English

SADC, SADC, DAWN OF OUR CERTAINTY
SADC, SADC, DAWN OF A BETTER FUTURE AND HOPE FOR REGIONAL AND UNI-
VERSAL INTEGRATION TOWARDS OUR PEOPLE'S UNITY AND HARMONY

CRADLE OF HUMANITY, CRADLE OF OUR ANCESTORS
LET US PRAISE WITH JOY THE REALIZATION OF OUR HOPES AND
RAISE THE BANNER OF SOLIDARITY
SADC, SADC, SADC, SADC
DAWN OF OUR CERTAINTY.

HYMNE DE LA SADC French

SADC, SADC, AUBE DE NOS CERTITUDES
SADC, SADC, AUBE D'UN AVENIR MEILLEUR ESPOIR D'INTEGRATION REGIONALE
ET UNIVERSELLE POUR L'UNITE ET L'HARMONIE ENTRE NOS PEUPLES

BERCEAU DE L'HUMANITE,
BERCEAU DE NOS ANCESTRES CELEBRONS AVEC JOIE LA REALISATION DE NOS ES-
POIRS LEVONS HAUT LE DRAPEAU DE LA SOLIDARITE
SADC, SADC, SADC, SADC
AUBE DE NOS CERTITUDES.



HINO DA SADC Portuguese

SADC, SADC, AURORA DA NOSSA CERTEZA
SADC, SADC, DE UM FUTURO MELHOR E DE ESPERANÇA DE INTEGRAÇÃO RE-
GIONAL E UNIVERSAL RUMO À HARMONIA E UNIDADE DOS POVOS

BERÇO DA HUMANIDADE,
BERÇO DOS NOSSOS ANTEPASSADOS JUNTOS CANTEMOS ALEGRES, A CONCRET-
IZAÇÃO DA NOSSA ESPERANÇA ERGUENDO A BANDEIRA DA SOLIDARIEDADE
SADC, SADC, SADC, SADC
AURORA DA NOSSA CERTEZA.









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