

Minutes of the Okavango Basin Management Committee (OkBMC) Meeting

Held at Ngandu Safari Lodge, Rundu

18-19 February 2010

Attendance:

18 February 2010

Name	Institution
Reinhold Kambuli	Okavango Basin Management
Hon. John Thighuru	Governor Kavango Region
Eben Chonguica	The Permanent Okavango river Water Commission (OKACOM)
Johan de Kock	Ministry of Regional, Local Government, Housing and Rural Development
Andre Mostert	NamWater
Jon Barnes	Consultant as an Environmental Economist
George Hamibili	Kavango Veterinary Services
David Kambinda	Kavango Veterinary Services
Asser Kayundu	Ministry of agriculture, Water and Forestry
Penehafo Shidute	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
Ndinomwaameni Nashipili	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
Shishani Nakanwe	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
Disho Thikusho	Kavango Regional Farmers Union
Laura Namene	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
Esther Mikka	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
Lirumba Lourence	Conservancies
Gereon Hunger	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
Gisbert Muronga	Usikiro
Abraham Nehemia	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
Naftal Eliaser	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
Siegfried Engels	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry

Moses Mpareke	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
Ndara Malakia	Nkurenkuru Town Council
Lina Mumbala	Namibia Nature Foundation
Ekkehard Klingerhoeffer	Kamtjonga Inland Fisheries Institute
Daneil Mazlbender	Africa Centre of Water Research
Wynand Peypers	Kavango Tourism Forum
Kamburu Marcus	Mayana P.F
Florence Sibanda	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
Siyere Alfons	Namibia Nature Foundation
Kayunde Michael	Conservancy
Patrick Tjikongo	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
Selby Mutonga	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
Michael D. Otsub	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
Kevin Roberts	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
Cynthia Ortman	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
Pauline van Rooyen	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
Chaminda Rajapakse	Food and Agriculture Organization
Charlie Paxton	OkBMC Secretary (Livelihoods)

19 February 2010

Name	Institution
Reinhold Kambuli	Okavango Basin Management
Eben Chonguica	OKACOM
Johan de Kock	MRLGHRD
Andre Mostert	NamWater
Jon Barnes	Consultant as an Environmental Economist

George Hamibili	Kavango Veterinary Services
David Kambinda	Kavango Veterinary Services
Asser Kayundu	Ministry of agriculture, Water and Forestry
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Michael D. Otsub	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
Kevin Roberts	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
Cynthia Ortman	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
Pauline van Rooyen	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
Chaminda Rajapakse	Food and Agriculture Organization
Justine Milinga	Ministry of lands and Resettlements
Charlie Paxton	Sec. OkBMC Secretary (Livelihoods)

Apologies

Dorothy Wamunyima	Namibia Nature Foundation
Alfred Sikopo	Ministry of Lands and Resettlements
Reginard Ndara	Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industries
Kenneth Utiseb	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
Martha Mwandangi	United Nations Development Programme
Celeste Espach	Geoinformatic Namibia
Kenneth HK /Uiseb	Ministry of Environment and Tourism

Registration – *Mr. Reinhold Kambuli*

Attendance list was provided and all present registered at 08h30. All apologies were communicated via electronic mail (email) prior to the meeting, except that of Mr. Reginard Ndara who communicated his apologies via telephone as a result of another meeting taking place on the same days.

Remarks by OKACOM Commissioner- *Mr. Abraham Nehemia*

Mr. Nehemia thanked guests for making time to be at the meeting, and reminded everyone that the meeting aimed at reviewing OKACOM's plan for managing the river basin, as its main aim is to mitigate the unintended possible outcomes that may result from developments of the river basin, through an approach of a developed Strategic Plan. He added that this approach was through the Environmental Protection and Sustainable Management of the Okavango River Basin (EPSMO),

which was initiated in 1999, with three (3) main Components: the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and Capacity Building. He remarked that the recently completed TDA was unique in such that it was developed by the three states on their own, using their regional specialists and no such approach was ever conducted in the world. He then thanked all those that were involved in the process, and the Namibia Nature Foundation for coordinating the process in Namibia. He pointed out that the reason for today's meeting was to assess the National/Strategic Action Programme (NAP/SAP) based on the TDA findings, and cautioned that Namibia can only derive maximum benefits depending on how committed we are, and that the same approach is used for both Angola and Botswana. Therefore, commitment of existing resources and capacity are essential and that would help us articulate the gaps we may have.

Welcoming Remarks by Kavango Regional Governor- *Honourable Mr. John Thighuru*

On behalf of the Kavango Regional Council and its residents, the governor thanked all participants for making time to attend the event and organizers for choosing the region to host the gathering, as that shows dedication and focus on commitments in place to meet challenges while developing the region to improve peoples' livelihoods, while at the same time enhancing resources management.

He cautioned that Namibia's the driest country south of the Sahara, while water and land are the most vital resources for development, hence requiring critical planning to ensure sustainable developments. He further stated that a significant population of the Kavango Region depends on land and water resources for their daily livelihoods, as the Kavango River and Basin is used by the population for fish, reeds and drinking water as well as for washing and swimming. In addition, he stressed that we do not want the water quality of this river to deteriorate due to human and animal activities. Therefore through better planning we will be able to mitigate the impacts and keep the water clean for our future generations and this creates a platform to work together with riparian states that share the bordering resource body. As a result, all developers, resources users and investors and policy makers should involve and consider the population. He expressed his delight to the Permanent Okavango River Water Commission (OKACOM) approach, which seeks to address unintended challenges that may emanate from development endeavors whilst Angola, Botswana and Namibia plan to develop available resources from the Basin. On the other hand, he cautioned that we must not forget that the effects of climate change as they continue to become more evident, requiring us to shift our practices on development and resource use and develop adaptation mechanisms, as failing to consider that clearly mean we are planning to fail for the future. He added that the Kavango Region will always commit its efforts that are aimed at sustainable development of the region and would always create conducive environment for such initiatives.

He concluded by saying Okavango River is a precious natural resource for the people in this region, therefore all plans articulated to manage the precious resources should be implemented through a collaborative effort of all states and he assured the participants that the Government of Namibia will give you support at all levels to make sure the objectives of this project are met.

Presentation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) strategy of OKACOM – *Dr. Eben Chonguica*

Dr. Eben thanked the organizers for inviting him to be part of the meeting, and in his presentation he gave a background of the OKACOM. He stated that the motivation to form OKACOM was from the three countries to work together to coordinate developments in the Okavango River Basin in order to

ensure sustainable transboundary development. He added that the process to form OKACOM was guided by international laws and policies such as the 1966 Helsinki Rules that aim at addressing Reasonable and equitable sharing of beneficial uses; and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Shared Water Course Systems which addresses Equitable and optimal utilisation, led to the formation of OKACOM in 1994, with the aim to provide technical advice to the states and that this platform can enhance the transboundary connectivity that the three stated share. He stated that OKACOM objectives were to determine the long-term yield of water available from the river, to estimate the reasonable consumer demand and prepare criteria for conservation and sustainable water use, conduct investigations related to development of the basin. He further stated that OKACOM's put the basin population at heart. On the other hand, he highlighted the challenges OKACOM faced including programme development, stakeholders engagement and funding. Despite the challenges, he pointed out that the political will from all the states, a global interest to demonstrate that biodiversity can reduce poverty are opportunities for the OKACOM. He concluded that whether OKACOM's vision is doable, the answer lies within ourselves.

Introduction, attendance and Apologies- Ms Florence Sibanda

Ms Florence Sibanda of the Directorate of Resources Planning in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, welcomed all present and asked for a round of individuals' introduction. She then introduced the agenda to the participants of the meeting in absence of the OkBMC Chairperson. The agenda was adopted with no change.

Meeting Objectives- Ms Laura Namene

Ms Laura Namene informed participants that the meeting has three components: (1). The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis; (2). Formulating the National and Strategic Action Programme and (3). Capacity building; and that the objectives of the meeting were firstly, to discuss the TDA findings; secondly, review the NAP/SAP document, to streamline the activities and identify additional activities that could be included; and thirdly, to review the Okavango basin management Committee's 2010 Operational plan and align it with the TDA activities.

Ms Laura then proceeded with an introduction to the Environmental Protection and Sustainable Management of Okavango River (EPSMO) project, which was initiated by OKACOM and funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) through the United Nation Development Programme and executed by the Food and Agriculture Union (FAO). She reminded participants that GEF funds projects that aim at addressing transboundary activities to meet challenges in TDA water management and pollution control; over extraction of water resources; protecting TDA water resources and control of invasive species, while achieving global environmental benefits.

She added that TDA is a scientific and technical fact finding objective based non negotiable document that seeks to identify the root causes of basin problems, and that it act as a measuring tool Strategic Action Programme (SAP) progress while the Strategic Action Programme is an implementable state agreed programme that aims at addressing existing basin problems. In her conclusion, she indicated that at the end of the EPSMO project, OKACOM aims at developing proposals for the implementation of the SAP prioritized activities, secure funding for such activities; develop institutional mechanisms and change, if any, new legislations. Results of the Namibian TDA findings were presented in July

2009 at the Okavango Basin Management (OkBMC) meeting held at N'kwazi lodge but would also be presented by Mr. Chaminda Rajapakse.

Presentation of TDA studies key findings- *Mr. Chaminda Rajapakse*

Mr. Rajapakse indicated that the TDA has two (2) components: the current situation and what's the future of basin and all were studied during the TDA and should inform the development of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) document. He pointed out that the Okavango River is near pristine but with emerging pressures, most of the basin and its water are in Angola, major data about the basin in Angola is still lacking, the basin is dynamic but sensitive and the delta is the largest Ramsar site located on transboundary. He remarked that the Okavango river was unique in that it ends in a land-locked delta and unlike most other rivers, it does not flow into the sea. He further continued that unlike other TDA approaches that look at existing problem situations, the Okavango TDA looked at identifying potential problems that may result from water use based on scientific analysis and experts opinions. Each country then had a working team of experts with a coordinator and at the end all integrated their findings.

Preliminary TDA findings indicate that irrigated agriculture pose the greatest threat to the basin, two tributaries of the Cuito and Cubango in Angola serve as complementary hydrological functions and improper developments may hinder the basin. He then concluded that in the period of increased developments, there are things to consider such as the Angolan floodplains, the Cuito catchments, maintaining social services and cohesion, the delta in Botswana as well as that Biodiversity is unique. During discussions, Dr. Jon Barnes wanted to know if the supply and sanitation of the TDA included the Eastern Water Carrier in Namibia, to which Mr. Rajapakse replied that it was not included.

Another question by Mr. Gereon Hunger followed wanting to know why ground water was excluded from the TDA studies, to which Mr. Rajapakse replied that the TDA focus was on surface water and that ground water investigations required a special focus and resources, as was the case with flood and disaster management. He however acknowledged the suggestion and indicated that it would be recommended in the Strategic Action Programme. Mr. Otsub felt the socio-economic data was unclear, to which Mr. Rajapakse with the support of Dr. Jon Barnes indicated that Socio-economic was the main part of the TDA, having been specifically considered on how different developments scenarios would affect flow and socio-economic, in terms of benefits and gains.

Overview of the National Action Plan (NAP) and Strategic Action Plan (SAP) - *Mr. Daniel Malzbender*

Mr. Daniel gave a brief introduction to the National Action Programme and the Strategic Action Programme (NAP and SAP) and their link to the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA). He pointed out that the SAP identifies priority problems of a transboundary nature (based on TDA) and sets long-term and short-term objectives for the basin; it outlines the actions needed to resolve identified priority problems; it must be agreed by the countries before technical assistance, capacity-building or investment projects can be developed and that it should spell out specific actions for each country that can be adopted nationally but are harmonised with the other countries. He then clarified that for SAP to be developed, each country involved should first develop its NAP, which should consist of actions that respond to its priorities and circumstances.

He proceeded stating that for one to develop a Strategic Action Programme (SAP), a clear full understanding of the scientific Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) is required. The SAP document does not only act as a guide, but also remains as a funding tool to governments shall it be agreed by all states. He then concluded that Namibia's National Action Programme (NAP) needs to be integrated with the Okavango Basin Management (OkBMC) plan, indicating the prioritized activities and objectives. During this presentation, Mr. Kevin Roberts wanted to know if the NAP and SAP are developed together, to which Mr. Daniel replied that the NAP is developed first based on an individual country, with an aim of closing existing gaps. Then, all three countries involved combine their NAPs to form the SAP. Ms. Charlie expressed her confusion with regards to integrating the NAP with other basin activities and expectations in the country, to which Mr. Daniel indicated that the SAP is a long term document which is developed based on the NAP which must first address existing gaps per country. After this presentation, Mr. Daniel requested participants' review all the three clusters to identify activities they felt needed to be included. It was during this reviewing stage that Mr. Haimbili wanted to know why livestock was not included on the livelihood cluster considering that a significant population of the Kavango region depended on livestock and they are mainly concentrated on the river banks, which causes a major degradation as result of overgrazing. He then suggested that livestock management and community rangeland be part of livelihood as an activity, and it could included as a cross sectoral activity in all clusters. Mr. Chaminda asked what Mr. Haimbili thought was best approach to improve livestock and rangeland management, to which he replied that improving livestock health and allocation of water points away from the river as well as introducing livestock marketing programmes would be best. Dr. Jon Barnes supported the idea of including livestock improvements under all clusters as a cross sectoral activity. Under the Water cluster on the Control of alien species, Ms. Charlie wanted to know if there existed invasive species in the Kavango in the Namibia part, to which Mr. Eben Chonguica and Mr. Daniel Malzbender replied no, but the alien *Salvinia molesta* existed in the delta and have been noticed to spread further north in Botswana. Therefore, they felt a measure be developed to prevent and control the spread of alien species to other countries of the basin. Ms. Charlie again asked if OKACOM would initiate similar projects that were undertaken during the Every River has its People (ERP) project to improve tourism in the region, to which Mr. Chaminda Rajapakse indicated on condition that such initiatives are realistic, OKACOM could play an active role by initiating such projects for Angola in which experienced Namibian and Botswana tourism experts could be involved to meet investors in that country for Angola to reap benefits from the process too.

After this discussions ended, participants were grouped into three groups under clusters Land and Management; Water and Livelihoods so that they review the documents of the three clusters to identify and advise on activities they felt need to be included. In addition, they were also asked to identify activities that they knew were already undertaken in the country under different outcomes, with the contact organizations/ministries with the contact people involved in such activities. These discussions were facilitated by Nafatal Eliaser and ended day one of the meeting.

Day 2: 19 February 2010

Day two of the meeting was opened with the presentations of the group discussions that ended the first day of the meeting, and discussions were facilitated by Mr. Naftal Eliaser.

Group presentation and discussion.

Dr. Jon Barnes presented the Livelihood group activities and the following activities were introduced, as additional.

Under **Outcome 1: CBNRM: output 1.3** Developing sustainable transboundary tourism, marketing of eco-cultural tourism was added. Under Outcome 2 output 2.1, riverbank protection and land use management were added as outputs. Still under output 2; output 2.5, **Output 2.5:** Detailed economic and financial analysis of all agricultural systems including irrigation projects in Angola and Namibia **were added. Under the same output, Outcome 3:** Livestock development project and its outputs of Increased productivity of small-scale livestock established, including stock improvement to increase market potential to livestock farmers, linked to economic and cultural importance of livestock, includes agricultural shows; Rangeland management programme with common property management to increase productivity (*could be under land use*); Livestock health and disease control - management strategies established relative to transboundary issues and Programme for water provision for livestock away from river, and controlled access to river (*could be under land use*) were added.

Outcome 4: Fisheries and aquaculture development project was also added, with the following outputs: Development of transboundary fishing reserves; Appropriate aquaculture programme developed with emphasis on capital and low input systems; Fish hatcheries established for restocking and seed stock; Biodiversity integrity guidelines established for aquaculture; Diversification of potential indigenous aquatic species to be farmed established

Outcome 5: Development of sustainable systems for Natural Resource Use with the following output Programme developed for community-based use of natural resources including indigenous plants, forests, and hunting, was also added.

On Land Use and Management cluster presented by Mr. George Haimbili, the following outcomes and outputs were added. Under **Outcome 2:** Harmonizing land use planning guidelines and land use policies/ regulations was added, and the outcomes being Harmonizing existing policies (water, lands, fisheries and environment, forestry, mining) and output 2.1 was consolidated into output 2.1 **Outcome 3:** Implementing elements of basin development plan in selected pilot sites with an output of **3.3: Breeding zones for fish were added. Still under the same cluster under Outcome 4:** Reversal of existing and prevention of future degradation with outputs of **providing water points for cattle away from the river; maintaining adequate stocking along the river; and developing rangeland management strategy were added.**

During discussions, Mr. Kevin Roberts suggested that the control of alien species be added to the cluster, and Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry's Department of Environmental Affairs be added as the contact Ministry. Ministry of Lands and Resettlement was suggested as the contact Ministry under Output 2.2, as they already have a plan of developing an integrated land use plan. Another discussion centered on harmonization of policies in the country under Outcome 2 output 2.1 on who should be responsible for such activity, to which Mr. Nehemia suggested that there need to be a responsible body which should then involve all the ministries involved with such a policy. He proposed that Okavango Basin Steering Committee (OBSC) be the responsible body with OBSC chairperson being the contact person. Under outcome 2, Mr. Kevin Roberts suggested that **Output 2.3:** National policies/ regulations for sand and gravel mining, and quarrying harmonised be added.

On Water Resources Management and Water Quality cluster, Ms. Ndina Nashipili presented the group's work and the following additions were made. Under outcome 1 **Outcome 1:** Determining long-term development/ management framework for the basin, it was stated that the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has started a water audit for the Kavango. Under outcome 2 output 2.2, Ms Cynthia Ortman suggested that there be a collaborative program for basin water quality monitoring among the three countries; she further clarified that a strategy already exists only a program was needed. Under land use, Ms Florence Sibanda suggested that the Veterinary services of the Ministry of agriculture, Water and Forestry in Rundu be added to land use and livelihoods Clusters. Both Mr. Kevin Roberts and Mr. Eben Chonguica suggested that environmental flow assessments, hydrology and geohydrology data be complemented to improve the understanding of current situations. Ms. Charlie Paxton also indicated that human health issues be added to outcome 7, output 7.1. She further advised there be a link between all clusters/activities and health issues.

During the same discussions, Mr. Chaminda asked if there exist a possibility of wetlands projects to work under wetlands organisations such as the Ramsar and the wetland internationals, to which a positive reply was given and a suggestion was made that Ministry of Agriculture's Water Environment and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism be added as contact ministries in that regard. In addition, Mr. Chaminda asked if there existed a linkage of activities on Integrated Water Resources Management, to which Mr. Nehemia replied that it has been included under Land use, but it should also be added to Water and Water Quality Management Cluster.

OkBMC operational Plan presentation- Ms. Charlie Paxton

In her presentation, Ms. Charlie highlighted the success of Okavango Basin Management Committee as from the initiation till to date, including among others the opening of the bank account and having developed and submitted the 2010 operational Plan that has been already submitted to the project Steering Committee for funding consideration. At the same time, she expressed her disappointment to the commitment of Committee members especially during the 2009 year. She then concluded her presentation with seeking advice on what could be done to improve the members commitment, to which she recommended that perhaps appointing members through writing could be best as that may encourage them. With regards to identifying issues in the basin, Mr. Ekkhard Klingerhoeffer asked a question on the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and forestry's stand on tstate has grown enough food he biodiesel projects in the Kavango region, especially with the plantation of *Jatropha*. Mr. Otsub replied that the Ministry's plan is to use degraded land for such activities and such land has already been identified but management has the final saying on decision. Mr. Mashare irrigation manager indicated that investors usually want large area for plantation and such land offered with a lease which is just impossible. Mr. Abraham Nehemia then indicated that the Ministry's stand that biodiesel be done only if state has grown enough food. Mr. Ekkhard also echoed that *Jatropha curcas* is a poisonous plant and can be an alien and an Environmental Impact Assessment need to be conducted before such plant can be introduced in new areas. Ms. Charlie indicated that the German Technical Cooperation for Development (GTZ) has funded an Environmental Impact Assessment for such studies through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry but the findings are unknown. In addition, Mr. Ekkhard wanted to know who is responsible to control the construction of infrastructures in floodplains and flood prone areas, as the Mahango game lodge is said to have constructed an access bridge way in a flood prone area. Mr. Andre Mostert replied that MAWF should be responsible, as all rivers and their areas belong to the state which MAWF is the custodian.

On the other hand, Mr. Gereon Hunger wanted to know why OkBMC activities does not involve the communities who are the main resource users, to which Mr. Reinhold Kambuli replied that part of the OkBMC plan has budgeted for community meetings to be held at Traditional Authority levels; substantial budget has also been allocated to print awareness materials which would be distributed to stakeholders including communities and that they are always represented on meetings.

Review and discussion of National Action Plan (NAP) and Strategic Action Plan (SAP) – Mr. Daniel Malzbender

Mr. Daniel indicated that the TDA studies and regular consultative meetings within the basin countries has unearthed crucial current situation understanding, including uncoordinated land use plan and lack of harmonized Land use plan between the countries and these could result in future degradation in the basin. In addition, Land use planning is fragmented with overlapping and competing institutional responsibilities. The main challenges affecting coordinated Land use plan, he pointed out, were insufficient integration and coordination of planning and implementation of projects and programmes due to overlapping authorities, competing institutions and a focus on sectoral agendas and priorities; inappropriate decision-making due to a lack of understanding of policies and legislation, a lack of technical capacity, and a lack of understanding of environmental and climatic constraints to development; insufficiently harmonised legislation and planning guidelines between countries. To these, he indicated that the project would have four (4) components to address the identified weakness and this would include:

- 1: Determining the long-term development/ management framework for the basin
- 2: Harmonising land use planning guidelines and land use policies/ regulations
- 3: Implementing elements of basin development plan in selected pilot sites
- 4: Reversal of existing and prevention of future degradation.

To complement these components, a number of initiatives need to be undertaken including Water Resources Management through OKACOM developing a decision-support system for to advise on water allocation, Early warning of floods and droughts need to be prioritized, effective hydrological monitoring systems and/or inadequate management of data, establishing baseline data on sediment transportation as well as on ground water movement and effects of human activities to ground water; and a Decision Support System needs to be informed by accurate and up to date data. On Agriculture, he indicated that there are high levels of poverty within the Basin and agriculture is a mainstay for most. Therefore increasing the benefits of agriculture is important for socio-economic development but reducing the adverse impacts of agricultural development is a priority for continued benefits.

On Basin Tourism, he pointed out that opportunities exist to increase the maximum benefits from the industry, as a result of the Okavango being clearly in its pristine condition. There is potential for wildlife tourism which is currently relatively undeveloped except in Botswana, which also boosts required capacity and knowledge compared to Angola and Namibia. However, there is a low level of local or community level participation. Direct benefits to local communities are mainly limited to

Community Basin Natural Resources Management initiatives in Botswana and Namibia. On Institutional Capacity

The whole discussion here centered on the issue of institutional strengthening and initiating new projects to improve livelihoods in the basin. Mr. Daniel indicated that institutions already exist in countries, but they only need to be harmonized and strengthened, which could be done through the OKACOM experience. This could be done through needs assessment for relevant national organisations (with respect to SAP implementation), assessing training needs for national organisations conducted and targeted training implemented; sustainable Human Resources and funding structure for national management institutions (i.e. OkBMC) for effective implementation, monitoring and enforcement (e.g. of environmental policies, standards) established; Establishing effective organisational linkages between OKACOM and relevant national organisations; and maintaining stakeholder participation activities (e.g. ERP) for decision making and implementation.

During the presentation, Mr. Gereon Hunger asked how institutional constraints were identified and how would they be improved. Mr. Daniel replied that organizations involved would first be assessed based on their roles in relation to the SAP implementation and that would include improving organizational communications through existing governance. On that reply, Mr. Haimibili wanted to know how would minor organizations would be assessed and involved in the Sap implementation, considering existing governmental regulations. He then requested that OKACOM consider on how would small organizations be involved to reap the full benefits from the opportunities that exist. Mr. Ekkhard supported this by saying that OKACOM should act a technical adviser, but then institutions should drive their own implementations. Mr. Gereon Hunger suggested that there be an existing coordination and communication system to address current existing institutional weaknesses. To his support was Ms. Charlie who indicated that capacity building mechanisms need to be sustainable. To this, Mr. Chaminda indicated that since OKACOM was initiated, only a few progress were undertaken and to that effect, all upcoming projects would be coordinated by OKACOM. He added that what is important to consider is how do we develop an action based coordination unit. Mr. Daniel pointed out that it is important that Namibia needs to develop its institutional strengthening procedure to maintain internal memory such as in the case of project activities participation to which different people attend meetings.

Mr. Lirumbu wanted to know why all focus was based only on improving the riverine while there is a need to consider inland areas of the basin to improve current existing projects and creating new ones. Mr. Chaminda then replied that that would be considered, and also that Namibian and Botswana experiences could be used to create similar projects in Angola. On the issue of institutional coordination, Mr. Haimibili again wanted to know whether OKACOM would coordinate implementations of project activities in order to avoid project duplications and that project implementations should not be linked to OKACOM structures; while Mr. Siyere Alfons felt that Traditional Authorities suppose to form part of similar meetings as it was done in the

Closing remarks- Mr. Abraham Nehehmia

Due to an emergency he had to attend to, Mr. Nehemia requested the participants to kindly excuser him to leave the meeting, as he had to attend to his ill grandfather in the north who needed an urgent

relocation to another hospital at a family cost, and he has to do that. He acknowledged that participants showed a positive commitment to the meeting and he was positive that the meeting would reach its objectives. He however warned that if Namibia does not clearly articulate what we want from the project, anything would be lost to neighbouring states, and that we need to clearly indicate what we need from the project with clear objectives. He also indicated that if Angola and Botswana do not develop their Integrated Water Resources Management plans, it would not be possible to achieve the SPA in a sustainable way; but also promised that the process would continue to involve all stakeholders throughout.