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SOUTHERN AFRICA

CROSS CUTTING ISSUES REPORT

SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

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Recommended Citation

SAREP. 2011. *Cross-cutting Issues*. Southern Africa Regional Environmental Program (SAREP). Report produced for the Southern Africa Office of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



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Support for this publication was provided by USAID Southern Africa. The Southern Africa Regional Environmental Program (SAREP) is a regional project to assist Southern African countries in the management of River Basin Systems. SAREP is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (contract no. 674-C-00-10-00030-00) and implemented by the Chemonics International. Subcontractors include Bergstan Botswana, University of Florida, SIAPAC and Ecosurv.

ACRONYMS

BioKavango	Building Local Capacity for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Diversity in the Okavango Delta Project
CBNRM	Community-Based Natural Resource Management
EPSMO	Environmental Protection and Sustainable Management of the Okavango River Basin Project
EMMP	Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
GCC	Global Climate Change
GIS	Geographic Information System
HOORC	Harry Oppenheimer Okavango Research Center
IRBM	Integrated River Basin Management Project
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
KAZA	Kavango-Zambezi Trans Frontier Conservation Area
KRA	Key Result Area
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MOMS	Management-Oriented Monitoring Systems
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
OBSC	Okavango Basin Steering Committee
ODIS	Okavango Delta Information System
OKACOM	Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission
PSI	Population Services International
QASP	Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan
RBO	River Basin Organization
RFP	Request for Proposal
SAREP	Southern Africa Regional Environmental Program
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAF	Strategic Activities Fund
SAP	Strategic Action Plan
SIAPAC	Social Impact Assessment and Policy Analysis Corporation
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SMME	Small Medium and Micro Enterprise
TDA	Trans-Boundary Diagnostic Assessment
UNDP-GEF	United Nations Development Program-Global Environment Facility
WSS	Water Supply and Sanitation

1 INTRODUCTION

Women do 60 percent of the World's work but receive only one-tenth of its income. They own less than one percent of the land, have limited access to education and financial resources and have less than men in decisions affecting their future. Compounding these inequities is the fact that most of the household community work done by women worldwide is unpaid and therefore ignored by household surveys and national censuses.

(UNDP,1977:10).

The Okavango River Basin (ORB), spanning Angola, Namibia and Botswana is critical for the provision of a wide range of critical ecosystem goods and services to its residents as well as to a wide array of local, national and international stakeholders. The basin supports the livelihoods of over 880,000 people, in 195,000 households of which about 549,000 people live in rural areas, with an overall urbanization rate of about 38%. A large proportion of those people living in the rural areas of the basin are heavily reliant upon the use of natural resources to supplement their rain-fed agriculture, as well as upon the water from the Cuito/Cubango/Okavango River system for their personal and commercial needs. The basin also supports a vibrant tourism economy structured around the wilderness nature of the Okavango Delta in Botswana.

Although the basin is managed according to the national policies and strategies of each of the three riparian basin states, within the context of various international agreements, protocols and conventions, the actual residents of the basin are the *de facto* 'managers' of the river system – determining the ultimate health and wellbeing of its natural resources and ecosystems through their livelihood and use strategies.

Overlain on this framework of management processes lies the context of power relationships, tenure rights and gender issues all of which influence the fabric of society. These aspects play a dynamic role in determining access to and use of resources in the basin and the concomitant wellbeing of marginalized groups within local communities.

1.1 The Southern Africa Regional Environmental Program (SAREP)

The Southern Africa Regional Environmental Program (SAREP) which started on June 7th, 2010, support initiatives of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) that integrate improved water and sanitation services with strategies that address threats to ecosystem services and biodiversity within priority shared river basins.

SAREP will improve the abilities of OKACOM member states to plan and manage their trans-boundary resources. The program will focus on strengthening institutional capacity in the areas of trans-boundary cooperation, sustainable water resource management and biodiversity conservation.

In the Okavango River Basin improved water management will protect critical biodiversity within areas that are identified for conservation including the Okavango Delta, one of the world's largest recognized wetlands of international importance. The long term goal of SAREP will be the development and implementation of a master plan for the integrated conservation, development, and use of basin water resources that optimizes benefits to society and protects biodiversity. USAID provides assistance to develop a more scientific basis for decision-making, improve capacity to manage resources that transcend national boundaries, and enhance multi-national cooperation.

1.2 Objectives of the Cross-cutting Analysis

Based upon USAID's requirements for addressing cross cutting issues within SAREP the objectives of this analysis are:

To determine the extent to which historically marginalized sectors of the population (women, girls and indigenous groups) are expected to participate and benefit from the program, as well as indicating the degree to which the strategic implementation plan will be expected to reduce disparities and improve the situation of disadvantaged groups. The analysis will also identify opportunities to address priority health and nutrition needs related to water, sanitation and HIV/AIDS.

This report speaks to the strategies that SAREP will employ to ensure that marginalized groups such as women, girls and indigenous people will benefit from the support provided by the program in its support to OKACOM and it achieving its goals and objectives.

2 BACKGROUND

Most of the Okavango River Basin may be generally characterized as an arid to semi-arid landscape bisected by the Kubango and Cuito rivers in the headwaters, within Angola, converging in northern Namibia and then draining as an endorheic¹ system into the Okavango Delta. Annual rainfall averages in the range 1,100 to 1,200mm in the Angolan highlands, gradually declining southwards to about 480 mm over the Delta. Approximately 95% of the basin's runoff is generated by the headwaters from catchments in Angola.

Soil types and soil fertility vary across the basin with the most fertile areas lying along the floodplains of the western Kubango River, continuing along the Okavango River floodplains in Namibia and into the various floodplains of the Okavango Delta. The soils of the north-western part of the Kubango are low in nutrients and easily exhausted by crop production, but are often deep, permeable and with a stable soil structure so that they are more resistant to erosion. Most of the rest of the Angolan part of the basin through which the Cuito flows, is dominated by Kalahari sands, which are very porous and water drains rapidly, leaving little moisture for plants to access. The soils that follow the river channels and floodplains consist of a mix of silt, clay and fine sands. They were deposited by high water flows and are usually

¹ An **endorheic** basin is a watershed from which there is no outflow of water (either on the surface as rivers, or underground by flow or diffusion through rock or permeable material).

characterized by a rich organic and nutrient content, especially in the Delta, where nutrients have progressively accumulated over many years.

The rainfall and soil fertility heavily influence the livelihood status of communities across the basin, and consequently impact upon the abilities of marginalized people to overcome poverty. Those who have less access to governance and power structures and who may be considered to be 'different' from the majority of the people living in an area are generally forced to less productive land or to places further from easily available sources of potable and agricultural water supplies.

The characteristics of the ORB are highly variable in terms of topography, ecology, seasonal influences, and human demographics, with frequent floods, periodic droughts, and pockets of poverty with limited access to adequate water and sanitation services. Water use and management is a growing concern throughout the region, which is generally linked to inadequate planning, poor distribution, losses and diversions. In many instances contamination from human activities threatens to limit economic growth, deprive people of their access to safe drinking water, and undermines efforts to alleviate poverty and conserve biodiversity. The greatest impact of these threats is however on the marginalized people – women, girls and minority groups – those who are most likely to be suppressed or who have little power to assert themselves within social activities. The marginalization of these groups is often most evident within rural areas.

2.1 Sustainable Development

Sustainable development ties together concern for the carrying capacity of natural systems with the social challenges facing humanity. Within the ORB one of the most pressing challenges facing its stakeholders is that of the marginalization of women, girls and indigenous groups.

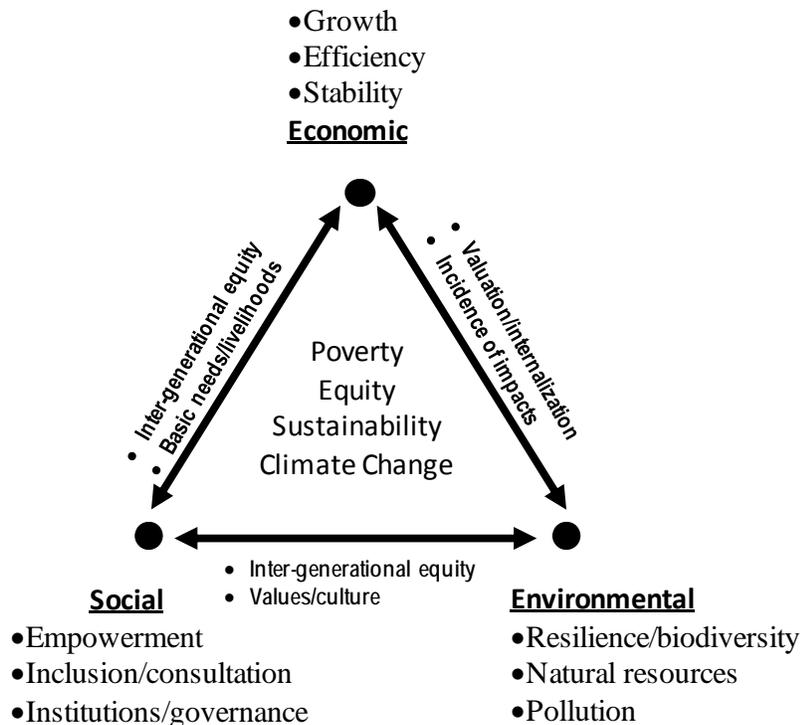
Sustainable development has been defined in many ways, but the most frequently quoted definition is from *Our Common Future*, also known as the Brundtland Report:

"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within it two key concepts:

- *the concept of **needs**, in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and*
- *the idea of **limitations** imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs."*

It is well documented that women, children and indigenous groups comprise the greatest proportion of the world's poor and are impacted most severely by poverty. Likewise limitations imposed by social organization on marginalized groups places great pressure on the environment due to their requirement to depend more heavily upon the use of natural resources. Marginalization is therefore a constraint to sustainable development.

All definitions of sustainable development require that we see the world as a complex system - a system that connects space and time. (Source: IISD: <http://www.iisd.org/sd>). This complexity is often portrayed to exist within a triangular framework of factors, as shown in Figure 1, based on three dimensions: economics, social and environment.



Source: The Encyclopaedia of Earth website.

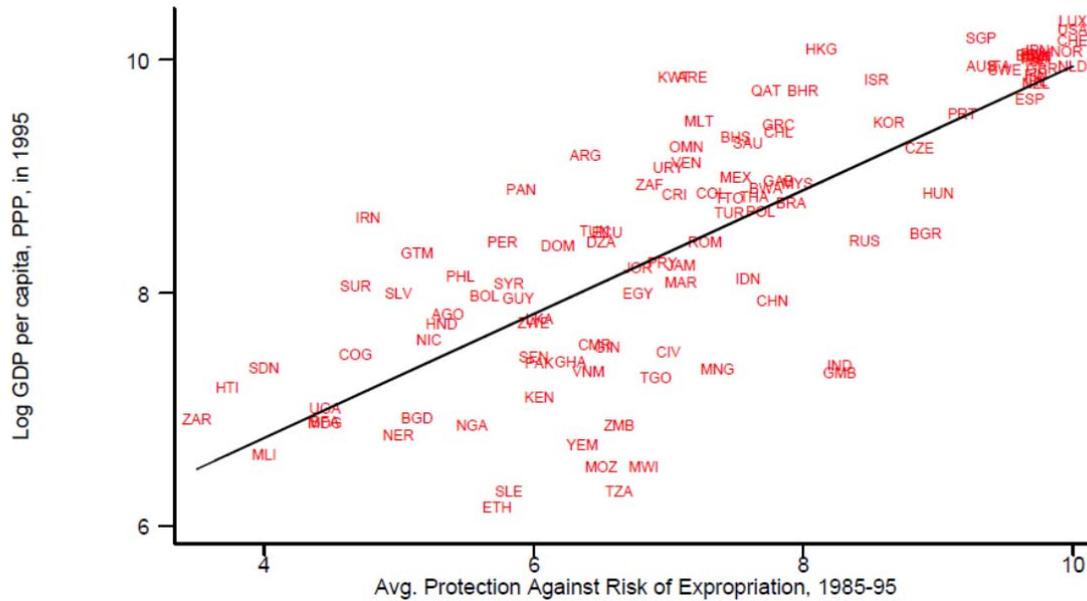
Figure 1: The three axes of sustainable development: economics, social and environment

Where the dynamics between the three dimensions becomes distorted, such as where groups are marginalized (the Social Dimension – disempowerment, exclusion, no participation and consultation, lack of access to institutions and decision-making processes), then inevitably there will be concomitantly negative forces placed on the remaining two dimensions resulting in threats to biodiversity, reduced resilience of ecosystems, increased pollution, the unsustainable use of natural resources (the Environmental Dimension) and possibly reduced economic growth, instability and the inefficient application of economic resources at the ground level (the Economic Dimension).

As an example, property rights are an area that places many marginalized groups at risk through a lack of security and tenure. Such groups may be easily manipulated and displaced, resulting in their being forced to rely heavily on natural resources. The Political Risk Services Group, through its ‘International Country Risk Guide,’ shows that countries with more secure property rights generally have higher per capita incomes. Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) principles argue that where communities have improved benefits (i.e. household incomes) their reliance on the use of natural resources is reduced,

thereby reducing threats to those resources and increasing willingness to conserve (Jones & Weaver. 2009).

Figure 2: Countries with more secure property rights have higher average incomes



Sources: Political Risk Services, International Country Risk Guide (ICRG) and World Bank database.

A study done for the World Bank, estimated that women in sub-Saharan Africa produce up to 80% of all staple foods but own less than 10% of the land. In another study, on the world economic crisis and its impact on women, it was further estimated that women in this region contribute up to 30% of labor in plowing, 50% of labor in planting, 60% of labor in weeding, 85% of labor in processing and preserving food, while performing up to 95% of all domestic chores. Throughout rural Africa, women's labor input is estimated to be three times that of men.

In addition to the load placed upon women to sustain livelihoods at the household level, in rural situations across Africa many girl² children are required to remain at home to assist their families with some of these livelihood chores – most often the onerous chore of fetching and carrying water and fuel wood, placing great stress on the health of the young girls. In the process of being kept at home these girls forego any opportunity to attend school and gain an education, marginalizing them further in later life. With this lack of education most of these girls are then placed at further risk of becoming pregnant or marrying at an extremely young age, adding a further layer of marginalization and stress to someone who may not be emotionally or physically able to cope with such pressure. Research clearly shows that when

² Girl children are varyingly taken to be young females under the age of 16-18 years of age. See discussion below.

girls are educated, all quality-of-life indicators improve. They have smaller families, longer and healthier lives, and more stable economic futures.

Africa has one of lowest rates of female literacy and the highest gender disparities in adult literacy. In sub-Saharan countries, 62 per cent of the 155 million adults who cannot read or write are women. The primary school completion rate for African girls is among the lowest in the developing world (57 per cent, some 10 percentage points below that of African boys), and in 2007, the percentage of African youths enrolled in secondary school fell to 79 per cent (from 82 per cent in 1999.) Gender inequality, low socio-economic status of women, and gender based violence make women and girls much more vulnerable to HIV infection. In contrast with other regions, almost 60 percent of people living with HIV in Africa are female, and women and girls bear a disproportionate burden in providing care for AIDS-affected families and communities. (Mapendo New Horizons. 2011)

The SAREP Program will therefore place great emphasis to contribute to addressing issues of marginalization within the ORB as a means of improving the livelihoods and wellbeing of its residents, as well as reducing potential threats to biodiversity.

2.2 Marginalization

In sociology, marginalization is the social process of particular groups or individuals being made marginal or relegated to the fringes or outer limits of social activities, or being confined to a lower social standing or status. (Wikipedia. B.). This may include those processes by which individuals and groups are ignored or relegated to the fringes of political debate, social negotiation, and economic bargaining. Another description of ‘marginalized’ refers to the “overt or covert trends within societies whereby those perceived as lacking desirable traits or deviating from the group norms tend to be excluded by wider society and ostracized as undesirable.” (Wikipedia b.)

Being marginalized also refers to individuals or groups being separated from the rest of the society and not being allowed to be at the centre of, part of or within the mainstream of social processes. Material deprivation is one of the most common results of marginalization, where material resources (such as food and shelter) are inequitably dispersed within a society. Along with material deprivation, marginalized individuals are also excluded from social processes such as government, the provision of private sector services, program implementation and policy development – with this most often being an exclusion from decision-making processes. Many groups and communities experience marginalization, such as Aboriginal communities, women, youth, the infirm or disabled and the elderly.

Marginalized groups tend to overlap; groups excluded in one arena, say in political life, tend to be excluded in other arenas, say in economic status. Likewise women, girls, the disabled and infirm may be excluded from certain social activities.

Africa: Women Still Marginalized

Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Ministry of Home Affairs,
RSA

Launch of the 2010 SADC Protocol on Gender and
Development

Despite the political will shown by leaders on the African continent, women in Africa face serious challenges with regards to empowerment and parity. The Minister noted in some countries in the SADC region, women had minority status. In these areas, women are not allowed to own property, are not entitled to inherit the estates of those who are deceased and experience a gender division of labor and endure a dominant patriarchal value system.

"The issues of peace building and conflict resolution as well as gender based violence, are particularly relevant since it is now widely accepted that women face the brunt of conflict as well as socio-economic challenges and progress made in the struggle for the liberation of women needs to be evaluated.

Social, cultural and religious practices, attitudes and mindsets continue to militate against the attainment of gender equality and equity which are central to democracy and development."

2.3 Issues relating to the definition of a 'girl'

Defining the concept of a 'girl' in terms of marginalized groups is a complex process as it spans issues of sexuality, physiology, education, gender and economics amongst others. Girl children are varyingly taken to be young females under the age of 16-18 years of age, however it is often a complex set of definitions that defines varying conditions.

16 years of age is often the statutory or legal age used by many countries to define children in terms of sexual consent. However as an example, in Namibia, 18 years of age is the age at which women have the right to decide on getting married without parental approval - but over eighteen (18) years of age in the case of a boy, and over fifteen (15) years of age in the case of a girl, they can enter into matrimony provided that both parents are consenting.

The age of consent varies across countries and is seen to be the age at or above which an individual can engage in unfettered sexual relations with another who is also at or above that age. In Angola the age of consent is 12 years of age, whilst in Botswana it is 16 years of age for females and 14 years of age for males, and in Namibia it is 16 years of age.

However, in Botswana the Children's Act says anyone below 14 is a child yet the Botswana National Youth Policy is however "directed toward young males and females who are aged from 12 to 29 years." The policy contends that young people in this age group require social,

economic and political support to realize their full potential: “This is a time in life when most young people are going through dramatic changes in their life circumstances as they move from childhood to adulthood. It is recognized, however, that there may be some people who fall outside this age range but who may experience similar circumstances to other young people (e.g. there may be 10 year olds who are not engaged in full-time education). Thus, this definition is intended to indicate the primary target group, without excluding those who may share similar circumstances.”

In accordance with the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, a child is defined as any person below the age of 18. Adding another layer of complexity to the concept of a ‘girl’, the UN considers people between the age of 15-24 to be youth.

In this report 16 years of age is taken to be the defining age of a ‘girl’ above which she would be considered as a young woman.

All three riparian states in the ORB (Angola, Botswana and Namibia) have ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child hosted by the African Union.

2.4 Marginalization and gender

In 2009, USAID reaffirmed its commitment to gender integration, and specifically emphasized the importance of gender equality as a development goal:

“...the United States Agency for International Development is striving deliberately to promote gender equality, in which both men and women have equal opportunity to benefit from and contribute to economic, social, cultural and political development; enjoy socially valued resources and rewards; and realize their human rights.” (ADS 201.3.9.3)

2.4.1 Gender

Gender is a social construct that refers to relations between and among the sexes, based on their relative roles. It encompasses the economic, political, and socio-cultural attributes, constraints and opportunities associated with being a man or a woman. As a social construct, gender varies across cultures, is dynamic and open to change over time. Because of the variation in gender across cultures and over time, gender roles should not be assumed but investigated. Note that “gender” is not interchangeable with “women” or “sex.” (ADS Chapters 200-203)

2.4.2 Gender Equity

Gender equity is the process of being fair to women and men. To ensure fairness, measures must often be available to compensate for historical and social disadvantages that prevent women and men from otherwise operating on a level playing field. Equity leads to equality. (ADS Chapters 200-203).

2.4.3 Gender Equality

Gender equality is a broad concept and a goal for development. It is achieved when men and women have equal rights, freedoms, conditions, and opportunities for realizing their full potential and for contributing to and benefiting from economic, social, cultural, and political development. It means that society values men and women equally for their similarities and differences and the diverse roles they play. It signifies the outcomes that result from gender equity strategies and processes. (ADS Chapters 200-203)

2.4.4 Gender Integration

Gender integration means taking into account both the differences and the inequalities between women and men in program planning, implementation, and evaluation. The roles of women and men and their relative power affect who does what in carrying out an activity and who benefits.

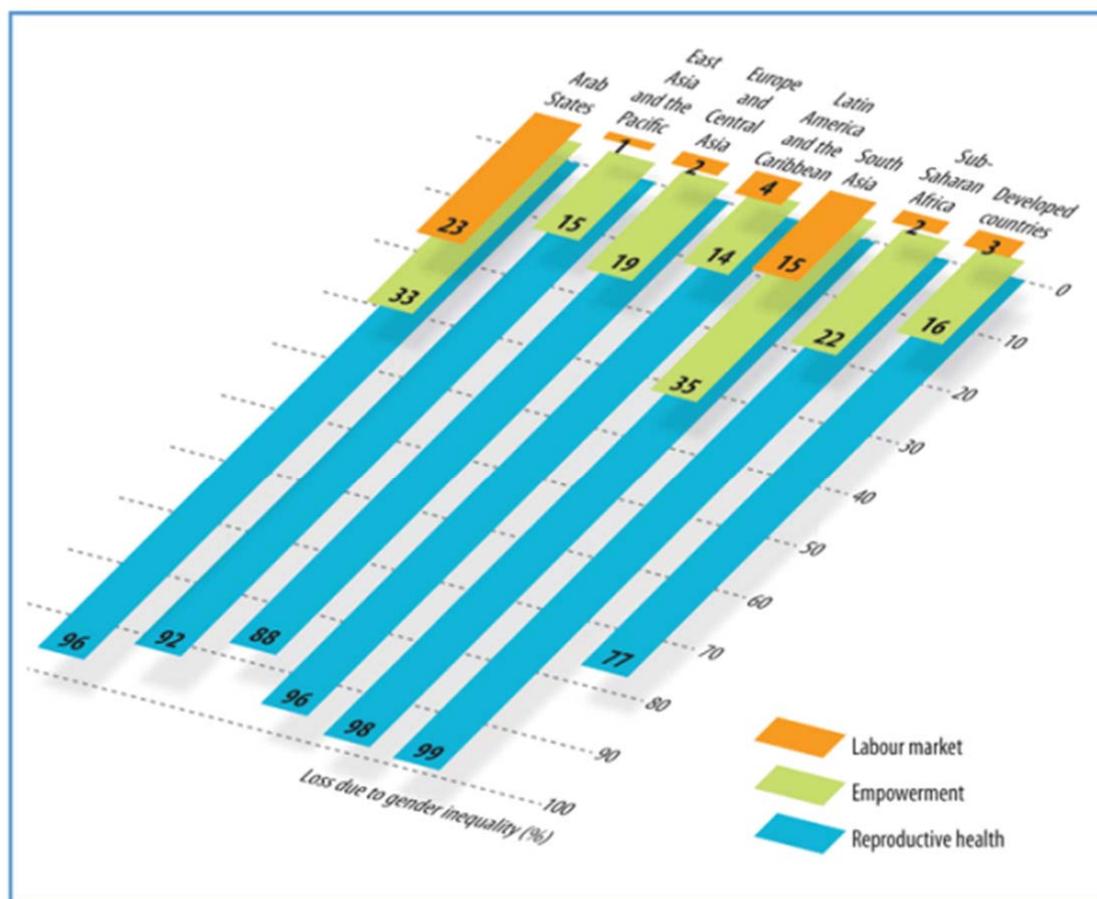
Besides the policy environment, women have also been constrained by existing socio-cultural norms through which they are perceived as inferior or second class citizens. Although the position of African women in traditional societies has largely been ignored or avoided, there has been a tendency to use culture and tradition to maintain a status quo. This has had a negative impact in promoting sustainable development. Culture has been used to justify the subordinate position of women in the household, a factor which excludes women from participating in decision-making processes and property ownership. Many land tenure systems include discriminatory aspects and while most African states consider agriculture to be the backbone of their economies and acknowledge the significant role of women in the sector, few pay adequate attention to those aspects which still discriminate against women. Women's access to loans and other credit facilities for agricultural improvement has been constrained by their inability to own land. (Meena. 1994).

Sub-Saharan Africa has some of the greatest disparities with regard to gender issues – especially in terms of reproductive health, empowerment and access to labor markets (See Figure 3). Out of 169 countries listed in the UNDP Human Development Report 2010, Botswana ranked 98th, Namibia ranked 105th and Angola 146th. In the HDR Gender Inequality Index in the same report, Namibia ranked 75th, Botswana ranked 91st, and Angola was not ranked due to the unavailability of data.

Culture has also been used to justify the existing unequal division of labor, placing inequitable demands upon women in terms of securing livelihoods. Some cultural norms concerning the role of young girls in contributing to livelihoods have limited their participation in formal schooling.

SAREP's support to OKACOM in achieving its objectives will therefore have a focus on gender sensitivity within the context of marginalized groups in its planning and implementation.

Figure 3: Comparison of labor markets, empowerment and reproductive health



Source: HDRO calculations using data from the HDRO database.

2.5 Marginalization and HIV/AIDS

In terms of inequalities relating to girls and HIV/AIDS, young girls are vulnerable, and more likely to contract aids than their male counterparts. (See Figure 4). Both Botswana and Namibia rank in the higher group of girls at risk as determined in *The Interagency Task Force on Adolescent Girls*³

³ The Interagency Task Force on Adolescent Girls comprises: UNFPA, UNICEF, ILO, UNESCO, UNIFEM, and WHO.

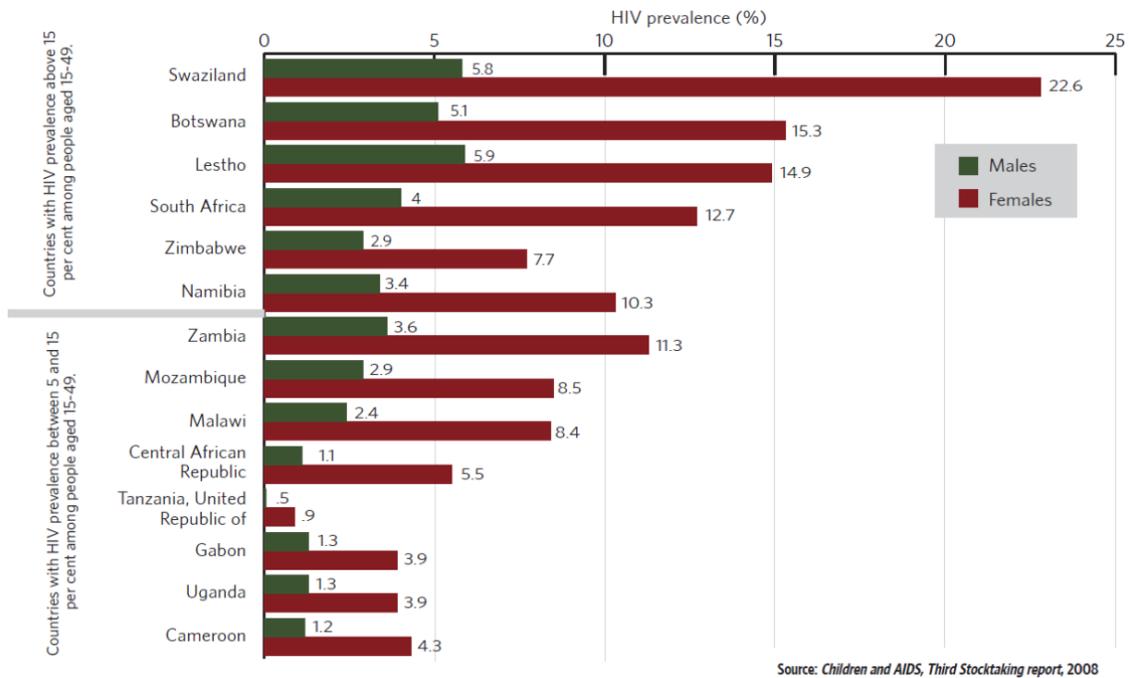
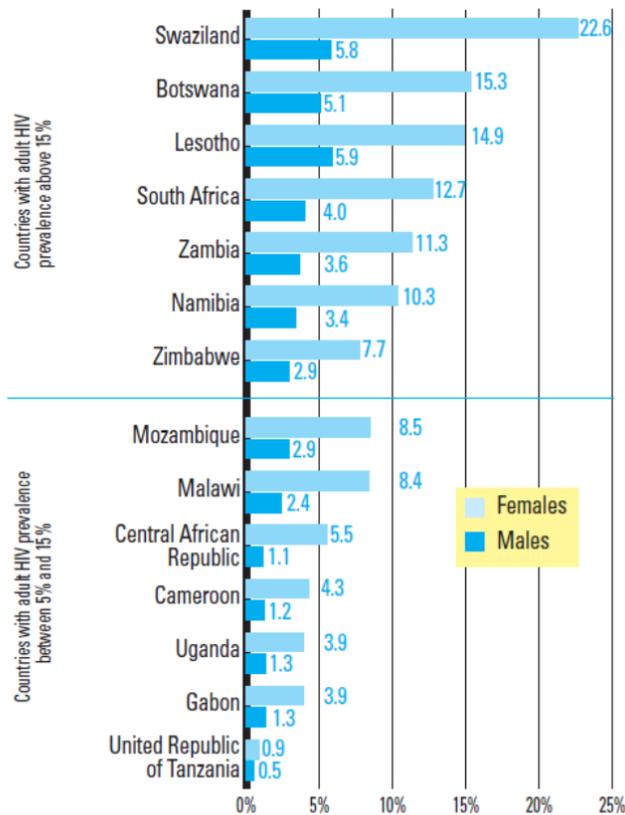


Figure 4: HIV prevalence. Significant number of young people continue to be infected with HIV each year, and girls in sub-Saharan Africa, in particular, remain vulnerable. Young women are 3 times more likely to be infected than young men aged 15-24.

Of the three countries within the ORB Angola has the lowest Estimated Adult HIV Prevalence Rate (2.1%), with Namibia having a rate of 15.3% and Botswana having a rate of 23.9%. (UNAIDS. 2008)

There is strong consensus based on evidence that girls and young women remain disproportionately vulnerable to HIV infection in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in the hyper endemic countries, where prevalence is greater than 15 per cent (See figure 5, Source: UNAIDS. 2008). In Southern Africa, adolescent women are 2 to 4.5 times more likely to be infected than males of the same age. It should be noted that both Botswana and Namibia have an adult prevalence rate above 15%.



Source: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, 2008 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic, Annex 1.

Figure 5. HIV prevalence among young people aged 15–24. (2007)

2.6 Marginalization and climate change

There are gender dimensions to both poverty and vulnerability to climate change. Women form the majority of the rural population in Southern Africa where livelihoods are intimately linked with the climate-sensitive natural resource base. Female-headed households (FHHs) are particularly vulnerable to poverty and the impacts of climate change (Madzwamuse, 2010). Countries with high percentages of FHHs, such as Botswana (it has been estimated that about 50-60% of households in rural Botswana are female headed)(Ditshwanelo, 2011), ought to pay attention to mainstreaming gender in national adaptation strategies.

Due to differences in property rights and other social inequalities facing women, and the absence of male heads of households, women are not in a position to make timely decisions to re-organize their livelihood activities and adapt farming systems in response to climate change and increases in climate variability.

Gender inequalities will exacerbate the negative impacts of disasters such as floods, as experienced in the Okavango Delta annually. Usually the household workload increases substantially in the aftermath, forcing many girls to drop out of school to assist with

household chores and food production. Women are also vulnerable to other social problems such as poverty, unemployment and HIV/AIDS. It is widely recognized that climate change worsens existing inequalities in key dimensions that are not only the building blocks of livelihoods, but are also crucial for coping with change including wealth, access to and an understanding of technologies, education, access to information, and access to resources. Household capacities to adapt will therefore be undermined if social inequalities facing women are not considered in vulnerability assessments and adaptation interventions.

2.7 Ethnic minorities

2.7.1 Background to the concepts of ethnic minority and indigenous groups

A 'minority' is a sociological group that does not make up a politically dominant voting majority of the total population of a given society. Ethnic minorities are considered internationally, from a socio-economic standpoint as "a socially subordinate ethnic group (understood in terms of language, nationality, religion and/or culture)." (Wikipedia, 2011). Marginalized ethnic minorities may additionally be considered to be these same groups who are further excluded from normal social and/or economic activities and benefits of other actors within which they exist.

According to the definition of 'minority ethnic groups' - a minority group is a self-identified community that is marginalized, without power, unable to take decisions over its destiny and experiencing high levels of illiteracy, under-education and overt or covert discrimination. (UNHCR, 1998).

A range of ethnic minorities reside in areas scattered across the CORB, although they are primarily clustered around the Moccuso in Angola, the south eastern section of the Kavango and western Caprivi Regions of Namibia and in many areas of the Ngamiland District in Botswana. (See Figure 6). In the main these ethnic minorities are of Khoi or San⁴ origin who are often considered to be 'the' indigenous people of southern Africa.

The most widespread approach to the concept of 'indigenous' peoples, and the so far only legally binding definition for its signatories, is the *International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention no. 169 (1989) Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries*. Here indigenous people are defined in accordance with the following criteria:

- They are descendants of the people who inhabited the area at the time of arrival of other ethnical and cultural groups (i.e. 'first arrival').

⁴ The Khoi and the San people (previously also referred to as 'Bushman') of Southern Africa were resident in the sub-continent for thousands of years before written history began with the arrival of the first European seafarers. The hunter-gatherer "San" people were ranged all over region. They are generally considered to be the original ethnic groups that occupied the region before it was occupied by other groups migrating from central and northern Africa or from other continents, and are seen to be the 'indigenous' or 'First People' of the region. They have historically been decimated by occupying groups, pushed to the periphery of society and to geographically remote areas. Despite the fact that they are now widely used, the labels 'San' and 'Bushman' are etymologically pejorative and do not refer to a single self-identifying linguistic or cultural community. The San comprise a number of linguistically, culturally and economically diverse communities with distinct histories and cultural practices.

- Alongside colonization and formation of a national state, they have preserved and maintain a traditional culture, resource adaptation, language and social, political and economical institutions which differs and separates them from the present majority (i.e. 'cultural distinctiveness').
- They are placed under a state structure which incorporates national, cultural and social characteristics alien to their own. This puts them in a non-controlling, asymmetrical relation with the state government and the majority population (i.e. 'non-dominance').
- Finally, the criterion of 'self-identification' is fundamental: people signal to the inside and outside group that they see themselves as different from the majority and identify themselves as indigenous.

2.7.2 Ethnic minorities in the three countries of CORB

Botswana

According to Bock and Johnson (2006), the Okavango Delta Peoples of Botswana consist of five separate ethnic groups, each with their own language and ethnic identity. The five ethnic groups are: (1) Bugakwe (Kxoe, Bugakhoe, Kwengo, Barakwena, Mbarakwena, Mbarakwengo, G/anda, /anda), (2) Dixeriku (Dceriku, Diriku, Gceriku, Gciriku, Vagciriku, Giriku, Mbogedo, Niriku, Vamanyo), (3) Hambukushu (Mbukushu, Bukushu, Bukusu, Mbukuschu, Mamakush, Mampakush, Ghuva, Haghuva, Gova, Cusso, Kusso, Hakokohu, Havamasiko), (4) Wayeyi (Bayei, Bayeyi, Bakoba, Bajei, Jo, Hajo, Tjaube, Yei), and (5) Xanekwe (Gxanekwe, //tanekwe, tanekhoe, River Bushmen, Swamp Bushmen, G//ani, //ani, Banoka).

Bock and Johnson indicate that the five different ethnic groups all pursue different traditional subsistence strategies. Bugakwe and Xanekwe are both hunter gatherers, but the Bugakwe forage in both the desert savanna and the swamps, while the Xanekwe historically had a riverine orientation in their foraging. Dixeriku, Hambukushu, and Wayeyi peoples all engage in mixed subsistence strategies of farming, fishing, hunting, collecting wild plant foods, and cattle and goat herding.

The Okavango Delta Peoples face a number of challenges to preserving their traditional lifestyles, languages, and cultural traditions. These challenges have their roots in the Okavango Delta Peoples' integration into national political, social, and economic institutions. People have been experiencing this to some extent since Botswana's independence and far more intensively since the mid 1980s. Two of the major influences are interrelated: market incorporation and universally available primary and secondary education.

Perhaps the greatest threat facing the Okavango Delta Peoples is HIV/AIDS. In 1998, the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the Okavango Delta was estimated at between 25 and 40% of adults, one of the highest in the world. Over 90% of hospital deaths were HIV/AIDS related.

Namibia

Namibia today is home to between 30,000 and 33,000 San, who comprise less than 2% of the national population. Within Namibia, census data indicates that, in 1991, the former Bushmanland area in the Tsumkwe district of the Kavango Region, was home to a total of

3,851 people, 3,350 or 87% of whom identified themselves as San. East Tsumkwe is home to around 1,600 people, mostly Jul'hoan speakers. The Caprivi region is home to approximately 4,000 San, most of whom speak Khwedam (Kxoedam) and who are known locally as the Khwe (kxoe), Barakwena or Barakwengo. (ACHPR, 2005).

The Khwe, most of whom live between the Kavango and Kwando Rivers in West Caprivi, have had possibly the most tumultuous and complex recent history of all Namibian San. The government has refused to recognize their traditional authority structures, their land tenure remains insecure and a large number of them fled to Botswana in late 1998 fearing intimidation and harassment from allegedly ill-disciplined members of the Namibian Defense Force (NDF) and Special Field Force (SFF) following the secessionist attempt in Caprivi region.

At present, the Caprivi is home to more than half of the total regional Khwe population of 6,880. Of the 4,000 Khwe living in the Caprivi, 90% live in settlements that are home to more than 50 people, and 10% in settlements of over 500 people.

In addition to the Khwe, West Caprivi is home to a fluctuating population of around 300 Vasekele !Kung. Apart from Khwe and Vasekele living in West Caprivi, it is estimated that over 1,000 Mbukushu speakers have established plots east of the Kavango region, mainly in and around Mutciku. In addition, several (primarily Oshiwambospeaking) farmers have settled with their cattle on Namibia Development Corporation (NDC) farms near Omega. The relatively few San living east of the Kwando River are found in several small settlements between Kongola and Katima Mulilo.

The San communities living in Otjozondjupa region and Caprivi region still derive their livelihood from hunter-gathering and therefore depend on the natural resources within their environment. Otjozondjupa region and the Tsumkwe area in particular have the highest concentration of San. Of the approximately 50% of the Namibian San population that live on communal lands, only 10% live in Tsumkwe District (the only district where San have customary land rights), a further 25% live in Kavango, the northcentral, Otjozondjupa and Omaheke (former Hereroland) regions combined, and just over 10% in West Caprivi. Only the San in Tsumkwe District have retained access to sufficient land and had their traditional authorities officially recognized by the government.

At present, in excess of 10,000 San from a number of different linguistic groups live scattered throughout Namibia's northern and eastern communal areas. Outside the area formerly known as Bushmanland, the most significant San populations are found in the predominantly Oshiwambo, Otjiherero and Rukavango-speaking communal areas, where despite numbering over 7,000 individuals, they constitute small minority populations. Only in the Omaheke region (former Hereroland), where the San make up 10% of the total population, can they be regarded as a numerically significant minority.

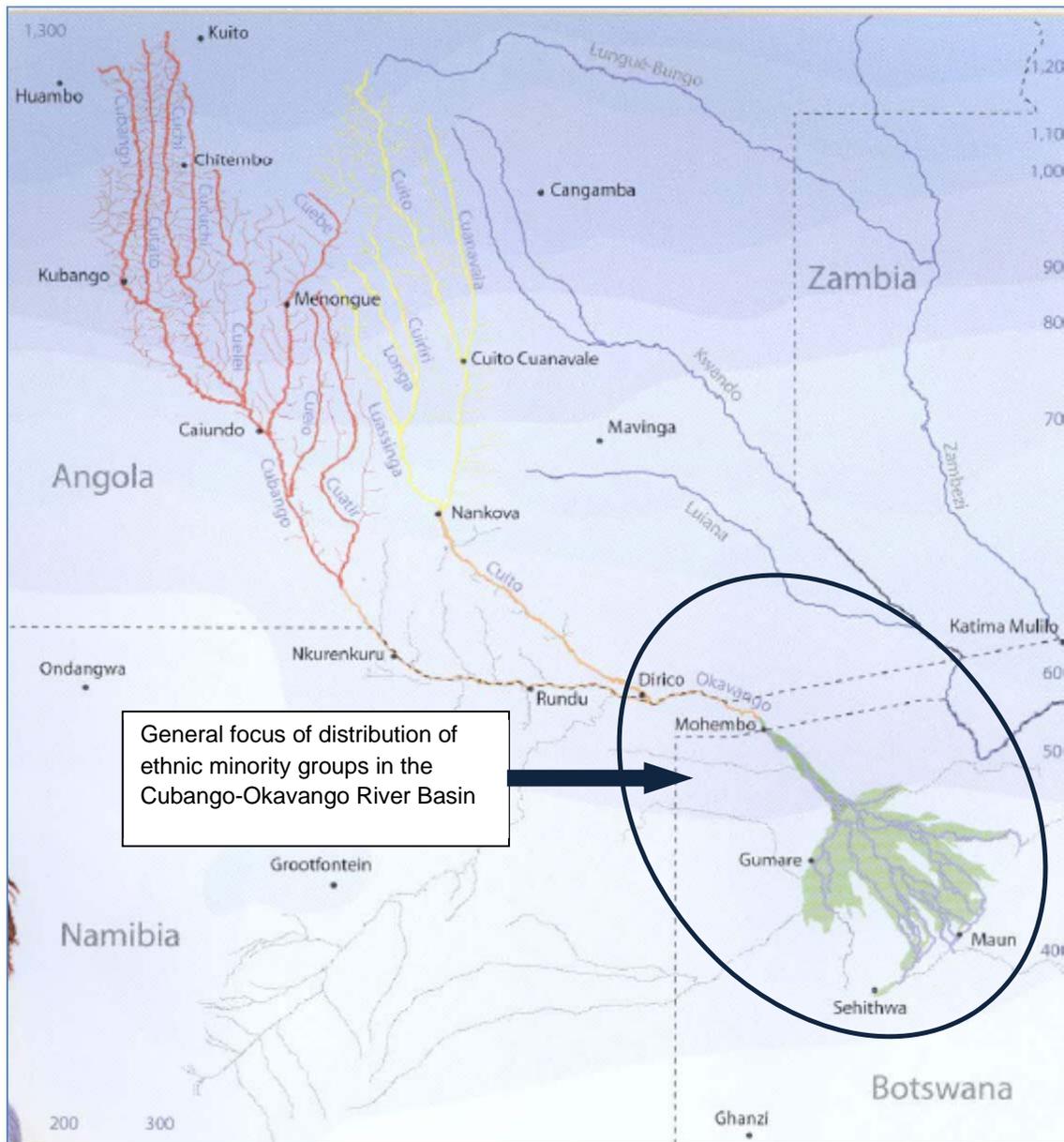


Figure 6. Distribution of ethnic minority groups across the CORB.

Angola

Although there is relatively little data and information on marginalized ethnic minority groups in Angola, there are two main groups of ethnic minority groups that reside in the CORB. According to the UNHCR (1998), the Ovimbundu, who are based in the central highlands on the Bie Plateau are considered to be a minority group, whilst there are two major groups of Khoisan people – one along the southern section of the Cubango River in the vicinity of Macuchi and another in the Mucusso area around Dirico in the vicinity of the confluence of the Cubango and the Cuito Rivers (See Figure 7).

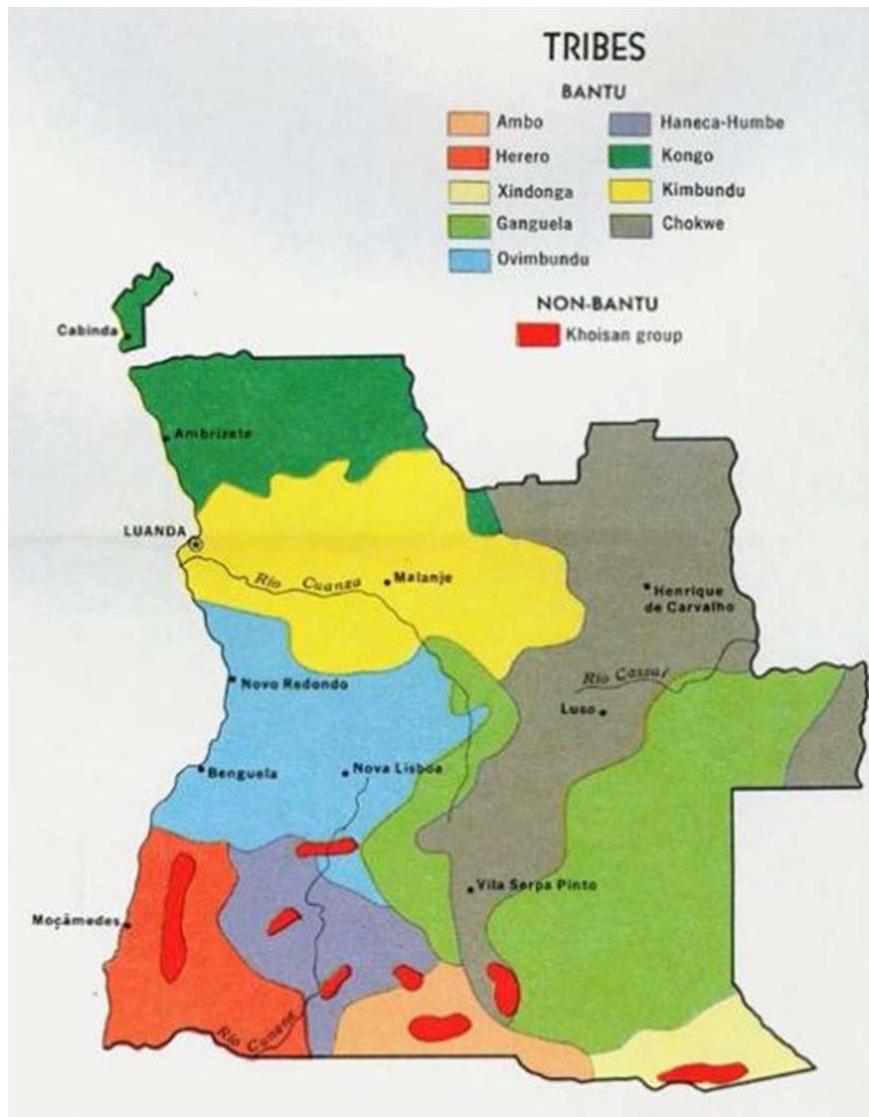


Figure 7. Distribution of ethnic groups in Angola.

Around 1 000 San are estimated to live in Angola today, though in November 1999 the San population in Angola was estimated to be between 1 000 and 1 500. This decrease in the population is the result of migration to Namibia and Zambia following the intensification of military operations between the FAA and UNITA in December 1999. This most recent exodus of San from Angola may lead to the almost complete disappearance of San in Khoisan-speaking communities in Angola (see Figure 8).

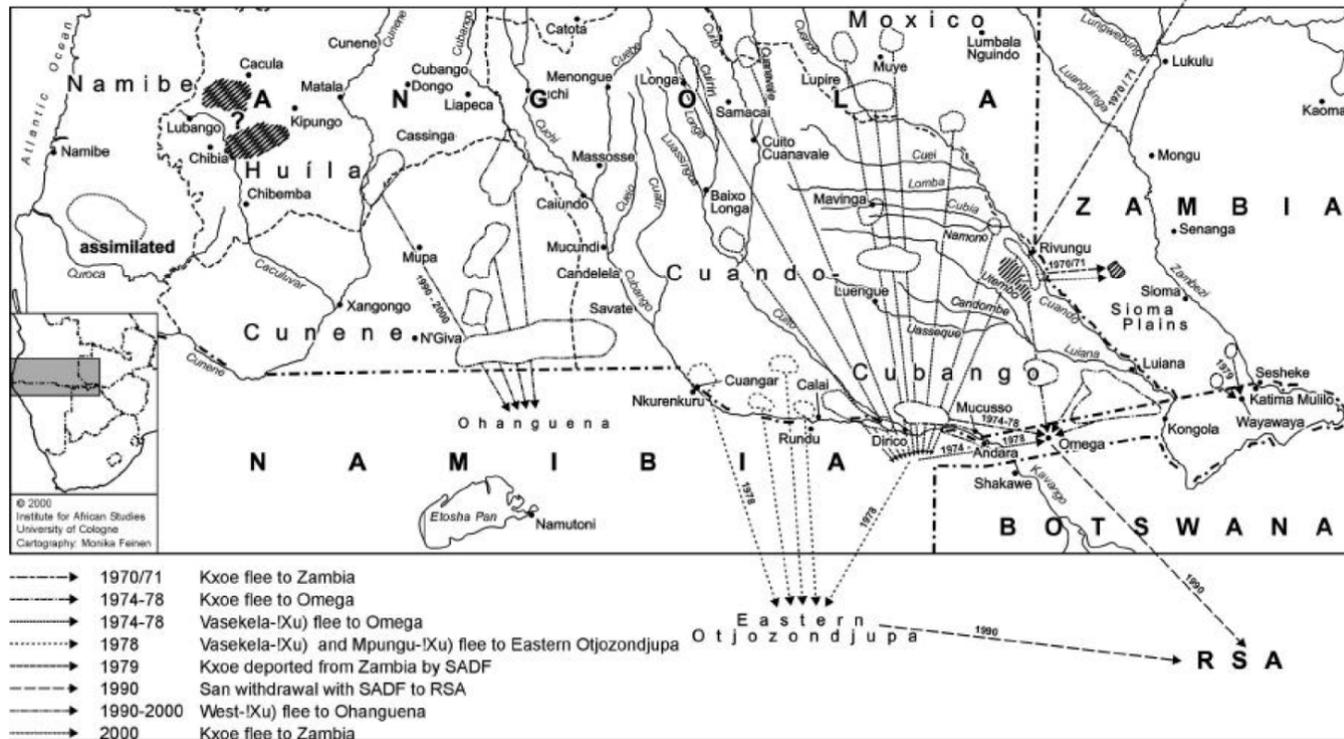
There are smaller Bantu-speaking groups, such as the Nganguela and the Luvale, inhabiting the eastern plains, and the Kwanyama (Ovambo), Lozi and several Kavango groups living across the southern and southeastern borders.

Figure 8: Distribution of San groups in south-eastern Angola

Exodus of San out of Angola since 1970

according to M. Brenzinger March 2000

-  former distribution of San
-  possible location of San settlements
-  San settlements



3 COUNTRY PROFILES

The three countries although all part of SADC have significantly different social, political and economic backgrounds that have influenced the level and extent of development within their societies. Angola, being a Lusophone country from Portuguese colonial times, has only recently emerged from a protracted civil war, leaving the country and particularly the Cuando-Cubango Province severely under-developed and still impacted by the presence of land-mines across the landscape. This has resulted in a population in the province being significantly under-educated, lacking in the provision key services, of bulk-infrastructure such as roads, electricity, and communications, which depends heavily on subsistence agriculture and the use of natural resources.

Botswana largely escaped the impacts of colonial occupation and has recently been declared to be an ‘emerging economy’ which has resulted in the withdrawal of significant amounts of foreign aid and support. However it has a buoyant economy based upon its lucrative diamond mining operations and a thriving tourism industry based around the Okavango Delta and the Chobe National Park in the north. Its arid-landscape however has constrained agricultural activity, although cattle ranching contributes significantly to the economy. Levels of education are moderate across the country whilst the provision of bulk-infrastructure and key services are well advanced and extensive, although constrained in deep rural areas.

Namibia although also recently emerged from a period of conflict linked to its occupation by South Africa, experiences a strong economy based upon its mineral wealth (uranium, gold, diamonds, and silver) which contributed almost 25% to the country's national economy between 1990 and 1997. It, too, like Botswana has moderate levels of education across the country while the provision of bulk-infrastructure is also well advanced and extensive. However due to the vast distances to be covered many remote communities, such as those in the Kavango Region only have basic infrastructure and are not so well serviced as those in areas closer to the capital.

3.1 General comparisons

A comparative table of statistics relating to the three countries assists the reader in considering the challenges facing the three riparian basin states in terms of marginalized groups (see Table 2).

Table 2: General comparative data on Angola, Botswana and Namibia

National values	Angola	Namibia	Botswana
Population	16,752,000	2,089,000	1,842,000
Population density (people/square km)	13	3	3
Birth rate (number of births per 1,000 people)	47	25	24
Death rate (number of deaths per 1,000 people)	21	15	14
Rate of natural increase (% per annum)	2.7%	1.0%	0.9%

Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	132	47	44
Total fertility rate (number of children per woman)	6.8	3.6	2.9
Proportion of population aged less than 15	46%	41%	38%
Urbanization rate (% of population)	57%	35%	57%
Rate of change of urban population (2005-2010)	4.4%	2.9%	2.5%
Gross National Income (per capita, US\$)	\$4,400	\$5,120	\$12,420
Population in basin	505,000	219,090	157,690
Basin population as proportion of national total	3.0%	10.5%	8.6%
Basin rural population (people)	262 600	175,270	110,630
Basin households (number)	126,250	35,120	33,550
Basin household size (people)	4.0	6.2	4.7
Urbanization rate in basin (% of population)	48%	20%	30%
Estimated Adult HIV Prevalence Rate (end 2007)	2.1%	23.9%	15.3%
HIV prevalence among young people aged 15–24 (end 2007)			
Male	Not available	5.1%	4.8%
Female	Not available	15.3%	10.7%
Estimated Number of Adults and Children Living with HIV/AIDS (2003)	240,000	200,000	300,000

3.1.1 Angola

The statistics relating to marginalized groups in Angola show that the country has a significantly higher birth rate (47/1,000) compared to Botswana and Namibia (24/1,000 and 25/1,000 respectively) whilst it also has a higher level of deaths (21/1,000 compared to 14 and 15 respectively). Linked to this are other important differences in that the growth rate is much higher in Angola (2.7% compared to 0.9% and 1.0% respectively) with an infant mortality rate of 132/1,000 compared to 44 and 47 in Botswana and Namibia respectively.

All these factors have important links to women and girl children who often have to bear the consequences of such issues, in caring for children and the sick, attending to or organizing funerals and taking on large burdens of securing livelihoods for increasing numbers in families.

Henda Ducados (2004), as reported on the *Conciliation Resources* website, notes that four decades of violent conflict in Angola have impacted significantly on its marginalized groups and on women in particular. “The gendered impacts of conflict and poverty in Angola are evident, as reflected in lower human development indicators for women than men. Human security in many parts of Angola is still an issue to this day, where women and children comprise the most vulnerable groups – being forced to care for extended families whilst at the same time providing for their basic needs of food, shelter, water and fuel. Along with old men they comprised up to 80 percent of the internally displaced population. In the aftermath of the war, Angolan women face new challenges as they struggle to overcome these obstacles and participate fully in their society.” It would appear that attempts to address the changing role of Angolan women and the transformation of gender relations has been somewhat constrained.

Ducados further explains the impacts of the conflict on women in Angola: “... it has increased women's workloads, as they have taken greater responsibility for activities usually

performed by men, such as providing for the household, disciplining male children, building and repairing houses, dealing with community leaders and government officials, and fulfilling religious and social obligations. Many continue to perform these tasks even in peacetime, mainly because husbands have died or deserted the household. Women's earnings in the informal sector of the economy have started to pose a serious cultural challenge to men's income-earning abilities and to gender relations in the family.”

Women's organizations in Angola are generally weak or non-existent. Like other social movements, they lack capacity, influence and coordination. The nongovernmental (NGO) sector is still emerging and NGOs do not have much experience or capacity to respond to the enormous needs of many communities. The majority of civic initiatives are donor-driven rather than community-driven that has so far implemented short-term humanitarian emergency activities to the detriment of long-term development activities. In this context, significant assistance needs to be provided to local groups for them to start implementing sustainable long-term activities.

UNICEF successfully advocated for the inclusion of a child rights perspective in Angola's new constitution. Adopted in February 2010, the constitution features various articles on the rights and best interests of children, thus setting the tone for law and policy-making within child-friendly parameters, based on a bedrock principle of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Nearly 70% of the population in Angola is under the age of 24. It may therefore be argued that of the 240,000 adults and children living with HIV/AIDS there, 70% of these, or 168,000 would be under the age of 24. Considering that the average ratio of male to female prevalence of HIV/AIDS amongst young people is 25% versus 75% or 1:3 (see Botswana and Namibia proportions in Table 2 above), then again it could be inferred that of the 168,000 young people living with HIV/AIDS, 126,000 would be young women and girls. A 2003 knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) survey conducted among people aged 14 to 24 showed 43% of young people had had sex by the age of 15, one of the highest rates in the world (USAID, 2011). This further reinforces the possibility that a significant proportion of these females would be girls around the age of 15-20.

While the rate of HIV/AIDS prevalence in Angola is low compared to the other two countries, a number of factors in place signal that the prevalence could soon mimic the rapid upward trajectory experienced in other African countries. Angola's 27-year civil war, which ended in 2002, deterred the spread of HIV by making large portions of the country inaccessible. Angola was thus cut off from most contact with neighboring countries that had higher HIV infection rates. With the end of the war, however, transportation routes and communication are reopening, therefore enabling a greater potential for the spread of HIV/AIDS. Indeed, current statistics indicate that the border provinces, especially certain areas bordering Namibia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, currently have higher prevalence than the rest of the country. This has implications for SAREP's focus on HIV/AIDS activities and the way it will address gender and marginalization issues within its program.

3.1.2 Botswana

As described in 3.1.1 above, the statistics relating to marginalized groups in Botswana show that the country has a significantly lower birth rate (24/1,000) compared to Angola and Namibia (47/1,000 and 25/1,000 respectively) while it also has a lower level of deaths (14/1,000 compared to 21 and 15 respectively). Other important differences in the growth rate show that Botswana has a comparatively low rate (0.9% compared to 2.7% and 1.0% respectively) with an infant mortality rate of 44/1,000 compared to 132 and 47 in Angola and Namibia respectively.

Although these statistics appear to place a lower burden on women and girls in Botswana, the extremely high incidence of HIV/AIDS in the country counteracts any ameliorating effects and places just as onerous burdens on women and girls as is found in Angola. The high HIV/AIDS prevalence rate: 17.6% nationwide in 2009 and 25% for adults ages 15 to 49 casts a shadow over the seemingly bright future that economic gains have made in recent years.

As elsewhere in the region, the epidemic in Botswana disproportionately affects women: there were three HIV-positive females to every HIV-positive male in the 15 to 19 year-old cohort. (PHR. 2007). The group, Physicians for Human Rights reports that the “Botswana government has recognized that the reasons for this imbalance include power inequities, women’s lack of sexual negotiating power, migration patterns and the lack of economic empowerment of women. More than a decade ago women’s elevated vulnerability to HIV/AIDS in Botswana was attributed to their subordinate position in society and a mix of cultural, social and economic factors including men’s culturally-sanctioned entitlement to sex “on demand,” the “cultural imperative” of a woman to prove her fertility before marriage by bearing children, women’s powerlessness to insist on condom use, the legitimization of violence against women, internal migration patterns and the commercial sex trade.”

Though women organizations have been active in Botswana since the early 1980s, it was only during the 1994 elections that political issues were brought forward by the women’s movement. The women’s movement in Botswana has made significant gains in increasing women’s participation in democratic processes since Independence in 1966. Today Botswana has many organizations and institutions dedicated to the aim of equal rights for both men and women in the country. Unfortunately, the government of Botswana has not signed the “SADC Protocol on Gender and Development” yet. (FES. 2010).

Botswana’s political system is renowned for its democratic governance since independence, and has operated as a stable, peaceful formal liberal capitalist democracy since 1966. It has an enviable record for its economic growth, and for the developmental and welfare uses to which the political class has put its great wealth in diamonds. Botswana has been hailed as an African success story because it has transformed itself from one of the poorest countries in the world to an upper middle income country since its independence. However, little attention has been paid to the successes of the women’s movement in the country, and the significance of this on improving the welfare of the people of the country.

Botswana has ratified or acceded to several international and regional human rights instruments that pertain to women's civil, political, economic, social and cultural status. Botswana has ratified the *African Charter in the Rights and Welfare of the Child*, the *African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights* and the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*. It has acceded to the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* and the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

Botswana is a regional leader in economic freedom, where competitiveness and flexibility are promoted by a sensible business regulatory environment, openness to foreign investment and trade, and relatively flexible employment regulations.

Despite the perceived 'developed' nature of Botswana's economy, the development of infrastructure and provision of services in rural areas remains a challenge. The provision of water supplies is problematic, whilst access to health facilities in deep rural areas is erratic. Omari (2009) indicates that across the country "the burden of collecting water for washing, cooking, drinking, hygiene and watering of backyard gardens (if available) falls on women and children, particularly the girl child."

Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIPSA) estimated that at least 62% of the poor or very poor lived in rural areas. In all, 48% of rural households were estimated to be poor or very poor. The gender dimensions of poverty and vulnerability to climate change are made apparent in rural areas where livelihoods are intimately linked with the climate-sensitive natural resource base. Botswana with its high percentages of Female-headed households (FHHs) –it is estimated that about 50-60% of households in rural Botswana are female headed)(Ditshwanelo. 2011)—has a particularly challenging obligation to focus development opportunities on women and girls.

The U.S. Government, through PEPFAR, is supporting the Government of Botswana by bringing technical expertise and financial support in order to strengthen the impact of Botswana's national response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The Government of Botswana has mounted a multi-sectoral response guided by clear national priorities and strategies.

PEPFAR Botswana has been a vehicle of providing interventions for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care. USAID/Southern Africa is actively involved by way of regional programming (ex. local organizing and strengthening), support and management of Botswana PEPFAR program, as well as providing technical assistance in various HIV/AIDS related topics.

3.1.3 Namibia

Kavango is one of the poorest regions in Namibia. This is clearly reflected in a report by the United Nations Development Programme on trends in human development and human poverty (UNDP 2007) which presents data on the Human Development Index (HDI) and the Human Poverty Index (HPI) for Namibia's 13 regions. The HDI provides a quantitative representation of three main dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life,

knowledge and a decent standard of living. Each of these dimensions is assigned corresponding quantitative indicators. The HDI is then the simple average of the three indices (UNDP 2007). Table 1 indicates that of the 13 regions, Kavango has the second worst life expectancy at birth, third worst literacy rate, sixth worst gross school enrolment ratio and the second lowest annual average per capita income.

As described in 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 above, the statistics relating to marginalized groups in Namibia show that the country has a significantly lower birth rate (24/1,000) compared to Angola and Botswana (47/1,000 and 24/1,000 respectively) with the level of deaths being relatively low (15/1,000 compared to 21 and 14 respectively). The growth rates show that Namibia has a comparatively low rate (1.0% compared to 2.7% and 0.9% respectively) with an infant mortality rate of 47/1,000 compared to 132 and 44 in Angola and Botswana respectively.

An interpretation of these statistics indicates that Namibia seems to fall in between the two circumstances of Angola and Botswana, as it does not have as high an HIV/AIDS prevalence rate.

Namibia's agricultural resources are not, however, equitably distributed among the population nor are the benefits of a successful industrial economy that is based on mineral exploitation (job creation, income generation) broadly shared. Since the country's independence in 1990, the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) has taken steps to address the inequality in ownership of agricultural resources, employing market mechanisms to redistribute land from a small number of large commercial white cattle-owners to a broader group of black farmers. Due to the limited success of the willing buyer/willing seller approach, the government has considered the option of expropriation in some cases. Progress toward wider, sustainable ownership by previously disadvantaged Namibians of farmland and grazing lands, and the provision of property rights to marginalized groups (e.g., women, those affected by HIV/AIDS, the San ethnic group) has been slow, however.

There have been legislative and programmatic efforts to protect and improve the rights of marginalized groups, but access to Namibia's productive agricultural lands remains highly inequitable. On the other hand, significant progress has been made in establishing wildlife tourism as a rural economic activity, with local communities exercising natural resource management rights through entities known as conservancies. Starting in 1993, USAID's support through the Living in a Finite Environment (LIFE) project contributed to this effort. The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is now implementing a four-year Conservancy Development Support Program that builds on natural resource management and governance achievements of the LIFE Project and focuses on tourism enterprise development.

Namibia's land-reform initiatives require prospective beneficiaries to interact with various governmental and traditional entities, such as Land Boards and Traditional Authorities. Namibia's most marginalized people, including the San, those affected by HIV/AIDS, and women may be overlooked in land-reform programs because they lack awareness of the programs and their potential benefits, are more likely to be illiterate, and often have limited

mobility. In addition, when marginalized groups obtain leaseholds and resettlement opportunities, they may require specifically targeted support to help them engage in productive livelihood activities.

Tenure remains insecure for some historically marginalized groups such as the San, women, and people affected by HIV/AIDS. The land reform programs require some degree of interface with government and thus the ability to travel to offices, complete forms, and participate in decisions. These groups suffer from higher rates of illiteracy and less mobility and often have less awareness of programs. In addition, farm worker families that have lived and worked on commercial farms for generations are vulnerable to expulsion and landlessness when farms change hands (Fuller 2006).

Namibia traditionally has a strong NGO sector that have over the past twenty years developed significant capacity to support communities in a range of areas including, addressing HIV/AIDS issues, promoting better conservation and development through CBNRM, legal aid to protect communal rights and in promoting SMME processes. However communities in the Kavango Region have indicated that they require assistance in terms of water supply and sanitation, both of which relate to the role of women and children in livelihood strategies in that area.

The Kavango and Caprivi Region both have significant populations of San people, who mainly occupy land in extremely harsh and unfertile conditions – requiring significant levels of support on all fronts. Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) issues are of particular importance to these communities who live in arid desert-like areas.

4 PARTICIPATION IN THE SAREP PROGRAM

The participation of historically marginalized sectors of society in each of the three ORB countries in the SAREP Program will be a key focus of all ongoing strategies, plans and activities throughout the implementation period. In particular the community related activities will ensure that marginalized groups are considered in all phases of execution: planning, organizing, coordinating, implementing and evaluating.

The program will adopt the following strategy to ensure that the participation of marginalized groups is factored into its various activities.

4.1 Women

4.1.1 Transboundary management and issues

In terms of transboundary management processes and issues the following should be considered and built into strategies, plans and activities:

- Encourage equitable representation of women in the Commission and its institutions including OBSC, Task Forces, and the Basin-wide Forum
- Ensure that equitable numbers of women are involved in DSS processes and are trained in use of DSS procedures.

- Ensure that information about SAREP related activities are disseminated to women and that women are able to access information relating to SAREP health, nutrition, water and sanitation related activities are being implemented.

4.1.2 Health and nutrition – water supply and management

Water supply and the management of water sources, access to adequate supplies and the systems of supply are particularly important to women in communities, as this duty usually rests upon their shoulders, even if this may at stages be ‘delegated’ to children. SAREP will consider the following when planning and implementing its activities:

- Carry out Stakeholder Analyzes that highlight gender and marginalized group issues relating to water supplies as well as priority health and nutrition needs;
- Develop and implement community campaigns to create awareness and understanding of health and nutrition issues that are related to the provision of or access to clean potable water;
- Encourage equitable representation of women on any new local CBO committees that address water management and supply issues;
- Encourage greater gender equality /balance on existing management or decision-making committees, boards or similar organizations;
- To the greatest degree possible ensure that an equitable representation of women are invited to attend workshops and capacity development courses offered through SAREP activities; and
- Special training and capacity building courses offered to address any locally identified marginalization or gender inequities relating to the supply and management of water.

4.1.2.1 Angola specific responses (water supply and management)

In terms of water supply and management issues for women in Angola it is seen the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Encourage the formation of IWQM processes with equitable gender balances on the committees formed;
- Support governments to address priority health and nutrition needs linked to water supply and management, such as identifying drought resistant varieties of crops to be used in specific areas and introducing agro-forestry and conservation agriculture approaches that conserve use of water and support the more widespread adoption of aquaculture.

4.1.2.2 Botswana specific responses (water supply and management)

In terms of water supply and management issues for women in Botswana, the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Work with existing women’s groups to disseminate information on water supply planning and management;
- Support governments to address priority health and nutrition needs linked to water supply and management, including identifying drought resistant varieties

of crops to be used in specific areas, introducing agro-forestry and conservation agriculture approaches that conserve use of water and support the more widespread adoption of aquaculture.

4.1.2.3 Namibia specific responses (water supply and management)

In terms of water supply and management issues for women in Namibia it is seen the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Work with the OkBMC to strengthen the implementation of the IWQM processes already being tested, and ensuring that women play a key role in all aspects of management;
- Support governments to address priority health and nutrition needs linked to water supply and management including identifying drought resistant varieties of crops to be used in specific areas, introducing agro-forestry and conservation agriculture approaches that conserve use of water and support the more widespread adoption of aquaculture.

4.1.3 Health and nutrition – sanitation

Sanitation issues are often major sources of disease and mortality in rural communities – especially where water supplies are poorly, erratically or badly managed. SAREP’s plans and strategies for implementation will include the following activities to address problems and issues identified in communities:

- Carry out Stakeholder Analyzes highlighting gender and marginalized group issues relating to sanitation;
- Encourage equitable representation of women on any new local CBO committees formed;
- Encourage greater gender equality/balance on existing management or decision-making committees, boards or organizations;
- To the greatest degree possible, ensure that an equitable representation of women is invited to attend workshops and capacity development courses offered through SAREP activities;
- Special training and capacity building courses addressing locally identified gender inequities or general marginalization issues related to sanitation; and
- Community campaign to create awareness and understanding of health and nutrition issues that are related to the level of sanitation of households and communities in general.

Specific responses in each of the three basin states are seen to include the following.

4.1.3.1 Angola specific responses (women and sanitation)

In terms of women’s involvement in managing and addressing sanitation issues in Angola, the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Carry out Situational Analysis of sanitation issues in the Cuando Cubango Province and develop a needs analysis to determine the most critical areas of intervention – using gender specific (especially women) criteria to determine the key areas and types of support and intervention necessary.

4.1.3.2 Botswana specific responses (women and sanitation)

In terms women's involvement in managing and addressing sanitation issues in Botswana, the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Work with the Ngamiland District Council to develop a needs analysis to determine the most critical areas of intervention relating to sanitation issues – using gender specific (especially women) criteria to determine the key areas and types of support and intervention necessary.

4.1.3.3 Namibia specific responses (women and sanitation)

In terms women's involvement in managing and addressing sanitation issues in Namibia the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Work with the OkBMC to develop a needs analysis to determine the most critical areas of intervention relating to sanitation issues – using gender specific (especially women) criteria to determine the key areas and types of support and intervention necessary.

4.1.4 Health and nutrition – HIV/AIDS

Health and nutrition issues have been shown to play a critical role in people's abilities to address HIV/AIDS related issues. This is particularly important for women given numerous factors including the following a) being able to remain healthy under poor conditions where food may be scarce or of poor quality; b) bearing the burden of having to fend and care for family members – especially in female headed households. growing crops, sacrificing food to feed children first; and c) remaining healthy to reduce the risk of infection

The SAREP program will where possible address HIV/AIDS issues to the fullest extent possible under its existing plan of activities, or through new programs should these emerge. The following will be integrated into the ongoing plans and activities of the program:

- Encourage OKACOM and OBSC to always include HIV/AIDS issues within their planning and decision-making processes;
- Plan and implement campaigns to create awareness and understanding related to HIV/AIDS issues that are linked to health and nutrition processes.

Specific responses in each of the three basin states are seen to include the following.

4.1.4.1 Angola specific responses (HIV/AIDS)

In terms of women's involvement in managing and addressing HIV/AIDS issues in Angola the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Work with the existing USAID Angola/Chemonics HIV/AIDS programs in disseminating HIV/AIDS information to women in the Cuando-Cubango Province.

4.1.4.2 Botswana specific responses (HIV/AIDS)

In terms of women's involvement in managing and addressing HIV/AIDS issues in Botswana the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Work with the existing national HIV/AIDS support programs such as USAID President's Emergency Plan For Aids Relief (PEPFAR) program, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) – concentrating any interventions towards women.

4.1.4.3 Namibia specific responses (HIV/AIDS)

In terms of women's involvement in managing and addressing HIV/AIDS issues in Namibia the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Work with the existing national HIV/AIDS support processes such as the local USAID programs – concentrating any interventions towards women.

4.2 The participation of girls in the SAREP program

4.2.1 Transboundary management and issues

In terms of transboundary management processes and issues the following should be considered and built into strategies, plans and activities:

- Sensitize and encourage OKACOM and OBSC to consider issues related to gender and especially girls when planning and making development decisions.

4.2.2 Health and nutrition – accessing and managing water

Young girls are often required to be the fetchers and carriers of water in rural communities – often resulting in their being excluded from social activities such as schooling and education. Besides the physical and physiological impacts of carrying heavy head-loads, in some situations where water is accessed directly from rivers, young girls are placed at risk in terms of attacks from crocodiles, exposure to water borne diseases such as bilharzia, and diarrhea. SAREP will consider the following when planning and implementing its activities:

- Carry out Stakeholder Analyzes that highlight issues relating to young girls and their role in accessing and managing water supplies as well as priority health and nutrition needs;
- Coordinate research in the three riparian countries to establish issues relating to (WSS) that particularly have adverse impacts on girls within society, such as increased health issues, curtailed education opportunities and consequent reduced capacity to participate meaningfully in WSS decision making processes;
- Providing opportunities for girls to have their stories told at the transboundary/international level with regard to their WSS roles and responsibilities within households and any negative consequences thereof; and
- Promote and coordinate awareness raising campaigns relating to the role of girls in the management of water management at the local and household levels – highlighting impacts on their wellbeing.

Specific responses in each of the three basin states include the following.

4.2.2.1 Angola specific responses (water supply and management)

In terms of water supply and management issues for girls in Angola the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Carry out awareness raising campaigns relating to the health and nutrition impacts on girls living in riverine areas and in densely populated areas with regards to their involvement in water collection, use and management at the household levels – highlighting impacts on their wellbeing; and
- Support the introduction and adoption of child-friendly water collection, use and management processes at the household levels – highlighting impacts on their wellbeing.

4.2.2.2 Botswana specific responses (water supply and management)

In terms of water supply and management issues for girls in Botswana the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Carry out awareness raising campaigns related to health and nutrition impacts on girls in rural flood-plain areas with regards to their involvement in water collection, use and management at the household levels – highlighting impacts on their wellbeing;
- Support the introduction and adoption of child-friendly water collection, use and management processes at the household levels – highlighting impacts on their wellbeing.

4.2.2.3 Namibia specific responses (water supply and management)

In terms of water supply and management issues for girls in Namibia the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Carry out awareness raising campaigns relating to the health and nutrition impacts on girls in rural flood-plain with regards to their involvement in water collection, use and management at the household levels – highlighting impacts on their wellbeing; and
- Support the introduction and adoption of child-friendly water collection, use and management processes at the household levels – highlighting impacts on their wellbeing.

4.2.3 Health and nutrition – sanitation

Sanitation issues often afflict the young as they might be uneducated and unaware of the potential for bad habits being the cause of contracting diseases or creating unhygienic conditions. Young girls may be more frequently exposed to such situations as they are invariably called upon by their mothers or in child-headed households are often required to care for and clean newborns. SAREP will consider the following when planning and implementing its activities:

- School based campaigns to create awareness and understanding relating to health and nutrition issues that are related to the level of sanitation that exists in households and communities in general;
- Collect transboundary level data on the role of girls in household sanitation processes and management at the local and household levels and Analyze the data to identify adverse impacts and recommend remedial activities;
- Collect transboundary level data on the impacts on the health and nutrition of girls with regards to sanitation processes and management at the local and household levels;
- Promote and coordinate awareness raising campaigns relating to the role of girls in the management of sanitation at the local and household levels – highlighting impacts on their wellbeing; and
- Promote and coordinate awareness raising campaigns relating to the health and nutrition of girls with regards to the management of sanitation at the local and household levels – highlighting impacts on their wellbeing.

Specific responses in each of the three basin states include the following.

4.2.3.1 Angola specific responses (girls and sanitation)

In terms of women’s involvement in managing and addressing sanitation issues in Angola the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Carry out Situational Analysis of sanitation issues in the Cuando-Cubango Province and develop a needs analysis to determine the most critical areas of intervention relating to girls – using child orientated criteria to determine the key areas and types of support and intervention necessary;
- Collect baseline data and ongoing data on the role of girls in household sanitation processes and management at the local and household levels;

- Collect baseline data and ongoing data on the impacts on the health and nutrition of girls with regards to sanitation processes and management at the local and household levels;
- Carry out awareness raising campaigns relating to the role of girls in the management of sanitation at the local and household levels; and
- Carry out awareness raising campaigns relating to the health and nutrition of girls with regards to the management of sanitation at the local and household levels.

4.2.3.2 Botswana specific responses (girls and sanitation)

In terms women's involvement in managing and addressing sanitation issues in Botswana the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Work with the Ngamiland District Council to develop a needs analysis to determine the most critical areas of intervention relating to sanitation issues – using child orientated criteria to determine the key areas and types of support and intervention necessary;
- Collect baseline data and ongoing data on the role of girls in household sanitation processes and management at the local and household levels;
- Collect baseline data and ongoing data on the impacts on the health and nutrition of girls with regards to sanitation processes and management at the local and household levels;
- Carry out awareness raising campaigns relating to the role of girls in the management of sanitation at the local and household levels; and
- Carry out awareness raising campaigns relating to the health and nutrition of girls with regards to the management of sanitation at the local and household levels.

4.2.3.3 Namibia specific responses (girls and sanitation)

In terms women's involvement in managing and addressing sanitation issues in Namibia the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Work with the OkBMC to develop a needs analysis to determine the most critical areas of intervention relating to sanitation issues – using child orientated criteria to determine the key areas and types of support and intervention necessary;
- Collect baseline data and ongoing data on the role of girls in household sanitation processes and management at the local and household levels;
- Collect baseline data and ongoing data on the impacts on the health and nutrition of girls with regards to sanitation processes and management at the local and household levels;

- Carry out awareness raising campaigns relating to the role of girls in the management of sanitation at the local and household levels; and
- Carry out awareness raising campaigns relating to the health and nutrition of girls with regards to the management of sanitation at the local and household levels.

4.2.4 Health and nutrition – HIV/AIDS

Girls are often more exposed to being in compromising situations where they are exposed to infection from HIV/AIDS as they may be coerced into sexual relations or through custom and tradition be required to marry at a young age. SAREP will consider the following when planning and implementing its activities:

- Coordinate the provision of support for the development of capacity of specific rural extension officials to better understand HIV/AIDS processes amongst girls, to support awareness campaigns and to provide basic levels of support where necessary.
- School based campaigns to create awareness and understanding relating to HIV/AIDS issues that are linked to behavioral choices and the impacts on health and nutrition.

Specific responses in each of the three basin states are to include the following.

4.2.4.1 Angola specific responses (HIV/AIDS)

In terms of girl's involvement in HIV/AIDS issues in Angola the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Support ongoing USAID Angola/Chemonics HIV/AIDS programs in disseminating HIV/AIDS information to girls in the Cuando Cubango Province.

4.2.4.2 Botswana specific responses (HIV/AIDS)

In terms of girl's involvement in HIV/AIDS issues in Botswana the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Link in with the local USAID PEPFAR 'Gender Initiative on Girls' Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS'.

4.2.4.3 Namibia specific responses (HIV/AIDS)

In terms of girl's involvement in HIV/AIDS issues in Namibia the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Support ongoing USAID Namibia HIV/AIDS programs in disseminating HIV/AIDS information to girl in the Kuvango and Caprivi Regions.

4.3 Indigenous Groups

4.3.1 Transboundary management and issues

In terms of transboundary management processes and issues the following should be considered and built into strategies, plans and activities:

- Encourage equitable representation of indigenous groups in key institutions of the Commission such as the Task Forces and Basin-wide Forum
- Ensure equitable numbers of representatives of indigenous groups are significantly involved in DSS processes and understand DSS procedures.
- Ensure that information about SAREP related activities are disseminated to indigenous groups and that they are able to access information relating to Health, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation related activities being implemented; and
- Sensitize and encourage OKACOM, OBSC and similar organizations to consider issues relating to marginalized groups in planning and developing decision making.

4.3.2 Health and nutrition – accessing and managing water

Marginalized ethnic groups are often displaced into remote and often harsh and ‘hostile’ environmental situations – very often in areas with little or no access to water for all social uses such as Potable drinking water and water for agriculture or livestock. SAREP will consider the following when planning and implementing activities:

- Carry out Stakeholder Analyzes that highlight issues relating to water supplies within indigenous groups;
- Carry out research to establish issues relating to WSS that particularly have adverse impacts on indigenous groups within society, such as increased health issues, curtailed education opportunities and reduced capacity to participate meaningfully in WSS decision making processes;
- Encourage equitable representation of indigenous groups on any new local CBO committees formed;
- Encourage greater equality/balance of representation of indigenous groups on existing management or decision-making committees.
- Support specific interventions relating to the provision of water supply infrastructure in cases of inequitable provision. For example, drilling bore-holes and supporting provision of reticulation.
- To the greatest degree possible ensure that an equitable representation of indigenous groups is invited to attend workshops and capacity development courses offered through SAREP activities;
- Special training and capacity building courses to be offered to address any locally identified inequities of the supply and management of water to indigenous groups; and
- Carry out awareness campaigns related to the health and nutrition of indigenous groups with regards to water use and management, both at the local and household levels.

Specific responses in each of the three basin states are seen to include the following.

4.3.2.1 Angola specific responses (water supply and management)

In terms of water supply and management issues for marginalized ethnic groups in Angola the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Encourage the formation of IWQM processes with equitable representation of indigenous groups on the committees formed;
- To the greatest degree possible ensure that an equitable representation of indigenous groups is invited to attend workshops and capacity development courses offered through SAREP activities; and
- Carry out awareness raising campaigns relating to the health and nutrition of indigenous groups with regards to water use and management at the local and household levels.

4.3.2.2 Botswana specific responses (water supply and management)

In terms of water supply and management issues for marginalized ethnic groups in Botswana the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Encourage greater equality /balance of representation of indigenous groups on existing management decision-making organizations;
- To the greatest degree possible ensure that an equitable representation of indigenous groups are invited to attend workshops and capacity development courses offered through SAREP activities.
- Carry out awareness raising campaigns targeting the health and nutrition of indigenous groups with regards to water use and management, both at the local and household levels.

4.3.2.3 Namibia specific responses (water supply and management)

In terms of water supply and management issues for marginalized ethnic groups in Namibia the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Work with the OkBMC to strengthen the implementation of the IWQM processes already being tested, ensuring that indigenous groups have an equitable representation in all aspects of the management process.
- To the greatest degree possible ensure that an equitable representation of indigenous groups is invited to attend workshops and capacity development courses offered through SAREP activities.

4.3.3 Health and nutrition – sanitation

As many marginalized ethnic groups are confined to remote rural areas with poor water supplies and poor social infrastructure, such as, schools and clinics they are prone to contracting diseases with possible disastrous consequences. SAREP will consider the following when planning and implementing its activities:

- Carry out Stakeholder Analyzes that highlight issues relating to sanitation issues within indigenous groups;
- Carry out research to identify needs relating to sanitation issues that have adverse impacts on indigenous groups, such as, increased health issues and mortalities;
- Encourage equitable representation of indigenous groups on any new local CBO committees formed that works with sanitation issues, such as, the IWQM management processes; and
- Encourage greater equality/balance of the representation of indigenous groups on existing management or decision-making councils, committees and boards to enable them to have sanitation issues and needs addressed.

Specific responses in each of the three basin states are seen to include the following.

4.3.3.1 Angola specific responses (marginalized ethnic groups and sanitation)

In terms of marginalized ethnic groups' involvement in managing and addressing sanitation issues in Angola the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Support specific interventions related to the provision of sanitation infrastructure in cases of inequitable provision. Introducing appropriate technology solutions and supporting provision of reticulation where necessary;
- To the greatest degree possible ensure that an equitable representation of indigenous groups is invited to attend workshops and capacity development courses relating to sanitation issues; and
- Carry out awareness raising campaigns relating to the health and nutrition of indigenous groups with regards to sanitation issues at the local and household levels.

4.3.3.2 Botswana specific responses (marginalized ethnic groups and sanitation)

In terms of marginalized ethnic groups' involvement in managing and addressing sanitation issues in Botswana the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Support specific interventions relating to the provision of sanitation infrastructure in cases of inequitable provision. Introducing appropriate technology solutions and supporting provision of reticulation where necessary.
- To the greatest degree possible ensure that an equitable representation of indigenous groups is invited to attend workshops and capacity development courses relating to sanitation issues; and
- Carry out awareness raising campaigns relating to the health and nutrition of indigenous groups with regards to sanitation issues at the local and household levels.

4.3.3.3 Namibia specific responses (marginalized ethnic groups and sanitation)

In terms of marginalized ethnic groups' involvement in managing and addressing sanitation issues in Namibia the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Support specific interventions relating to the provision of sanitation infrastructure in cases of inequitable provision. Introducing appropriate technology solutions and supporting provision of reticulation where necessary.
- To the greatest degree possible ensure that an equitable representation of indigenous groups is invited to attend workshops and capacity development courses relating to sanitation issues; and
- Carry out awareness raising campaigns relating to the health and nutrition of indigenous groups with regards to sanitation issues at the local and household levels.

4.3.4 Health and nutrition – HIV/AIDS

Marginalized groups have been found to experience an erosion of their customary or traditional mores and norms in terms of some social behaviors, particularly those relating to sexual practices and abuse of addictive substances. SAREP will consider the following when planning and implementing its activities:

- Support the development of capacity of specific rural extension officials to better understand HIV/AIDS processes, to support awareness campaigns and to provide basic levels of support where necessary.

Specific responses in each of the three basin states are seen to include the following.

4.3.4.1 Angola specific responses (HIV/AIDS)

In terms of marginalized ethnic groups' involvement in HIV/AIDS issues in Angola the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Support ongoing USAID Angola/Chemonics HIV/AIDS programs in disseminating HIV/AIDS information to indigenous groups in the Cuando-Cubango Province;
- Support the development of capacity of specific rural extension officials to better understand HIV/AIDS processes within indigenous groups, to support awareness campaigns and to provide basic levels of support where necessary.;

4.3.4.2 Botswana specific responses (HIV/AIDS)

In terms of marginalized ethnic groups' involvement in HIV/AIDS issues in Botswana the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Link in with the local USAID PEPFAR program in disseminating HIV/AIDS information to indigenous groups - especially those in the Ngamiland District.
- Support the development of capacity of specific rural extension officials to better understand HIV/AIDS processes thin indigenous groups, to support awareness campaigns and to provide basic levels of support where necessary.

4.3.4.3 Namibia specific responses (HIV/AIDS)

In terms of marginalized ethnic groups' involvement in HIV/AIDS issues in Namibia the following specific activities should be considered during the implementation phases:

- Support ongoing USAID Namibia HIV/AIDS programs in disseminating HIV/AIDS information to indigenous groups in the Kuvango and Caprivi Regions.
- Support the development of capacity of specific rural extension officials to better understand HIV/AIDS processes within indigenous groups, to support awareness campaigns and to provide basic levels of support where necessary.

5 BENEFITING FROM THE SAREP PROGRAM

5.1 Women

5.1.1 Transboundary management and issues

In terms of transboundary management processes and issues the following should be the benefits that accrue to women from the SAREP program:

- More equitable representation on Commission and its institutions such as OBSC, Task Forces, Basin-wide Forum (KRA 1 and KRA 5) allowing gender issues to be accommodated in all Transboundary level planning and decision-making processes – greater inclusion and participation and consultation;
- Decisions made by OKACOM are more considerate of gender (women's) issues and needs which would be factored into all planning and outcomes;
- Transboundary plans and developments incorporate a focus on needing to ensure that economic benefits flow to women wherever possible – especially through the provision of employment and access to enterprise opportunities;
- Environmental goods and services are seen to be directed to meet the needs of women across the ORB. Securing livelihoods at the household level, enabling women to equitably access and sustainably use natural resources.

5.1.2 Social benefits accruing to women from SAREP in the basin

Women in the basin, through the focus of SAREP activities may expect the following benefits to accrue through the following activities:

- Women's development needs increasingly addressed due to more equitable representation on local community committees, institutions, bodies, CBOs, Boards.

- Enhancing women’s confidence to participate in community social management processes, to facilitate their voices being heard, facilitating their access to information and facilitating their access to resources.

5.1.3 Economic benefits accruing to women from SAREP in the basin

Currently economic opportunities throughout the region are skewed to favor men. The SAREP program will ensure that the following activities will enable women to have more equitable access to SMME opportunities:

- Increased household income retained and managed by women;
- Greater participation in capacity building exercises relating to SMMEs;
- Greater access to micro financing;
- More women running SMMEs: collecting, beneficiating and selling NR products, ;
- Fewer costs relating to sickness and health. Reduced financial costs to pay for health care and fewer sick leave days taken; and
- Facilitating their equitable access to benefit flows.

5.1.4 Environmental & Natural Resources

Most marginal and remote communities in the basin are forced to rely to a great extent upon the use of natural resources to supplement their livelihoods. Women and girls are generally the groups that are forced to harvest and collect resources, often under harsh conditions or being exposed to danger. Through the SAREP program women and girls will benefit from SMME processes that could allow them to gain access to alternative strategies which will reduce their reliance on the use of natural resources, including, among other benefits:

- Local ecosystems better managed and protected;
- Reduced pollution of water, air and local environment;
- Threats to biodiversity reduced, for example, poaching reduced;
- Greater range and volume of natural resources available in the future for household use on a sustainable basis.

5.2 Girls

5.2.1 Transboundary management and issues

In terms of transboundary management processes and issues, the following should be the benefits that accrue to girls from the SAREP program:

- Data relating to benefits flowing to girls through SAREP interventions will be collected and captured in DSS data base and will be used in analyzes.

5.2.2 Social benefits accruing to girls from SAREP in the basin

The benefits that girls in the basin may expect from the SAREP program will be linked to providing alternative economic activities or the provision of services to families which will

reduce their reliance upon girls having to carry fuel wood and water, reduce the reliance on them to be care givers and enable them to access education, including:

- Burden of travel to collect or harvest natural resources (including water) reduced or maintained at a manageable level – unsustainable use minimized.
- Improved health – less burden of carrying water and better access to nutritious foods;
- More time available to attend school and obtain better education.

5.2.3 Economic benefits accruing to girls from SAREP in the basin

Girls in the basin may expect to receive economic benefits from the SAREP program through their families being afforded a wider range of economic activities or the provision of services which will reduce their reliance upon girls having to carry fuel wood and water, reduce the reliance on them to be care givers and enable them to access education, including:

- Improved household access to additional income and resources improves nutrition and health of girls and consequently increases their ability to engage in more diverse range of economic opportunities and activities in the future.

5.2.4 Environmental & Natural Resources

Benefits that will flow to girls from natural resources through the SAREP program relate to communities being supported to assist them to obtain greater value from the use of their natural resources, thus resulting in the following:

- Burden of travel to collect or harvest natural resources (including water) reduced or maintained at a manageable level – unsustainable use minimized.
- Improved health – less burden of carrying water and better access to nutritious foods;
- More time available to attend school and obtain better education.

5.3 Indigenous Groups

5.3.1 Transboundary management and issues

In terms of transboundary management processes and issues the following should be the benefits that accrue to marginalized ethnic groups from the SAREP program:

- Data relating to benefits flowing to indigenous groups through SAREP interventions will be collected and captured in DSS data base and will be used in Analyzes.

5.3.2 Social benefits accruing to indigenous groups from SAREP in the basin

Marginalized ethnic groups will be afforded the opportunity to benefit from the SAREP program through:

- Burden of travel to collect or harvest natural resources (including water) reduced or maintained at a manageable level – unsustainable use minimized.
- Improved health – less burden of carrying water and better access to nutritious foods;
- More time available to attend school and obtain better education.

5.3.3 Economic benefits accruing to indigenous groups from SAREP in the basin

SAREP will support marginalized communities to access increased economic benefits through the following opportunities:

- Improved access to natural resources, greater security and tenure;
- Improved household access to additional income and resources improves nutrition and health of family members and consequently increases their ability to engage in more diverse range of economic opportunities and activities in the future;
- Greater participation in capacity building exercises relating to SMMEs – enhanced production and beneficiation (quality control), better access to markets, enhanced management skills; and
- Greater access to micro financing.

5.3.4 Environmental & Natural Resources

Marginalized ethnic communities will benefit from SAREP's interventions in the basin through the better management of their natural resources, including:

- Local ecosystems better managed and protected;
- Reduced pollution of water, air and local environment;
- Threats to biodiversity reduced; and
- Greater range of and volume of natural resources available into the future for household use on a sustainable basis.

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