



Photos: Martinus Jansen, Yves Horent, EC-ECHO and SIWI

Wednesday 23 August

Flowing Upstream and Downstream: Collaboration for Better Management

The sharing of ideas, skills, information and experiences leads not just to improved management of shared water resources but can also be an effective mechanism for sharing benefits. Each country has a comparative advantage in resources, capacity, knowledge, information, etc. Likewise governments have their own priorities and political realities. Collaboration through and beyond River Basin Organisations can help partner states grasp issues faced by the other and develop mechanisms for sharing knowledge, skills and information that can flow upstream or downstream to meet demand and supply.

Such collaboration can take the form of joint projects, learning exercises, communication strategies, information and knowledge sharing to name a few. Could the expertise of a downstream country flow upstream or vice versa? Currently Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM) is directing a project on information sharing to capitalise on the comparative advantages of the three countries: hydrological monitoring in Angola, training in Botswana and data management in Namibia. What other such initiatives could further understanding, transfer benefits and promote better management?

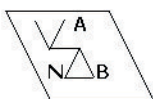
The seminar will explore ideas and opportunities for collaboration and help to develop a plan for the future.

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**in Stockholm,
August 20-26, 2006**



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