

The Okavango Seminar at the World Water Week

August 23rd, Stockholm, Sweden

“FLOWING UPSTREAM AND DOWNSTREAM”

You are cordially invited to join a discussion of high-level policy makers from Angola, Botswana and Namibia on the fate of the River they share.

The Okavango River has given birth to a collaborative and dynamic form of governance amongst the three countries.

Like 263 other rivers worldwide, the Okavango flows across borders of sovereign states. Each state needs the Okavango's water resources. Each has comparative advantages in capacity, resources, knowledge, or geography. None can unilaterally develop water – for power, agriculture, or domestic use – without affecting upstream or downstream neighbours.

So how did three nations speaking many different languages, with widely disparate backgrounds and a limited collaborative history, learn to work together?

The Okavango countries are starting with distinct, specific and quantifiable projects that generate more light than heat, and more trust than tension paving the way in experience and information for basin-wide joint management. Currently the Okavango River Basin Water Commission is directing a project on information sharing to capitalize on the comparative advantages of the three countries; a community based project is enabling communities to have a say in management, and the Government of Botswana through the Okavango Delta Management Plan Project is able to share its experience of managing the world's biggest Ramsar site with upstream countries. What other such initiatives could further understanding, transfer benefits and promote better management?

Could the expertise of a downstream country flow upstream and vice versa? How will it work? What's missing? What tangible or political benefits can we expect?

We welcome your presence, your experience and your constructive engagement at this meeting convened by the Okavango River Basin Water Commission, the Okavango Delta Management Plan Project, the IUCN-World Conservation Union and the Every River has its People Project.

When: *Wednesday 23 August 2006 from 13:30 - 17:00 PM*

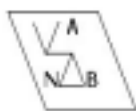
Where: *World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden*

Information on this Seminar: *OKACOM Interim Secretariat - okacom_iss@irbm.co.bw*

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Information about the World Water Week: *www.worldwaterweek.org*



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