

Intra-state conflicts resolution between
local communities and central
government, Namibia cases

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International Workshop on Value of Water:
Different Approaches in Transboundary Water
Management

10-11 March 2005

Koblenz, Germany

Content

- Background to water resources management in Namibia
- Factors contributing to water conflicts
- Addressing the water conflicts
- Case Studies
 - Kuiseb Basin
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Water resources management in Namibia

- Namibia is a dry country
 - Low and variable rainfall both time and place
 - Perennial rivers at the border - shared with other countries
 - Internal rivers are seasonal/ephemeral
- Old Water Act (Act no 54 of 1956)
 - Outdated and needed revision
 - Does not promote equity (riparian rights)
 - and IWRM
- Recent initiatives – since independent
 - WASP – Community Based Management (CBM)
 - Water Policy – basin management approach
 - Water Resources Management Act of 2004 - BMC

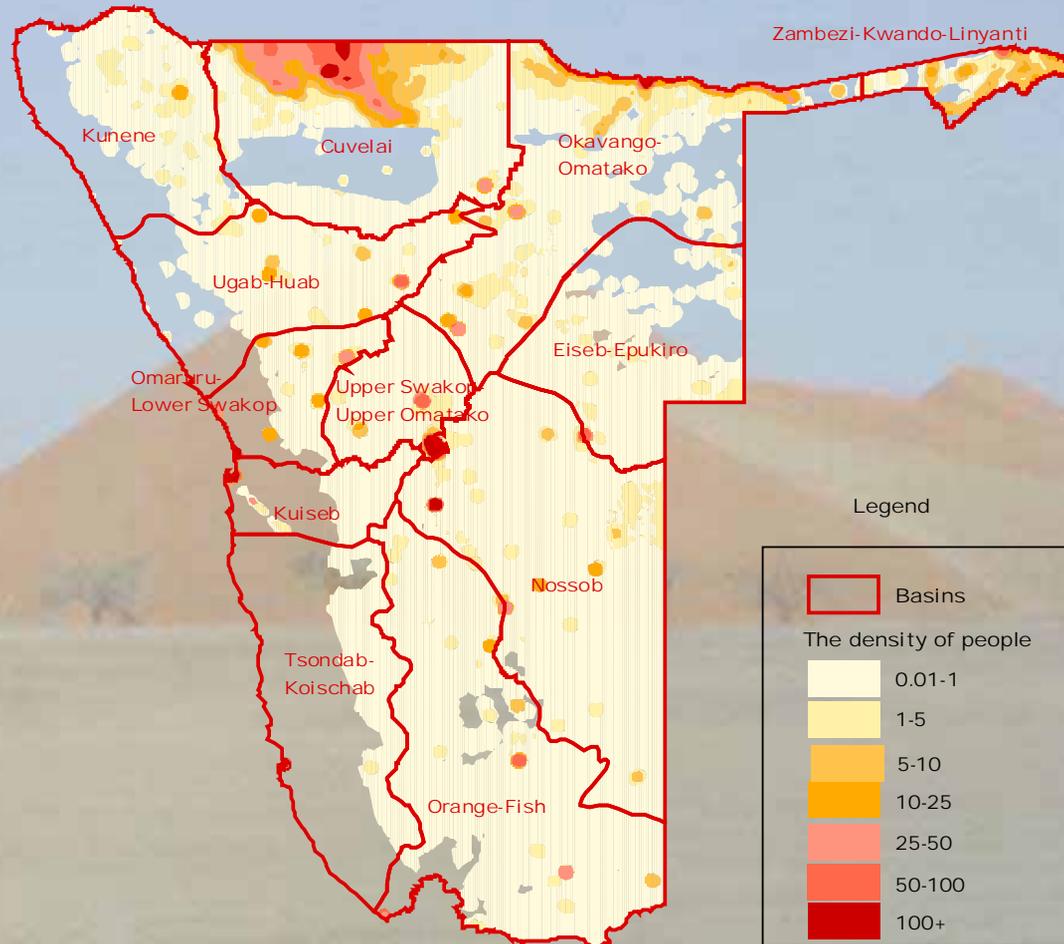
Factors contributing to conflict

- Access to and demand of water
 - Scarcity – many competing uses/rs
 - Riparian rights
 - Infrastructures - small dams
 - Socio-economic
- Lack of participation in water management
- Unfriendly relations between stakeholders
- Lack of information and understanding of issues
- New development, industrialization etc.
- Mismanagement of resources

Addressing the conflicts: Basin Management Approach

- Management and planning was done at central level
- Government is working towards basin management approach – basins are appropriate operational units
- Involvement of stakeholders at lowest possible level
- Promote IWRM principles
- Useful in basin where there is:
 - Increased water demand
 - Competition rather than cooperation among users
- Establishing **Basin Management Committees**
 - Opportunity for government and community to work together

Basins in Namibia (11 demarcated)



Addressing the conflicts cont...

- Objectives of Basin Management Committees
 - Ensure equitable access to and sustainable use of water resources
 - Decentralization of water resources management to the community
 - Ensure that unity of hydrological cycle within the water basin is recognized
 - Encourage participation of stakeholders

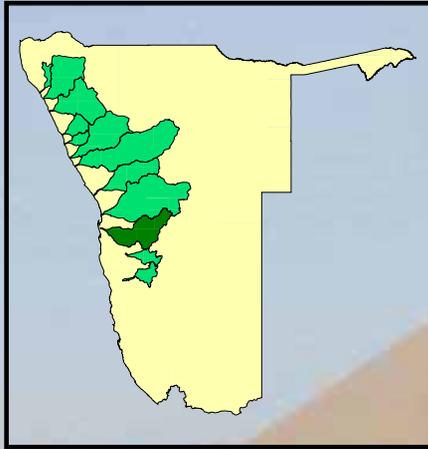
Addressing the conflict cont...

- BMC Functions
 - Protect, develop, manage and control water resources
 - Promote community participation, in the protection, use and development of water resources
 - Make recommendations regarding issuance or cancellation of licences and permits
 - Develop an appropriate water research agenda in liaison with WRM agency
 - Educate water users, schools and the community in general on water issues
 - Help resolve conflicts relating to water resources in its management area

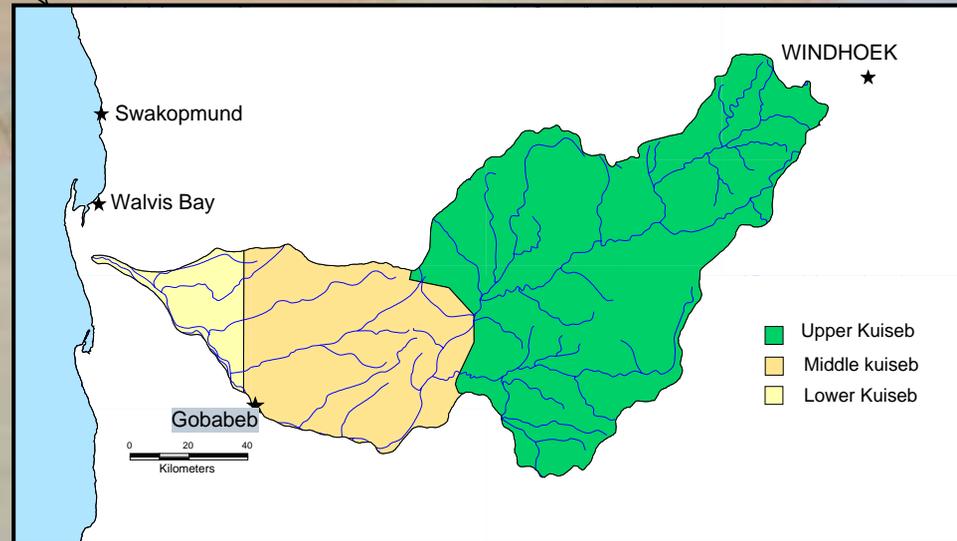
Process: case studies

- According to the Water Act, Minister or interested person identify the problem/issues in basin, need for committee
- Identify other stakeholders
- Discuss issues and problems together – towards solutions
- Sharing of information with basin stakeholders – workshops/meetings
- Come up with a common vision/goal
- Establish a committee to support the stakeholders (forum) and work towards the vision

Case Study 1: Kuiseb Basin



Namibia and its westward flowing ephemeral river catchments



The Kuiseb catchment

Case study 1: Kuiseb basin

- Users and Issues

- Upstream commercial farmers – large cattle herds – small farm dams
- Mid-basin communal farmers – goat and small number of cattle – national park – research station
- Lower basin – bulk water supply schemes – fishing industry – nature reserve/lagoon – tourism – town
- Competition between upstream commercial farmers and downstream communal farmers and municipality of Walvis Bay
- Took about three years to form a committee

Kuiseb basin management committee

- ***GOAL***

To ensure efficient and equitable access to water and sustainable use of related resources in the Kuiseb River basin

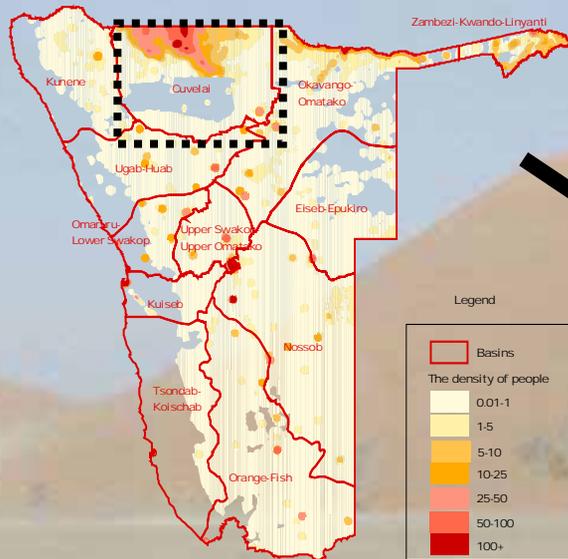
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- Co-ordinate implementation of water policy and strategy framework
- Advise government on water resources management activities of authorities, private sector and other groups as they impact on water
- Monitor and report on the health of river basin and effectiveness of policies and actions in achieving sustainable management
- Identify and resolve water resource conflicts
- Develop an appropriate water research agenda in liaison with DWA
- To educate water users, schools and community in general water issues.

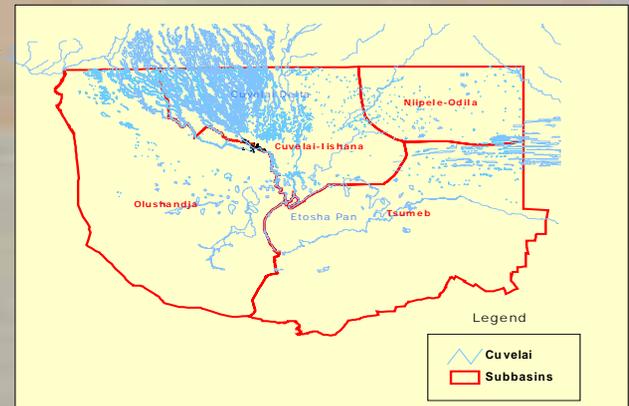
Stakeholders in the Kuiseb Basin



Case Study 2: Cuvelai Basin



Basin management areas



Cuvelai basin

Case Study 2: Cuvelai Basin

- Most densely populated area of the country
- Limited natural resources are already under pressure
- Subsistence agriculture only form of economic activity for most people
- Ephemeral river delta a unique ecosystem of great conservation value
- Subject to regular hydrological extremes of floods and droughts.
- Availability of water resources and unsustainable use of land and other natural resources critical constraint on socio-economic development
- Alternative water sources - sewage water, desalination - need to be investigated

Cuvelai Basin stakeholders



Cuvelai Basin Management Committee

- Vision

“the water and other natural resources of the Cuvelai basin are managed and utilised in an integrated and sustainable manner with equitable access and participation by all stakeholders”

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- Co-ordinate the research and investigation into environmental issues such as deforestation, overgrazing, and obstruction of flows.
- Liase with local, regional and national representatives to foster stakeholders’ involvement through identification of stakeholders, relationship with existing committees and clear definition of roles and functions.
- Create awareness and education – to educate water users and community in general on water management issues.
- Address water pollution and ecological protection problem.
- Establish international co-operation with Angola.
- Investigate further feasibility of excavating dams and drilling of boreholes and wells especially for stock drinking.

Requirements for a Successful BMC

- Knowledge of the area
- Know what you want to manage
- Access to updated information
- Communication
- Technical and professional support
- Co-operation and Support of key stakeholders
- Ownership of stakeholders
- Responsibility and authority
- Commitment of members of BMC
- Political support
- Small enough to be functional
- Should have direct access to Minister (MAWRD)
- Know its mandate- clarification of role and authority
- Should not be sectoral oriented

Conclusions

- Competing users and uses of water and other natural resources – conflicts over allocation
- Basin level is best way to resolve complex water management issues
- People come together and find integrated solutions
 - Talk about their activities – share information
 - See the whole basin situation – not only own part
 - Form a Committee - good representation

Conclusions cont...

- Basin management committees are way to promote:
 - Participatory approach in decision making
 - Create opportunity for government and community to work together
- Equitable sharing
- Increased knowledge and information
- Develop common vision for basin
 - Reduce conflicts
 - Strengthen basin management