



# OKACOM

## STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION REPORT

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18 MARCH 2026

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Title of Project	<b>CUBANGO-OKAVANGO RIVER BASIN: FINANCING INNOVATION IN TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS (CORB-FIT)</b>
Date of Meeting	<b>18 March 2026</b>
Venue	<b>Online</b>

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Cubango-Okavango River Basin is recognised as one of the world’s most ecologically sensitive and socio-economically important transboundary systems. Stretching across Angola, Namibia and Botswana, it supports exceptional biodiversity and sustains the livelihoods of countless communities who depend on its waters and landscape and the basin is becoming more is still a need to strengthen the resilience of rural livelihoods, to ensure that livelihoods are diversified and sustained, the CORB Fund therefore is envisaged as a vehicle to achieve this objective and it is therefore imperative to ensure input from all stakeholders is taken in to consideration towards the optimisation of the CORB Fund.
- 1.2 The World Bank is preparing a regional project, the “Cubango-Okavango River Basin (CORB): Financing Innovation in Transboundary Waters” project (a grant provided by the Global Environment Facility, GEF) to support the operationalization and long-term viability of the CORB Fund, advancing sustainable development in the Cubango-Okavango basin. Project activities are organized into four main components, each designed to maximize development impact in the basin. These components focus on operationalizing the CORB Fund, providing targeted technical assistance in priority areas, and strengthening institutional capacity to secure financing, beyond grants.
- 1.3 The workshop marked an important stage in stakeholder engagement. The workshop brought together representatives of local communities, traditional authorities, civil society, and community-based organisations, academia, Government departments, local NGO’s, ICPs supporting initiatives in the basin and other regional and international organisations.

## **2. Welcome Remarks:**

**The OBSC- Member for Botswana, Ms Wendy Seone on behalf of the Co-Chairperson, Dr Kobamelo Dikgola, welcomed the participants to the workshop and encouraged everyone to fully take part and make contributions. She highlighted the importance of stakeholder engagement on this important regional Project especially to ensure the views of stakeholders are carried along in the design and implementation of the Project.**

### 3. Introduction of Participants

The facilitator of the of the Workshop, the Executive Secretary, Mr Phera Ramoeli, called on all the participants to introduce themselves, giving their respective names and the institution they are representing. Below is a list of participants that took part in the workshop.

**Table 1. List of participants**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>
1.Phera Ramoeli	Executive Secretary OKACOM
2. Mr Joshua Moloji	Executive Director – CORB-Fund
3. Ms Joyce Motsholapheko-	Finance administration Manager – OKACOM
4. Mr Botsalo Thamuku-	Communications and `outreach Manager OKACOM
5. Ms Rosalina Solunga	Bilingual Editor Translator- OKACOM
6. Dr Casper Bonyongo-	Okavango Research Institute
7.Thatayaone Mmapatsi-	Botswana Tourism Organisation
8. Anders Jagerskog-	The World Bank
9. Tebogo James	Ngamiland Council of Non-Governmental Organisations
10. Simasiku Siyoka	Ngamiland council of Non-Governmental Organisations
11. Mr. Guy Robertson	Pegasus - The Nature Conservancy - The Nature for Water Programme.
12. Mr. Sekgowa Motsumi-	The Nature Conservancy
13. Dr. Pascoal Jeremias	José Eduardo dos Santos University
14. Bernice Mutelo	Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASCAL)
15. Dr Botlhe Matlhodi-	University of Botswana.
16.Mr Octanio Nani	OBSC -Angola
17. Ms Wendy Seone	OBSC- Botswana
18. Ms. Lynnety	Namibia
19. Mr Valente Sabino	Water Resources Technical Committee – Angola

### 4. Objectives of the meeting

- 4.1 The Chairperson informed participants that the objective of the workshop was to consult key basin stakeholders on the proposed project design and gather feedback that can be used to strengthen the project preparation and its implementation, validate and guide the next steps of development for the of the CORB Fund and to also discussed the Gender Action Plan to ensure inclusivity in the implementation and benefits of the Project.

#### 4.2 **More specifically to:**

- (i) Introduce the project, its purpose, expected benefits, and stakeholders' role in shaping the programme.
- (ii) strengthens shared understanding of the Project approach and methodology for implementation and;
- (iii) served as participatory dialogue that captures stakeholders' priorities, knowledge, and expectations related to sustainable innovative financing of the CORB resilient socially and environmentally focused interventions.

### 5. **SUMMARY OF Presentation on the Project: Overview of the CORB-FIT Project and the Project Gender Action Plan**

- 5.1 The stakeholder consultation presentations covered the CORB Fund design and steps to operationalize long-term financing for the Okavango River Basin. Presenters discussed prior feasibility work that proposed a hybrid fund with two windows—a sinking fund for short to medium term interventions and an endowment window, for long-term sustainability. The Fund was developed to address basin threats and support resilient governance, socio-economic development, and environmental protection. Some of the expected outcomes discussed included land restoration, protected-area expansion, emissions reductions, tourism revenue growth, water quality and access, sustainable agriculture, fisheries, and renewable energy.
- 5.2 The fund design, the governance structure, comprising of Board of Directors with member-state and independent directors, an executive director, and an investment committee guiding a diversified portfolio were described in detail. The Financial metrics presented included an aspirational CORB- Fund endowment target of about USD 250 million, a proposed sinking-fund of USD 20 million, an expected benefit-cost ratio of nearly 7:1, and projected net benefits of roughly \$1.2 billion by 2050.
- 5.3 Reference was then made to The CORB FIT Project, which is funded by GEF through the World Bank to the tune of US\$10 million to be implemented over five years(2026 - 2031). Part of the funding from the Project (US\$4 million) is earmarked for contribution to the Endowment Fund. Reference was also made to the upcoming EU funded Project to the tune of €8 million to be implemented by the French Bank for Development (AFD), which will also support the operationalization of the CORB Fund.
- 5.4 The presentation then gave an overview of the Project components which covers issues of capitalization and operations of the Fund, development of investment projects-pipeline and feasibility studies, staffing of the Fund and development of a robust financial management system. Discussions of the funding sources of the endowment Fund, its purpose and characteristics demonstrated with examples from around the globe were made. Sustainability factors and risk considerations, governance and decision-making structures were also discussed.

5.5 Finally the Project Gender Action plan, highlighting the gaps and proposed actions to address identified gaps was finally presented. Some of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) issues comprehensive review of existing gender disparities in the Cubango River Basin such as those relating to:

- (i) the importance of mainstreaming gender considerations in biodiversity and water resource management; and
- (ii) exploration of opportunities within the project's scope to incorporate gender-inclusive consultation and planning processes in the design and implementation of the project activities.

5.6 Some salient questions were also posed to the participants regarding the gender related project issues and the role of women, youth and vulnerable groups in the basin including the following:

- (i) What are the main livelihoods of women in the CORB basin?
- (ii) Do women participate any community meetings or committee related to water resource/natural resource management in the CORB? If "Yes" then "what was their role?"
- (iii) How do current water resource management rules/decisions (e.g. elections, appointments, ownership) affect women's participation in the CORB basin?
- (iv) What training/support could help women in the CORB basin to apply sustainable water resource management practices improve their livelihoods

## 6. Comments and feedback

Gender of Stakeholder	Stakeholder comment	Institution	Response
<b>General Comments and questions from the Stakeholders and Responses given</b>			
Male	How can partners Access funds to carry out their activities under this project	Dr. Pascoal Jeremias - José Eduardo dos Santos University	FUND will accept applications -using various calls for proposals, this will be assessed through established guidelines. CORB Fund will continue to work with partners to ensure this is achieved
Male	There is need to build implementation	TNC- Guy Robertson	Part of the funds will go towards capacity building of

	capacity: is this included as part of this project		communities and partners to ensure they are able to implement activities- The Fund will continue to work with partners with capacity to implement
Female	When should we look forward to calls for proposals and which themes should the focus be on	Bernice Mutelo – SASCAL	First still focusing on establishing the office and structures, the call from proposals is envisaged to be issued around the first part of 2027 (the second year of the Project implementation)
Male	I believe that the issues raised point us to the role of universities in collecting socioeconomic data at the community level within the basin, to build a sufficiently robust database that can be used in the implementation of public policies. In this regard, the José Eduardo dos Santos University, within the framework of its university extension pillar, in partnership with TNC, has been carrying out activities of this kind in the upper basin and will be willing to partner in this	José Eduardo dos Santos University	This update was highly appreciated

	regard with the Project.		
<b>Responses by the Stakeholders on the Gender Related Questions on the Roles of women in the Basin</b>			
Female	Women in the Basin within Namibia continue to be engaged mainly in Agronomy practices as well as in Fishing as part of improving their livelihoods	Ms Lynnety-Namibia	The update was highly appreciated
Male	Mokoro is being used for tourism in the CORB area as part of the livelihood improvement that can be included, more especially that we have women peddlers	NCONGO-Simasiku	This update was highly appreciated
	It is important to ensure monitoring and evaluation is carried out through implementation	TNC- Guy Robertson	This update was highly appreciated

## 1. Closing Remarks

The Executive Secretary closed the meeting. He encouraged participants to share what they have heard with other stakeholders and to contact the CORB Fund for any information they need going forward. He emphasized that the Project belongs to them and they should get ready f