



PRESS RELEASE

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) to convene the 11th SADC Multistakeholder Water Dialogue in Maseru, Kingdom of Lesotho from 29 to 30 September 2025

18 September 2025, Gaborone, Botswana: The Southern African Development Community (SADC), in collaboration with the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho and with the support of the German Government through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), will host the 11th SADC Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue in Maseru, Lesotho, from 29 to 30 September 2025.

The SADC Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue is a biennial platform that brings together water practitioners, policymakers, and representatives from the water, energy, agriculture, environment/ tourism, and finance sectors, alongside relevant public and private institutions, to exchange perspectives and address issues that are critical to regional integration, industrialisation, and poverty eradication.

The 2025 Dialogue is organised under the SADC-German Transboundary Water Management (TWM) project, which is implemented by Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, in partnership with the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA). This year's event will be held under the theme: *"Water Security, Innovation, and Nexus Action: Watering and Enabling Regional Economic Development Corridors for Transformation in SADC."* The theme builds on the outcomes of the 44th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government, held under the banner, *"Advancing Industrialisation, Agricultural Transformation, and Energy Transition for a Resilient SADC"*.

The Honourable Mhloni Moleko, Minister of Natural Resources of the Kingdom of Lesotho, will grace the occasion and deliver the keynote address.

The Dialogue seeks to explore and articulate the strategic role of water in enabling smart, integrated, and climate-resilient regional economic development corridors through inclusive and adaptive Water-Energy-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus approaches.

Discussions will further examine institutional, planning, and strategic interventions required to align the SADC water sector with the regional economic corridor development agenda. Participants will also identify innovative water governance models, financing instruments, and technical solutions to support climate-resilient, inclusive, and corridor-linked development and service delivery.

The concept of regional economic development corridors is inherently integrative and multi-sectoral, aligning closely with the WEFE Nexus approach already adopted in the region. Both frameworks embrace systems thinking, recognise the inefficiencies of siloed planning, seek to maximise benefits while minimising trade-offs, and require cross-sectoral policy coordination and institutional collaboration across multiple governance levels to be effective. Recognising that water is indispensable to the development of regional value chains, the Dialogue will provide a dedicated regional platform for exchange on how the water sector can support and strengthen regional economic development corridors within the WEFE framework.



The Dialogue will provide an opportunity to co-develop a shared understanding, define roles and responsibilities, and propose strategies and mechanisms to ensure that water-related institutions and programmes contribute effectively to the corridor development.

Ultimately, the Dialogue aspires to shape regional economic corridors that serve not only as highways of trade and commerce but also as lifelines of resilience, food security, and climate-smart growth across the SADC region.

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SADC in Brief

SADC is an organisation of 16 Member States established in 1980 as the Southern African Development Coordinating Conference (SADCC) and later, in August,1992 transformed into the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The mission of SADC is to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development through efficient, productive systems, deeper cooperation and integration, good governance and durable peace and security; so that the region emerges as a competitive and effective player in international relations and the world economy. Member States are Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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