

## Stakeholder-driven development of a common view on integrated water resources management for the Zambezi Valley, Mozambique

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The Zambezi Valley is an area in the center of Mozambique of strategic importance, both for Mozambique and for its neighbors. The valley is considered one of the most fertile farming areas in the world and hosts extensive natural resources. The Zambezi river – the fourth biggest in Africa – flows through a number of national parks and is important for the fishing industry and for energy generation, with hydroelectric power stations along the river supplying electricity to 40 million households. However, the interests of the various stakeholders who share the river vary widely, and the lack of a common vision for this valuable shared resource leads to enormous problems in the areas of safe drinking water, food security, energy production and water management. To address these challenges, a shift is needed in the Valley from a technology-oriented perspective of water management, in which everyone acts independently, to an integrated approach where all stakeholders work together to develop efficient, just and sustainable solutions for the region.

Having this in mind a three-day Future Search conference was organized in Tete (Mozambique) in May 2017. This participatory meeting brought together more than 70 representatives of stakeholders, including national and regional government, municipalities, industry and mining, agriculture, NGOs, Universities and WaSH experts. The participants interacted to discover shared understanding of their past, develop a common picture of current trends and developments, and finally create ideal future scenarios.

Using this the conference had two objectives. The first was to develop a shared plan for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) for the Valley. This forthcoming document will propose a shared vision on how to sustainably manage the water resources in the region. The second objective, was to identify the needs for capacity building of stakeholders and of the local Universities to provide educational content in IWRM at different levels, including higher and vocational education. The approach followed is a paradigm change whereby local stakeholders find a solution during the process instead of this being presented to them by external experts.

During the Waternet conference we will share information regarding the consultation process and the obtained results in relation to IWRM and capacity building needs for effective implementation.

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