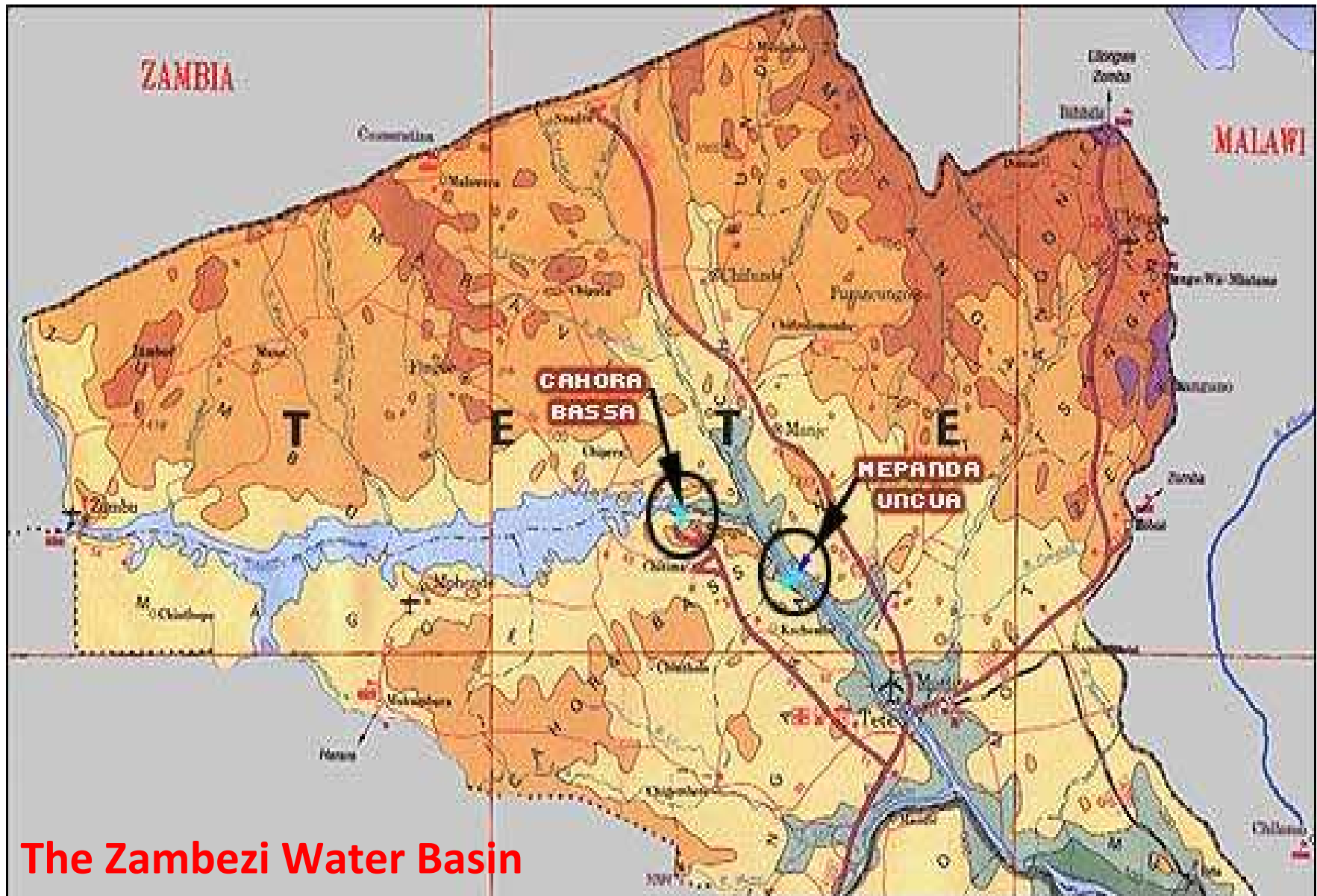


# **Dams in Southern Africa: From a faith-based perspective**

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# Why the Research

- WCC **Ecological Debt** working on Ecological Debt in Third World Countries:
- Assist MCC & EMG, LIVANINGO in Advocacy work to stop construction of new Dams in Mozambique-**Mphenda Nkuwa**
  - To stop further displacement of people
  - Fight for debt campaign for Mozambique: US\$2.8 Billion for the new Dam

# Aims and Objectives of the Research

- To show impact of mega projects on peoples' livelihoods
- To show linkage between ecological debt and foreign debt
- To show powerlessness of national governments when faced by powerful MNC or IFIS
- To show the role of CSO in advocacy for water in the SADC region

# Summary of Research Findings

- **Zambezi River is the most dammed river in Africa having more than 30 large dams.** This has resulted in loss of the river's natural memory leading to serious ecological and environmental problems down the river valley.
- Construction of the Cahora Bassa dam **displaced over 57,000 people from their livelihoods** and further construction of Mphanda Nkuwa will displace another 2,000 people down the river.
- The damming of the river has **changed the water from a riverine to lacustrine**, thereby affecting the ecosystem in and along the river.
- The huge mass of water held by the dams **has disturbed the seismicity of the area rendering it more vulnerable to earthquakes.**

# Summary of Findings

- **The erratic flood control has led to deepening of valleys along the river, disruption of siltation crucial in flood agriculture systems, thereby affecting peoples' source of livelihoods, dwindling of fish and prawn industry and disruption of other marine life in and along the river valley**
- **The presence of the dams on the river greatly contributed to the year 2000 floods that ravaged the Zambezi basin.**
- **The construction of the dams has created new social, economic and environmental problems such as an increase in water borne diseases, accumulation of toxic waste and security problems.**

# Summary of Conclusions

- **Greed and disregard for sustainable use of the Zambezi River by the rich powerful countries is leading Mozambique into a serious ecological crisis.**
- **The protracted political and economic furore between the governments of Mozambique and Portugal over ownership of the Cahora Bassa Dam to a certain degree influenced government of Mozambique to construt new dam Mphanda Nkuwa Dam which is a frivolous expense to its fragile economy and will worsen environmental degradation, especially along the Zambezi River.**
- **Improved communication between managements of dams on the Zambezi River is the only way to effectively control erratic floods along the banks of the river which have caused repeated ecological disasters as registered.**

# Summary of Conclusions

- Efforts to re-establish the natural flow and flooding of the Zambezi River or simulating the original geo-nature of the river will not wholly solve the ecological impact done to the river over the years without concerted efforts of many stakeholders including the civil society.
- The Mozambican government must come up with a water act to protect future misuse of its waters while finding lasting solutions to sort the ecological impact left by the large dams on Zambezi River one of which is demand for an ecological debt from its debtors, Portugal and South Africa.
- Facilitation of experience sharing on the hardships faced by the people displaced by the dams would be a powerful way to influence government of Mozambique to reconsider the construction of the new dam at Mphanda Nkuwa.

# Problematic Issues with Dams in Mozambique & SADC Region

- Damage to the ecology, ecosystems & Livelihoods in the SADC region
- Weak Water Policy: Regulatory & Control systems: SADC Water Policy, WCD
- Questionable Development paradigm: What do local people benefit from the mega water projects?
- Role of MNC vs National Governments

# SADC Water Protocol on shared watercourse systems in the SADC Region

- Article 2 Paragraph 3: States that:
  - *“Member states lying within the basin of a shared watercourse system shall maintain a proper balance between resource development for a higher standard of living for their peoples and conservation and enhancement of the environment to promote sustainable development”*

# **SADC Water Protocol on shared watercourse systems in the SADC Region**

- Article 2 Paragraph 7 states that:
  - Member states shall utilize a shared water system in an equitable manner requires taking all factors and circumstances which include:
    - Geographical, hydrological, hydrographical, climatical and other factors of natural nature such as the social and economic needs of member states.

# Who benefits from the Dams

- South Africa: Cheap Electricity
- Multi-national Companies(MNC): MOZAL, ESCOM, Portugal, Tourists, mining companies
  - NOT
- Poor people or local people instead they suffer
  - Displacement sometimes little or no compensations
  - Floods and poor access to water
  - Disruption of livelihoods

# What can the churches/FBO do about this

- **Alternative water policy:** Theology of Water: What is the churches' comparative advantage in the debate?
  - *“I was thirsty and you gave me water , welcome into my Father’s Kingdom” Matthew 25: Judgment Day*
- **Development of Water Advocacy Projects:** Economic Justice-Water is a Human Right, an economic right enshrined in the National Constitutions-to influence water policy
  - *God did not watch in a disinterested manner when the Israelites cried for water in the wilderness:*



**Let our rivers run free for the Next Generations!**