

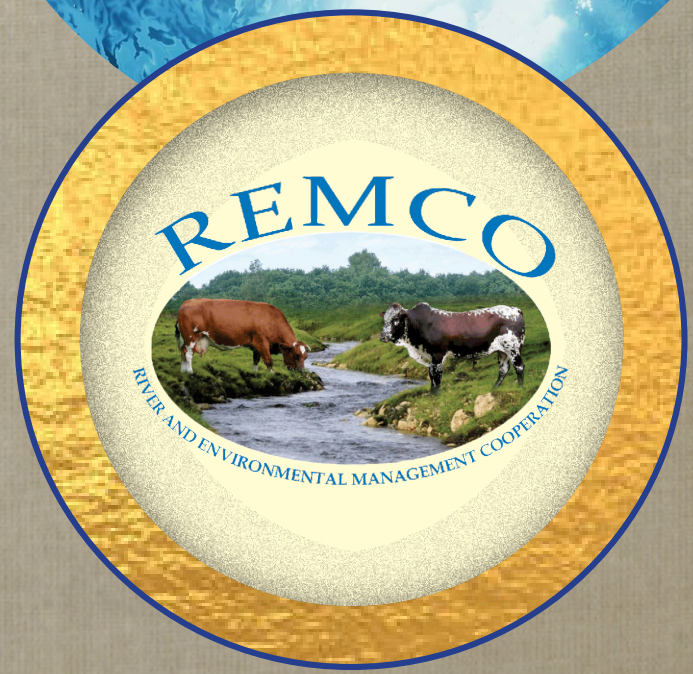
REMCO CONFERENCE

CONCEPT NOTE

7th INTERNATIONAL
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THEME: "PROMOTING OPERATIONAL TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION"

6-10 NOVEMBER 2023, HAPPY VALLEY HOTEL, EZULWINI, ESWATINI

BACKGROUND

The River and Environmental Management Cooperation (REMCO) initiative is a collaborative framework between the water management institutions in three countries viz. South Africa, Eswatini and Mozambique, with primary focus on the Inkomati-Usuthu River Basins. REMCO was initiated and developed to endorse the resolutions of the Transboundary Water Resources Management Conference, held in Germany in 2009. The aim was to enhance the management of the Incomati (South Africa, Mozambique and Eswatini) and the Vecht (Germany and The Netherlands) transboundary river basins. REMCO seeks to strengthen the capacity of the existing governance structures for the Incomati-Maputo Basins through the established Incomati and Maputo Water Course Commission.

The REMCO initiative is a dialogue enabler to harmonise management actions in the Incomati and Maputo River Basins. The dialogue will facilitate the implementation of the Inco-Maputo Agreement enhancing cooperation in the management of the river systems. This is to acknowledge the shared resource and requirement for institutions operating locally, while acknowledging the national interest and sovereignty of the riparian countries.

The main objective of REMCO is to create an effective platform for the river basin institutions to exchange knowledge about operational methods and practices. REMCO aims to foster co-learning and to enhance cooperation between the river basin institutions and other water management institutions. Stakeholder consensus is driven through informed comments and recommendations taking cognisance of the points listed below.

- a. Cooperation on the operational management of the Incomati and Maputo River Basins.
- b. Coordinate and align the implementation of the products and projects generated through the Progressive Realisation of the Inco-Maputo Agreement (PRIMA) programme.
- c. Develop a decision/discussion/consensus seeking approach.



- d. Coordinate other relevant operational transboundary water resources management activities.
- e. Identify and develop projects that are beneficial for the basins or projects seeking to improve existing projects.
- f. Facilitate stakeholder involvement of vulnerable groups, water user associations, farmers and other interested and affected parties.

THE 7th INTERNATIONAL REMCO CONFERENCE, 2023

The 2023 REMCO Conference will be held in the kingdom of Eswatini from 6- 10 November 2023, hosting about 150 delegates from at least five countries (Mozambique, Eswatini, South Africa, The Netherlands and Germany). It will begin with dedicated sessions for Women in Water and Youth in Water, , who are often marginalized and under-represented in water-related discussions and operations. This is to ensure that they are provided with a significant opportunity to contribute their perspectives, experiences, and innovative ideas.

The inclusion of women will acknowledge their crucial roles as water managers, caretakers, and decision-makers in households, communities, and organizations. Elevating women in water-related sectors will pronounce gender equality, enhance water governance, and lead to more sustainable solutions. Similarly, involving youth recognizes their potential as change agents and future leaders who can bring fresh insights, creativity, and technological advancements to address water challenges effectively. Fostering the active participation of women and youth in water conference and operations can promote inclusivity, diversity, and intergenerational collaboration for a brighter and more equitable water future.

The 2023 REMCO Conference theme is: **Promoting Operational Transboundary Cooperation.**

There will be six sub-themes under the main theme, and these are:

- a) Data and Information exchange,
- b) Facilitation of transboundary cooperation (Master class)
- c) Understanding hydrology
- d) River Health Monitoring programs within riparian countries.



- e) Climate adaptation and associated technologies (including issues of resilience and risk)
- f) Water Awareness
- g) WEF Nexus approach-based practical projects
- h) Transboundary water quality guidelines – INMACOM project on IIMA implementation (Workshop not sub-theme)
- i) Data and information exchange – GLOW PROJECT, Transboundary IMS by INMACOM (workshop)
- j) Workshop on water governance

The conference will include a working session on the role of REMCO within the Inco-Maputo Basins. The conference will consist of presentations, technical sessions, group discussions and interpretation services to enable easy communication and engagement. The main objectives of the technical sessions and group discussions are as follows:

- a. Identify common challenges and recommend solutions.
- b. Strengthen cooperation amongst countries with the shared basins.
- c. Build stronger linkages through networking and sharing of experiences.
- d. Increase awareness of the roles and responsibilities of the REMCO and make stakeholders aware of the current cooperation actions with the supporting countries.

Registration is R500. Delegates are requested to fill in the registration form provided to claim their space.



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