

PROJECT PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE

Building Capacities for Traditional Leaders in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Region to Protect, Uphold and Defend the Rights to Sustainable Human Development of the Peoples of the SADC Region

SUB TITLE

Launch of the SADC Council of Traditional Leaders in Southern Africa

PROJECT PERIOD: June to October 2006

PROJECT BUDGET: U\$ 337, 638.00

**PROJECT HOLDER: Women for Change
PO BOX 33102
Lusaka**

**CONTACT PERSON: Emily Sikazwe
Executive Director
Women for Change**

TELEPHONE: 260-01-224309

FAX: 260-01-224296

EMAIL: wfc@zamnet.zm

Executive Summary

Women for Change (WfC) has been working with traditional leaders in Zambia through its Human Rights, Gender and Development Education Programme since 1995. The aim of the programme is to ensure a poverty free Zambia by empowering traditional leaders to effectively participate in and bring about development in their communities and society as a whole since they are closer to the people and they are the custodians of the development resources in those communities.

Following demands from other traditional leaders in the region, the programme was extended to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region in 2002. In the same year, their Royal Highnesses, the different Royal Houses drawn from different parts of the SADC countries, took a historical decision to establish for them and their peoples the first regional Council known as the SADC Council of Traditional Leaders. The traditional leaders appointed *Women for Change* as its Interim Council Secretariat. Since then, several meetings have been held to thrash out the concept and attend to its establishment. The principal objective of the Council is to promote the participation of traditional leaders in the development and governance processes both at the national and regional levels and to reclaim the concept of human rights from the African context.

During one of their meetings, Their Royal Highnesses decided to solicit one of the SADC countries' leadership to host the formal launch of the Council. Their Royal Highnesses entrusted themselves the task to try and get a SADC Head of State or Government in a position to host the event. After many consultations, His Majesty, King Mswati 111 of Swaziland has graciously come forward and volunteered to be the Host. The formal launch is scheduled to take place sometime in October 2006 in Swaziland.

Following the sensitisation in human rights and governance issues, traditional leaders have realised the roles and responsibilities that they have in promoting gender equality and protecting the human rights of their communities. They have also realised that they have a lot of influence among their constituencies.

However, despite the influence that they have among their constituencies, current political spaces and governance systems have not formally recognised, and more importantly, harnessed this power in their efforts to entrench a culture of human rights and in building democratic societies.

However, several initiatives by *Women for Change* and its partners have shown that traditional leaders are keen to participate in shaping the democratic and good governance processes in their respective countries. As an institution that operates directly with the majority of the populations, they can inform national and regional policy making, legislative and governance processes effectively as they are more in touch with the people, given their constituencies.

The problem has been defining the **nature** and **form** of this participation, outlining mechanisms and structures that facilitate it. A key problem has also been to **define** and **establish** the levels at which they can participate, given the various levels of governance in modern states in the region. The challenge is to have a **mechanism** that can facilitate active participation, as a **structure** operating at local community level in national and regional policy making levels. The formation of the SADC Council of Traditional Leaders seeks to address these challenges.

Whereas most countries in the region have traditional leadership structures in one form or another, there is no strong regional platform which can articulate and advocate for their role to be well defined. Experience has shown that traditional leaders across the region generally face the same challenges when it comes to participation and recognition from their governments at both national and regional levels.

More important, the general trend towards regional and sub regional integration as a strategy for development also makes it imperative to mobilize and engage traditional leaders at regional level to enable them to actively participate in the development processes. Initiatives such as SADC integration, African Union, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) among others are such indicators of the drive towards regional blocks for development

that inspire a regional approach to harnessing traditional leaders' participation in governance, and human rights and democracy building processes.

The launch will necessitate the strengthening and building the Council's capacity and come up with programming that contributes to addressing some of the human rights, gender, HIV and AIDS, democracy and governance challenges that traditional leaders have been identifying during the various regional meetings that have been held.

This programme is designed from the premise that violations of human rights are often perpetrated in the name of cultural practices, which are to a large extent, preserved and protected by traditional leaders. This makes them strategically placed to effectively challenge and discourage negative traditional and customary practices that violate some social groups' human rights.

During the various regional seminars, traditional leaders resolved to protect, promote and fulfil the human rights of their communities including those of women and children. However, they have also noted that they cannot protect the human rights of their subjects and communities effectively if their own human rights are being violated, by for example being denied participation in the national affairs of the respective states. They stated that in order for them to do this effectively; they need capacity building and supporting institutions. They identified the SADC Council as one such institution which will provide a forum for participation and advocate for the human rights of traditional leaders and those of their communities. The traditional leaders also noted that participation is a political freedom and fundamental human right which is a pillar of most democratic societies.

Women for Change is soliciting for **US\$337,638.00** to successfully launch the Council. The Host Country Swaziland has committed itself to contribute to the costs of the launch.

1.1. Background

The establishment of the SADC Council of Traditional Leaders began with the *Women for Change* organised workshops for the Zambian chiefs to expose them to education on democracy, human rights and development. The workshops began in the year 2000. It was during that time that it was realised the importance of chiefs coming together which would make it possible for them to benefit from many things including being exposed to programmes on such issues as human rights and in order to make the institution of traditional leadership relevant to modern circumstances. The result of these workshops which were supported by the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) and other partners, led the chiefs to realise the importance of taking the workshops to the region. Various regional meetings that followed later became the basis for the decision to found the Council of Traditional leaders of all SADC countries. With support from OSISA, in May 2004, members of the Transitional Committee of the Council met to adopt the Draft Constitution and decide on a General Conference to officially launch the Council. Their Royal Highnesses decided to solicit one of the SADC countries' leadership to host the formal launch of the Council. However, due to financial constraints, the launch did not take place in October 2004 as planned.

In September 2005, OSISA supported a Regional Exchange Visit involving chiefs from Zambia, Malawi, Botswana, South Africa and Swaziland. At the end of the Visit, the interim chairperson of the SADC Council of Traditional Leaders *Nkosi Holomisa* informed the participants that His Majesty King Mswati III of Swaziland had agreed to host the launch of the Council. Traditional leaders present at the meeting welcomed the news and urged *Women for Change* and its partners to support the launch of the Council.

Consequently, Their Royal Highnesses, unanimously decided to send a delegation led by Interim Council Chairman *Nkosi Holomisa* to Swaziland to meet with His Majesty and convey their sincere gratitude for His Majesty's

offer. Women for Change (WfC), which is the Interim Council Secretariat, was asked to organise the trip. The meeting took place in October 2005.

2.0 Statement of the Problem

Traditional leaders in the region have been sensitised in human rights and governance issues and have realised the roles and responsibilities that they have in promoting gender equality and protecting the human rights of their communities. They have also realised that they have a lot of influence among their constituencies. However, despite the influence that traditional leaders have among their constituencies, current political spaces and governance systems have not formally recognised, and more importantly, harnessed this power in their efforts to entrench a culture of human rights and in building democratic societies. Instead, the role of traditional leaders has been marginalised, thus, leaving out a key potential window of strengthening the democratisation process and promotion of human rights in the region. Some of the traditional leaders have not yet grasped the concept of human rights and how they can promote its institutionalisation in their communities and how this can work against democratisation processes at national level.

However, several initiatives by *Women for Change* and its partners such as OSISA, Raul Wallenberg Institute (RWI) Sweden, Humanistic Institute for Cooperation with Developing countries of Netherlands (HIVOS), and Development Cooperation Ireland (DCI) have shown that traditional leaders are keen to participate in shaping the democratic and good governance processes in their respective countries. As an institution that operates directly with the majority of the populations, they can inform national and regional policy making, legislative and governance processes effectively as they are more in touch with the people, given their constituencies.

As noted in the concept paper (**appendix 3**) for the Regional Exchange Visit prepared by OSISA, the problem has been defining the **nature** and **form** of this participation, outlining mechanisms and structures that facilitate it. A key problem has also been to **define** and **establish** the levels at which they can participate, given the various levels of governance in modern states in the region. The challenge is to have a **mechanism** that can facilitate active participation, as a **structure** operating at local community level in national and regional policy making levels.

3.0 Justification

Whereas most countries in the region have traditional leadership structures in one form or another, there is need to establish a strong regional platform which can articulate and advocate for their role to be well defined. From the various regional activities that have been co-organised by *Women for Change* and its partners, it is clear that traditional leaders across the region generally face the same challenges when it comes to participation and recognition from their governments at both national and regional levels. However, some countries are more advanced than others in this regard. For instance, in countries such as South Africa, traditional leaders are more involved in national governance and state legislation whilst in other countries they are not as active.

The links and cross border nature of most regional cultures and languages also create opportunities to define standard regional guidelines and norms for the participation of traditional leadership in governance and democracy building processes. This is more so because traditional leadership authority is, in structure, shared, with some cultures, languages and customs being spread across borders and some chiefs having dominion across borders e.g. Kazembe of Zambia ruling over some areas in the DRC.

More important, the general trend towards regional and sub regional integration as a strategy for development also makes it imperative to mobilize and engage traditional leaders at regional level to enable them to actively participate in the development processes. Initiatives such as SADC integration, African Union, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) among others are such indicators of the drive towards regional blocks for development that inspire a regional approach to harnessing traditional leaders' participation in governance, and human rights and democracy building processes.

4.0 Project Goal and Objectives

The main aim of this project/activities are to contribute to the creation of political spaces and governance systems that formally recognise and harness the influence of traditional leaders both the local and regional level to entrench a culture of human rights and in building democratic societies.

4.1 Specific Objectives

To achieve these goals, the objectives of the proposed project include the following:

- i) To formally launch the SADC Council of Traditional Leaders
- ii) To adopt the constitution of the Council
- iii) To elect an Executive Committee for the Council

5.0 Project Description

Women for Change and its partners intend to undertake regional programming with traditional leaders that intends to fill the apparent gap identified above with regards to traditional leaders' participation. The project seeks to work with cooperating partners and regional NGOs to support a regional platform that redefines the role of traditional leaders in instituting democracy, human rights and good governance in the region. The idea is to officially launch the

SADC Council of Traditional Leaders so that it becomes a legal entity, formally recognised by all governments and stakeholders in the region. Some of the principal objectives of the Council are:

1. To foster unity among traditional leaders in the region
2. Provide an avenue for the education of traditional leaders and their exposition in matters of democracy, human rights, gender, rule of law and development
3. Act as a mechanism for the traditional leaders to participate more effectively in governance at all levels; local, national and regional.

The launch will necessitate the strengthening and building the Council's capacity and come up with programming that contributes to addressing some of the human rights, gender, HIV and AIDS, democracy and governance challenges that traditional leaders have been identifying during the various regional meetings that have been held. *Women for Change* intends to promote the replication of the "traditional leaders human rights programme" in Zambia in other countries in the region and the Council will act as a focal point for regional programming. Through regional programming, the Council will continue to address the various issues the participants dealt with during all the regional meetings which are considered to be of great importance to the institution of traditional leadership and protection of human rights.

This project is designed from the premise that violations of human rights are often perpetrated in the name of cultural practices, which are to a large extent, preserved and protected by traditional leaders. This makes them strategically placed to effectively challenge and discourage negative traditional and customary practices that violate some social groups' human rights.

During the various regional seminars, traditional leaders resolved to protect, promote and fulfil the human rights of their communities including those of

women and children. However, during the last seminar held in Lesotho in May 2005, the traditional leaders observed that they cannot protect the human rights of their subjects and communities effectively if their own human rights are being violated, by for example being denied participation in the national affairs of the respective states. They stated that in order for them to do this effectively; they need capacity building and supporting institutions. They identified the SADC Council as one such institution which will provide a forum for participation and advocate for the human rights of traditional leaders and those of their communities. The traditional leaders also noted that participation is a political freedom and fundamental human right which is a pillar of most democratic societies.

5.1 Key Project Activities

The official launch of the Council will be preceded by two important activities that are necessary for the final launch, a planning meeting and a report back to His Majesty King Mswati of Swaziland.

1. Hold one meeting of planning to be convened in Johannesburg. This meeting took place in Pretoria from the 23-24th March 2006
2. Facilitate one more consultative visit to His Majesty King Mswati III for the delegation to report on actions embarked upon towards the launch. The Report Back took place on the 27th of March 2006 in Swaziland.
3. Support the official launch of the Council in Swaziland
4. Support- capacity building to strengthen the Council and strategy planning for programming activities

i) Planning Meeting

In October 2005, Their Royal Highnesses sent a delegation to Swaziland to meet with His Majesty and convey their sincere gratitude for His Majesty's offer to host the launch of the SADC Council. *Women for Change*, which is the interim secretariat of the council, organised the trip with funding from OSISA. At the

end of the visit and courtesy call, the delegation which was led by Senior chief Nalubamba of Zambia (*after the Interim Chairperson Nkosi Holomisa withdrew from the delegation after receiving news of family deaths*) decided that the Regional Committee should hold a Planning Meeting in Johannesburg to decide all the technical issues including how many delegates should come from each country, the venue, dates etc. This meeting of the technical committee is therefore very crucial as it will clear most of the issues above. The meeting took place from 23-24th March 2006 in Johannesburg. The RWI has funded this activity. Below is a summary of the resolutions and outcomes of the meeting.

- The number of delegates per country be set for ten (10)
- At least 1/3 of these be women
- Besides extending invitations to former and incumbent Heads of State and Government of the SADC countries, invitations be extended to special guests meant to include donors, financial and other institutions such as World Bank, UNDP, GTZ, Southern African Development Bank, African Development Bank, SADC, COMESA, etc
- Invitations to be extended to the Kings and Houses of Chiefs in the SADC region to attend in their own capacities besides their capacities as members of national delegations
- Kings and Houses of Chiefs to be requested to make contributions to the SADC Council
- Governments of participating countries be requested to fund travel and other costs of delegates
- Special and other guests to fund their own expenses
- Special and other guests to be requested to make a contribution to the SADC Council
- Each member organization to pay a flat contribution of USD 2000 the payment to be made before the launch of the SADC Council
- Observers each to pay a flat contribution of USD 200
- Venue to be decided by local committee

- The Meeting also revised the budget and finally came up with the final budget for the launch (Appendix 1)
- The Meeting also postponed the seminar from May 8-12, 2006 to July 3-7 2006 and also resolved that the Council needed to come up with a logo, emblem, vision and mission statements for the organization since it was moving towards being officially launched.

The Regional Technical Committee was established during the Regional Exchange Visit held in Zambia and comprises the SADC Council Chairperson and members of the delegation who include Paramount chief Mbelwa (Malawi), Senior chief Nalubamba (Zambia), Professor Michelo Hansungule (South Africa, Council Legal Advisor), WFC, and three chiefs from Swaziland led by Senator Chief Gelane Zwane.

ii) Report back to King Mswati

At the end of the Planning Meeting, the Committee visited His Majesty King Mswati to report on actions embarked upon towards the launch. The Report Back took place on 27th March 2006. During the visit in October, His Majesty emphasised that the launch needed to be discussed and organisational matters addressed particularly by the beginning of the 2006. The delegation therefore decided that at least one more visit to His majesty was necessary to report back to His Majesty on the progress and get his final input into the preparations of the launch. Below is a summary of the resolutions and outcomes of the meeting.

- the launch was postponed from July to October 2006
- His Majesty directed that a Secretariat involving representatives from the SADC Secretariat, WfC and Swaziland be established immediately to work together with Women for Change to deal with issues of fund raising, invitations, programme for the launch and other technicalities

- The meeting also resolved to invite all the SADC heads of state and kings from both the North and middle East.
- The Interim Executive Committee was to meet again in July after the seminar to review progress
- All invitations to other Heads of state and chiefs were to be sent through the Presidential office in the respective countries from His Majesty's office

iii) The Launch of the Council

The launch of the Council is scheduled to take place in Manzini, Swaziland in October 2006 (*Actual date yet to be decided at Planning meeting*). A local committee comprising of three chiefs led by Senator Chief Gelane Zwane from Swaziland is in charge of the local preparations in that country. *Women for Change* is coordinating the official launch of the Council because it is the interim secretariat and it is being assisted by the technical regional committee. The launch will be attended by different delegates including possibly Heads of state from the Southern Africa region. During the visit, the delegation requested His Majesty to invite Heads of States in the region in order to solicit the necessary support and recognition of the council from the respective governments. The standing position of Council is that 10 chiefs from all the SADC countries of Zambia, Malawi, Botswana, South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Swaziland (the host) as well as Mozambique, Angola and the DRC should attend the launch. Key cooperating partners of *Women for Change* including OSISA, RWI, HIVOS, Embassy of Ireland and other NGOs working with traditional leaders in the area of human rights and democracy building such as Umtapo WA Bo make (Swaziland), Women's Voice (Malawi) and Ditshwanelo (Botswana) will also be invited.

iv) Adoption of Constitution

At it's the last meeting held in Livingstone Zambia, in May 2004, the SADC Council members adopted a draft constitution for the Council. According to the

resolutions of the meeting (Appendix 3) the Council was to recommend the draft constitution to the next Conference for adoption to give the Council the legal recognition that it needs. At the meeting of the Technical Meeting in Pretoria (March 2006) it was decided the Constitution be adopted at the launch.

(v) Election of New Office Bearers

At the same Livingstone meeting, the Transitional Executive Committee reaffirmed its commitment to continue operating until such a time that a permanent Executive Committee of the Council shall be put in place. The Council was to convene a Conference at which elections to choose a new executive should have taken place. The Council decided in March 2006 that elections shall now be held at the launch after the adoption of the constitution.

5.3 Expected Outputs

At the end of the project, the following outputs are expected:

- A programme for the official launch of the Council (this has already been produced)
- Adoption of the Constitution and legal recognition of the Council
- Election of a permanent Executive Committee of the Council
- A well defined role of traditional leaders at regional level
- Guidelines on traditional leaders participation in the Council
- A well organised traditional leadership structure with clear mechanism and system of operation
- Well informed and mobilised leaders who can effectively contribute to governance and democracy building processes at both national and regional levels

5.4 Implementation of the Project

The project will be implemented by Women for Change with support from various partners in other countries including Umtapo WaBoMake from Swaziland, Women's Voice from Malawi among many others. Women for Change is also working closely with a regional technical committee comprising of the SADC Council Transitional Executive Committee, local chiefs from Swaziland and Umtapo and a legal advisor, who is also resource person for the whole process.

Appendix 1: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE LAUNCH, OCTOBER 2006

	PERIOD	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE PERSONNEL	STATUS OF AVTIVITY
1	March 2006	Technical Committee Planning Meeting Report Back to His Majesty	Secretariat (WfC) Regional Technical Committee of Council	Done
2	April-May 2006	Fund Raising Activities including Proposal Writing	Secretariat (WfC) Consultant	On Going
3	June 2006	Meeting in Swaziland Establishment of Secretariat Sending out invitations, finalising logistics etc Fundraising	Local Committee of chiefs in Swaziland Office of His Majesty King Mswati Secretariat (WfC)/SADC Council Chairperson's Office Secretariat	Done Not Yet Done On Going
4	July 2006	Meeting of Transitional Committee to Review Progress	Secretariat (WfC) Transitional Executive Committee	Done
5	August - September 2006	On going preparations including fundraising	Local Committee of chiefs in Swaziland Office of His Majesty King Mswati Secretariat (WfC)	On Going
6	October 2006	Launch of the Council Adoption of Constitution Elections	Transitional Executive Committee Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland Secretariat (WfC)	Not Yet Done

Appendix 3: Traditional Leadership in Building Democracy and Promoting Human Rights in the Region Exchange Programme

Concept Paper

As Southern Africa grapples with democratization processes and good governance, it is increasingly becoming imperative to review and assess the roles that various sectors can play in these processes. Democracy and good governance thrive on popular participation in shaping the direction and agenda of development for all in society. This therefore calls for the inclusion and participation of various sectors in development processes. The challenge, in this regard is to establish and sustain social structures and systems that promote and ensure popular participation by the citizenry.

In Southern Africa, and perhaps in most countries in the sub-region, traditional leadership systems and their related structures are one such social structure that is increasingly becoming a key variable in the effective execution and building of democratic processes. They wield enormous power in most countries, because they are the custodians of customs, traditions and practices that can either promote or hinder democratization processes, given the fact that the majority of populations in the region's countries are in the rural areas, where these traditional leaders have direct influence

Statement of the problem

Despite the influence that traditional leaders have among their constituencies, current political spaces and governance systems have not formally recognized, and more important, harnessed this power in their efforts to entrench a culture of human rights and in building democratic societies. Instead, the role of traditional leaders has been marginalized, thus, leaving out a key potential window of strengthening democratization process and promotion of human rights in the region. The case below illustrates how some traditional leaders have not yet grasped the concept of human rights and how they can promote its institutionalization in their communities and how this can work against democratization processes at national level.

“Women’s rights have gone too far - Mpezeni”
By Tabitha Mvula

PARAMOUNT chief Mpezeni of the Ngoni people of Eastern Province of Zambia has said that women's rights have gone too far.

In an interview on Wednesday, chief Mpezeni said it had become extremely difficult to punish female offenders as they had taken full advantage of human rights. "Women's rights have gone too far and many women have taken advantage of this," he said. Chief Mpezeni complained that the people's obsession with human rights was contributing to chiefs in the country losing their power. He said chiefs were now powerless because of human rights. "You cannot advise anybody who has done something wrong because they will rush to these human rights organisations," chief Mpezeni said. "When a person steals or kills and you want to punish them, they say they have human rights and they are protected." Chief Mpezeni said people in villages had started refusing to work insisting that manual labour was against their human rights. "Men even refuse to work on roads in their own villages, roads which are for their own good. They say they are being mistreated but who will develop the community if subjects themselves do not take a leading role?" chief Mpezeni asked.

And yet, initiatives by organisations such as Women for Change in Zambia have shown that traditional leaders are keen to participate in shaping democratic and good governance processes in their respective countries. As an institution that operates directly with the majority of the populations, they can inform national and regional policy-making, legislative and governance processes effectively as they are more in touch with the people, given their constituencies.

The problem is therefore defining the *nature* and *form* of this participation outlining *mechanisms* and *structures* that facilitates it. A key problematic is also to define and establish the levels at which they can participate, given the various levels of governance in modern states in the region. The challenge is to establish mechanisms that facilitate their active participation, as a structure operating at local community level, in national and regional_policy-making levels.

Justification

Whereas most countries in the region have traditional leadership structures in one form or another, there is need to establish a strong regional platform which can articulate and advocate for their role to be well-defined. Traditional leaders across the region generally face the same challenges when it comes to participation and recognition from their governments at both national and regional levels. However, some countries are more advanced than others in this regard. For instance, in countries such as South Africa, traditional leaders are more involved in national governance and state legislation whilst in other countries they are not as active.

However, given the historical, political, social and cultural linkages of the region, and the challenges such as HIV and AIDS, poverty, land appropriation,

among others, common to the region, it is imperative to move beyond national borders to regional strategies that can transform the region. This is even more so, given the fact that regional governments have themselves been pushing for more integrated approaches and interventions, evidenced by the formulation of regional policies and protocols to guide development processes at that level.

The links and cross border nature of most regional cultures and languages also creates opportunities to define standard regional guidelines and norms for the participation of traditional leadership in governance and democracy building processes. This is more so because traditional authority is, in structure, shared, with some cultures, languages and customs being spread across borders and some chiefs having dominion across borders e.g. Kazembe of Zambia ruling over some areas in the DRC.

More important, the general trend towards regional and sub-regional integration as a strategy for development also makes it imperative to mobilize and engage traditional leaders at regional level to enable them to actively participate in the development processes. Initiatives such as SADC integration, African Union, Nepad among others are such indicators of the drive towards regional blocs for development that inspire a regional approach to harnessing traditional leaders' participation in governance, and human rights and democracy building issues.

Project description

The Human Rights and Democracy Building programme of the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) intends to engage in an intervention that seeks to fill in this apparent gap. The programme seeks to work with partners to support a regional platform that redefines the role of traditional leaders in instituting democracy, human rights and good governance in the region. The idea is to strengthen and build the capacity of the SADC Traditional leaders Forum and come up with programming that contributes to progressive development of the people. The project is designed from the premise that violation of human rights are often perpetrated in the name of cultural practices, which are to a large extent, preserved and protected by traditional leaders. This makes them strategically placed to effectively challenge and discourage negative traditional and customary practices that violate some social groups' human rights.

Key activities/Methodology

- Support exchange programmes among traditional leaders across the region

- Support institutional capacity building for traditional leaders' structures at national level
- Support capacity-building to strengthen the SADC traditional leaders forum and assisting with strategy planning for programming activities
- Research to establish structures, systems, practices, laws and other provisions that hinder or enhance traditional leaders' participation in governance issues.
- Promoting the replication of the "traditional leaders human rights programme" in Zambia in three other countries as a pilot project.
- Produce a document on guidelines and norms for traditional leadership participation in governance and democracy building processes in the region. This could highlight the strategic linkages between traditional leadership structures with national parliamentary rule and legislative processes, civil society organisations etc.

Expected Outputs

- A well defined role of traditional leaders at regional level
- Guidelines on traditional leaders participation
- Well-informed and mobilized traditional leaders who can effectively contribute to governance and democracy building processes at both national and regional levels.
- Well-organized traditional leadership structures with clear mechanisms and systems of operation.
- Document on the state of legislation and practice of traditional leadership in the region
- Advocacy initiatives based on research findings.

Prospective partners

- Women for Change (Zambia)
- Southern African Research and Documentation Centre
- Umtapo wa Bomake (Swaziland)
- Women's Voice (Malawi)

The exchange programme

OSISA is exploring the possibility to partner with Women for Change, Umtapo and Women's Voice in undertaking the exchange programme to facilitate the sharing of ideas and models among traditional leaders from Botswana, Lesotho, Zambia and Swaziland, Malawi and Mozambique. The idea is to provide a forum for exchange of experiences and ideas, with a view to strengthen traditional

leaders' participation in human rights protection and democracy building across the region.

The proposed co-ordinator of the project is Women for Change, due to their experience in working with traditional leaders in Zambia. They will collaborate with Umtapo and Women's Voice in the preparations.

Participants

Participants at the workshop will include traditional leaders from the above Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia and representatives from the SADC Traditional leaders Forum and key other NGOs working with traditional leaders in the area of human rights and democracy building.

Duration

The exchange programme will be over two days, excluding travel days and would be hosted in Zambia, for logistical purposes.