

**THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN NETWORK FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH ON THE ENVIRONMENT (SANTREN) AND WEITERBILDUNG UND ENTWICKLUNG GGMBH (INWENT) CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP.**

SANTREN commemorated ten years of successful partnership with InWent at the Fairmount Hotel in Livingstone, Zambia from 27 to 29 January 2005. The workshop was attended by 37 participants who included the SANTREN Management Board and Secretariat, SANTREN Group Coordinators, dignitaries from Southern African Universities, the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), InWent, African Vitual University (AVU), Bremen Overseas Research and Development Associates (BORDA), Commonsense and eDegree. The general workshop objective was:

*“To celebrate ten years of collaboration among members of the SANTREN in partnership with InWent”*

The specific objectives of the workshop were to:

- Review the history of SANTREN and highlight its achievements, failures and lessons learnt.
- Outline SANTREN’s future through discussing and finalizing the logical framework of its Five-Year Strategic Plan.
- Obtain an overview of SANTREN’s e-learning programme and receive presentations of potential partners for e-learning.
- Discuss with potential partners future cooperation in the field of environmental research.

The programme was action packed with the first day dedicated to celebrating SANTREN’s partnership with InWent. The second day was dedicated to SANTREN’s future partnerships and the third to concretizing the partnerships and working out action plans for SANTREN’s future programmes.



**Participants of the workshop to celebrate SANTREN and InWent’s Partnership.**

**Celebration of a successful partnership**

The Official Opening was divided into the welcome remarks, presentation of key statements and the official opening speeches. The welcome remarks were presented by the Chairman of the SANTREN Board, Mr. Salvador Mondlane and the key statements by Dr Christina Kamlage, Programme Manager representing InWent and Prof Sara Feresu, Director of the Institute of Environmental Studies, the SANTREN Secretariat. Participants were welcomed to Livingstone by the Deputy Mayor of Livingstone and the workshop was then officially opened by the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Zambia, Prof. Lungwangwa

Dr. Christina Kamlage indicated that the achievements of SANTREN were remarkable and were without competition in the SADC region. She went on to say that SANTREN had the task to look back in order to learn from its achievements and mistakes so that it can use these reflections to move forward, increase its efficiency and to find a way to cope with the huge challenge of bringing SANTREN to sustainable grounds.



**Official opening session: from left, S. Mondlane, S. Feresu, Deputy Mayor of Livingstone and C. Kamlage**

The achievements made through the SANTREN/InWent partnership can be summarized as follows:

- Members of the network have benefited from 18 training of trainers courses. The courses were aimed at enhancing the capacity of SANTREN members to develop effective face to face courses.
- Members of the network underwent training under the SANTREN Instructional Designer, Editor courses and were equipped with skills for development of internet based courses.
- SANTREN developed 25 case-study-based short course training manuals on various key environmental issues.
- Twenty face to face short training courses were delivered benefiting more than 500 people from the SADC region.
- Four internet based training manuals were developed. The internet based courses are delivered as blended learning courses as they have a face to face component. The four courses are in the following areas; air pollution, mining and the environment, water resources management and waste management.
- SANTREN held its first international scientific conference on *Challenges in Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development* in May 2004.
- SANTREN has developed three metadata bases on the following:
  - Cleaner Production Methodologies.
  - Bibliography of Integrated Coastal Zones Management.

- Biological Resources of Lake Kariba and Lake Malawi. The databases are available on [www.santren.ac.zw](http://www.santren.ac.zw).
- SANTREN has developed an Environmental Experts database. This is a comprehensive database providing contact details and expert areas of environmental experts from the SADC region.
- SANTREN has held more than 50 meetings within the SADC region.
- The network publishes a quarterly newsletter circulated to more than 1,000 individuals and institutions.
- SANTREN successfully bided to write the section on smallscale mining under the Minerals, Mining and Sustainable Development (MMSD) project in preparation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).

**The major challenges facing SANTREN were identified as:**

- There was need to create demand for the developed courses by developing them further in line with market demand.
- There was need for clarity on who owns the rights over the materials developed through SANTREN.
- There was need for aggressive marketing of SANTREN's products.
- Although intellectual capital and capacity in knowledge management had been created through SANTREN, the challenge was on how to use this intellectual capital for the sustainability of SANTREN and to meet the development needs of the region. The solution was that the expertise should market itself in order to be used in the region and beyond. Opportunities for consultancies were considered available.
- The major challenge is that SANTREN should come up with viable sustainability strategies.

**Mapping the future of SANTREN through sustainable partnerships**

The second and third days of the workshop focused on mapping the future of SANTREN through sustainable partnerships. Presentations were made by two potential partners on eLearning i.e. eDegree Pvt Limited and African Virtual University while those on other environmental issues were made by

Sida, BORDA and an International Development Consultant. The potential partners presented their organisational profiles and proposed partnership models with SANTREN. The results of the session were very positive, with the following outputs:

#### **eDegree elected SANTREN's e-learning Partner**

SANTREN was to form a partnership with e-Degree Pvt Limited of South Africa on e-Learning. e-Degree was to seek accreditation of the SANTREN courses as well as market and administer the delivery of the courses while SANTREN was to provide the course content and tutor the courses. The intellectual property rights of the courses was to remain with SANTREN. InWent pledged to provide funding for a SANTREN e-Learning Manager if SANTREN established a Public Private Partnership (PPP) on e-Learning.



**Potential partners on e-Learning making their presentations. Above, Mr. N. Tattersall from e-Degree Pvt Limited and below Mr. P. Bateman from African Virtual University.**

#### **BORDA to collaborate with SANTREN on a Community Based Sanitation Programme for the SADC Region**

SANTREN and BORDA agreed to cooperate on the development of a community based sanitation project for the SADC region. Initially, round table discussions to ascertain demand for the project would be held in eight SADC countries. Once demand has been established, a full proposal would be developed and submitted to the European Union Water Fund for possible funding by the end of 2005.

#### **SANTREN to engage Sida in a project on the Zambezi River Basin**

Participants agreed to develop a concept note on Integrated Water Resources Management for the Zambezi River Basin. The project would initially involve Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi and if successful be duplicated in other countries. The focus of the project was to be on pollution, deforestation, siltation and governance. The concept was to be developed in liaison with Sida.

#### **SANTREN to develop a proposal on Environmental Management Systems**

Participants agreed to develop a joint concept note on environmental information systems in collaboration with Mr. Peter Zeil, a freelance Environmental Development Consultant from Germany. The joint proposal would be submitted to the European Union at the end of 2005.

### **SANTREN Strategic Plan**

The SANTREN Management Board commissioned the development of a SANTREN Five-Year Strategic Plan in 2003. The Strategic Plan is expected to guide SANTREN in its programmes and activities over the next five years. The process being employed to develop the Strategic Plan is highly consultative. The development of the SANTREN Strategic Plan has reached an advanced stage after its presentation at the Livingstone workshop and the incorporation of comments. The SANTREN Management Board is requesting members and any interested stakeholders to submit comments to the proposed objectives, key results and strategies before the Strategic Plan is finalized. Comments should be sent to the Secretariat on

email address: [doreen@ies.uz.ac.zw](mailto:doreen@ies.uz.ac.zw) or [director@computercentre.uz.ac.zw](mailto:director@computercentre.uz.ac.zw)



Some of the workshop participants in session

### Proposed Overall Objective

*To contribute towards the improved livelihoods of people in Southern Africa through environmental management research and training*

### Proposed Specific Objective

*The mission of SANTREN is to contribute meaningfully towards the proper management of the environment through training (capacity building), research, and extension services (consultancy)*

### Key Result Areas and Strategies for achieving the results

#### Key Result 1

SANTREN is efficiently and effectively managed

##### Strategies for Key Result 1

- There is an election/review of the Management Board every two years in accordance with the constitution.
- The Board develops and adheres to yearly plans in accordance with the Strategic Plan (programmes, budgets, deliverables, and staffing).
- The function of the Secretariat is clearly outlined.

- Performance of the Secretariat is measured every two years.
- The Secretariat develops and adheres to yearly plans in accordance with the Strategic Plan (programmes, budgets, deliverables, and staffing).
- The finances and assets of SANTREN are subject to normal auditing annually.

#### Key Result 2

Human capacity and awareness to effectively utilize and manage the environment are strengthened.

##### Strategies for Key Result 2

- The capacity of all SANTREN trainers is reviewed and enhanced annually.
- Develop at least two relevant new courses every two years.
- Review and update syllabi and contents of all existing courses bi-annually.
- Develop (or review) new delivery techniques (styles) suitable for the different target groups for each training course bi-annually.

#### Key Result 3

Contribution to the overall scientific understanding of environmental matters in SADC is enhanced.

##### Strategies for Key Result 3

- On average each group has one or more papers published annually in an international journal or conference.
- SANTREN holds at least one conference every three years.
- An online journal is published half yearly from the second half of 2005.

#### Key Result 4

Up-to-date information on management of the environment is sourced and properly disseminated.

##### Strategies for Key Result 4

- SANTREN web based skills database is kept current on the website.

- All SANTREN activities are kept current through the use of a website that is updated bimonthly by the groups.
- SANTREN is involved in publication of policy briefs within the region.
- SANTREN is actively involved in providing input in at least a fifth of the environmental outputs from the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD).
- At least three metadatabases are kept current.

***Key Result 5:***

Strong synergies are established between the different environmental groups.

*Strategies for Key Result 5*

- At least one inter-group activity is published every year.
- On average one inter-group workshop is hosted every year.
- SANTREN has strong strategic alliance with at least two environment groups by the end of the second year.

***Key Result 6:***

The Sustainability of SANTREN is ensured

*Strategies for Key result 6*

- SANTREN develops at least one sustainable and viable partnership with similar organizations which is in the best interest of the network every two years.
- SANTREN has a clear marketing strategy for all of its products.
- SANTREN continuously upgrades its products to be in line with the ever changing international trends.
- SANTREN participates in at least two relevant regional consultancies that are tendered annually.

In order to receive the Proceeding of the Workshop please contact the SANTREN Secretariat on [doreen@ies.uz.ac.zw](mailto:doreen@ies.uz.ac.zw) or download the proceeding from [www.santren.ac.zw](http://www.santren.ac.zw) or [www.santren.com](http://www.santren.com).