

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
AMONG
THE UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA,
THE EDUARDO MONDLANE UNIVERSITY,
THE UNIVERSITY OF VENDA FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG,
AND
THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

PREAMBLE

Noting that:

- I. The University of Botswana, the Eduardo Mondlane University, the University of Venda for Science and Technology, the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, and The University of Virginia have been involved in decades-long collaboration in the fields of environmental and ecological sciences, based on investigator-to-investigator research relationships, on-multi-year regional data collection and data synthesis projects, and on recent pilot projects in collaborative tele-education;
- II. Through larger-scale data collection and integration projects, the collaborators have pioneered a "regional" approach to understanding ecosystems within and those shared by countries with very different cultural histories. The collaborators have been in the forefront of exploiting new technological capabilities of satellite remote sensing and information technology in studying ecology on landscape and regional scales;
- III. The collaborators have embraced the shift from ecology as a science of natural systems to one that investigates the interrelationships and mutual dependencies of human and natural systems;
- IV. The collaborators have identified further opportunities for education, research and policy development in regional scale ecology and sustainability;

therefore these institutions agree to form a Consortium of Universities to pursue the following objectives and activities, subject to the following modes of cooperation, obligations and limitations:

Objectives:

- V. Strengthening of capacity of the member institutions through collaborative research and education programmes in regional ecosystem, long-term ecological and sustainable development studies.
- VI. Providing expanded and improved opportunities for staff and student development through training and exchange.
- VII. Expanding southern African capacity, in terms of both facilities and personnel, for regional ecosystem research, long-term ecological and science-to-policy development.
- VIII. Linking university-based research with sustainable development policy making within and between countries in southern Africa.
- IX. Fostering a regional approach to trans-national resource management.

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Key Activities

- X. Development of regional research questions and activities.
- XI. Science-to-Policy research programme development.
- XII. Collaborative curriculum development.
- XIII. Information and research infrastructure development.
- XIV. Staff and student training and exchange.
- XV. Sharing of expertise, facilities, data and scholastic materials.
- XVI. Joint fund raising from national and international agencies and investors.

Rights and obligations


- XVII. This is a non-exclusive agreement among the Consortium member institutions. The agreement preserves the right of each to work independently or with other institutions and organisations outside the Consortium.
- XVIII. The intent of this MOU is to use the resources of all five institutions, efficiently and effectively, to build in-region capacity for ecosystem research and education and to promote the use of scientific ecosystem research in policy decision-making.
- XIX. The units responsible for the implementation of this unit shall be Research and Development, University of Botswana; Faculty of Science, Eduardo Mondlane University; Environmental Advisory and Assessment Unit, University of Venda for Science and Technology; WiSE - Wits School of the Environment, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg; and the Center for Regional Environmental Studies, University Virginia.
- XX. Where appropriate, the five institutions jointly will seek funding for specific projects. Any reference to the MOU, individual projects conducted jointly under the MOU or to possible collaborations in communications with funders shall be with prior specific consent of the representatives responsible for the implementation of this MOU.
- XXI. None of the Consortium member institutions shall make any commitments or take any positions on behalf of the other without the prior written consent of the other parties.
- XXII. This MOU contains no enforceable obligations or rights. Particular joint activities between Consortium member institutions shall be the subject of separate written agreements between the parties.
- XXIII. This MOU is effective for three years, beginning on 24 July 2002 and ending on July 2005. This MOU may be renewed for further periods by written agreement between the Consortium member institutions. A Consortium member institution may withdraw from this MOU for any reason with one-year written notice.
- XXIV. This MOU may be modified only by written amendment executed by all Consortium member institutions.

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Signed:


at Maputo on 24 July 2002
Vice-Chancellor, University of Botswana


at Maputo on 24 July 2002
Vice-Chancellor, Eduardo Mondlane University


at Maputo on 24 July 2002
Vice-Chancellor, University of Venda for Science and Technology


at Johannesburg on 2 August 2002
for Vice-Chancellor, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg


at Maputo on 24 July 2002
Provost, University of Virginia

Witnesses:

