



Water in Africa: Hydro-Pessimism or Hydro-Optimism?

Água em África: Hidro-pessimismo ou Hidro-optimismo

Centro de Estudos Africanos da Universidade do Porto
Porto, Portugal, 2-3 October 2008

How does the river flow?

The Mphanda Nkuwa dam project
and China's impact in Southern Africa



Daniel Alvarenga

Analyst

Centre for Chinese Studies

University of Stellenbosch (South Africa)

dgalvarenga@gmail.com

2nd October 2008 – CEAUP
Water in Africa Conference



CENTRE FOR
CHINESE STUDIES

China's involvement in Dam construction in Africa

Algeria

2 Boukourdane Dam
Boukourdane River, CWE

Gambia

Sambangalou Dam; Gambia River,
Sinohydro

Guinea

Souapiti Dam; Konkoure River (508 MW, \$1 billion), China Exim Bank, Sinohydro;
Kaleta Dam Konkoure River (238 MW, \$257 million), Sinohydro

Ghana

Bui Dam Black River (400 MW, \$700 million), China Exim Bank, Sinohydro

Togo (and Benin)

Adjarala Dam Mono River (96 MW, \$36.5 million); China Exim Bank

Nigeria

Mambila Hydropower Dam Benue River (2,600 MW, \$1 billion), China Exim Bank, China Geo-engineering Corporation, Gezhouba; Zungeru Dam Kaduna River (950 MW, \$2 billion), China Exim Bank, Sinohydro

Cameroon

Lagdo Hydropower Station; Benoue River (4.18 MW), CWE

Gabon

Grand Poubara Power Station; Ogooue River (320 MW, \$83 million), China Exim Bank, Sinohydro; Belinga Dam; Ivindo River (\$3.5 million), CMEC, China Exim Bank

Central African Republic

Mbali Dam; Mbali Lim River, CWE

Republic of Congo

Imboulou Lefini River (120 MW, \$280 million), China Exim Bank, CMEC;
Moukougou Dam (repairs: \$4.6 million), China Exim Bank, CMEC

Sudan

Merowe Dam Nile River (1,250 MW, \$1.2 billion), China Exim Bank, CWE, Sinohydro

Ethiopia

Neshi River Hydroelectric Dam;
Neshi River (100 MW), Gezhouba;
Tekeze Hydroelectric Dam Nile River (25 MW, \$224 million), Sinohydro, Gezhouba, Yangtze River Commission

Uganda

Ayago North and South Hydropower Dams Nile River (530 MW, \$900 million), China Development Bank, CITIC and Gezhouba

Burundi

Mugere Hydropower Station;
Mugere River (8 MW), CWE, Guangxi Water and Electric Power Construction Group

Congo, Democratic Republic of

Grand Inga (Inga 3); Congo River (39,000 MW - total combined 3 dams, \$80 billion), Sinohydro

Zambia

Lower Kafue Gorge Power Station Kafue River (750 MW, \$1 billion +), Sinohydro;
Kariba North Bank Hydropower Station (extension) Zambezi River (360 MW, \$243 million), Sinohydro

Botswana

Dikgatlong Dam; Shashe and Tati Rivers (\$203 million); Sinohydro

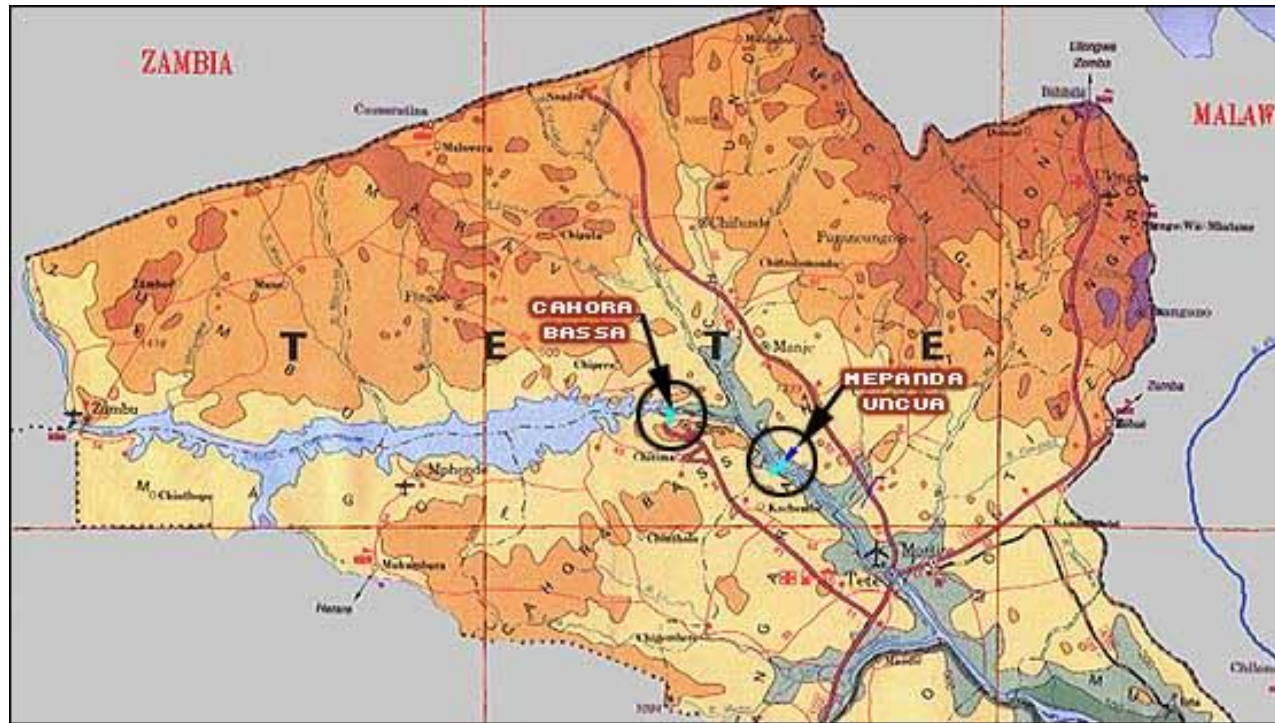
Mozambique

Mphanda Nkuwa Dam, Zambezi River (1,500 MW, \$3.2 million), China Exim Bank (MOU signed with government); Moamba Major Project Incomati River (\$360 million), China Exim Bank (MOU signed with government)



Adapted from: International Rivers Network
2008 *The New Great Walls - A guide to
China's overseas dam industry*

Site of Mphanda Nkuwa Dam in Mozambique (Tete Province)



Source: UTIP , Unidade Técnica de Implementação dos Projectos Hidroeléctricos (www.utip.org.mz)



Why is China interested in Africa's Water resources?

- Africa's water sector is one of the many dimensions of the engagement
- a development partner ?
- an economic competitor ?
- a colonizer ?
- Africa: a scar in Bono's conscience vs. a business opportunity – Risk in Africa is being recalculated

Evidence from Mphanda Nkuwa Dam

- Profile of the dam
- The negotiation process
- Mphanda Nkuwa – What impact on livelihoods?



CENTRE FOR
CHINESE STUDIES

Recommendations

- Urgent to tap into China's hints of pragmatism
- Importance of details and weak signs
- Contextualise each project within micro and macro frameworks, affect change accordingly



CENTRE FOR
CHINESE STUDIES