



Joint Declaration
to implement the Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate
Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL)

between

the Governments of the Republic of Angola, Republic of Botswana, Federal
Republic of Germany, Republic of Namibia, Republic of South Africa and
Republic of Zambia

We, the Ministers representing the participating member countries gathered on
18th April 2012 in Windhoek, Namibia,

recognise the inter-relations between climate change, human activities and land
management in Southern Africa;

acknowledge that the envisaged scientific co-operation is aimed at addressing
the important issues of food security, poverty alleviation, socio-economic and
environmental aspects, and sustainable land management and development;

G.S.H.

acknowledge that the emerging challenges are not confined within national borders, thus requiring strong and long-lasting regional partnerships to strengthen scientific potential in Southern Africa;

consider that the development of scientific and technological cooperation should be of mutual and long-lasting benefit to all the participating countries;

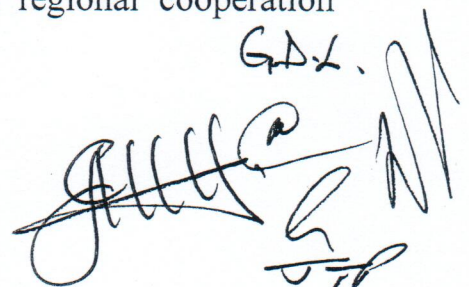
recognise that the German government has committed seed funding to support capacity development, service provision and research;

further recognise the contribution of the African partners to establish a regional initiative to address issues of climate change and land management;

affirm political and financial commitment of the African partners to share responsibility to promote, establish and sustain the joint initiative;

hereby:

- Confirm to cooperate and strengthen the regional scientific capacity in the following focus areas: agriculture, biodiversity, climate, forestry, and water;
- Commit to establish jointly the Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL) and to maintain it as a strong regional cooperation initiative;

G.D.L.


- Further approve that SASSCAL will commence with five country nodes and Secretariat hosted by the Republic of Namibia;
- Endeavour to consolidate existing initiatives on climate change and sustainable land management in Southern Africa;
- Confirm that the Integrated Science and Implementation Plan for SASSCAL will serve as its founding document;
- Commit to work towards a legally binding agreement to be signed by designated entities by 31 July 2012.

G.D.L.

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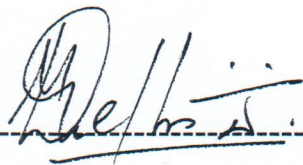
This Joint Political Declaration was signed at Windhoek, Namibia, 18th April 2012, in six original copies, in the English, Portuguese and German languages, each being equally valid.

For the Government of the
Republic of Angola



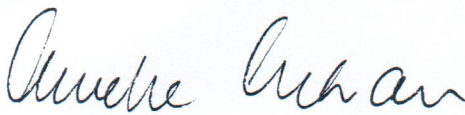
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For the Government of the
Republic of Botswana




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For the Government of the
Republic of Germany



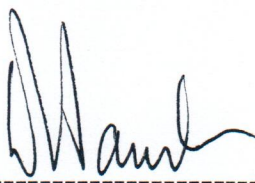
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Anette Luban', written over a horizontal dashed line.

For the Government of the Federal
Republic of Namibia



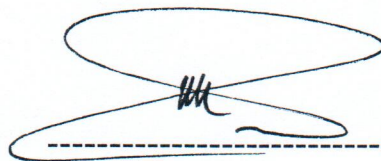
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. G.', written over a horizontal dashed line.

For the Government of the
Republic of South Africa



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mand', written over a horizontal dashed line.

For the Government of the
Republic of Zambia



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M.', written over a horizontal dashed line.