



ENVIRONMENT



Okavango River Basin

PORTFOLIO 2010-2017

- \$60 million
- Key Sectors:
 - Biodiversity Conservation
 - Integrated Water Resource Management
 - Water Supply & Sanitation
 - Climate Adaptation
 - Resiliency
 - Illegal Wildlife Harvesting & Trade
 - Integrated Disaster & Climate Management and Planning

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Overview

The USAID/Southern Africa regional environment team supports programs that promote sustainable economic growth in targeted areas by integrating climate change into policy and decision making, and ensuring sound management of transboundary natural resources. In particular, USAID supports the Global Climate Change (GCC) Presidential Initiative, the Congressional Biodiversity and Water earmarks and the Presidential Executive Order on Wildlife Trafficking.

Through its environmental programs, USAID enhances the resiliency of critical river basins in Southern Africa, improves capacity to cope with climate change, enhances capacity to conserve biodiversity and combat wildlife trafficking, and advances environmental innovation. USAID also works to integrate improved water and sanitation services with strategies that address inefficient water use, water losses, poor management and wastage.

Enhancing Resiliency of Southern Africa's River Basins

USAID/Southern Africa works to improve transboundary management and decision making for water, biodiversity and associated natural resources, resulting in sustainable, equitable and rational use of natural resources to meet human development and ecological needs.

Many countries in the Southern Africa region are either currently experiencing water scarcity or are vulnerable to water stress. The integrity of ecosystems is under threat, with biological diversity being lost. Climate change is likely to exacerbate these problems, with the potential to limit economic development in the decades to come.

All major rivers in the region flow across national boundaries. Cooperative decision making and management are necessary to conserve biodiversity and ensure equitable and efficient use of water and other natural resources. USAID/Southern Africa currently works in the Okavango, Limpopo, and Orange-Senqu River Basins.

Combating Wildlife Trafficking

Through technical assistance, training and partnerships with key actors in the region (including governments, donors, the private sector, and communities), USAID/ Southern Africa is working to develop innovative, trans-disciplinary approaches to addressing wildlife crime that can be disseminated throughout the region.

The program specifically focuses on reducing threats to Southern African rhino populations in South Africa and neighboring countries. Illegal wildlife trade is a multi-billion dollar enterprise that threatens the survival of endangered species, biological diversity as well as the peace and security of fragile regions.

Improving Capacity to Cope with Climate Change

USAID/Southern Africa promotes the integration of climate change into policy, decision-making and practice. Climate change has the potential to be a major stressor limiting development potential in Southern Africa over the next century. While the full scope of climate impacts is not yet fully understood for the region, overall evidence indicates an increase



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in more intense and severe weather events, such as storms, floods and droughts, sea-level rise, and a shift in agro-ecological zones.

USAID provides technical assistance to improve understanding of the potential impacts of climate change in targeted geographies, while developing regional, national and local capacity to address these impacts.

Advancing Environmental Innovation

Global change, in the form of climate impacts, population growth and an increased and unsustainable demand on natural resources, demands a new kind of thinking and acting to ensure a sustainable future for Southern Africans.

USAID promotes the development and adoption of innovative, science-based solutions to support vibrant and ecologically sustainable development. This includes innovative inquiry on wildlife trade, renewable energy solutions, combating invasive aquatic species, and rehabilitating coral reefs, among others.

Southern Africa





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ACTIVITIES	PRIME/ SUBS	TIME- FRAME	TOTAL EST. COST	BRIEF SUMMARY
Southern African Regional Environment Program (SAREP)	Chemonics International	2010 - 2017	\$23.3 million	Strengthens regional capacities of the Permanent Okavango River Water Basin Commission, national and local governments, and communities within Angola, Botswana, and Namibia to improve management of transboundary natural resources that are critical for ecosystem services, wildlife, and sustainable development.
Resilience in the Limpopo River Basin (RESILIM)	Chemonics International, One World, Global Water Partnership	2012 - 2017	\$14.6 million	Improves transboundary management of the Limpopo River Basin resulting in enhanced resiliency of its people and ecosystems, in partnership with the Limpopo Water Course Commission.
Resilience in the Limpopo River Basin-Olifants (RESILIM-Olifants)	Association for Water and Rural Development (AWARD)	2012 - 2017	\$10.7 million	Improves transboundary governance and management of the Olifants Catchment in the Limpopo River Basin in partnership with a consortium of local stakeholders.
Water and Ecosystem Security in the Orange-Senqu River Basin	IUCN	2012-2017	\$2.3 million	In partnership with the Orange-Senqu River Commission and local NGO's based in each of the four riparian states, this program supports scientific analysis and pilot projects that balance ecosystem requirements with human needs to ensure lasting water provision services.
Climate Change Adaptation in the Lesotho Highlands	Institute of Natural Resources, Serumula Development Association, GROW Lesotho	2010-2018	\$1.5 million	Supports the government and local communities in Lesotho to strengthen their abilities to respond to potential impacts of climate change through more sustainable environmental policies and practices.
Stepping Up to Sustainability	Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA)	2011-2017	\$2.74 million	Builds the competency of local communities and citizens across South Africa to cope with climate change through an innovative approach that is rooted in long-term behavior change.
Reef Rescuers	Nature Seychelles	2010-2019	\$1 million	Supports the development and testing of 'reef gardening' to restore productive coral reefs threatened by climate change.
Local Action for Biodiversity – Wetland Management in a Changing Climate	ICLEI –Local Governments for Sustainability – Africa Secretariat	2014-2018	\$0.99 million	Improve local government and citizen knowledge of the value of biodiversity and the environment, integrate ecosystem services and biodiversity into planning and implement wetland rehabilitation projects in South Africa.
Wildlife Trafficking Response, Assessment & Priority Setting (buy-in)	IUCN, TRAFFIC	2013-2017	\$.075 million	Strengthens the knowledge, capacities and coordination amongst key stakeholders to fight illegal wildlife trade between Africa and Asia (Award managed in Washington).
South Africa's Low Emissions Development (SA-LED)	S.A. DEA & DST	2015-2020	\$14 million	The program will provide project development capabilities and strengthen public sector-related development planning skills for low emissions development.