



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# RESILIENT WATERS

PROGRAM

**FACTSHEET**

# BUILDING RESILIENCE AND WATER SECURITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Water shortages, natural disasters like floods and droughts, and widespread declines in crop productivity are just some of the challenges faced by people living in Southern Africa. As climate change further threatens this already water-scarce region, drastic action is needed to stop the situation from worsening. One way to secure the vital but fragile biodiversity of the area is through transboundary cooperation and adaptive, dynamic management of its critical river ecosystems, ensuring the livelihoods of all who depend on them. USAID's **Resilient Waters** Program is a project implemented by Chemonics International. The program aims to build resilient, water-secure communities and ecosystems in Southern Africa through the improved management of transboundary natural resources, increased access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation services. The geographic focus is on the Limpopo River Basin, home to 18 million people living in parts of South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, and on the the Okavango River Basin, with its population of one million people in Angola, Namibia, and Botswana. The project will be implemented in cooperation with USAID, the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), and other regional structures such as River Basin Organization (RBOs) and Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs). To expand its impact, **Resilient Waters** emphasizes strong learning goals and partnerships which builds upon previous and ongoing USAID investments in the region. This project directly supports the implementation of a number of regional objectives, including the SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses and the SADC Biodiversity Strategy.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

### RESILIENT WATERS CONTACT

Communications Specialist  
Nandipha Kunaka  
[nkunaka@resilientwaters.com](mailto:nkunaka@resilientwaters.com)  
+27 60 696 7198

### USAID CONTACT

Jeanette Normand  
[jnormand@usaid.gov](mailto:jnormand@usaid.gov)  
+27 12 452 2352

# OUR CONSORTIUM PARTNERS



# OUR REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS



# OUR PRESENCE



-  TFCAs
-  River Basins

# PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

1. To improve transboundary water security and resource management.
2. To increase access to safe, sustainable drinking water and sanitation services.
3. To strengthen the ability of communities and key institutions to adapt to change, especially the impact of climate change in the region.
4. To conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services.



## TARGETED RESULTS

- Strengthened institutional arrangements at various scales.
- Increased access to safe, affordable, appropriate drinking water supply and sanitation services, including improved conditions for WASH investments.
- Enhanced decision-making capacity, grounded in science, to respond to climate risks.
- Improved management practices that mitigate threats to biodiversity and improve ecological integrity.

# IMPROVING TRANSBOUNDARY WATER SECURITY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Improving transboundary water security and resource management requires action and effort at all levels. **Resilient Waters** will enhance transboundary governance structures and build cooperation to improve planning. Technical support will also be provided in areas like environmental flow, ground water, and information management. **Resilient Waters** has engaged with the Greater Limpopo and Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Areas, the Limpopo and Okavango Watercourse Commissions, and SADC, in order to define areas of partnership and support. These include joint planning sessions and ensuring initial buy-in from key beneficiaries and stakeholders. **Resilient Waters** works closely with partners to develop capacity building plans and engage with decision-makers and high-level government officials through training and round-table discussions, working towards developing a shared understanding of resilience within the region. This also allows for an environment where stakeholders are able to share the latest in resilience thinking, build technical capacity, strengthen networks that promote resilience.



## INCREASING ACCESS TO SAFE, SUSTAINABLE DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES

The **Resilient Waters** approach to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) entails working with WASH-sector evaluation mechanisms like the World Health Organization's Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS), in close cooperation with national WASH institutions, in order to foster an enabling environment for WASH protocols at a regional level. **Resilient Waters** will integrate new technologies that include infrastructural, mobile applications and smart monitoring technologies into activities wherever possible, while drawing on models such as locally-based commercial units for maintenance of water supply infrastructure and City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation.

Through this approach we also create opportunities for building resilience through livelihood diversification. This is another component of the **Resilient Waters** Project and a key program output - to strengthen the adaptive capacity of communities in response to climate change. It also offers excellent potential for stronger incentives when it comes to monitoring the use of water resources, WASH, and the broader impacts on biodiversity and conservation in the region.

## STRENGTHENED ABILITY OF COMMUNITIES AND KEY INSTITUTIONS TO ADAPT TO CHANGE, PARTICULARLY THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The **Resilient Waters** Project will strengthen the resilience of institutions and communities to respond to diverse hazards by improving their capacity to plan for change. This entails integrating data into decision-making processes and enhancing strategic partnerships with the private sector. The program facilitates scenario-based planning exercises with SADC and other key institutions, with implementation of resilience assessments across the region. These will identify capacity-building needs and help with the design of evidence-based adaptation strategies. Key municipalities and hotspots for collaboration have been identified using existing vulnerability assessments from SAREP and RESILIM. **Resilient Waters** is also developing Urban Resilience Strategies for areas within Okavango and Limpopo, introducing and embedding Climate Change Financing Frameworks into annual budget processes as a means of “resilience-proofing” them. **Resilient Waters** will, going forward, conduct a review of opportunities that promote climate-smart interventions. This will include the development of strategic guidelines that promote partnerships between communities and the private sector, especially relating to climate-smart agriculture and renewable energy cooperatives ecotourism opportunities.



## CONSERVED BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Activities that fall under this **Resilient Waters** objective aim to enhance the conservation of biodiversity while promoting private sector engagement. This includes sustainable livelihood activities that support the coexistence of wildlife, biodiversity-rich habitats and people. Collaborating with various national and regional authorities, the **Resilient Waters** team has defined priority areas relating to the conservation of wildlife corridors. This encompasses a review of existing management plans and the development of draft action plans to increase the protection of these key areas. The program will continue to leverage key relationships to improve the collection and integration of data from wildlife monitoring systems within RBOs and TFCA, while incorporating spatial geographic information system (GIS) data into basin-level monitoring. The program will also work with land boards and local governments to evaluate the best way to roll out tools like the Land-Use Conflict Identification Strategy (LUCIS) in targeted areas using a landscape-scale approach. In coordination with **Resilient Waters** WASH activities, many which aim to improve livelihoods, the project also seeks to maximize sustainable ecotourism benefits for communities. One instance of this would be to support the development of the Luiana complex in south-eastern Angola in collaboration with the Kavango–Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA). **Resilient Waters** will also review potential opportunities for climate-adapted livelihood diversification through both private-public partnerships and grants to community-based organizations that support community-based tourism and community livelihoods.