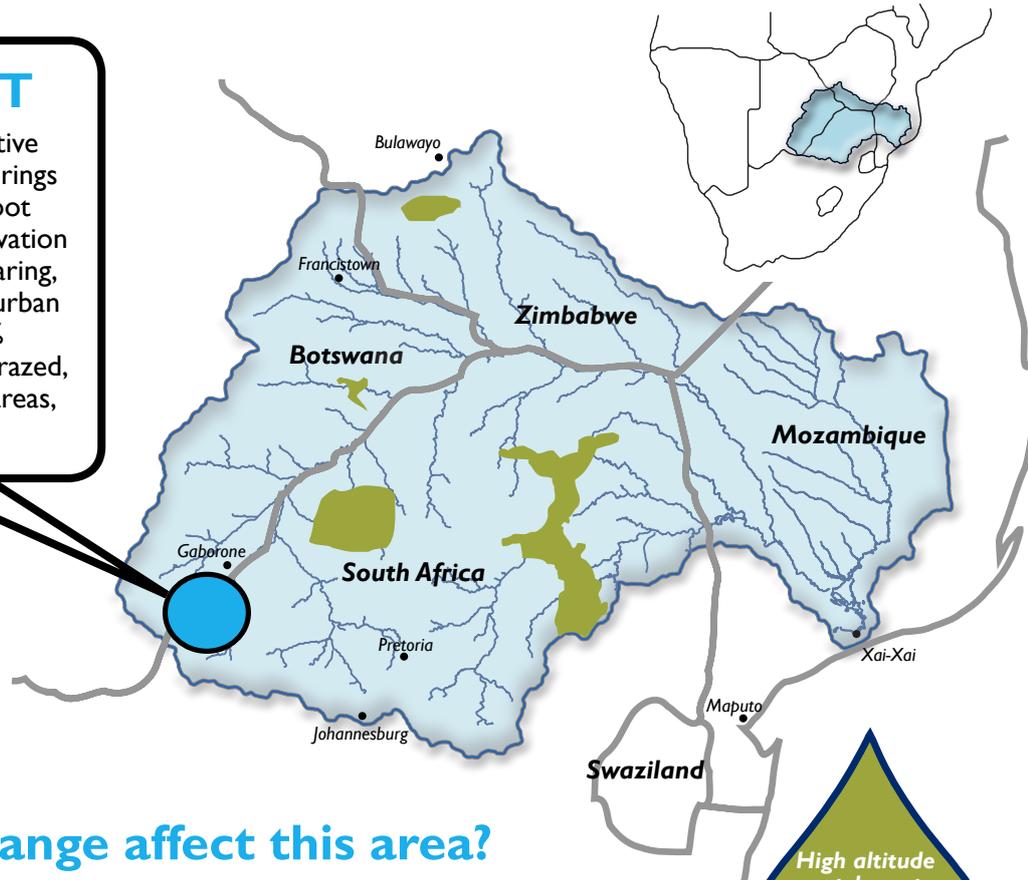


THE LIMPOPO RIVER BASIN: IDEAS FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE

AREA SNAPSHOT

Source of the Limpopo River. Sensitive ecosystem with dolomitic aquifers. Springs and wetlands fed by the Upper Groot Marico catchment are of great conservation significance. Livelihoods: livestock rearing, subsistence and commercial farming, urban livelihoods. Current realities: 36% unemployment, semi-arid areas over-grazed, high water demand in nearby urban areas, frequent droughts.



High altitude catchment areas are the main sources of water, producing 100 times more than low-lying areas.

How will climate change affect this area?



CLIMATE CHANGE

- Increased temperature
- More thunderstorms



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- Drier soils
- Decreased river levels
- Increased drought



HUMAN & ECOSYSTEM IMPACTS

- Decreased agricultural productivity
- Decreased grazing/vegetation
- Lost biodiversity
- Risk of conflict over water

WE HAVE THE POWER TO ADAPT

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

Ensure Botswana and South Africa reach binding agreements on water use and management

Link development planning and water allocation

Legislate conservation of Upper Groot Marico catchment

Improve waste and sewerage management

Limit new mining on Marico River

Control invasive species

Improve monitoring of climate trends, groundwater usage

Identify alternative economic growth opportunities and food systems

LEARN MORE

THIS CASE STUDY features one of eight Resilience Action Areas described in Risk, Vulnerability & Resilience in the Limpopo River Basin (2015). Produced by One-World Sustainable Investments for the USAID Southern Africa Resilience in the Limpopo River Basin (RESILIM) program, the report is available at <https://www.usaid.gov/documents/1860/risk-vulnerability-and-resilience-limpopo-river-basin-synthesis-0>. RESILIM collaborates with government and nongovernmental institutions across the four basin countries to improve water management, promote biodiversity, and support climate change adaptation.



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