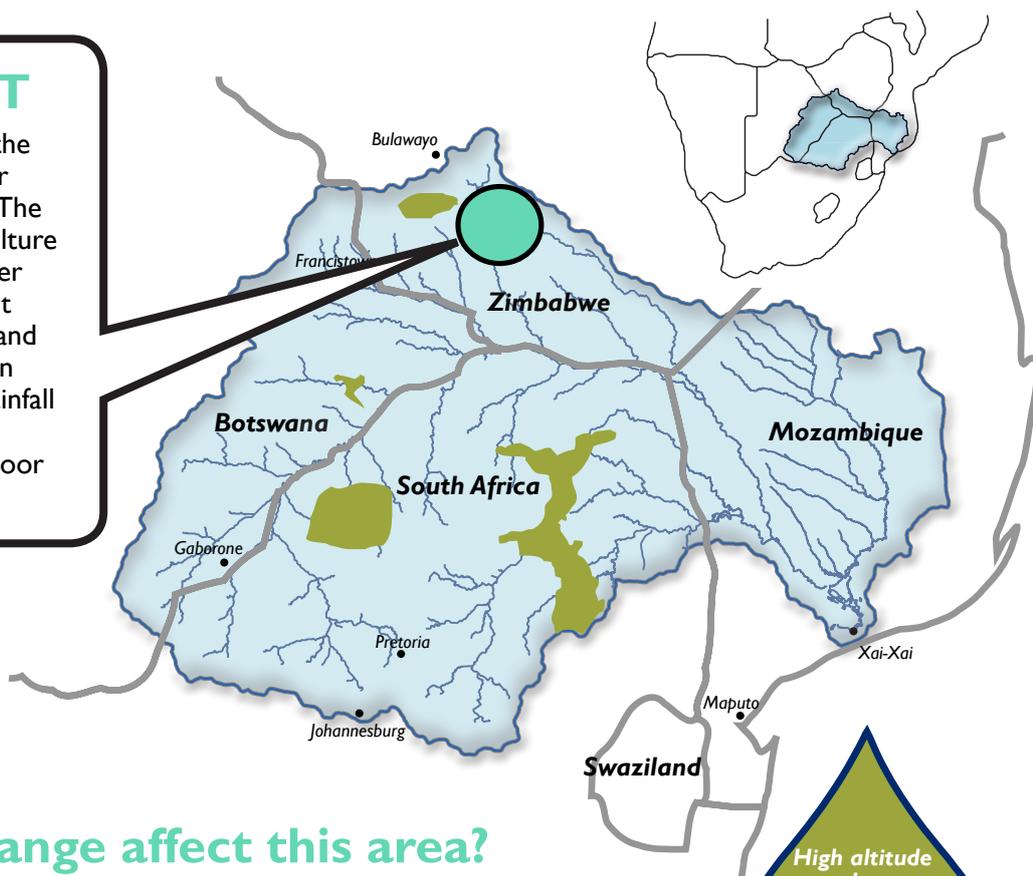


# RESILIENCE ACTION AREA 4: Upper Umzingwane (Zimbabwe)

## THE LIMPOPO RIVER BASIN: IDEAS FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE

### AREA SNAPSHOT

A major tributary to the Limpopo, the Umzingwane is an ephemeral river dependent on inter-seasonal rainfall. The area has a long, hot dry season. Agriculture and gold mining/panning in the upper catchment cause erosion, sediment transport and pollution in the river and tributaries. Livelihoods, especially in agriculture, are highly vulnerable to rainfall changes, with frequent droughts contributing to food insecurity and poor nutrition.



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 droughts
- Increased temperature
- More thunderstorms



#### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- Decreased flow of ephemeral rivers
- Slower recharge of aquifers
- Increased risk of wildfires
- More animal disease



#### HUMAN & ECOSYSTEM IMPACTS

- Increased land degradation and less grazing
- Lower agricultural productivity and increased food insecurity
- Increased mining adds to water pollution
- Increased migration

WE HAVE THE POWER TO ADAPT

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

**Increase stakeholder involvement  
in planning, decision-making**

**Diversify to climate-friendly  
livelihoods**

**Reduce threats to  
biodiversity from erosion  
and water pollution**

**Rehabilitate  
small dams  
and irrigation  
schemes**

**Improve  
soil water  
conservation  
practices**

**Promote  
sustainable  
use of  
groundwater**

**Strengthen management,  
governance of water and  
infrastructure**

**Manage water use  
when mining and  
agricultural demand  
exceeds supply**

## 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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