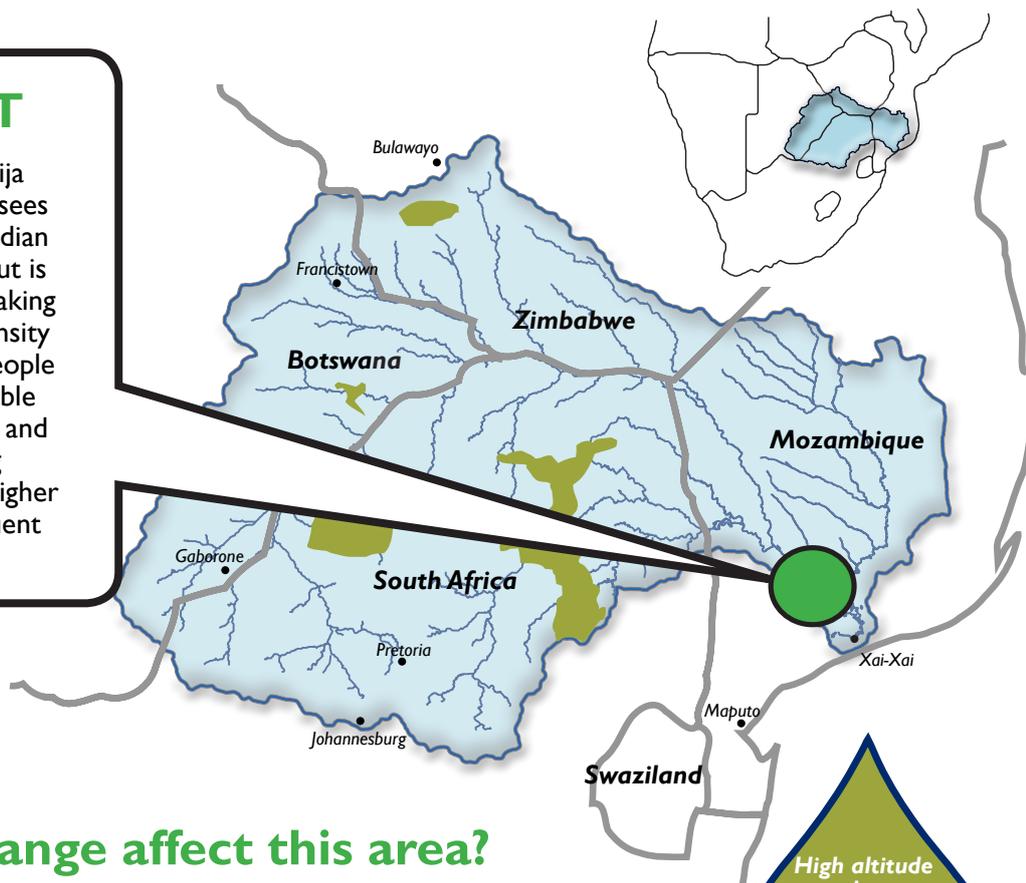


THE LIMPOPO RIVER BASIN: IDEAS FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE

AREA SNAPSHOT

Reaching from Chokwe through Guija district to Xai-Xai, this low-lying area sees the Limpopo River to its end at the Indian Ocean. The area has some wetlands but is dominated by a soil-rich flood plain, making it prime for agriculture. Population density is high, particularly in urban centers. People are generally poor and highly vulnerable to severe flooding caused by cyclones and heavy upstream rainfall, prompting unplanned growth as they migrate to higher ground. Inland areas experience frequent droughts.



How will climate change affect this area?



CLIMATE CHANGE

- Increased rainfall
- Fewer but more intense cyclones and storm surges
- Rising sea levels

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



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- Increased flooding
- Inland droughts more frequent
- Transition to sub-humid climate in some parts



HUMAN & ECOSYSTEM IMPACTS

- Water logging of productive land
- Increased food insecurity
- Increased disease, especially malaria
- Major infrastructure costs

WE HAVE THE POWER TO ADAPT

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

Improve flood early warning systems and catchment management

Understand climate impacts on health, strengthen health services

Replant and protect coastal mangrove and other forests

Shift to climate-friendly livelihoods, leverage development corridors



Improve climate-sensitive planning and development



Rehabilitate infrastructure to climate-resilient standards

Improve transportation to enable effective disaster response

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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