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
• Lower rainfall and shorter rainy season

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS
• Increased evaporation
• Water quality worsens with declining flows
• Declining soil moisture and vegetation

HUMAN & ECOSYSTEM IMPACTS
• Severe land degradation diminishes productivity
• With increasing desertification, biodiversity declines
• Potential for water conflict
• Declining food security and human health

WE HAVE THE POWER TO ADAPT
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

Take action when demand exceeds supply, e.g. Oliphants River abstraction

Identify alternative economic growth and livelihoods

Promote sustainable, climate-smart development

Legislate conservation of Sekhukhuneland grasslands

Improve soil water conservation

Strengthen governance, especially water resources and infrastructure

Prevent spills and improve waste, sewerage management

Remove alien vegetation and invasive species

RESILIM is made possible through the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents of this brief do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

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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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