



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SOUTHERN AFRICA

RESILIM : Resilience in the Limpopo River Basin Program

EVERY RIVER HAS ITS PEOPLE

With Ms. Mmapula

and Mr. Mbakiso



Building the resilience of People and Ecosystems



Building the Resilience of People and Ecosystems

Mmapula, did you know that the Department of Water Affairs Francistown and RESILIM are working together with other stakeholders of the Francistown Community to take care of the Tati River?



Oh, great idea! Mbakiso, the community needs to be aware of the condition of their river! You and I are the community and everybody else who lives along the Tati River or who uses the river for drinking, bathing and watering plants.



Oh, so no river is without a community?



Yes, every river has its people.

Mmapula, are you aware of the bad condition of the Tati River, and that this polluted water flows into the Limpopo River? The Limpopo River flows through South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique and this forms the Limpopo River Basin.



No not really, but I always see reeds growing in the river channels and foreign objects thrown in the river where our cattle drink. This cannot be good for us or the people who live downstream in the Limpopo River Basin.



The fact is, our river is facing many challenges such as:

- Rubbish being thrown in the river
- Excessive sand mining
- Strange and foreign plants growing in the river
- Wearing away of the river bed and banks
- Chemicals and all sorts of things thrown in the river that poison the life of the river
- People drawing water from the river without licenses



Yes, and there are many businesses activities taking place along the Tati River such as:

- Car washes
- Car workshops
- Welding workshops
- Brick molding
- Gardening/farming

These activities can pollute our river.



This is a serious matter because now the water in the river is not clean, because of the pollution and the amount of water flowing downstream is severely reduced. This has serious implications on the downstream ecosystems and on community livelihoods and this situation is likely to get worse with the climate change impacts in the Limpopo River Basin.



Oh, so that means, what people do in the Tati River will have effect on other areas of the Limpopo River Basin? Communities need to take responsibility of their river to make sure they have clean rivers.

Yes, let's get together and care for our river. Remember every river has its own people. And a healthy, resilient river means a resilient community.



Building the Resilience of People and Ecosystems



Fortunately something is already being done to help us care for our river.

What is being done? How can we be part of it?



There is a programme that will help us, RESILIM is an initiative that provides support from the American people to the Limpopo River Basin.

Through the Department of Water Affairs and RESILIM, we now have the Tati River Management Committee which is responsible for the overall coordination of how we take care of the Tati River in Francistown. The committee members are various government departments, the private sector, non-government organisations and civil society.



Oh, that is interesting! It's good because we all want a healthy, resilient river and Limpopo River Basin for the communities, for the animals and the plants.



Health and resilience of our river

Resilience means that you are able to cope with or recover from a bad impact or shock. With climate change impacts such as less rain and high temperatures our rivers and the water it provides are under threat. People are also threatening our water resources through pollution, too much use of water, taking out the plants and trees that form part of an ecosystem. It is important that we have rivers and the people and animals and plants that live around it, that are resilient to the impacts of climate change.

What is a healthy, resilient river?

A river is healthy when you and other animals can drink from it; you can give its water to your crops, and your children can swim in the river without being scared of getting sick.



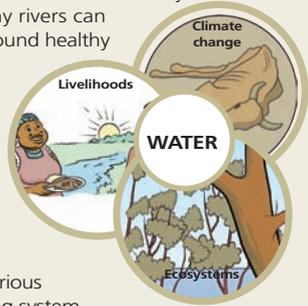
How do we benefit from healthy, resilient rivers?

We benefit from clean and healthy rivers as clean, fresh water helps us to do our daily activities, such as cooking and washing. The fish that live in healthy rivers can be used as an excellent food source. The grass, trees and bushes around healthy rivers also attract animals and birds. We and our livestock and crops stand a better chance of an improved quality of life, when our rivers are clean and healthy.

Resilient and healthy river with clean and fresh water helps us improve our **livelihoods** by providing fresh water for cooking and washing. The fish in the rivers is good for eating. We can water our crops and have drinking water for our livestock.

The plants around a healthy and resilient river provides a home for various animals that form part of an **ecosystem**. The plants serve as a filtering system that also help keep the water clean.

If we have a resilient and healthy river it will help us to cope with current and future **climate change** impacts such as less rainfall and higher temperatures”.

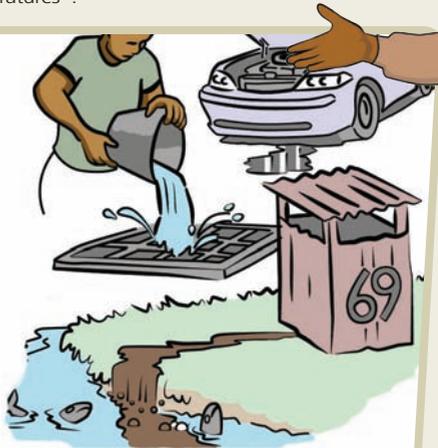


Household Practices

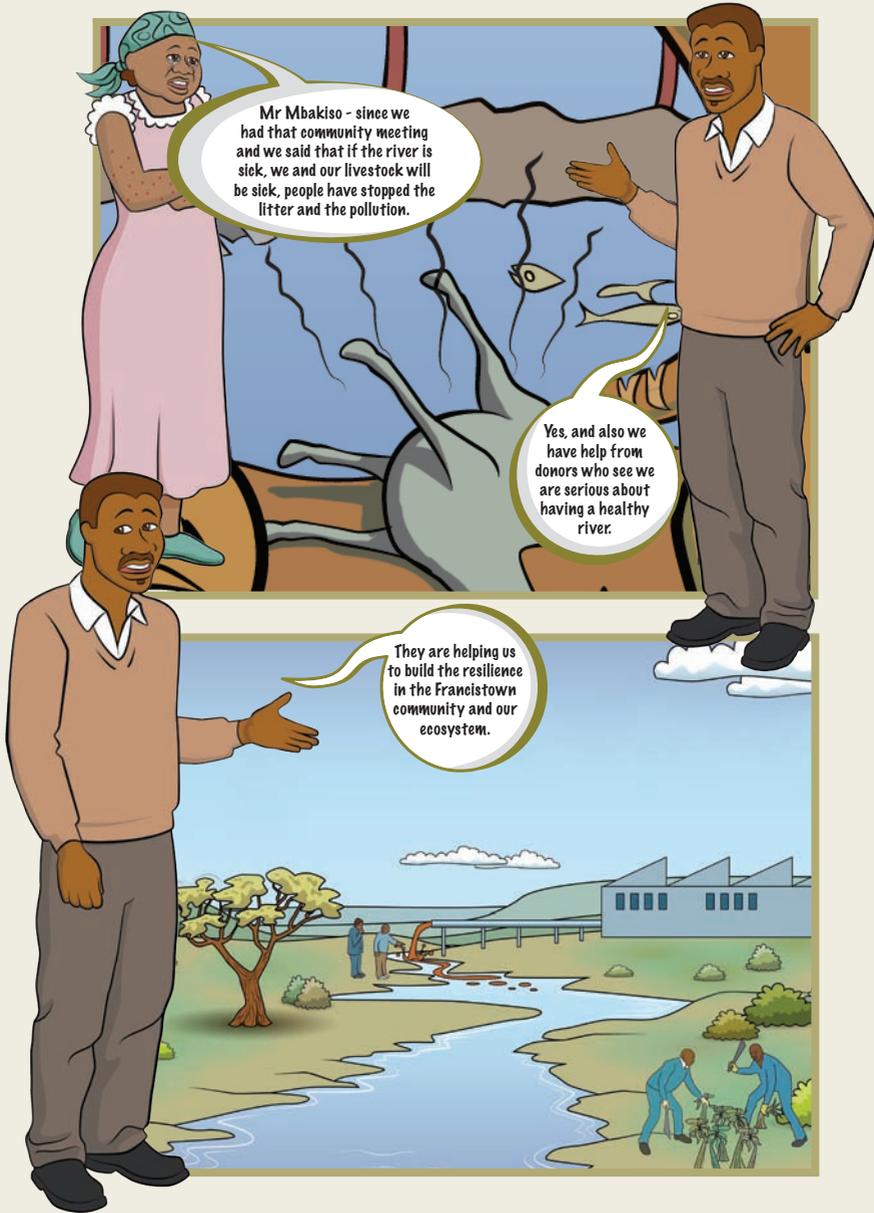
Although washing and bathing are not the main polluters of the river, some cleaners (washing powders and soaps) that we use to wash our cars and clothes, contain chemicals that can make our rivers unhealthy. Use soaps that are environmentally friendly. We can help stop the amount of polluted water that flows back into our rivers if we use buckets to wash our clothes and cars.

Waste Disposal

Waste such as papers, plastics, empty cans, unwanted clothes and disposable nappies that are thrown into our rivers are not only unpleasant to look at, but also extremely unhealthy, the water quality in our rivers is reduced when we use our rivers as dumping areas for waste.



Building the Resilience of People and Ecosystems



Nna Motswana o o kelotlhoko

Rivers are our main source of water. It is our duty, as a rural community, to look after our rivers so that we can benefit from having healthy rivers. All other living things, such as plants and animals that are dependant on rivers will also improve.



We can be proud Batswana by:

- Taking care of the rivers in our area
- Making wise decisions that will benefit river health
- Practising activities that will not harm our rivers
- Tell others about what they can do to improve the health of the river
- Forming a group in our area that care about the rivers
- Attending river health meetings and workshops

Think about the river(s) near your home, what do you or your community do that could make the river unhealthy? How can you help to have a healthy river?



It is very important for all of us, including the authorities to work together to improve our rivers. If you see water from a mine going into the river, or a leaking sewage pipe or the municipality is not picking up the rubbish, we must report it.

Below are associated with healthy and sick rivers.



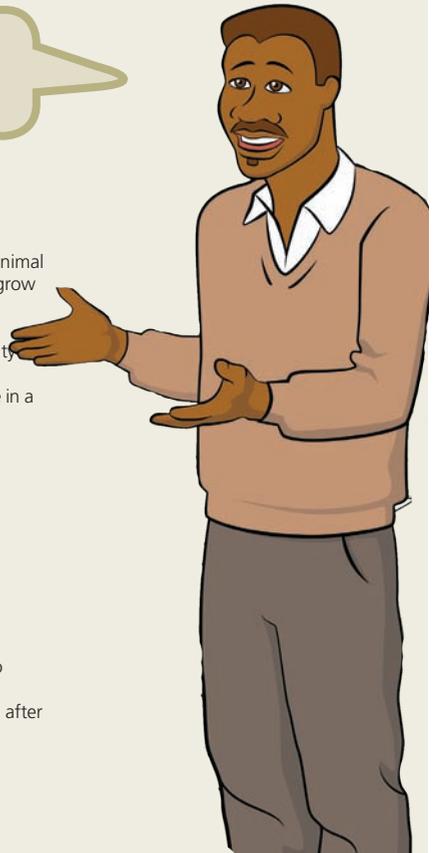
Healthy river:

- The community decreases animal grazing and let vegetation grow on the banks
- Sewage pipes are fixed
- Less litter - make sure the city council picks it up on time
- Bathing and washing is done in a responsible manner



Sick river:

- The community dumps and litters in the river
- Sewage goes into the river
- Dead livestock dumped into the river
- Our children have been sick after bathing





USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SOUTHERN AFRICA

RESILIM : Resilience in the Limpopo River Basin Program

Building the Resilience of People and Ecosystems

RESILIM activities and initiatives focus on the relationship between climate change, biodiversity, water and livelihoods.

Biodiversity Conservation:

RESILIM is improving the conservation of biodiversity and sustainably manage high-priority ecosystems

- Improving natural resource management practices that mitigates threats to biodiversity
- Improve ecological integrity and resiliency to climate change priority conservation areas
- Integrate climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation in basin water and resource management plans

Climate change:

RESILIM is reducing the vulnerability of the basin's communities and ecosystems to climate change

- Improving science, technology and the capacity for decision-making and development of climate change adaptation strategies;
- Improving water conservation and water demand management to climate change; and
- Increasing the knowledge and awareness of policy and other decision-makers in order to integrate of climate change adaptation strategies into long-term plans

Water:

- RESILIM supports the implementation of water quality and demand management projects, while helping improve knowledge about and management of environmental flows.

Livelihoods:

RESILIM is working together with local non-government organisations to improve and diversify livelihoods in order to build communities' resilience to climate change impacts by creating sustainable, conservation-based, income-generating opportunities.

For more information contact:

+27 (0)12 346 1877 or

info@resilim.com

