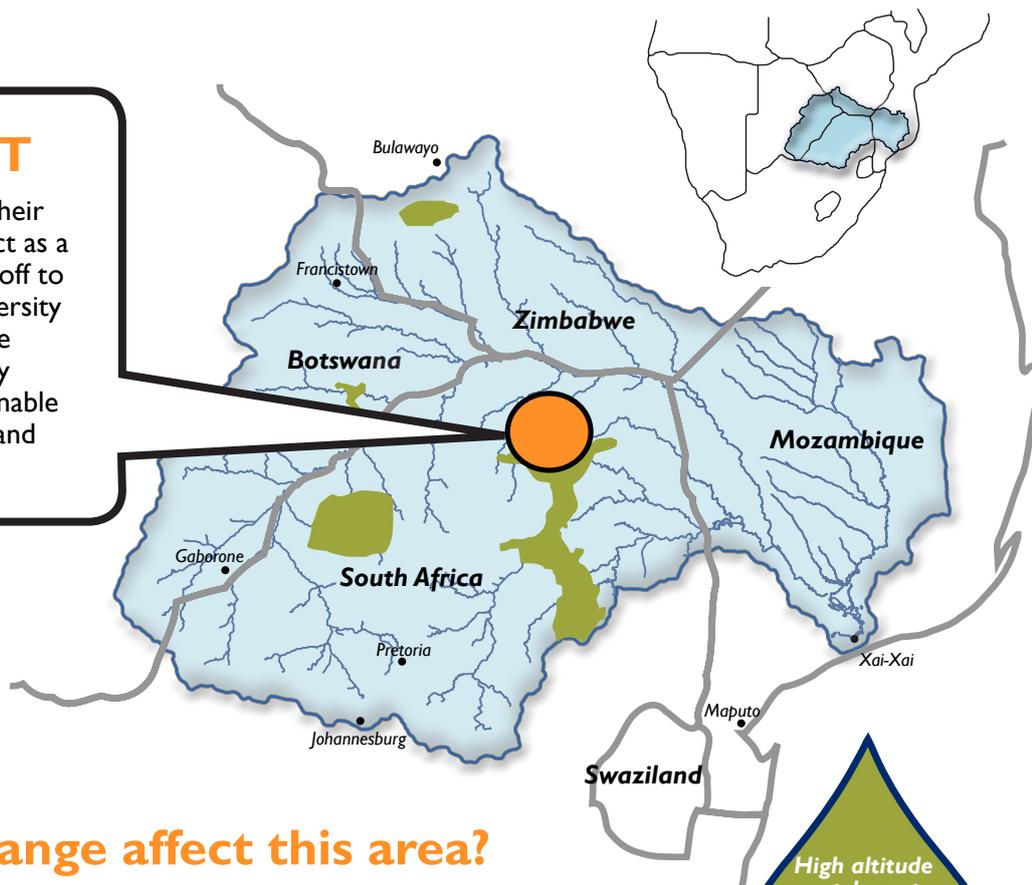


THE LIMPOPO RIVER BASIN: IDEAS FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE

AREA SNAPSHOT

The Soutpansberg Mountains, with their cloud forest and high-lying wetlands, act as a water tower providing significant run-off to downstream users. A center of biodiversity vital to the ecology of the Vhembe Biosphere, the area is not formally protected. Despite its value, unsustainable farming methods, land degradation and pollution are problems.



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

- Lower rainfall and shorter rainy season
- Increased temperatures



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- Less downstream run-off
- Wetlands dry
- Decreased soil moisture and erosion



HUMAN & ECOSYSTEM IMPACTS

- Decreased agricultural productivity
- Increased reliance on livestock
- Increased food insecurity
- Lost biodiversity

WE HAVE THE POWER TO ADAPT

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

**Improve soil water conservation practices**



**Use groundwater in the Levuvhu sub-basin sustainably**



**Limit abstraction in Levuvhu and Nzhelele rivers when demand is too high**



**Legislate conservation of Vhembe Biosphere**



**Remove alien vegetation and invasive species**



**Reduce excessive fishing and sand mining**



**Reduce overgrazing and vegetation cutting**



**Maximize water flows by protecting catchments and cloud forests**



## 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.

Photo attributions:

Photo by Pushkarv  
Photo by Stormsignal  
Photo by Adrian Bischoff  
Photo by Wayne Felden  
Photo by RESILIM  
Photo by Andrew Ashton  
Photo by Mathias Rittgerott  
Photo by Domitille Vallee/IWMI  
Photo by rainwater.co.za  
Photo by Neil Palmer/CIAT

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.

 Follow RESILIM on Facebook.

**oneWORLD**  
We build resilient futures

 **USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE