AREA SNAPSHOT

Overlapping 3 of 4 basin countries, the Pafuri Triangle has a harsh climate with low rainfall, intense summer heat, droughts and occasional floods. Plant and animal species adapted to the conditions take refuge around the Levuvhu River. The area has a comparatively small population but rich cultural and natural heritage. Home to the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park, potential for eco-tourism is strong but competition for land, water and natural resources is high.

How will climate change affect this area?

CLIMATE CHANGE
• Lower rainfall but more intense storms
• Higher temperatures

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS
• Lower river levels
• Possible transition to arid, especially in Zimbabwe and Mozambique
• More flash floods

HUMAN & ECOSYSTEM IMPACTS
• Lower crop yields
• Agricultural, eco-tourism livelihoods decline
• Human health and nutrition decline
• More human and animal migration

WE HAVE THE POWER TO ADAPT

RESILIENCE ACTION AREA 6: Pafuri Triangle (South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique)

THE LIMPOPO RIVER BASIN: IDEAS FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

Maximize collaborative governance, especially on transfrontier Park and water agreements

Manage potential conflicts between land and water users

Develop climate-sensitive infrastructure for nature-based, cultural tourism

Prevent wildlife-livestock transmissible diseases

Diversify livelihoods

Enhance poaching control

Improve soil water conservation practices

Take action when groundwater use and river abstraction exceeds supply

Strengthen oversight of future water use in mining, irrigation

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.

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.