

AU-AIP AFRICA WATER INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2025

13 - 15 August 2025
Cape Town, South Africa



AU AIP WATER INVESTMENT SUMMIT: PROJECT SHOWCASE

PROGRAMME/ PROJECT OVERVIEW	
Project name	Limpopo Transboundary Ecosystem-Based Water Security & Climate Adaptation
Location (Country, Region, Coordinates)	Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe – Limpopo River Basin (LRB)
Involved countries (if regional)	Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe
Sub-Sector (Water Supply, Sanitation, Irrigation, Flood Management..)	Watershed Management, Sustainable Land Management, Climate Adaptation, Community-driven Ecosystem Restoration, Water Security, PES
Project description (Goals and expected outcomes)	Enhancing transboundary water security & climate resilience in the LRB through ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions: Output 1: Transboundary ecosystem service valuation baseline developed; Output 2: Sustainable Land Management (SLM) interventions implemented across pilot sites; Output 3: Community-based Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes established; Output 4: Reduced sedimentation & improved water quality major water bodies & selected infrastructure in the basin.(e.g., Gaborone Dam, De Hoop Dam, Phalabora, Massingir Dam); Output 5: Strengthened institutional capacity of in LIMCOM Member States for NbS investment programmes; Output 6: Transboundary governance frameworks strengthened in riparian states through integration into the Limpopo SAP
Technological details/ innovation	1. SLM: vegetation strips, gully stabilization, contour bunds, rangeland management, integrated fire management; 2. Resource economics, hydrological, and sediment transport modelling; 3. PES business case development for market-based water security incentives; 4. Geo-spatial ecosystem service monitoring
Governance improvements / innovation	1. Establishment of transboundary PES governance frameworks; 2. LIMCOM-led coordination mechanisms integrating NbS in basin-wide water management; 3. Strengthened role of community organizations and local governments in water-related decision-making; 4. Regional expansion of co-creation & collaboration on vegetation and rangeland management approaches, across GLTFCA & LRB.
IMPLEMENTATION & KEY PLAYERS	
Lead institution	Limpopo Watercourse Commission (LIMCOM)
Implementing agent(s)	LIMCOM Secretariat, with technical support from GWPSA, in collaboration with GLTFCA, national ministries across provincial and district levels
Sponsors/Investors/Contractors/Advisors	Investors: GEF-7 IW Programme (current support); AIP Water Investment
PROJECT TIMELINE & DEVELOPMENT STAGE	
Year of prep, est. start & end dates	2023–2026 (under GEF-7 IW) & Full programme roll-out: 2027–2032
Current development stage	Pre-Feasibility complete, moving toward full proposal development
PROJECT RATIONALE & STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE	
Alignment with national/regional plans, SDGs, Agenda 2063	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aligned with SADC Regional Strategic Action Plan (RSAP) 2. National Development Plans in LIMCOM Member States 3. LIMCOM Strategic Action Programme (under development) 4. African Union Agenda 2063 water security priorities <p>The Limpopo Transboundary Ecosystem-Based Water Security and Climate Adaptation Programme directly supports the following SDGs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SDG 6 – Clean Water & Sanitation: transboundary water security; PES linked to watershed management; Sedimentation reduction & water quality improvement - SDG 13 – Climate Action: Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA); Integration with NDCs & National Adaptation Plans (NAPs); Climate resilience: 1.5 million people - SDG 15 – Life on Land: Sustainable Land Management (SLM); Ecosystem restoration, rangeland mngmt; Vegetative strips, contour bunds, fire mngmt - SDG 1 – No Poverty: Community-based PES creating income streams; Job creation through NbS value chains and cooperative strengthening - SDG 5 – Gender Equality: GEDSI integrated in programme development

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SDG 8 – Decent Work & Econ Growth: Local economic benefits, job creation - SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals: Regional cooperation through LIMCOM, SADC RSAP, & AU Agenda-63; Collaboration between RBOs and TFCAs
Contribution to NDC's and alignment with NAPs / Adaptation and Mitigation measures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrates ecosystem-based adaptation in countries' NDCs and NAPs 2. Combines water security, land restoration, and resilience measures 3. A power-pool NEXUS approach for decarbonized energy mix
Paradigm shift potential (scalability, replicability, policy or behaviour change)	High – First basin-wide PES mechanism at SADC level; replicable across other shared basins in SADC and wider into Africa
FINANCIAL & INVESTMENT DETAILS	
Total project cost, currency	Estimated US \$20-25 million
Funding already raised (amount & sources)	US \$6 million from GEF-7 IW with \$17.62 million co-finance by LIMCOM Member States and its cooperating partners
Proposed revenue model	Blended financing model combining grants, in-kind co-financing & PES
Financial metrics (IRR, Payback Period, DSCR, NPV) available? Y/N, date	N: Under preparation during full proposal development
Economic performance (Benefit-Cost Ratio) Y/N, date	Planned – Will be integrated in full feasibility assessment
INVESTMENT ASK & WAY FORWARD	
Remaining investment required: project component & type	Seeking US \$20–25 million in grant and blended investment – noting PES implementation mobilization of long-term finance
Opportunity for bundling (Y/N, date)	Yes – aligning SADC RSAP, AU Great Green Wall South, & other initiatives.
Next steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop full project proposal and financing structure 2. Mobilize investor partnerships through AIP Water Investment
TARGET GROUPS & SOCIAL IMPACT	
Direct beneficiary population per project component	Estimated: 1.5 million people across four countries, with focus on vulnerable communities, women, & youth living within & downstream of identified SLM pilots
Social & gender impact assessment (Y/N, date)	Yes – planned; Gender equity, Disability and Social inclusion (GEDSI) integrated into programme development
Job creation estimate / local economic benefit assessment (Y/N, date)	Planned – through NbS implementation, PES value chains
SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS	
Environmental compliance & climate assessment (Y/N, date)	Yes – ESMP planned as per LIMCOM-GEF project standards, Q1 2026
Environmental impact assessment (Y/N, date)	Yes – required under national legislation in all four countries: Q2 2026
ESG performance (Y/N, date)	Planned: NbS positive outcomes for environmental and social indicators
Safeguards & community engagement (Y/N, date)	Yes – ongoing under a UNCCD proposal in partnership with UNDP
RISK MANAGEMENT	
Main risks & mitigation measures (Political, Legal, etc)	Political: Inter-governmental commitment via LIMCOM Agreements; Social: Ensuring local buy-in through participatory SLM; Financial: Phased financing, combining sources; Environmental: Robust M&E for NbS effectiveness monitoring
Constraints or bottlenecks to finance	Securing investment for transboundary PES mechanism development
CONTACT INFORMATION	
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