

# 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	Strengthening the Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Communities in a Source-to-Sea approach, through Nature-Based Solutions in critical transboundary areas between Eswatini, Mozambique and South Africa.
Location (Country, Region, Coordinates)	Mozambique, Southern Region – Maputo Environmental Protection Area, Maputo National Park, and Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation Area: transboundary with Eswatini and South Africa
Involved countries (if regional)	Eswatini, Mozambique, South Africa
Sub-Sector (Water Supply, Sanitation, Irrigation, Flood Management)	Catchment Management; Ecosystem Restoration: terrestrial, freshwater and coastal, Climate Resilience Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Sustainable Fisheries
Project description (Goals and expected outcomes)	<p><b>Key Goal:</b> Strengthen the resilience of communities and ecosystems to the impacts of climate change, promoting nature-based solutions and ensuring food security, from source to sea, in a transboundary context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Outcome 1:</b> Restore upstream forest, freshwater, and wetland ecosystems, mitigate erosion, and ensure sediment control, enabling catchment functionality and downstream resilience.</li> <li>- <b>Outcome 2:</b> Rehabilitate floodplains, riparian corridors, and estuarine systems, promoting ecosystem connectivity for biodiversity and water regulation.</li> <li>- <b>Outcome 4:</b> Strengthen institutional capacities and community for climate-resilient adaptation to management of natural resources, from source to sea.</li> <li>- <b>Outcome 5:</b> Effective coordination and monitoring mechanisms to ensure long-term sustainable climate adaptation impacts.</li> <li>- <b>Outcome 3:</b> Restoration and co-management of aquatic ecosystems, including fisheries sustainability, aquaculture and recovery of native fishing stocks.</li> </ul>
Technological details/ innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integrating catchment management from upstream source areas to coastal areas – from wetlands to mangroves, thus focussing on true integrated catchment management which support endemic fish species revitalisation and resilience.</li> <li>-Green infrastructure and Nature-based solutions with eco-based adaptation integrated with a focus on climate change</li> <li>- Riparian bioengineering with native species ensuring bank stabilization and refuge for spawning</li> <li>-Natural nurseries and reconnection of seasonal ponds</li> <li>- Community aquaponics systems integrated with regenerative agricultural and agroforestry practices.</li> <li>-Monitoring diversity, genetic connectivity and detection of invasive species by eDNA and genotyping (SNP/microsatellites)</li> </ul>
Governance improvements / innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creation of local adaptation committees and community climate risk management plans.</li> <li>- Strengthening grassroots community organizations.</li> <li>-Local participatory fisheries management committees</li> <li>-Definition of closed zones and catch quotas based on communities</li> <li>-Fishing rotation plans that adapt to the seasons</li> </ul>
IMPLEMENTATION & KEY PLAYERS	
Lead institution	National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC), in coordination with the

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	Ministry of Land and Environment.
Implementing agent(s)	UNDP, UNEP, Peace Parks Foundation, IDEPA, Regional Universities, riverside communities
Sponsors / Investors / Contractors / Advisors	Green Climate Fund National and bilateral co-financing Private sector (community tourism) Technical consultancies (UTL, UEM, SANBI)
<b>PROJECT TIMELINE &amp; DEVELOPMENT STAGE</b>	
Year of preparation, estimated start & end dates	Year of Preparation: 2025 Estimated Start and Completion Dates: 2027 – 2032 Current Stage of Development: Concept Note – In Development
Current development stage	The project is in the design phase, where we are defining the objectives, scope and feasibility.
<b>PROJECT RATIONALE &amp; STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE</b>	
Alignment with national/regional plans, SDGs, Agenda 2063	Mozambique's NAP and NDC; SDGs 1, 2, 6, 13 and 15; African Union Agenda 2063
Contribution to NDC's and alignment with NAPs / Adaptation and Mitigation measures	EbA/ EbM, Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (FAO), green solutions with economic benefits
Paradigm shift potential (scalability, replicability, policy or behaviour change)	Possible model for replication in other TFCAs; change in fishing and agricultural policies
<b>FINANCIAL &amp; INVESTMENT DETAILS</b>	
Total project cost, currency	US\$ 35,000,000
Funding already raised (amount & sources)	US\$ 0,00
Proposed revenue model	Community tourism; school markets; credits for ecosystem services; NTFP and certified fish
Financial metrics (IRR, Payback Period, DSCR, NPV) available? Y/N, date	- Preliminary BCR ≈ 2.5 (Q2-2026 Report) - Payback < 8 years; DSCR > 1.2; Positive NPV
Economic performance (Benefit-Cost Ratio) Y/N, date	No, To be defined
<b>INVESTMENT ASK &amp; WAY FORWARD</b>	
Remaining investment required: project component & type (Loan/Equity/Grant/Guarantee/insurance)	Required investment amount: US\$ 35,000,000 Project component: the project currently has no other source of funding, with the indicated amount being the total for the project. Type of funding required: Grant (100%) (Justification: project in a vulnerable rural area, with low debt capacity and high climate risk)
Opportunity for bundling with other projects (Y/N, date)	There is the possibility of integrating it into other projects related to mitigating the impacts of climate change. But it is still under evaluation.
Next steps	1. Finish PIN for GCF (Q4 2025) 2. Feasibility and Environmental Impact Studies (Q1 2026) 3. Mobilization of co-financiers and signing of agreements Start Phase 1 – Ecological and genetic survey (2027)
<b>TARGET GROUPS &amp; SOCIAL IMPACT</b>	
Direct beneficiary population per project component (if available, please provide estimated by income status, gender, ethnicity and/or other status, and numbers of each)	Directly benefiting population mostly constituted by young people from vulnerable rural communities, with a focus on women and young people. ~150,000 people (65% women; 35% youth 15-30 years; Thonga-Tembe and Swazi communities)

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Social & gender impact assessment (Y/N, date)	No The employment opportunities generated by the project are varied, however we are currently in the design phase of the project which has not yet considered practical issues on the ground at this level,
Job creation estimate / local economic benefit assessment (Y/N, date)	No
SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS	
Environmental compliance & climate assessment (Y/N, date)	Environmental compliance and climate assessment: NO Date: — scheduled for 2027 The environmental compliance and climate assessment process will be initiated during the preparation phase, in accordance with national requirements and funder guidelines.
Environmental impact assessment (Y/N, date)	Community consultation and participatory management plans.
ESG performance (Y/N, date)	ESG Performance: YES Start Date: Targeted for implementation to begin (e.g., January 2026). Additional note (if allowed in the field): The project will integrate ESG indicators, including environmental and social safeguards, participatory mechanisms with local communities, and principles of transparency and accountability from the implementation phase.
Safeguards & community engagement (Y/N, date)	Compliance with environmental and social safeguards. (Yes- Safeguards Plan Year? participatory consultations.
RISK MANAGEMENT	
Main risks & mitigation measures (Political, Legal, etc)	Main risks & mitigation measures: - Land use conflicts: mediation via participatory processes and conflict resolution mechanisms. - Extreme climate risks: resilient and redundant infrastructures.  Institutional Capabilities: Training and Mentoring Program
Constraints or bottlenecks to finance	- Co-financing capacity
CONTACT INFORMATION	
AIP Secretariat	info@aipwater.org

### Key Strategic Advantages for Investors

- High Impact:** Targets 150 000 + beneficiaries in a top-5 globally vulnerable country (ND-GAIN 2023).
- Ecosystem Focus:** 70% nature-based solutions (reforestation, wetlands, freshwater management) for sustainable resilience.
- Co-Financing Leverage:** \$25 M GCF grant unlocks \$10 M domestic/public funding.

**Transboundary Scalability:** Model applicable in other TFCAS in Southern Africa