



OUR OLIFANTS

RESILIENCE IN THE LIMPOPO RIVER BASIN - OLIFANTS CATCHMENT

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The project is implemented by the Association for Water and Rural Development (AWARD), in collaboration with partners.

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#OUIOLIFANTS

The Olifants and its contributing waterways are critical for supporting life. Yet the catchment is being degraded at an alarming rate by unchecked pollution, poor protection of habitats and inappropriate use of land and resources.

Weak and poorly enforced policies and regulations make matters worse.

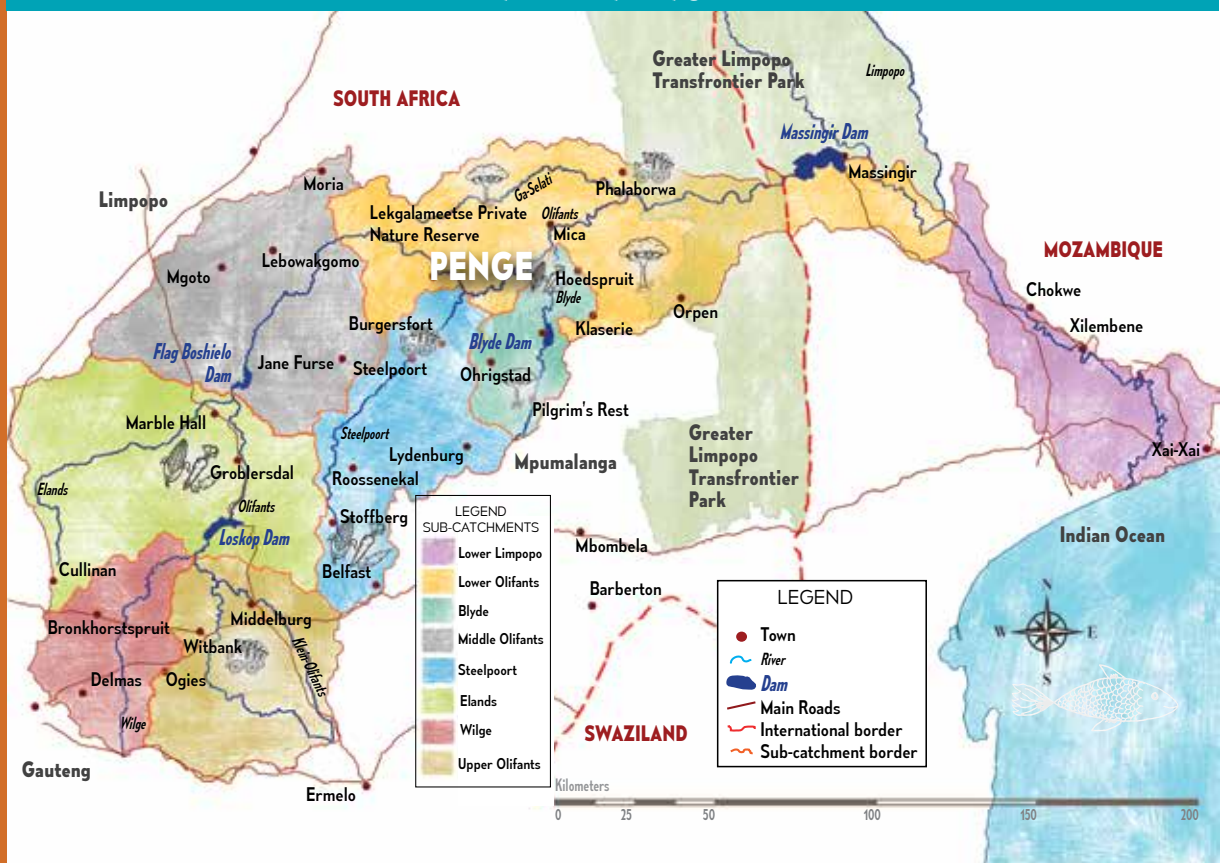
OUR AIM

USAID: RESILIM O aims to improve water security and resource management in the Olifants catchment. By focusing on how people living in South Africa and Mozambique depend on the river and its contributing waterways, we are working to support healthy ecosystems and sustainable economic development.

ABOUT USAID: RESILIM O

It is a five year programme implemented by the Association for Water and Rural Development (AWARD).

Where we work



Exploring how things are linked in the Olifants River System

"We ask of everything we do; if climate change is a risk factor, what are the implications of that? And, wherever we are working in the Olifants Catchment, how will biodiversity be affected?"





SOCIAL LEARNING

Social learning is a process of socially constructing an issue with actors through which their understanding and practices change, leading to transformation of the situation through collective and concerted action.

SYSTEMS THINKING

The understanding of a phenomenon within the context of a larger whole; to understand things systemically literally means to put them into a context, to establish the nature of their relationships.

Fundamental to working together towards a common goal are the notions of identity and agency: How do people identify themselves and are they in a position to work together, given contextual realities?

ABOUT AWARD

At AWARD, we recognize that the natural world's resources are limited and undergoing rapid depletion and transformation. We know current practices of use and management are inadequate to deal with the changes and challenges we are facing. Our approach has always been one that involves thinking across disciplines, boundaries and systems drawing on social learning and systems thinking. We have a record of designing practical interventions to address the vulnerability of people and ecosystems, and merge considerations from both environmental and social perspectives.

WORKING WITH PEOPLE

Our work involves understanding the complex network of stakeholders in the Olifants catchment and the practices they engage in. This means understanding the spectrum of institutions, industries, land-uses, cultural identities and ideas of agency.

UNDERSTANDING CONTEXT

We work with people from different constituencies to be able to collaboratively build a shared picture of the catchment. This helps people to self-organize and respond to the changing context of the catchment, especially given challenges such as climate change.

"Having a rich and systemic understanding of the context of the Olifants catchment forms the basis of our resilience assessment"

BUILDING A RESILIENCE LEARNING NETWORK

We are developing the capacity of individuals and organizations to respond to the challenges of climate change by building a resilience learning network. A strong network is more likely to be able to respond appropriately to threats and risks and work cooperatively.

SPECIALIST STUDIES

In addition to working with people and understanding their context, we have commissioned a series of studies from specialist institutes that can analyze and synthesize decades of research linked to the Limpopo Basin and Olifants Catchment.

