



FACT SHEET

SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM (SAREP)

CHALLENGE

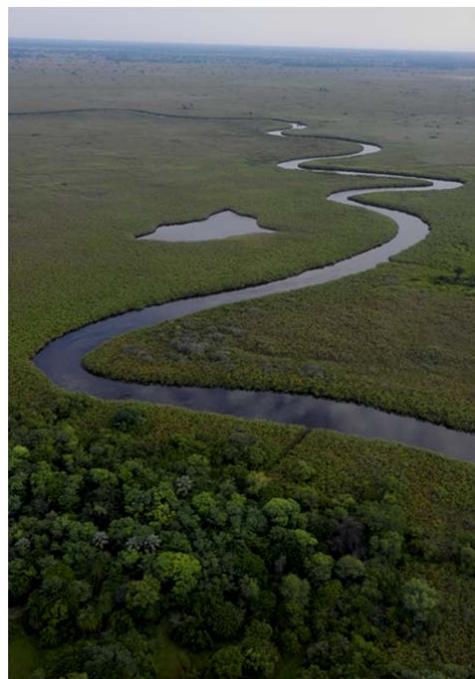
The Okavango River Basin, one of the world's largest inland water systems, is a critical shared natural resource for Angola, Botswana, and Namibia, as well as a rich, but fragile, source of biodiversity of international importance. A transboundary approach to resource management and climate resilience is crucial to preserving the basin and providing sustainable and equitable development opportunities.

APPROACH

In partnership with the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM) and supporting initiatives of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Chemonics International is implementing the \$23 million, 5 year SAREP program to build the capacity of institutions in the three Okavango Basin countries to address threats to ecosystems and biodiversity, improve access to water supply and sanitation, and improve sustainable and climate resilient livelihood opportunities. The program began in July 2010 and will end in June 2015.

OBJECTIVES

1. Preserving Biodiversity – working with OKACOM and governments to identify and address threats to the region's vast and diverse natural resources.
2. Increasing Access to Water Supply and Sanitation – through a holistic approach addressing awareness, governance, infrastructure development, and sustainable management.
3. Improving Incomes through Sustainable and Climate Resilient Livelihood Activities – including ecotourism, conservation agriculture, fisheries, and natural products harvesting and marketing.



RESULTS

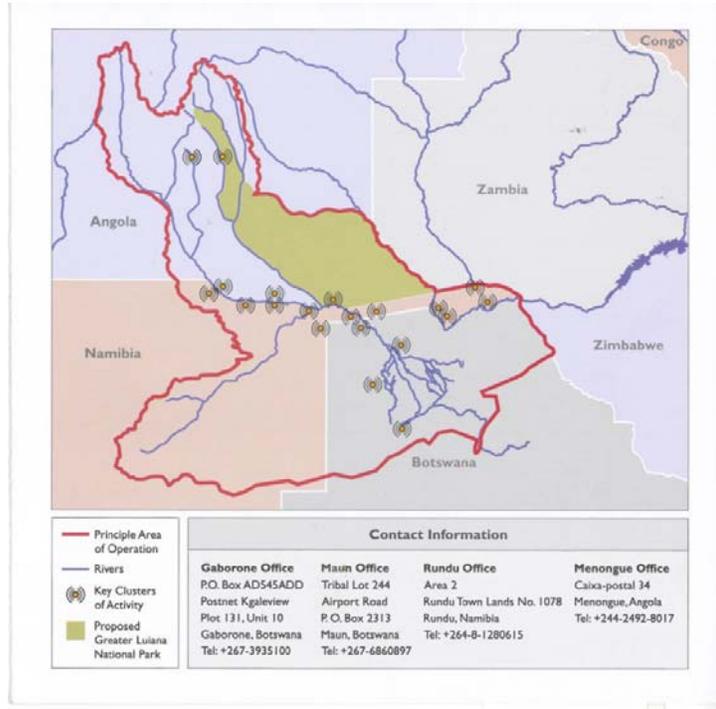
- Over six million hectares of biologically important area under improved management.
- 16,000 basin residents with improved access to safe drinking water.
- 17,000 people more resilient to flooding following completion of 7 community-based Flood Preparedness Plans covering nearly 150,000 hectares.
- GIS decision support tool developed and adopted by OKACOM and local Land Boards.
- 200 Master Farmers demonstrating conservation agriculture in 30 communities.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Steve Johnson: +267-393-5100; SJohnson@sarep.co.bw
- Steve Horn: +267-373-2325; shorn@usaid.gov
- <http://www.usaid.gov/southern-africa-regional/environment>



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SAREP Pillars

SAREP's approach balances three key pillars — biodiversity, water supply and sanitation, and livelihoods. The approach is based on the premise that poverty and a lack of education are linked and generally seen to be indirect causes of limited livelihood strategies in marginalized rural communities. This leads to an over-reliance on and overharvesting of natural resources to meet basic human needs such as food and shelter, which together with poor health and a lack of access to clean potable water, result in pollution of the environment, a reduction in biodiversity, and degradation of ecosystems.

