



USAID | SOUTHERN AFRICA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Environment Program Highlights

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IUCN World Parks Congress, SYDNEY 2014: Chiefs of Party, Kule Chitepo and Steve Johnson co-host a side event

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USAID AT IUCN’S WORLD PARKS CONGRESS

Held every decade, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Parks Congress is a landmark global forum on protected areas bringing together the world’s most influential people involved in protected area management. The Resilience in the Limpopo River Basin (RESILIM) Project in collaboration with the Southern Africa Regional Environment Project (SAREP) and regional Transfrontier Conservation Area officials hosted a side event focusing on building resilient conservation areas and communities in Southern Africa. The congress concluded with an impressive list of over 70 conservation commitments from delegates representing more than 170 countries around the world. The commitments were seen as a step toward achieving new conservation goals set out by the congress in a document dubbed [The Promise of Sydney](#), which calls for protecting at least 17% of the world's land and 10% of its oceans by 2020. In order to bring the lessons back home, RESILIM and SAREP are facilitating a series of follow up meetings with governments and key partners in the region to agree on partners’ roles and responsibilities, content format and resources needed for post-World Parks Congress workshops scheduled to take place in 2015.



Environment Program Highlights

“Resiliency Villages” - A Step in the Right Direction



Makuleke Youth Discussions

Working in partnership with the Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC), the Resilience in the Limpopo River Basin (RESILIM) project has developed a highly innovative and interesting concept of “Resiliency Villages.”

“Resiliency Villages” are closely monitored established sites where the RESILIM/SAWC partnership can conduct community based natural resource management and other nature based training. The villages also serve as hubs to share experiences and best practices in nature conservation and natural resource management.

This embraces a variety of participatory, hands on field based teaching styles addressing different levels of experience and background of multi-stakeholders associated with the “Resilience Village” sites.

“ Resiliency Villages” are located in all four of the Limpopo River Basin riparian countries including Botswana, South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

As a result of the resilience village concept, over 80 rural women from Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe have been trained in nature based economy enterprises and products which provide a “green social security” particularly to the adverse impacts of climate change.

Resiliency village sites established include the Makuleke Community Property Association consisting of three villages in South Africa’s Bushbuckridge, which are part of the Kruger to Canyon Protected Area and Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) in South Africa, the Managlana Community associated with the Sabie Game Park in Mozambique, the Mapungubwe TFCA consisting of villages in both Botswana and Zimbabwe and the SAWC college campus site in Hoedspruit, South Africa.

Activities at the “Resiliency Villages” aim to effectively address the regional need to improve natural resource governance, earnings and benefit sharing in and around protected areas in the Limpopo River Basin.

Partnership with the US Forestry Service

Africa is often called “the continent of fire,” and fire is a critical part of Southern African ecosystems. Inappropriate fire management techniques threaten biodiversity and the flora and fauna that depend on fire to survive. At the same time, fire endangers human infrastructure and lives. The Southern Africa Regional Environment Project (SAREP) is working in partnership with the United States Forest Service to provide technical support and expertise in the development of a management plan for the Khaudom North Complex, an area of over 4,940 km², which encompasses the Khaudom National Park of Namibia and extends into northern Botswana. The partnership aims to develop fire

management plans in both countries and is linked to the ongoing Advanced Fire Information System (AFIS), which provides information on current and historical fires detected by sensors on Earth Observation Satellites.

Spearheading the Ecosystem Approach in the Orange Senqu Basin

In November 2014, the USAID Program on Applying the Ecosystem Approach in the Orange-Senqu Basin implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) organized a training workshop aimed at enhancing the governance of shared waters through the application of international water law practices. In partnership with the Orange-Senqu River Commission, the program supports scientific analysis and pilot projects that balance ecosystem requirements with human needs to ensure lasting water provision.

The workshop, which brought together high level decision makers across the Southern Africa region, focused on strengthening the institutional capacity of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and government institutions responsible for the management of shared waters.

The ecosystem approach is a strategy for integrated management of land, water and living resources in an equitable way.

Interesting Links

<http://satoyama-initiative.org/en/publication-toolkit-for-the-indicators-of-resilience-in-socio-ecological-production-landscapes-and-seascapes-sepls/>

[The Promise of Sydney](#)

In the Spotlight: WESSA's JIM TAYLOR



Jim Taylor, when not investigating something, somewhere

Thirty four years ago, Jim Taylor joined the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA), a local Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), and is serving as Director of Environmental Education. Known to be a captivating story-teller, Jim describes himself as a person who strives to be kind and cares deeply about people and the environment.

Jim became involved with USAID through an American acquaintance posted to South Africa in the early nineties. Jim is currently

overseeing the USAID Stepping Up to Sustainability project aimed at building the competency of local communities and citizens across Southern Africa to cope with the impacts of climate change through an innovative approach deeply rooted in long-term behavior change.

Asked what he wished others knew about him, Jim says "That I am a person who is interested in everything around us including natural and manmade phenomenon, and someone who would like to learn about and understand the people and world in which we live". Interestingly, Jim meditates twice a day, morning and night. Jim strongly believes that all people should be able to realize their fuller potential that can be achieved through working together in constructive contexts where learning and education for sustainable development training courses build their sense of confidence, competence and ability to achieve happier lives.

However, he points to the challenge of converting the potential that is all around us into applied projects, supported by adequate resources that enable the potential inherent in all people we work with. Jim is working towards a society where we can all learn to live in harmony with each other in a manner that does not deplete our natural resource base.

When not in the office, Jim is somewhere, somehow investigating, learning and sharing other people's experiences on caring for local rivers, streams and water supply, sometimes on weekends!

What's New

*USAID is looking for solutions that identify opportunities for transportation and logistics companies to operate sustainably and responsibly and eliminate illegal wildlife from their operations. Example areas of focus include: improve transport sector awareness and incentives to address wildlife trafficking; strengthen industry standards, policies, systems and processes to include illegal wildlife considerations; and improve identification and detection of illegal wildlife.

More information is at <https://www.fbo.gov/spg/AID/OP/WashingtonDC/BAA-DIA-GFBC-2015/listing.html>.

*President Obama issued an executive order in September 2014 that expanded the US's policy on climate resiliency to international development projects. This added focus on climate resilience (the ability of programs and projects to withstand the impacts of global climate change) has the potential to become an important component in the funding decisions of international development agencies.

The executive order requires that USAID assesses all aspects of its international development work for climate change risk and make adjustments as appropriate to ensure effectiveness and foster better decision-making approaches.

For more information: [View the webinar.](#)

The U.S. Agency for International Development provides economic, development and humanitarian assistance worldwide. USAID supports people's efforts to develop themselves and their countries. In Southern Africa, the United States seeks to increase trade and strengthen economic ties within the region, address the HIV/AIDS crisis, mitigate recurrent food insecurity, and strengthen democracy to reduce the risk of conflict in the region. USAID/Southern Africa, located in Pretoria, South Africa, complements and enhances USAID's bilateral programs in the region, supporting unique and innovative regional activities and providing a range of services to assist USAID missions in the region.

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For more information about USAID/Southern Africa Environmental projects, please go to: <http://www.usaid.gov/southern-africa-regional>