



FACT SHEET

A WATER SECURE FUTURE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

APPLYING THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH IN THE ORANGE-SENQU RIVER BASIN

CHALLENGE

Cooperation in transboundary water resource management is often confined to a single topic, such as electricity generation, fisheries, water quality or quantity with insufficient attention to tradeoffs and impacts for other resource users. There is a need to apply a more holistic approach to addressing broader environmental challenges, including pollution, soil erosion, deforestation, and ecosystem degradation, to ensure sustainable, healthy water catchments.

APPROACH

Since 2012, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has worked with USAID in the Orange-Senqu river basin to promote integrated water resource management (IWRM) to meet short and long-term needs of the ecosystem, communities, and economies that rely upon the Basin. With \$2.2 million through 2015, IUCN will strengthen water governance by mainstreaming an Ecosystem Approach (EA) into water management across the Basin. Pilot projects in each of the four Basin countries (Lesotho, South Africa, Botswana and Namibia) will demonstrate the development benefits of such a holistic approach.

OBJECTIVES

1. Increase knowledge and awareness resulting in the inclusion of ecosystem issues in IWRM.
2. Demonstrate enhanced social and ecological resilience in hotspots in the Basin by integrating environment in transboundary water management.
3. Enhance capacity of key actors to engage effectively in multi-stakeholder processes and negotiate and dialogue towards improved water resources management.



RESULTS

- Development and testing of a “Best Practices” manual for mainstreaming the Ecosystem Approach into water management strategies.
- Technical and organizational capacity development for local civil society partners initiated in each member state.
- Consultation with regional stakeholders to develop specific work programs.

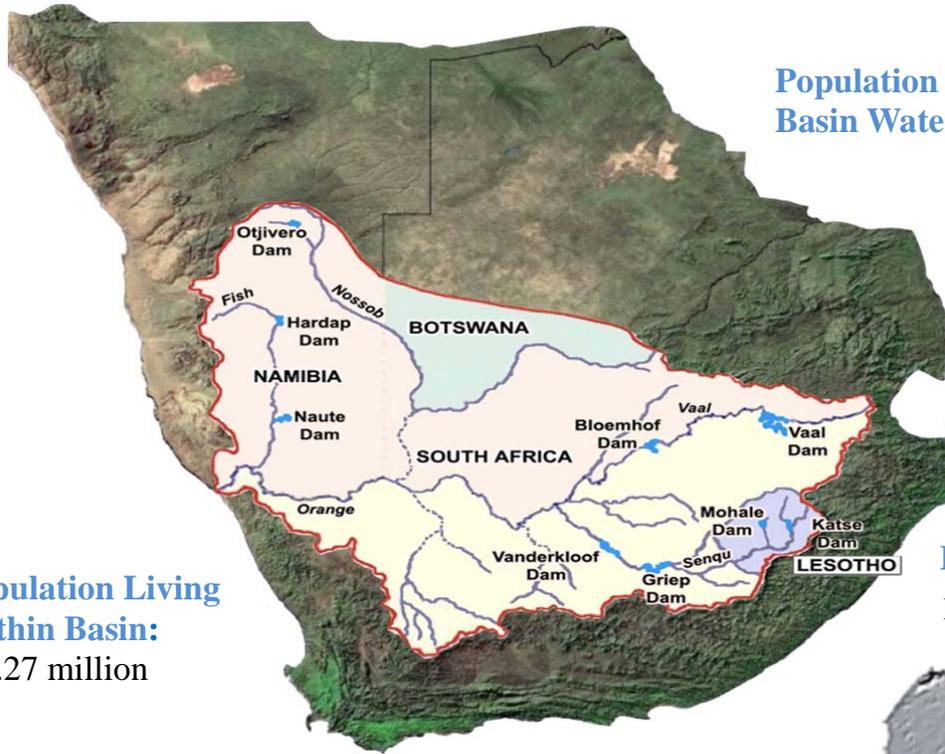
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USAID | SOUTHERN AFRICA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Population Depending on Basin Water: 19 million

Population Living Within Basin: 14.27 million

Basin Area: 1 million km²

Basin States: Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa

