



## Environment Program Highlights

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### USAID South Africa Low Emissions Development Program (SA-LED) launched



Left to Right:

Linda Manyuchi, Chief of Party, SA-LED program, Brian Mantlana, Chief Director, Department of Environmental Affairs, Executive Mayor of Tshwane, Councilor Kgositso Ramokgopa, Cheryl Anderson, USAID Mission Director, Patrick G. Gaspard, US Ambassador, Henry Roman, Director, Department of Science and Technology.

#### Initial Green Opportunities

- Large scale solar and wind projects
- Development and maintenance manual for electric buses in Cape Town
- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Ekurhuleni
- Rooftop Photovoltaic (PV) projects in Nelson Mandela Bay
- Waste-Energy project in Sedibeng District Municipality

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South Africa Low Emissions Development Program (SA-LED) Launched

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South Africa has embarked on an ambitious effort to use Low Emissions Development (LED) as a means to reduce its substantial greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) levels in a sustainable and equitable way. This will require transformational change at multiple levels and sectors that includes overcoming key capacity bottlenecks and coordinating with a diverse set of actors.

proves, the demand on already strained energy production and associated greenhouse gas emissions is expected to increase dramatically. The partnership aims to move the country towards achievement of the ambitious emissions reduction targets it announced in the National Climate Change Response White Paper. Key opportunities lie in the area of waste management, transportation, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

the private sector and a wide range of Non-Governmental Organizations.

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The USAID South Africa Low Emissions Development (SA-LED) program was developed in collaboration with the Government of South Africa (GoSA) to implement goals embodied within the National Climate Change Response White Paper. South Africa has a rapidly growing economy that is highly dependent on fossil fuels. As the economic status of individuals im-

The program was officially launched on November 10, 2015 by His Excellency Patrick G. Gaspard, Ambassador of the United States of America. The event was attended by dignitaries from the Government of South Africa including the Mayor of Tshwane and directors from the departments of Environmental Affairs and Science and Technology,

Implemented in partnership with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and Department of Science and Technology (DST), the \$15 million program will run for five years. The program is working with local government to build capacity and develop projects that respond to climate change and support South Africa in transitioning to a green economy.

The program will help to bridge the gap between public institutions and investors, and will also help catalyse innovative low emissions development projects in municipalities across the country. South Africa is committed to taking action to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 34% by 2020 and 42% by 2025.



## Environment Program Highlights

### Using Mobile Technology to Combat Poaching in Botswana

USAID Southern Africa has been supporting communities in the Okavango Basin to address development challenges across multiple sectors for more than ten years. Through the Southern Africa Regional Environment Program (SAREP), USAID has worked to address threats to biodiversity conservation, water supply, sanitation and hygiene, climate change adaptation and illicit wildlife crime.

Illicit wildlife crime is a complex development problem that does not recognize geo-political borders. Combating the illegal wildlife trade requires a highly adaptable, holistic approach that combines stronger engagement with communities and law enforcement, promoting crime prevention and improved wildlife management.

Recently, SAREP entered into an agreement with Human Network International (HNI) to develop a mobile phone service for the Botswana public which will allow the public to provide anonymous information to the Botswana authorities regarding illicit wildlife trade. The service will also connect to the “3-2-1” mobile information service which provides access to clear advice on activities from, how to undertake conservation agriculture, to what steps to take to reduce exposure to HIV or malaria. Use of anonymous, mobile technology will help address one of the many challenges in combating poaching and wildlife trafficking, the fear of reprisal by the public for identifying poachers and traffickers.

While increasing rates of rhino and elephant poaching for illicit wildlife trade has not affected Botswana as much as it has other countries in the region, there has been a dramatic increase in poaching related to illegal bush-meat trade within Botswana. This increase began after Botswana enacted a new law banning all hunting, which eliminated

one of the avenues for communities to raise funds.

The ability for a private citizen to anonymously provide information related to a poaching incident could greatly improve the Government of Botswana’s ability to combat a growing illegal bush-meat trade.

USAID and SAREP are working closely with the Ministries of Health, Environment and Agriculture in Botswana to ensure that the information provided by the “3-2-1” service is accurate and in a format easily accessed and understood by the public. Similar platforms and services have been provided by HNI in Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique as well as countries in West Africa. The mobile phone service provider Orange Botswana has officially expressed interest in partnering with USAID on this initiative.

### Protecting the Okavango System



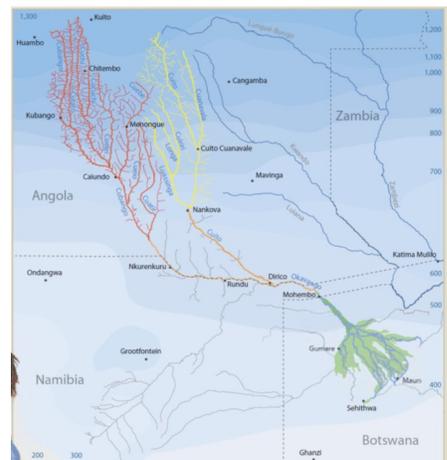
When we think about the Okavango Delta, we often think about herds of elephants, hippos, lechwe and crocodiles, rafts of reeds, fields of papyrus, and huge flocks of colorful birds. However, what matters most is the water.

The Okavango Delta is the largest wetland and largest Ramsar site in Southern Africa, covering over five and a half million hectares. The Delta supports an estimated 122 species of mammal, 444 species of bird, 64 species of reptile, 33 species of amphibian and 71 species of fish, including endangered, threatened and vulnerable species such as the wild dog, black rhino, and African elephants. USAID, through the Southern Africa Regional Environment

Program (SAREP) supported the application by Botswana to have the Okavango Delta declared the 1000<sup>th</sup> UNESCO World Heritage Site. Through SAREP, USAID is currently providing support to the creation of two National Parks in South East Angola to protect the upper basin, which provides 95% of the water in the Okavango system.

The lifeblood of the Okavango comes from the Cuando and Cubango rivers, which begin their course in the highlands of S.E. Angola, and flow very slowly south and east into the Zambezi region of Namibia (formerly the Caprivi Strip), then into Botswana. Annually, 11 cubic kilometers (that is 11,000,000,000,000 liters) flow into the Okavango Delta. Due to the very gradual elevation drop, the water that falls in Angola can take three months to flow the 800 kilometers to the Delta, and another four months to flow through the 240 kilometer maze of channels that comprise the Delta.

USAID is working with the Government of Angola to develop management plans for the two new parks. Developing management plans and enhancing the capacity of the park managers will increase the protection for over 6.4 million hectares of critical Okavango Basin upland, an area twice the size of Maryland in the United States.



### Interesting Links

<https://resilim.exposure.co/resilient-mangroves-resilient-communities>

# A Light Conversation with IWMI's Karen Villhoth



Vibrant, passionate and clearly dedicated to her work, Karen Villhoth works with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) as Principle Researcher-Groundwater Management.

Following a USAID grant to IWMI in August 2015 to implement a transboundary water resource project, Karen took up an additional role as project manager for the USAID Ramotswa Aquifer project. The initiative aims to develop a scientifically informed, integrated and participatory approach to the transboundary management of the Ramotswa aquifer, improving both our biophysical as well as our socio-economic understanding of the groundwater system.

The point however of the "Spotlight Corner", is to get to know the other, inner personality. This is what we may not have known about Karen:

### **What do you wish other people knew about you as a person?**

"That I live what I preach. I try to have as small an ecological footprint as possible. Almost all my clothes are second-hand, and have lived vegetarian for 20 years".

### **What might someone be surprised to know about you?**

"That I have been a single mother for many years, raising my kids on my own in an international atmosphere while building my career in research for development. I have been a devoted acrobat for many

years".

### **What is a typical interesting work day for you?**

"A day full of challenges where my think-tank and networking abilities come together in new and interesting constellations of committed and competent people who are dedicated to solve tough problems related to groundwater".

### **What would you say are some of your strongest beliefs about the work you do? And why?**

"That you can make a difference in the way people think and that you can contribute toward more accountability and responsible behavior through awareness raising, knowledge generation and sharing".

### **What do you find most challenging about your work? And why?**

"Demonstrating the necessary diplomacy while convincing people to join team and trust building efforts that will eventually result in partnerships and solutions that are 'out of the box', but breaks the habitual ways of thinking".

Karen is not a typical groundwater scientist. She strives to break boundaries in her analysis of problems by looking at groundwater in food production, poverty alleviation etc. The most rewarding part of her work is the opportunity to see people from different backgrounds, roles and disciplines start talking about common problems, joining forces and spearheading the change needed toward better solutions that benefit more people.

## Fighting Alien Invasive Species; Improving Livelihoods

In partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN), USAID Southern Africa is working with communities in the Gibeon area of Namibia to clear Prosopis, an invasive alien tree species commonly found along the banks of the Fish River.

Prosopis species are highly invasive and have detrimental effects on biodiversity, ecosystem services and livelihoods. Each Prosopis tree has a potential of consuming up to 50 litres of water per day, presenting major challenges in water scarce Namibia. The pilot project has taken a win-win approach to the invasive species by exploiting its economic benefits while reducing impacts to biodiversity and water resources through clearing. The project has built the capacity of over 30 previously unemployed community members in plant identification and processing for firewood and other livestock and domestic uses.

In December 2015, Namibia's Deputy Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Honorable Lucia Witbooi launched the Prosopis Clean-Up Campaign in Gibeon. Over 100 volunteers attended the launch.

### **Building Capacity**



### **Clearing Alien Invasive Species**



### **Creating Alternative Livelihoods**



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.

USAID/SA, P.O. Box 43, Pretoria, 0027. Tel: 27 (012) 452 2000, Fax: 27 (012) 460 3177

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