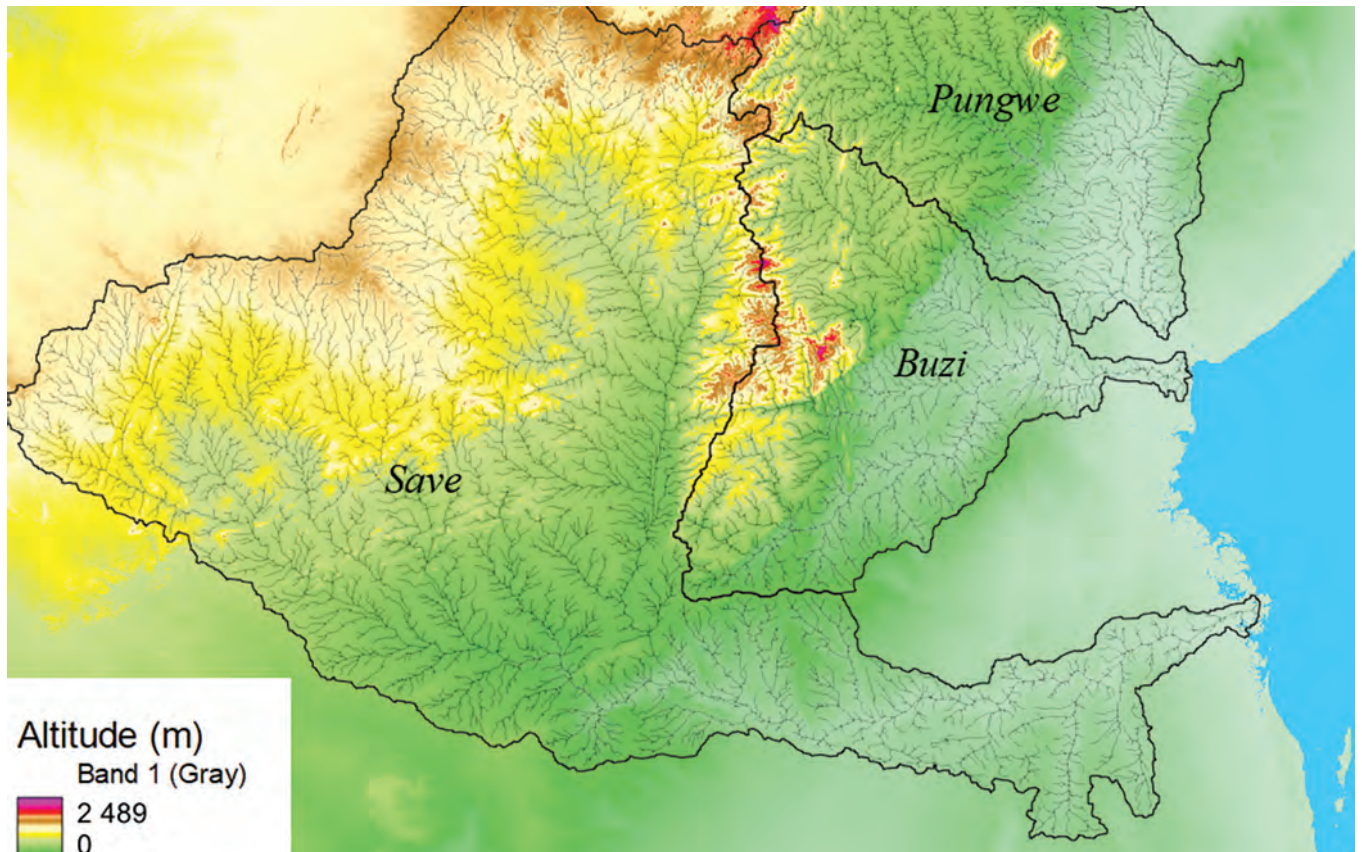




STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME FOR THE BUZI, PUNGWE, AND SAVE TRANSBOUNDARY RIVER BASINS

Mozambique and Zimbabwe's shared vision for sustainable water
resources development and management for the tri-basin





Introduction

The Buzi, Pungwe, and Save River basins (BUPUSA) are exclusively shared by Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The population in the BUPUSA Tri-basin is vulnerable to a combination of social, economic, and environmental factors that interact with climate change. Most of these challenges have the same underlying and root causes which are largely attributed to inappropriate resource use and practices.

To mitigate the challenges, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has funded a USD 6 million project called the “Management of competing water uses and associated ecosystems in Pungwe, Buzi and Save (BUPUSA) basins. The project is implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) with the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA) as Executing Agency supporting the two countries.

Transboundary cooperation in the BUPUSA Basins

Transboundary water governance was identified as one of the overarching challenges in the tri-basin. Realising the need for a coordinated approach to remedying the challenges in the tri-basin, the member states, with support from various partners, developed a legal framework aligned with the SADC Protocol on shared watercourses. With support from the GEF-BUPUSA Project, the two countries finalised the legal framework in 2023, leading to the establishment of the Buzi, Pungwe, and Save Watercourses Commission (BUPUSACOM) in May 2023 and its subsequent launch in July 2023.



The Ministers of Water for Mozambique and Zimbabwe signing Save Agreement, the BUPUSA Establishment and Hosting Agreements, May 2023, in Harare Zimbabwe. The Presidents of Mozambique and Zimbabwe witnessed the signing.

Diagnostics Analysis of Environmental Problems within the Tri- basin

A Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), Strategic Action Programme (SAP), and National Action Plans (NAPs) have been developed under the GEF-BUPUSA Project. The highly consultative TDA process involving key stakeholders from the Buzi, Pungwe and Save tri-basin in both Mozambique and Zimbabwe, identified the five key transboundary environmental problems adversely affecting aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and livelihoods.

Increase in extreme climate events – floods and droughts

Climate change is the major environmental problem and is expected to amplify other existing water resource challenges, including reduced water availability. Droughts in the basins are only partly associated with deficient or erratic rainfall leading to poor harvests, and thus reduced income-earning opportunities and food security.



Residents of Buzi District, in Mozambique, wait on rooftops for rescue teams after Cyclone Idai made landfall in March 2019

Land degradation

Land degradation is considered the third most pressing issue for the Buzi and Pungwe basins, and the second most important one in the Save basin,

with the degree of severity being significant to severe. The degradation of land, coupled with the effects of climate change, results in lower yields.



Land degradation in Nyanyadzi, in the Odzi Sub-catchment along Save River in Zimbabwe

Reduced water availability

Reduced water availability is partly related to climate change, and attributable to human factors such as unsustainable land and natural resources use, population increase, and water-use patterns across the key sectors of agriculture, mining, urban and domestic supply, energy, and insufficient hydraulic infrastructures for water storage.



High siltation on the Save Rive in Zimbabwe resulting in a reduction in water available for utilisation

Deterioration of water quality

Reduced water quality is largely driven by three sectors: agriculture, mining, and urban and domestic water supply. Poor land management has altered the condition of the land, affecting its interactions with water, and resulting in changes in water quality, which has far-reaching consequences on the health and integrity of riparian and aquatic ecosystems.



Unsustainable mining practices along the Save River, Mozambique have compromised the quality of water in the basin

Changes in flow regime

Increased water abstraction for agriculture, increased water storage and withdrawals for domestic and industrial use, and unsustainable mining methods are well known for disrupting the natural flow of water in the basins. Overall, changes in river flow have been ranked as the third most important in Save, and the fourth most important in the Buzi and Pungwe.



Abstraction of water for irrigation along the Pungwe River in Mozambique, intercepting the flow of water

Drivers of environmental challenges in the tri-basin

The TDA also pinpoints the underlying drivers contributing to these environmental problems, i.e.



Population dynamics



Land use change



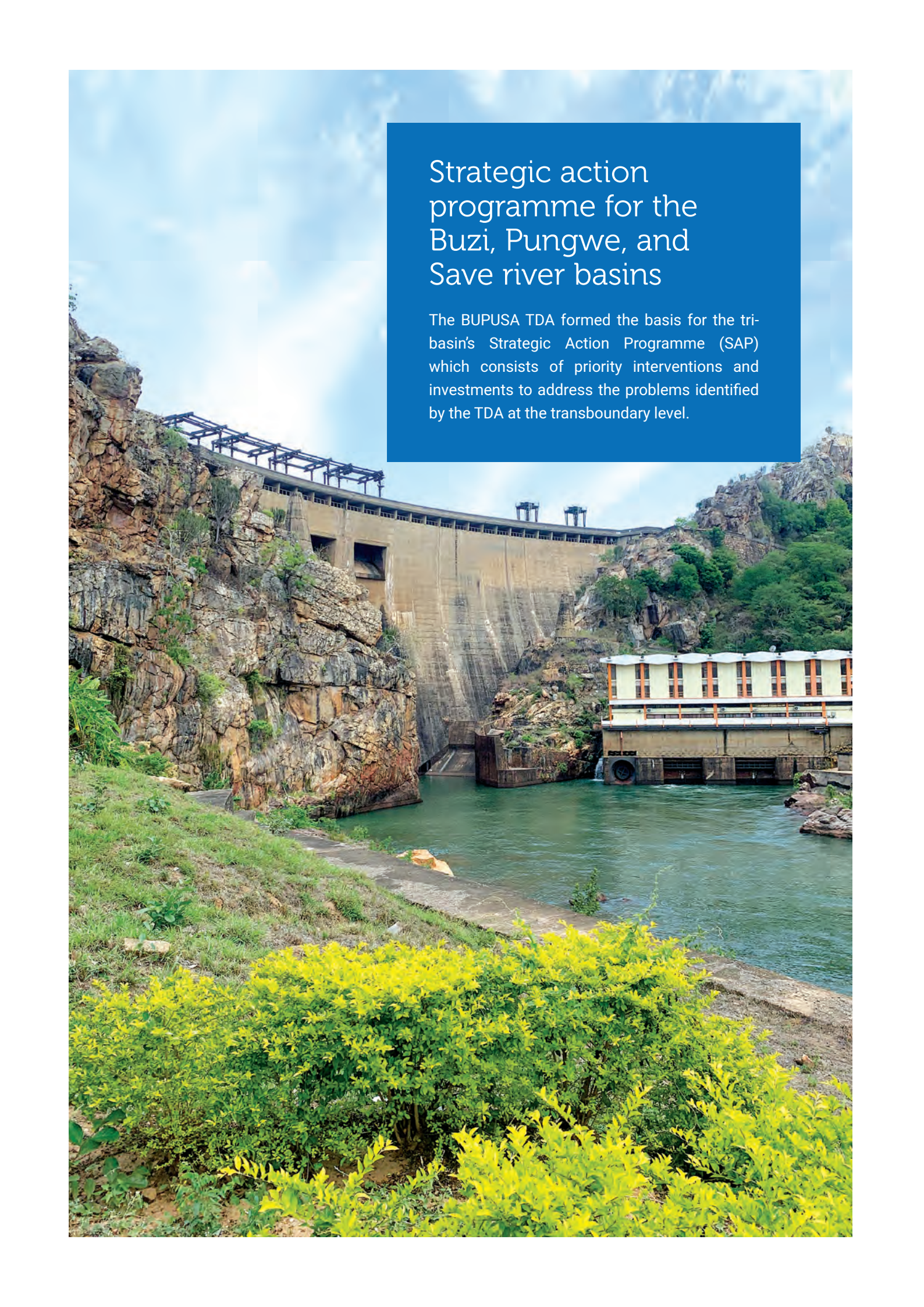
Poverty



Climate change



Insufficient governance capacity and transboundary coordination



Strategic action programme for the Buzi, Pungwe, and Save river basins

The BUPUSA TDA formed the basis for the tri-basin's Strategic Action Programme (SAP) which consists of priority interventions and investments to address the problems identified by the TDA at the transboundary level.

Proposed intervention areas for the SAP and NAPs

The SAP provides a basin-wide framework for implementing a prioritised set of joint transboundary actions and investments to address the above challenges. It is structured around the five environmental priority areas of concern identified in the TDA and the two overarching areas of Transboundary Governance, and Socio-economic Development and Poverty Reduction. It contains seven priority interventions for the basins.

Strengthening basin-wide source-to sea management capacity

The priority intervention seeks to strengthen the collaborative management capacity of the recently established BUPUSA Commission, develop essential transboundary basin management instruments, and establish effective source-to-sea management structures to address the challenge of poor transboundary governance.

Sustainable groundwater management

The intervention in Sustainable Water Management is set to improve the water security of rural populations through the protection and sustainable management of groundwater resources for sustainable rural water supply. This will be done by enhancing the understanding of groundwater resource availability in the BUPUSA basins, determining the potential for sustainable use, developing sustainable groundwater management approaches and undertaking protective measures for groundwater resources.

Improving sustainable water supply for socio-economic development in the BUPUSA basins

Reduced water availability will be addressed through securing water supply for sustainable socio-economic development in the basins.

This intervention aims to ensure a sustainable water supply for socio-economic development through a dualised approach of increasing water storage/ infrastructure and improving water use efficiency.

Reducing water and environmental pollution in the BUPUSA basins

This intervention will ensure water quality in the basins is maintained at adequate levels for socio-economic development and the functioning of healthy ecosystems. This will be done by establishing appropriate water quality and ecosystems' health standards and monitoring systems for the BUPUSA basins, and implementing measures that reduce pollution and mitigate its impacts.

Rehabilitation of land degradation hotspots in the BUPUSA basins

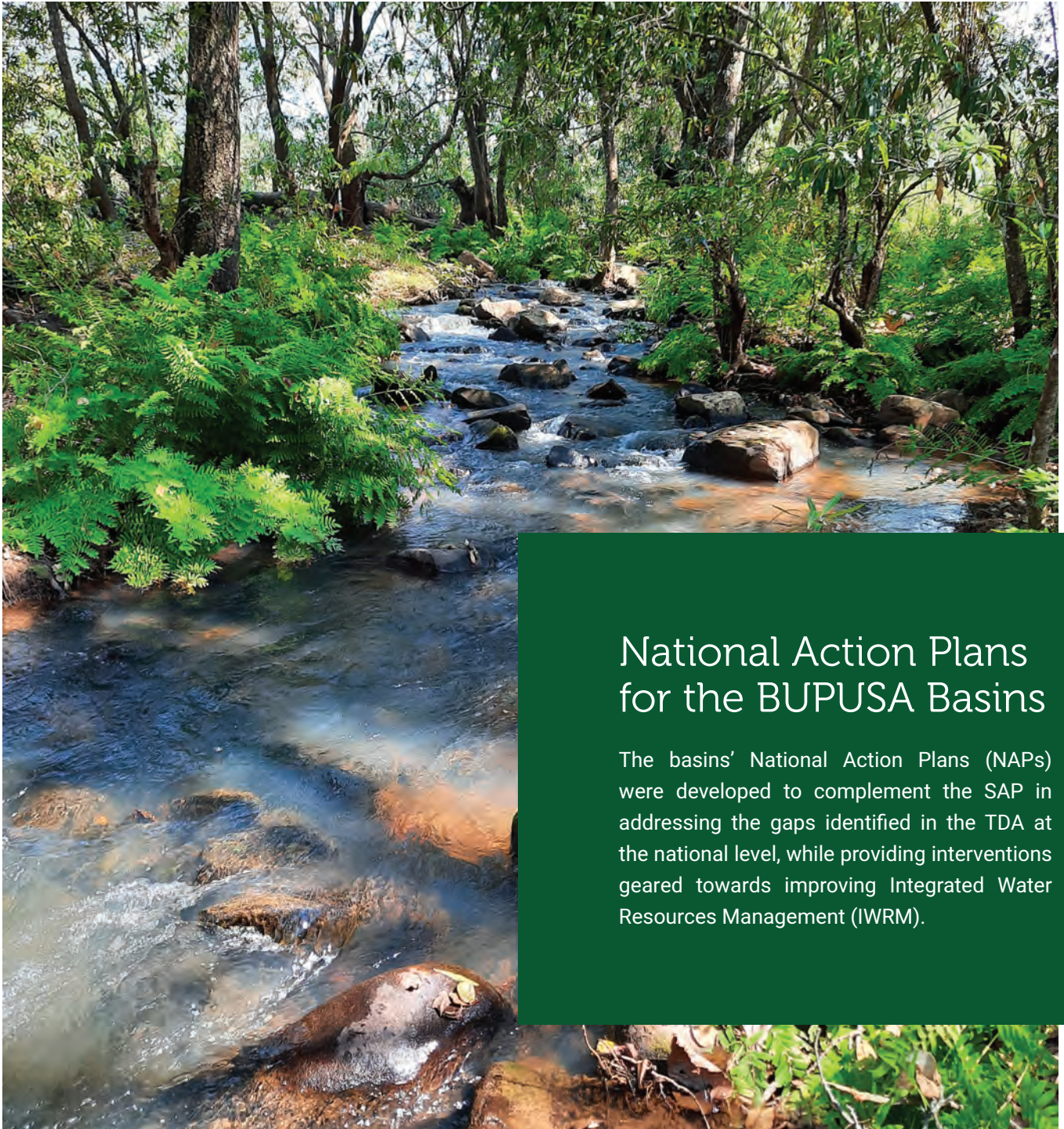
The intervention aims to halt and reverse the degradation of critical ecosystems with a focus on particularly affected hotspot areas. Degraded but critical ecosystems in the basins will be rehabilitated and sustainably managed to ensure agricultural productivity and functioning ecosystem services.

Adopting and implementing basin-wide environmental flows regime

The SAP proposes relevant environmental flow assessments basin-wide to support their implementation in accordance with the basin agreements. Agreements on implementing tri-basin-wide environmental flow regimes will be reached through a consultative process, and implementation and compliance monitoring mechanisms will be developed.

Strengthening climate resilience in the BUPUSA basins

The intervention seeks to strengthen the climate resilience of the tri-basin population. Initiatives will be implemented to help the basins cope with changes, increase the adaptive capacity and lower the vulnerability of the basins' population.



National Action Plans for the BUPUSA Basins

The basins' National Action Plans (NAPs) were developed to complement the SAP in addressing the gaps identified in the TDA at the national level, while providing interventions geared towards improving Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

Partnerships to implement the BUPUSA Strategic Action Programme







Both the Strategic Action Program and National Action Plans were developed for a ten-year planning time span with targets set for that period. To implement the SAP and NAPS, the Buzi, Pungwe Save Watercourses Commission is pursuing strategic partnerships

with Development Partners, Finance Institutions, Designated Vertical Funding institutions, Philanthropic entities, Equity Investors, the Private sector and others to mobilise resources that will complement the Mozambique and Zimbabwe governments' allocations from national treasuries. The mobilised resources are expected to support a wide range of activities including institutional strengthening, knowledge management, technical assistance, capacity development, infrastructure development, and socioeconomic development programmes.

Contact details







Buzi Pungwe Save Watercourses Commission

ARA Centro, IP
Rua Sancho de Toar No 67,
Ponta Gea Beira, Moçambique

 871 581 111
 info@bupusa.org
 <https://bupusa.org/>
 @BUPUSACOM
 [buzi-pungwe-save-watercourse-commission-bupusacom](https://www.linkedin.com/company/buzi-pungwe-save-watercourse-commission-bupusacom)
 @BUPUSACOM




International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

6 Lanark Road, Belgravia, Harare, Zimbabwe

 +263 (24) 2705714
 www.iucn.org/regions/eastern-and-southern-africa/countries/south-africa
 @IucnE
 [iucn.esaro](https://www.facebook.com/iucn.esaro)
 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
 IUCN

Global Water Partnership Southern Africa and Africa Coordination (GWPSA - Africa):

333 Grosvenor Street, Hatfield Gardens, Block A, Pretoria, South Africa

 +27 12 430 2121/2/6/7
 www.gwp.org/en/GWP-SouthernAfrica/
 @GWPSAF
 @GWPSAF
 @GWPSAF
 Global Water Partnership Southern Africa
 gwpafrika@gwpsaf.org



BUPUSACOM

Supported by



Led by



In Partnership with



ZIMBABWE