



2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Resilience in the Limpopo Basin Program (RESILIM)



(WATER HYACINTH IN THE LIMPOPO RIVER – SOURCE: DR.NKOBI MOLEELE, RESILIM COP)

LIST OF ACRONYMS

BALA	Botswana Association of Local Authorities
COP	Chief of Party
CSIR	Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research
ESARO	Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office
FACT	Field Accounting and Compliance Team
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GLTFCA	Great Limpopo Trans Frontier Conservation Area
GWP-SA	Global Water Partnership-Southern Africa
ILO	International Labor Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
LIMCOM	Limpopo Watercourse Commission
LIMIS	Limpopo Information System
LQA	Living Quarters Allowance
ORASECOM	Orange Senqu Commission
OSC	Overseas Strategic Consultancy
OKACOM	Okavango River Basin Commission
PMU	Project Management Unit
PPP	Public Private Partnerships
RAK	River Awareness Kit

RBO	River Basin Organizations
RESILIM	Resilience in the Limpopo Basin Program
SADC	Southern Africa Development Cooperation
SAREP	Southern Africa Regional Environment Program
SGP	Small Grants Program
TCN	Third Country National
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
ZAMCOM	Zambezi River Basin Commission

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1. INTRODUCTION

The “Resilience in the Limpopo Basin Program” (RESILIM) was initiated on June 4, 2012 through a five-year contract funded and administered by USAID/Southern Africa, located in Pretoria, South Africa. The overall goal of the RESILIM Program is to improve transboundary management of the Limpopo River Basin resulting in enhanced resilience of people and ecosystems. The RESILIM Program centers on supporting the implementation of the strategic objectives of the Limpopo Watercourse Commission (LIMCOM), and will be achieved through the following three objectives:

- i) Reducing climate vulnerability by promoting the adoption of science-based adaptation strategies for integrated transboundary water resource management;
- ii) Conserving biodiversity and sustainably manage high priority ecosystems;
- iii) Building capacity of stakeholders to sustainably manage water and key ecosystems.

This annual report presents progress made by the RESILIM Program since its inception in June 2012. The report summarizes the RESILIM Program in two sections. Section 2 focuses on the physical and operational start-up. Section 3 describes RESILIM’s achievements, challenges/risks, and recommendations for optimal implementation.

2. PHYSICAL AND OPERATIONAL START-UP

2.1 Office Space, Furnishings and Equipment

With the support of Chemonics International home office start-up specialists, and following a diligent survey and assessment of available options, the RESILIM team was able to identify and secure a centrally located building for the Maputo office in the Sommerschield neighborhood. The office includes sufficient space for the current staffing configuration, additional space for potential short-term consultants, furniture, and a large conference space for partner, beneficiary, and other meetings. The office is fully operational, with information technology systems in place including a server, telecommunications, and appropriate security measures, including 24-hour security-guard services.

The start-up team identified a daily driver service for transportation needs within Maputo while working on the procurement of the project vehicle. The Chemonics International home office Project Management Unit (PMU) and field operations team has followed the appropriate steps to procure a project vehicle, including the recent submission of a notification of the application of the right hand drive (RHD) blanket waiver to purchase a non-US manufactured vehicle.

In Pretoria, identifying an appropriate office space for a reasonable price has been challenging, but the team has identified a suitable office space and is in the process of negotiating the lease agreement. Additionally, the team has initiated negotiations with vendors to fully furnish and equip

the office. The team has nearly completed the process of identifying an appropriate project vehicle and will procure it following RESILIM contractual requirements and USAID regulations.

Identifying reasonably priced, long-term accommodation in Maputo for the chief of party (COP) has presented challenges, due to the volatile and expensive nature of the residential market in Maputo. However, after a long search by the COP and operations team, RESILIM is in the process of finalizing a long-term residential lease in a safe, conveniently situated apartment within the living quarters' allowance (LQA) threshold set by the US State Department.

2.2 Staffing

The RESILIM team is almost fully staffed, with a team of local national staff and a third-country national (TCN) chief of party. All professional positions are currently filled, with the exception of the Institutional Development Advisor, a position that the team has strategically decided to fill in the spring of 2013 after consultation with USAID. The project has benefited from the support of home office management and technical expertise to support a successful start-up of the program, and the field and Washington DC-based teams continue to collaborate effectively to move into the implementation phase of the project.

2.3 Financial Management Systems

The RESILIM team has set up a local bank account in Maputo, and at the time of the drafting of this report, both offices are benefiting from the instruction of a Field Accounting and Compliance Team (FACT) specialist from the Chemonics International home office. The FACT specialist is working with both offices to set up Chemonics' accounting system "ABACUS", as well as training accounting and administration staff in financial management best practices and standard operating procedures.

While the project waits for the completion of the Mozambique business registration process (see below), the RESILIM team has opened a temporary bank account in Maputo. RESILIM will set up the Pretoria bank account once the deputy chief of party (DCOP) has been added to the current Chemonics registration in South Africa.

To accelerate operational procedures and initiate contractual agreements with local partners, Chemonics International home office has sent a subcontracts, grants, and operations specialist on a short-term assignment to assist staff in Maputo and Pretoria. The specialist has begun developing the RESILIM grants manual in anticipation of the launch of the RESILIM grants program in early 2013, and is also initiating the process of developing long-term subcontracts for local consortium partners IUCN, ESARO, GWP-SA, and OneWorld.

2.4 Registration of the RESILIM Program

Legally registering the RESILIM program in Mozambique has been among the more challenging undertakings facing the RESILIM team. The requirements imposed on new, international companies and even new project offices established by existing international companies are particularly stringent (and not always clear) in Mozambique. However, with the support of a local law firm, the

team has followed the appropriate steps to accelerate the project registration process and ensure expatriate the proper legal documentation to work in Mozambique. Chemonics is already legally registered in South Africa, so the RESILIM project registration process is complete for the Pretoria office. However, in order to open a project bank account, with the DCOP as a signatory, RESILIM is following the proper local protocol, in consultation with a reputable South African law firm, to add him to the registration. The registration process in Mozambique has required a significant level of legal effort in order to follow sometimes complex local law, but the RESILIM team is committed to following a legal and compliant process through to completion.

3. PROGRAMMATIC START-UP

3.1 Building a relationship with LIMCOM

In early July, the RESILIM Program had formal introductions with LIMCOM Executive Secretary Sergio Siteo to initiate discussions on long-term collaboration. During these discussions, RESILIM briefed Mr. Siteo on project start-up activities and the proposed work planning process. Mr. Siteo provided RESILIM staff with a closer understanding of LIMCOM structures, objectives, achievements, and challenges. It also became apparent that LIMCOM felt that it was not adequately consulted by USAID during the conceptualization phase of RESILIM, and therefore LIMCOM was reluctant to engage with RESILIM until formal endorsement of the Program by the LIMCOM Commissioners was accomplished.

Therefore, RESILIM recognized an unmet need to seek formal audience with the LIMCOM Commissioners, and to solicit the formal endorsement of the RESILIM Program. To foster positive rapport and mutual collaboration among RESILIM and LIMCOM representatives, a meeting between the LIMCOM commissioners and USAID/Southern Africa took place on the 17th August 2012 in Johannesburg, during which the USAID/Southern Africa Mission Director initiated a discussion about RESILIM with LIMCOM. Following, USAID's Senior Regional Natural Resources & Climate Advisor and Environment Team Leader provided a detailed account of the RESILIM program's development process. USAID also shared with LIMCOM the background and objectives of the RESILIM program and how the program seeks to formally partner with LIMCOM and its structures in the implementation process. Though the RESILIM program development process provided for public and stakeholder participation and input, USAID did address some concerns within LIMCOM about the commission's level of engagement in the process. The key outcomes of this meeting included the following:

- i) USAID would consider mechanisms through which to engage all four riparian states in the RESILIM program without prejudice; this specifically relates to the challenges emerging from the sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe Government officials by the US Government;
- ii) LIMCOM expressed satisfaction with the technical content of the program and its anticipated benefits to the Limpopo Basin stakeholders;

- iii) Both USAID and LIMCOM acknowledged that the implementation process of the RESILIM Program should be adaptive so as to allow for flexibility to adjust the Program's activities to align with needs on the basin and the LIMCOM strategic framework (IWRM Plan 2011-2015);
- iv) LIMCOM and USAID agreed to implement the RESILIM Program through a governance structure characterized by a Program Executive Committee and Program Steering Committee (PSC), for which the terms of reference would be jointly developed.

Although buy-in from LIMCOM on the RESILIM Program has now been secured, the reality is that the LIMCOM Executive Secretariat's capacity to deliver against its mandate and expectations thereof is limited. At present, the LIMCOM Secretariat is a one-man organization, struggling to respond to the demands and requirements of commissioners from the four riparian states (namely Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe). It is therefore very unlikely that in moving forward, LIMCOM will be able to move with the desired pace of implementation for the RESILIM Program. The capacity constraints of the Secretariat will have a direct impact on the rate at which LIMCOM is able to receive and process issues, and eventually make decisions.

There is therefore an urgent need to boost capacity at the LIMCOM Commission so as to help them effectively support the implementation of the RESILIM Program. GIZ, the implementing agency of the German government's development assistance, has been carrying out targeted work with LIMCOM with the view to filling this gap. GIZ and RESILIM have agreed that USAID's initiatives (through the RESILIM Program), would be complementary to the ongoing GIZ support to LIMCOM. This will be achieved through joint planning (GIZ, RESILIM, and LIMCOM) sessions to ensure that RESILIM adds value to ongoing work in the Basin, avoiding duplication. Specific LIMCOM-GIZ activities in the Basin and possible collaboration with RESILIM are discussed in section 3.5.

3.2 Setting-up the RESILIM Program's Governance Structure

Following the agreement adopted at the LIMCOM-USAID Johannesburg meeting in August 2012, some progress has been made in defining the Governance structure of the RESILIM Program. The governance structure consists of the RESILIM Program Executive Committee and RESILIM Program Steering Committee. The comprehensive ToRs for the structure have been developed, discussed and agreed upon by the LIMCOM Executive Secretary, LIMCOM Legal Task Team, and RESILIM, and is awaiting further review and endorsement by LIMCOM Commissioners and USAID, which will signify the formal recognition of the RESILIM Program by LIMCOM. LIMCOM will be holding its annual meeting during the week of 19-23rd November, where RESILIM hopes that USAID and LIMCOM will hold a ceremony to sign the MOU. The two components of the proposed governance structure and their key elements are described below.

3.2.1 RESILIM Program Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is a strategic decision-making body for the RESILIM program, comprised of representatives from LIMCOM, USAID and SADC. Some of the responsibilities of the Executive Committee include the following:

- i) Endorse annual work plans, which are the implementation roadmap for all program activities;
- ii) Review significant adjustments to annual work plans as and when necessary;
- iii) Facilitate communication and outreach about the program to all stakeholders;
- iv) Support the mutual exchange of data and information between LIMCOM, SADC and USAID on activities related to the RESILIM program as well as explores opportunities for further collaboration;
- v) Commission the conducting of an objective and independent project monitoring and evaluation exercise to complement USAID's on-going program performance management system.

3.2.2 RESILIM Program Steering Committee

The Program Steering Committee provides technical support to the RESILIM Program and ensures that activities are implemented in line with the shared goals of LIMCOM and USAID. Its composition comprises the LIMCOM Technical Task Teams, RESILIM Consortium Partners (IUCN, GWP, and One World) and representation from RESILIM. Responsibilities of the Program Steering Committee include the following:

- i) Conduct specific technical analysis or other work as defined by the approved work plans;
- ii) Facilitate communication regarding the program to key stakeholders including the donor community;
- iii) Reviews and provides technical advice during development of RESILIM annual work plans and other key deliverables (annual progress reports, monitoring and evaluation plan, and grants manual).

3.3 Collaborative Planning- RESILIM Program Consortium Partners

Chemonics International is working/partnering with One World, International Union for the Conservation of Nature-Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (IUCN/ESARO), Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWP-SA) and Overseas Strategic Consulting (OSC), in delivering the RESILIM Program on behalf of USAID.

One World is a regional climate change entity and has experience in developing and implementing climate change programs and strategies across Sub Saharan Africa. IUCN, a world renowned biodiversity conservation union, works on biodiversity, climate change, energy, human livelihoods and greening the world economy using integrated approaches. The GWP-SA, an intergovernmental water resources management network, supports the sustainable development and management of water resources at all levels in Southern Africa. OSC, is a U.S.-based certified small business that provides strategic communications programs with measurable results throughout the world.

During this reporting period, the partners (Chemonics, GWP-SA, IUCN/ESARO and OneWorld) dedicated time to defining a process to adopt in order to develop and deliver to USAID a coherent work program plan that clearly articulates each partners' contribution. The process is

captured in a planning schedule for the work plan development phase (August-December 2012) that was developed, and later shared with LIMCOM.

This initial planning schedule also formed the basis upon which to construct short term contracts for the partner organizations. Chemonics International proceeded to develop a short-term contracting mechanism for the partners to compensate them for work done during this period. Following the expiration of the short-term contracts, Chemonics will engage in long-term long term contracts for the remainder of the contract period. The program work plan that is under development is due for submission to USAID in December 2012.

3.4 Setting up the Biodiversity Task Team

The key mandate of the Limpopo Water Course Commission is to advise the member states on water resources planning/development and management across the Basin. The Commission is the primary organ of LIMCOM, and is supported by an Executive Secretariat located in Maputo and three Task Teams (Legal, Flood Forecasting and Technical). Each Task Team consists of one member from each country to deal with issues specific to their thematic areas. However, none of these LIMCOM Task Teams focus on biodiversity issues, even though the Limpopo Basin hosts significant protected and unprotected ecosystems that are intricately dependent on the water of the River. The LIMCOM integrated water resource management (IWRM) is also devoid of biodiversity activities as a result of this challenge.

Therefore, there is an opportunity for the RESILIM Program to mainstream biodiversity conservation objectives into the strategic objectives of LIMCOM, which are captured in the IWRM Plan (2011-2015). The RESILIM Program is supporting the Executive Secretary of LIMCOM in creating a structure (Biodiversity Task Team) that would aid in this regard. The scope of work for the proposed Biodiversity Task Team includes the following:

- i) Long-term, strategic conservation and management of the biodiversity resource base of the Limpopo River Basin;
- ii) Institutional mechanism for sharing information, knowledge and experiences regarding biodiversity resources, their management and conservation;
- iii) Supports the identification and mapping of existing and potential threats to biodiversity resources of the river basin;
- iv) Assists LIMCOM in the review and recommendation of pertinent proposals, reports and documents related to biodiversity issues;
- v) Ensures that the Watercourse Commission is aware of different biodiversity projects in the basin and liaise with relevant Working Groups/structures under existing and proposed projects on issues of biodiversity;
- vi) Recommends actions (formulates, prioritizes, and recommends) to LIMCOM for the better management and protection of biodiversity and ecological processes in the Basin,
- vii) Recommends (through LIMCOM) and informs national and regional policies and programs that impact biodiversity resources, including sustainable land management and conservation at a regional scale;

- viii) Promotes the participation of local communities in regional biodiversity resource conservation.

3.5 RESILIM-GIZ Collaboration

During the reporting period, the LIMCOM Executive Secretary, GIZ, GWP-SA and RESILIM held joint planning meetings/workshops to discuss the proposed activities of the RESILIM program and establish linkages to ongoing work in the Basin by GIZ, which is a major donor currently supporting LIMCOM. These discussions were mainly guided by the strategic framework of the LIMCOM IWRM Plan (2011-2015) and also considered possibilities of how the RESILIM program could add value, while avoiding repetition and redundancy, to the implementation process of the IWRM Plan, which GIZ is supporting. The following were captured as key ongoing GIZ activities in the Basin, where the RESILIM program was invited to collaborate:

- i) A helicopter flight over the basin is currently being concluded. The purpose of the helicopter flight is aimed at supporting the ongoing Limpopo Monograph study subcontracted to AURECON. The Limpopo Monograph is a baseline assessment of the Limpopo River Basin that takes into account activities of all sectors. The helicopter flight, with video capturing capabilities, will enhance the spatial parameters related to ecological assessments and status of water infrastructure in some specific focus areas in the Limpopo Basin. Due to resource limitations, the helicopter flight is limited to specific areas in the Basin, The need therefore remains to extend this work to cover the areas that were not initially included, and to have repeat flights over the covered areas so as to map change over time. RESILIM is committed to co-finance the foregoing and other additional segments of the flight.
- ii) In April 2013, LIMCOM Commissioners will participate in a guided flight over the Limpopo Basin. This should be a very useful mission because the Limpopo River Basin traverses 4 countries, its catchment basin covers an area of 416,000 square km, and it encapsulates a diverse landscape, making it almost impossible for one to appreciate transboundary problems of interest while on the ground. Preparations are ongoing for this tour with support from GIZ, and the commissioners will be afforded an opportunity to get a first-hand aerial view of the issues/challenges/threats at the transboundary level. RESILIM is a collaborating partner and will ensure that the tour is adequately planned for, through a series of pre-tour activities including preparation of public awareness materials, pre-tour flight to identify hotspot areas, and developments of basin maps.
- iii) Part of the Limpopo Monograph study will entail the development and setting up of the Limpopo Information System (LIMIS). It is anticipated that LIMIS is going to be a decision support system for LIMCOM, with both data management and information exchange capabilities. An opportunity for collaboration with the RESILIM Program presents itself with specific reference to supporting the setting up of the LIMIS workstation and capacity building for the network of users within the Basin. There is also room for RESILIM to work closely with GIZ and the riparian countries to assist in the populating of LIMIS with data and information, and supporting riparian countries to develop data and information sharing

protocols for LIMIS. For better technical support, it is highly likely that the LIMIS server would be based in Germany, and riparian country representatives would have special access to the server to update and review data and information if necessary. RESILIM plans to collaborate with GIZ to ensure that an information policy with regards LIMIS is put in place. The proposed objectives of the information policy would include the following:

- Provide LIMCOM's stakeholders with a transparent process to access records and information held by the Commission through LIMIS
- Provide guidance to LIMCOM Secretariat staff in managing and providing records and other information to the Commission's stakeholders
- Define categories of information that are available to parties outside the Commission and any restrictions that may apply
- Describe methods and procedures for access to Commission information
- Define standard procedures for appeal if access is denied.

The policy would require conforming to LIMCOM's existing operational policies and international best practices on information sharing.

- iv) A GIZ funded assessment is ongoing (part of the Monograph Study) to determine gaps and needs with regards the hydrometric systems in the Limpopo Basin. However, GIZ has limited resources to actually invest in equipment upgrades and the introduction of other modern technologies (e.g. use of remote sensing through satellite imagery) that could support and enhance hydrometric data generated from ground monitoring stations. RESILIM has indicated willingness to support GIZ with regards to enhancing the effectiveness of the of the hydrometric systems in the Limpopo Basin, which is well aligned to the RESIIM sub-component on the expansion of the flow forecasting and early warning systems in the Basin. The foregoing is further discussed under section 3.3.
- v) The official launch of LIMCOM is scheduled to happen before the end of 2012. The RESILIM Program is collaborating with GIZ to support this launch; this is also an opportune event to launch and showcase the RESILIM Program through the development of public awareness materials, support the participation at the launch of local journalists from the riparian countries, support the participation of international journalists from BBC and CNN, support and organize a dialogue on sustainable development and financing of RBOs, capturing the participation of senior political figures and government representatives, the private sector, local communities, and donor representatives.

3.6 World Bank Initiatives in Mozambique with Relevance to RESILIM

On September 25, RESILIM met with the World Bank in Maputo and discussed the water resources management initiative that the Bank is supporting in Mozambique and the SADC region at large. Of specific interest to the RESIIM Program is the underground water mapping project (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/research/groundwater/international/sadcgwarehouse.html>) that covered most of the SADC region, and highlighted linkages between underground aquifers and key ecosystems in the region. This project, which collected data and mapped groundwater in the region, was led by the

British Geological Survey and the information generated is very useful and well aligned with the RESILIM Program goal, particularly as both livelihoods and biodiversity/ecosystems are heavily dependent on groundwater as a resource in many parts of the Limpopo Basin. This work will form sustainable development baseline for the RESILIM's proposed work on the development of an ecosystem-based water management model (integrating both surface and groundwater). Another project (Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems-A Review: World Bank/GEF Report, 2010) done as part of the World Bank/GEF funded work, established what is referred to as Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems, showing that ground water dependent ecosystems need groundwater to ensure their survival and maintenance of healthy and functioning ecosystems.

The World Bank recently approved funding to support work on the Pilot Program for Climate Change (PPCC) in Mozambique, with the lower Limpopo Basin also being covered. The proposed World Bank work aims to lower the climate related risks to local communities and economic development by strengthening hydrological and meteorological information systems and services to deliver reliable and timely information that increases climate resilience. The anticipated results include the following.

- i) Increase of accuracy and timeliness of hydrological forecasts;
- ii) Increase of accuracy and timeliness of weather forecasts; and
- iii) Improve people's and agencies' access to weather, climate and hydrological information.

This World Bank investment is expected to improve information management, hydrological data collection and forecasting, and early warning systems for Mozambique, including parts of the Limpopo River Basin. Through this initiative, the World Bank would harmonize the different technology platforms across the different basins in Southern Mozambique, so as to ensure compatibility of generated data.

This work links well to the RESILIM efforts to develop a climate change adaptation strategy for the Basin, which is expected to deliver, among others, the following: ecosystem-based water management model, environmental flow requirements/ecological flow, expansion of the flow forecasting and early warning systems in the Basin, establishment of ecosystem health monitoring programs, integration of climate/hydrology/ecology/ into a decision support system for LIMCOM.

3.7 Limpopo River Awareness Kit (RAK)

RESILIM conducted meetings with Hatfields Consultants, who designed RAK for LIMCOM under funding from GIZ. The subject has also been discussed extensively with GIZ. The RAK is a useful public awareness tool on water resources management-related issues at the transboundary level for LIMCOM and other water management authorities in the riparian states. However, RAK is web-based, and this presents challenges with regards to reaching out to the grassroots or rural

communities that sustain themselves on the water resources and ecosystems of the Limpopo River. The challenge of accessibility to RAK also applies to Government institutions, specifically those that are faced with shortage of IT infrastructure and internet connectivity; this has continued to hamper the effective utilization of the RAK, including for capacity building purposes. The other challenge relates to the dearth of information within the RAK relating to biodiversity, CBNRM and climate change adaptation related issues, which are key elements of the RESILIM Program.

The following are gaps and weaknesses of the RAK that the RESILIM program could build on, so as to improve the quality and effectiveness of the RAK:

- i) Analyze the gaps in terms of missing data/information for the RAK with the view to upgrade the RAK;
- ii) Develop public awareness materials on the RAK targeting illiterate groups and those with limited or no access to RAK through the internet. Possible target groups include rural communities, and primary and secondary schools in the Basin. Materials in local languages would be required to be used as media for communication.
- iii) Explore possibilities of linking the RAK to the proposed LIMIS (Limpopo Information System). There is need for a mechanism for data sharing between LIMIS and RAK, so that LIMIS can support RAK with downward flow of information, ensuring that the two systems are mutually reinforcing.
- iv) Promote innovative ways of encouraging private sector support to both RAK and LIMIS by facilitating data and information sharing, leveraging of financial resources through avenues such as online advertising within the RAK page, as well as continuous data and information updates to enhance its utility and value by the private sector. This is an opportunity that the RESILIM Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) sub-component would be exploring.

3.8 Other Initiatives

The UN-HABITAT (2005-2007) study carried out in the Limpopo Basin is also an important study within the LIMCOM strategic framework. The focus of this work was on disaster vulnerability reduction and land use planning, related to RESILIM's Climate Change Adaptation component. However, the UN-Habitat project did not present the same level of detail across the four riparian countries. A regional integrated land use plan was developed based on this work, but no funding, nor political-will, was ever secured to push forward implementation of this regional plan. RESILIM recognizes a need to evaluate this UN-Habitat work and start empowering relevant institutions within the Basin to implement proposed recommendations, specifically those that are aligned with the RESILIM goal.

Botswana and South Africa are developing an MOU (a bilateral arrangement) with regards to the management of the shared Limpopo water resources, which form the boundary between the two countries. Major problems along this stretch of the Limpopo River, which are closely linked to the biodiversity initiatives of RESILIM, include the increase in abundance of Water Hyacinth and deteriorating water quality. Poor water quality resulting from industrial and agricultural activities is likely responsible for the increase in the infestation of Water Hyacinth, an alien aquatic invasive

weed. RESILIM's efforts to establish an ecosystem health monitoring program would enhance joint monitoring of water quality and control of the weed. Uncontrolled increase in coverage of the weed is detrimental to the Limpopo ecosystem, as it would exhaust all the oxygen in pools, compromising the survival of indigenous aquatic life (phytoplankton and zooplankton).

3.9 Partnerships Development

The RESILIM Program recognizes the need for strategic partnerships and alliances in order to ensure the achievement of project impact and outcomes, develop and maintain sustainability of interventions, leverage funds, and capitalize on existing successes and resource groups. To this end, Chemonics International's home office Partnerships Advisor is supporting the RESILIM field team to develop a strategy on how partnerships will be defined, determined, and managed. In the interim, however, the RESILIM Program has already commenced engagement with institutions and initiatives such as AHEAD-GLTFCA, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the UNDP GEF Small Grants Program (SGP), South Africa National Parks, and others, with a view to developing strategic partnerships that have measurable impact, for the improved and sustainable delivery of USAID's RESILIM Program.

Other potential local partnerships with RESILIM include the South African Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), municipalities in the Basin, and the South African Department of Science and Technology, with an emphasis on sectors such as mining, electricity, and commercial agriculture, which all have considerable impact on the availability, use, and quality of water in the Limpopo River Basin.

RESILIM would also seek to encourage interaction and exchange of experiences and lessons between the major southern Africa River Basin Organizations (OKACOM, ORASECOM, LIMCOM and ZAMCOM) in the region, working with and engaging the relevant structures of SADC, as appropriate.

3.10 Monitoring and Evaluation

During this reporting period, RESILIM technical staff reviewed the life-of-project illustrative activities to align implementation strategies with the M&E results framework. Performance indicators and program milestones/benchmarks are being revised in order to be used as a basis for developing a performance monitoring plan, which will serve as a management tool to effectively monitor RESILIM's progress and direct implementation toward planned results. This performance monitoring planning process is a critical strategy for effective implementation. Conducted in tandem with work plan development, the performance monitoring plan will provide a robust set of tools to guide program implementation, including M&E indicator reference sheets that direct data analysis and provide baseline and targets from which to measure program progress. It is important that the Monitoring and Evaluation plan be completed in December 2012, as its performance indicators, benchmarks, and monitoring strategies will provide targeted guidelines for measuring the effectiveness of the RESILIM program.

The RESILIM Program's Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist was hired in October and will work with Chemonics home office M&E support staff to develop the M&E Plan to be submitted in December.

4. UPCOMING TASKS DURING START-UP PHASE

- Special ceremony for USAID and LIMCOM to sign the RESILIM Governance Structure;
- Pre-tour activities: flight over the basin to identify hotspots areas by the organizing team;
- Development of branded RESILIM public awareness materials;
- Development of a concept paper on PPPs and strategic alliances;
- In-country consultations using GWP-SA and IUCN/EASRO riparian country structures;
- Workshop on joint water quality monitoring and water hyacinth control (South Africa and Botswana), October 25 at Martins Drift;
- Presentation of draft annual plan to RESILIM Program Steering Committee and regional stakeholders, date to be determined;
- CBNRM Best Practice Meeting at SAWC, South Africa, to be held on November 1;
- GIZ-RESILIM-LIMCOM joint planning/discussion meeting scheduled to be held in Gaborone on the 24th of October;
- Planning meetings with consortium partners, next meeting November 8 & 9, in Pretoria;
- Regional Public Private Partnerships Conference co-organized with Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA). The Theme of the regional Conference is "Local Government Financing Through Public Private Partnerships". Scheduled early 2013;
- Set up long-term subcontracts with RESILIM partners GWP, IUCN, and OneWorld;
- Continue developing project M&E Plan, Grants Manual, and Work Plan documents for December submittal to USAID/Southern Africa;
- Participation in the OKACOM Biodiversity Task Force meeting in Windhoek, November 12.