Management of Competing Water Uses and Associated Ecosystems in Pungwe, Buzi, and Save Basins Project



Name of the Project	Management of Competing Water Uses and Associated Ecosystems in Pungwe, Buzi, and Save Basins
Financing Partner	Global Environmental Facility (GEF)
Implementing Agency	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Executing Agency at Regional Level	Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA)
Executing Agencies at National Level	Mozambique: Ministry of Public Works, Housing, and Water Resources and Administração Regional de Águas - Centro (ARA-Centro, IP)
	Zimbabwe: Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, and Rural Resettlement; and Zimbabwe National Water authority (ZINWA)
Duration	February 2021- December 2024
Project value	USD\$ 6 million

## Background

Mozambique and Zimbabwe share at least five river basins or subbasins; namely Limpopo, Zambezi, Pungwe, Buzi, and Save. The Pungwe, Buzi, and Save basins, collectively known as BUPUSA, are exclusively shared by the two countries and drain into the Indian Ocean. Water resources planning, development, and management of projects in the Pungwe, Buzi, and Save River basins relies on cooperation between the two countries.

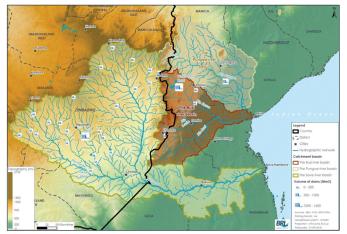
The management of the shared BUPUSA river basins is guided by the Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses in the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The Protocol was signed in 2000 to foster closer cooperation for judicious, sustainable, and coordinated management, protection, and utilization of the shared watercourses; as well as to advance the SADC agenda on regional integration and poverty alleviation. The Protocol entered into force in 2003 and calls for the need to establish river basin institutions, such as river basin commissions, joint water commissions, and water-sharing agreements.

In 2002, the governments of Mozambique and Zimbabwe established a Joint Water Commission (JWC) to address issues related the BUPUSA basins. The JWC advises the respective governments on the conservation, development, and utilisation of their shared water and watercourses. The vision for the three basins is "sustainable shared river basins for all".

The governments of Mozambique and Zimbabwe signed a watersharing agreement on the Pungwe River Basin on 11 July 2016, while an agreement for the Buzi Watercourse was signed on 29 July 2019. A similar agreement is in preparation for the Save River Basin. Several International Cooperating Partners have been supporting the joint planning and management of the watercourse - SIDA supported two phases of the Pungwe Basin Transboundary Integrated Water Resources Management and Development Programme (PP1 and PP2); the SADC Transboundary Water Programme, funded by the British Government through FCDO (formerly DFID) and the German Government through BMZ, supported the BUPUSA Tri-basin Project. The International Union for Conservation of Nature has also supported the implementation of the Building River Dialogue and Governance (BRIDGE) in the three basins. The two countries have developed a roadmap for the establishment of a Tri-basin institution which will support the transboundary water cooperation.

## Management of Competing Water Uses and Associated Ecosystems in Pungwe, Buzi, and Save Basins project

The **Management of competing water uses and associated ecosystems in Pungwe, Buzi, and Save Basins project** targets the conservation, sustainable use, and risk mitigation of the transboundary water resources shared by Mozambique and Zimbabwe: Pungwe, Buzi, and Save River Basins. These three basins are located along the Beira corridor, an important economic corridor that links the Beira harbour to the hinterland, with associated impacts on the environment.



MAP OF THE PUNGWE, BUZI, AND SAVE BASINS

The project seeks to promote holistic approaches using the waterenergy-food nexus, with specific interest in connected ecosystems. It has a focus on developing capacities for managing water resources and designing participatory and community-based strategies. Results and impacts will ensure increased transboundary water cooperation through promoting a coordinated approach for flood and drought risks management; mainstreaming of these risks in the decisionmaking process; strengthening capacities for water management; linking appropriate scales of intervention; increasing communities' autonomy and ownership in water-related risk management; and reducing vulnerability of the local communities to floods and droughts.

## **Project Objective**

The objective of the project is to strengthen transboundary cooperation and management of water resources and associated ecosystems for improved water security, climate change resilience, and sustainable livelihoods in the shared Pungwe, Buzi, and Save basins, located in Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

### Project Components and outcomes

There are three components of the project. They, along with the associated outcomes, are listed below:

#### Component 1: Flood and drought warning and mitigation

**Outcome 1.1:** Flood and drought management in the Pungwe, Buzi, and Save River basins is improved and the related risks are mitigated. **Outcome 1.2:** Improved national and transboundary capacity for integrated management of floods and droughts.



LAND COVER MAP OF THE PUNGWE, BUZI, AND SAVE BASINS

# Component 2: Conserving and restoring ecosystems for sustainable livelihoods

**Outcome 2.1:** Improved water ecosystems of the Pungwe, Buzi, and Save River basins for sustainable functions and services for people and nature.

# Component 3: Integrated basin planning for the Pungwe, Buzi, and Save River basins

**Outcome 3.1:** The Mozambique and Zimbabwe JWC agrees on the updated shared water resources strategy and programme for joint ecosystem-based management of the Pungwe, Buzi, and Save river basins.

This project complements the national efforts to manage water resources within the basins and other projects being carried out, such as the Idai Recovery Project (IRP) to Zimbabwe, the Supporting Enhanced Climate Action for Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Development Pathway (SECA) Project, the Building River Dialogue and Governance (BRIDGE) Project Phase 4 implemented by IUCN, and the SADC-GMI's Sustainable Groundwater Management in SADC Member States Project.

This project recognizes that women are not adequately represented in positions of responsibility within civil society organizations and local institutions, including water resources management, and that women face significant barriers to securing resource rights. This project's activities have therefore been defined with the aim of ensuring gender equality in managing water resources in the three basins.

### Implementing Arrangements

The execution and strategic orientation of the project will be under the overall responsibility of the JWC, composed of representatives of the Ministry of Public Works, Housing, and Water Resources of Mozambique and the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, and Rural Resettlement of Zimbabwe. The International Union for Conservation of Nature is the project's implementing agency, while GWPSA is the bilateral executing agency at regional level. Project implementation is being carried out by the Project Implementation Unit (PIU), housed in the *Administração Regional de Águas do Centro* (ARA) Centro Office in Beira, Mozambique, while the Project Steering Committee (PSC) assists and advises on the implementation of the activities.



