



Season's Greetings and 2024 Highlights



As we approach the end of 2024, we reflect on a year filled with remarkable achievements and progress. The LIMCOM Secretariat would like to extend its heartfelt gratitude to the four Riparian States – Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe – as well as its partners and various stakeholders for their unwavering support and cooperation throughout the year. 2024 has been a remarkable journey filled with significant milestones, and we are excited to share some of these achievements with you.

Pioneer of the 1st Digital Twin in Africa

- In October 2024, LIMCOM became Africa's first River Basin Organization (RBO) to implement a [Digital Twin](#) (DT). This innovative solution integrates complex data to manage the water resources of a river basin, enhancing decision-making with near real-time data. The DT was developed in partnership with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI).

Reviving the Limpopo Management Information System

- Complementary to this, the Limpopo Management Information System (LIMIS) was rebuilt to strengthen decision-making, while the Data and Information Sharing Procedures were developed. The LIMIS is an interactive, web-based data and information management tool used to monitor the long-term impacts of

development and management initiatives on the water resources of the basin based on contemporary and historical spatial data, hydrological time series, earth observation information and other related information. The Data and Information Sharing Procedures seek to formalize data and information exchange amongst State Parties.

Successful Implementation of Flagship Project

- This year saw several groundbreaking activities being implemented to uplift the living standards of the basin's population and conserve the basin's resources and ecosystem services through the project "[Integrated Transboundary River Basin Management for the Sustainable Development of the Limpopo River Basin.](#)" LIMCOM is implementing the project in partnership with the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA), with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), through funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Some of the milestones under this intervention include:
 - ✓ **Official Project Launch:** The four LIMCOM Member States [officially launched the project](#) in March 2024 and pledged commitment towards its success. This high-level political support resonated well with the enthusiasm shown by the communities living in the basin, who have expressed optimism that the project would address some of the challenges facing the basin.



LIMCOM Ministers at the project launch ceremony

- ✓ **Identification of Priority Problems in the Basin:** The year 2024 saw LIMCOM undertake a [Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis \(TDA\)](#) to identify and prioritize transboundary water-related environmental problems occurring in the basin. A [webinar](#) to present some of the key findings of the TDA was successfully held in September 2024 and attended by more than 120 participants. A draft TDA Report has now been reviewed by Member States through national consultation workshops, setting the stage for a region-wide validation workshop in early 2025. Once the TDA Report is approved, the formulation of a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) will commence.
- ✓ **Completion of 1st Limpopo Joint Basin Survey:** The [1st Limpopo Joint Basin Survey \(JBS\) and Environmental Flows assessment](#) was successfully conducted in August/September 2024 to offer some critical river health indicators and insights into the environment of the

basin. Findings from the survey will provide a foundation for developing a comprehensive and updated Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plan for the basin and pave the way for establishing a transboundary river health monitoring team in the basin.



Part of the team that conducted the 1st Limpopo Joint Basin Survey

- ✓ **Strengthening the River Flow Monitoring Network:** To enhance the Limpopo Flood Forecasting and Early Warning System, several hydrometric equipment were successfully installed across the basin. This is to support the flood forecasting and early warning system as well as environmental flow implementation in the basin. During the installation, technicians were trained to use the latest version of the Cello data loggers.
- ✓ **Reducing Land Degradation:** Significant progress has been made in implementing Sustainable Land Management (SLM) activities at selected pilot sites to reduce land degradation and sedimentation that is widespread in the basin. A total of four SLM sites have been identified -- one each in the four LIMCOM countries. These pilot sites are the Mogobane Dam in Botswana; the Massingir Dam in Mozambique; the Mapochs in South Africa; and the Guyu-Chelesa in Zimbabwe. At each of the sites, LIMCOM is working with local partners namely the Botswana Country Water Partnership; the Instituto Superior Politecnico de Gaza (ISPJ) in Mozambique; the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa; and the Dabane Trust in Zimbabwe.



The SLM activities include the construction of half-moons

- ✓ **Participation at Global Events:** LIMCOM was able to participate and showcase its activities at various regional and international events. These events include the 10th World Water Forum in Bali, Indonesia;

[the 10th International Waters Conference in Punta del Este, Uruguay](#); the SADC Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) Network Annual Meeting in Kasane, Botswana; and the 25th WaterNet/WARFSA/GWPSA Symposium held in Maseru, the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Collaborative Partnerships

- ✓ Our partnerships with regional and international organizations have continued to flourish, fostering a collaborative approach to sustainably manage shared resources in the Limpopo River Basin. In October 2024, LIMCOM signed a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\)](#) with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) to facilitate action for transboundary cooperation through enhanced data sharing and scientific collaboration.



LIMCOM Executive Secretary Mr. Sergio Siteo (right) and Dr. Henry Roman, the IWMI Regional Representative for Southern Africa (left) signed the MoU.

Similarly, an MoU was signed in November 2024 with the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conversation Area (GLTFCA) to establish a framework for collaboration and coordination in implementing the GLTFCA Freshwater Resource Management Strategy in key strategic areas including Governance, Integrated Freshwater, Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services Development and Partnerships.

Engagement and Education

- ✓ Throughout the year, we have continued to strengthen our community outreach programme through the implementation of a robust communication strategy that has assisted LIMCOM in educating and engaging communities living in the basin and various stakeholders on sustainably managing the resources of the basin for present and future generations.

Looking Forward to 2025

- ✓ As we look ahead to the new year, we are filled with optimism and determination. By building on the successes of 2024, the basin countries can further enhance their resilience to environmental challenges and ensure a prosperous future for all who depend on the Limpopo River Basin. Together, we have made significant strides in

2024, and we look forward to achieving even greater milestones in 2025.

Wishing You a Joyous Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year!



The Limpopo Watercourse Commission (LIMCOM) was established through the LIMCOM Agreement signed in November 2003 by the four Member States – Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The main objective of LIMCOM is to advise and “provide recommendations on the uses of the Limpopo, its tributaries and its riparian areas for purposes and measures of protection, preservation and management of the Limpopo.” The Limpopo River Basin has a catchment area estimated at 412,000 km² and a population of over 21 million people. The river flows north from South Africa, where it creates the border between South Africa and Botswana and then the border between South Africa and Zimbabwe, before crossing into Mozambique and draining into the Indian Ocean. The basin supports diverse socio-economic activities in the four Riparian States including agro-industry, large-scale irrigation, rain-fed subsistence agriculture, mining, as well as eco-tourism, and hosts some of the world’s foremost protected areas.

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