

INNOVATION FUND


Strengthening research and innovation in natural resource management and waste management in Southern Africa Region (RINaWa)

PROJECT CONSORTIUM


PROJECT COORDINATOR
 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat, Botswana

PARTNERS
 College of African Wildlife Management (CAWM), Tanzania
 World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Switzerland

LOCATION

 Eastern Africa: Tanzania
 Southern Africa: Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia

PERIOD

 December 2021 – December 2024


TOTAL BUDGET

 EUR 5,800,000

EU FUNDING

 EUR 4,900,000

PROJECT CONTACT

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CHALLENGE

Anthropogenic environmental degradation and climate change have led to biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation and socio-ecological instability in eastern and southern Africa, affecting the capacity of ecosystems to adequately deliver the necessary goods and services, including for human activity, and putting national and regional development potential at risk.

FOCUS

Government entities will be supported in evidence-based policymaking and local communities will receive support in applying research and innovation (R&I) in community-based natural resource management (CB-NRM), including the development of indigenous knowledge. Furthermore, natural resource and waste value chain actors from both the formal and informal sectors of the economy will be supported in effective CB-NRM practices, while experts from the public and private sector will see improved collaboration on R&I related to CB-NRM, including research methodologies and uptake and adoption of R&I results.

RATIONALE

Continuing habitat degradation, poaching and the illegal transnational wildlife trade have pushed wildlife resources to threatened and extinction levels.

The majority of citizens in eastern and southern Africa live in rural areas where wildlife resources are found, hence their support for wildlife conservation will be critical to ensure the survival of wildlife on their land.

The increased pressure on the natural environment calls for effective natural resource management (NRM) and environmental conservation. In recognising the critical role of indigenous people and local communities (IPLCs) in managing and conserving national resources and combating wildlife crimes, several SADC protocols call for the adoption of CB-NRM approaches to ensure effective NRM and law enforcement. However, little progress has been made in the promotion and implementation of these approaches.

Fish resources play an important role in addressing food and nutrition security and driving economic development. Production from capture fisheries in the region has largely stagnated. The major threats to the sustainability of fisheries include increased fishing activity, habitat degradation, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, climate change, and inadequate support for scientific and management decisions.

Poor waste management practices, in particular widespread dumping of waste in uncontrolled dumpsites and water bodies, is aggravating the problem of generally low sanitation levels and fragile ecosystem health across the region. This is further aggravated by high population growth, urbanisation and intensive agriculture. The improvement of waste management through adopting a circular economy approach provides an opportunity to enhance regional value chains and minimise the production of waste.





Houses inside Hulene dumpsite, Maputo, Mozambique (@Livanningo)

METHOD

RINaWa is strengthening CB-NRM policies, strategies and the implementation of legislation, in particular focusing on governance, co-management and human-wildlife interactions, by supporting government entities in drafting, implementing and monitoring scientific evidence-based CB-NRM policies.

RINaWa is strengthening research capacities, technology transfer and advocacy, while at the same time creating awareness on CB-NRM. It is particularly active at the level of IPLCs, public and private natural resource and waste management actors, civil society organisations (CSOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs), to improve their networking capacities, collaboration and technical functioning.

RINaWa supports research and tertiary education institutes in applying up-to-date research and training on local natural resource and waste management issues.

RINaWa combines science, action, policy and engagement in collaboration with local organisations - IPLC networks, wildlife research institutions, natural resources/wildlife authorities, local authorities, tourism companies, waste management entities and community leader networks, and will:

- Create greater awareness on the benefits of sound natural resource and waste management.
- Build the capacity of IPLCs, CBOs, CSOs and informal private sector groupings in natural resource and waste management, assess the status quo of natural resource and waste management, and share evidence-based information and good practices.

- Promote national and regional collaboration and governance on natural resource and waste management.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Impacts

Improved sustainable waste management (WM) and natural resource management (NRM) in eastern and southern Africa.

Outcomes

- Research and tertiary education institutes applying up-to-date research and training in WM and NRM.
- Government entities drafting, implementing and monitoring WM and NRM policies based on scientific evidence.
- Strengthened and effective participation of local and national groupings from society (IPLCs, CBOs, CSOs) in evidence-based decision making in WM and NRM.
- Effective WM and NRM practices applied by value chain actors from the formal and informal sectors.
- Improved collaboration between experts from the public and private sectors on WM and NRM R&I.

Outputs

- Capacity of research and tertiary education institutes built in delivering research and training in WM and NRM, responding to emerging societal needs.
- Government entities strengthened in drafting, implementing and monitoring scientific evidence-based WM and NRM policies.
- Enhanced capacities of local and national groupings from society in effective participation and decision making in WM and NRM, based on scientific evidence.
- Innovative operational and management solutions demonstrated to value chain actors in the WM and NRM sectors.
- Actors from the science-policy-practice interface effectively collaborating on WM and NRM issues.

PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

Synergies in the R&I ecosystem (private sector, technology transfer, R&I uptake).

Local and indigenous knowledge.

SECTOR

Natural resource management, waste management

KEY WORDS

multi-stakeholder collaboration, capacity development, research, policies, cross-sectoral collaboration



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Protecting transboundary natural resources (GIZ- SADC, 2021)

