

CRIDF in the Kingdom of eSwatini

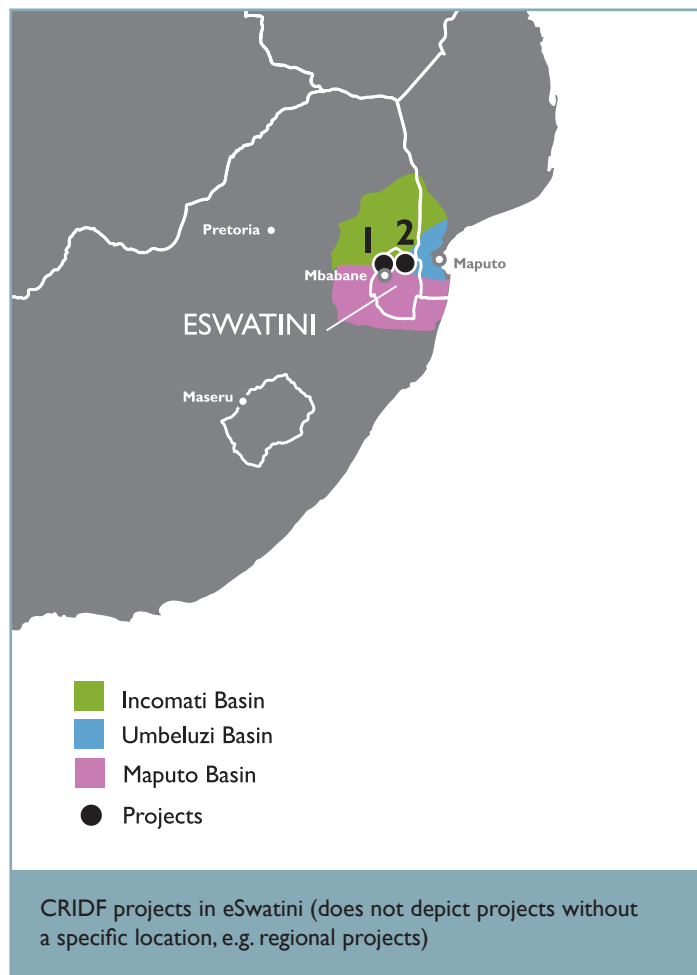
An overview of projects the Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility (CRIDF) has engaged with in eSwatini

eSwatini is a landlocked lower middle income country with a population of 1.4 million. It is located entirely within the transboundary basins of three rivers – the Incomati, the Maputo and the Umbeluzi. CRIDF’s focus in eSwatini is building climate resilience, mainly for the rural poor, through improved water security and flood resilience. To do this, the Facility works closely with the Government of eSwatini and organisations with transboundary water resource management responsibilities, such as KOBWA, the Tripartite Technical Committee for the Inco-Maputo Agreement. CRIDF has also worked in partnership with Illovo Sugar, Southern Africa’s largest sugar producer.

Lower Incomati flood management (eSwatini, Mozambique, South Africa)

CRIDF has worked with Illovo Sugar and Tongaat Hulett in assessing and managing floods in the Lower Incomati, which includes Mozambican smallholder schemes at Maragra and Xinavane Estates. These schemes reduce flood vulnerability for 3,900 hectares of land and protect around 250,000 people. CRIDF has provided technical assistance for these projects in a complex environment, to ensure that local people are involved in project planning. Its approach not only benefits the people of Mozambique, but also provides best-practice models for similar projects in other countries. The initiative has included setting into operation an early warning flood forecasting system for the entire Incomati River Basin. It has also provided training for the riparian member states (of eSwatini, Mozambique and South Africa) using a public–private partnership approach. Another feature has been new ways of operating dams, which have been shown to significantly reduce flooding.

2014–2019



Building climate resilience for smallholder contract farmers in the sugar sector (eSwatini, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia)

CRIDF has worked with Illovo Sugar to develop strategies for increasing the climate resilience of smallholder farmers. Illovo Sugar works across the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region by contracting smallholder farmers to grow sugarcane; this provides income for more than 1.5 million people. More generally, smallholder farmers are important contributors to agricultural production

in the SADC region. A key output of the project was a vulnerability assessment and response tool that can be used by the food and beverage industry across the SADC region and beyond. As a result of the CRIDF support, Illovo has developed an improved outgrower (contract farmer) strategy and has integrated outgrower climate risks into its corporate risk strategy.
2015–2017

Establishing a commission for the Incomati and Maputo basins (eSwatini, Mozambique, South Africa)

In its support of the Inco-Maputo Tripartite Permanent Technical Committee, CRIDF is providing technical assistance for the initial activities to develop a Strategic Plan for the IncoMaputo River Basin Commission that is being established.

2020–ongoing

Nondvo Dam

Nondvo Dam has been investigated as a possible source of additional water for the Mbabane-Manzini Corridor in eSwatini and has the potential to provide additional water for hydropower and small scale irrigation. The proposed dam has been included in SADC's priority water infrastructure list and was first identified under the Joint Maputo River Basin Water Resources Study (JMRBWS) in 2008. CRIDF supported the feasibility study for the dam by completing a climate change assessment, developing a preliminary financing strategy and preparing a roadmap for transboundary notification under the SADC Protocol of Shared Watercourses. Subsequently, CRIDF acted as Independent Technical Advisors to the Government of eSwatini for the technical review of the Nondvo Dam feasibility study.

2016–2017, 2019

See map: [project number 1](#)

Mananga Gauging Station

The Komati River flows into South Africa from eSwatini at the Mananga border post. Records at the Mananga Gauging Station in eSwatini, which is about 2 km upstream of the border, are

required to be accurate since they are important for the management of the water resources in the transboundary Inkomati Basin. CRIDF has examined the existing hydrometric gauging station (accuracy, equipment, structural integrity), reviewing abstractions and requirements to construct another gauging station at the border between eSwatini and South Africa. Following this, an agreement has been reached between the two countries to reconstruct the existing Mananga gauging station. CRIDF completed the design for this work and will fund the capital works at an estimated cost of £800,000.

2018–ongoing

See map: [project number 2](#)

Useful links to the CRIDF website

[CRIDF tools and tables](#): guidance and learning produced by the programme

[CRIDF case studies](#): a demonstration of the work delivered so far by the programme

[CRIDF infographics](#): useful statistics from CRIDF countries

[CRIDF countries](#): more from the CRIDF country overview series

ABOUT CRIDF

The Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility (CRIDF) is a UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) supported programme working to provide long-term solutions to water issues that affect the lives of the poor in Southern Africa. Our focus is to work together with organisations to show them how they can better build and manage their own water infrastructure to improve people's lives. Because rivers, lakes and river basins cross borders, CRIDF is working with 12 different countries in Southern Africa that share water resources. In so doing, CRIDF aims to improve the lives of over 200 million people, many of them extremely poor.

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