

flagship projects

conservation international's freshwater projects + goals

South Africa

Create a national payment-for-ecosystem-services (PES) program with South Africa's National Biodiversity Institute; restore and manage grazing lands in the Kamiesberg Mountain catchment to benefit more than 100,000 people; and provide incentives and options to conserve water, restore the health of former mining sites, and create green jobs through the Living Edge of Africa Program in the Eastern Cape.



Okavango Delta

Use scientific modeling to determine how different development scenarios and climate change would impact ecosystem service flows in the Okavango Delta, promote equitable water resource allocation, provide alternative livelihoods, and protect high-value upstream ecosystem service areas in Angola. This work will alleviate poverty in those regions and secure cattle grazing, agriculture and tourism benefits downstream in the Okavango river basin, benefitting more than one million people.



Madagascar

Protect the sources of Madagascar's water and ensure sustainable management of freshwater ecosystems by implementing IWRM and linking this work to water and sanitation projects underway by relief agency partners in five large landscapes and watersheds.



Brazil

Protect and restore forest fragments and freshwater springs in upland areas to secure water services for São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Minas Gerais and Espirito Santo residents in Brazil, and create state-level PES programs and institutions to pay for that protection, benefitting almost 100 million people.



Colombia

Consolidate protected areas for fresh water through PES, conservation agreements and climate change adaptation strategies in the páramos and high Andean forests in Colombia. We will communicate results to help educate governments and citizens in Colombia about the value of ecosystem services.



Tibetan Plateau

Build upon existing successful PES projects in the Tibetan Plateau serving as proof of concept that PES can positively impact water quality and quantity for Chinese citizens. This will also provide an entrée into the highly political and complicated issue of dam development throughout China and downstream countries on the Mekong.



Greater Mekong

Provide the Cambodian, Lao and Vietnamese governments and the Mekong River Commission with ecosystem-service-based economic models for sustainable watershed management of the mid-to lower-Mekong, the Cardamom Mountains and the Tonle Sap Lake, taking climate change and dams into account. Implement community fisheries and PES programs and influence the implementation, design, operation and impacts of Mekong River dams. Develop and implement strategies for freshwater ecosystem-based resilience to climate change in the Tonle Sap Lake.



Fiji

Establish the Viti Levu Islandscape in Fiji, adopting IWRM and working closely with indigenous communities who own 87 percent of Fiji's land. Work with FIJI Water, a major investor in watershed protection. Expected results include improved water quality and quantity.



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