Location

The Limpopo River and its tributaries drain a large portion of northern South Africa and smaller portions of eastern Botswana and southern Zimbabwe before flowing southeast through southern Mozambique to the Indian Ocean

Objectives

- Promoting sustainable agricultural development for poverty alleviation
- Facilitating greater cross-border cooperation and ensuring equitable inter-country and intersectoral water allocation
- Protecting and restoring areas of environmental degradation
- Introducing technologies to optimise water productivity
- Improving access to water for multiple uses

Background

- Catchment area: Around 413,000km^2
- Rainfall: Average 530mm per annum. (Range: 200 - 1,200mm)
- Evaporation: Average - 1,970mm per annum. (Range 800 - 2,400mm)
- Water transfers: Water is transferred into the basin under 5 separate transfer schemes in South Africa
- Irrigation: Present - 244,000ha, unevenly distributed. Current over-development in South Africa, under-development in Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique
- Other land use (dryland): Crops - 234,000ha; Pastures - 1,780,000ha; Forestry 455,000ha
- Population: 14 million
- Poverty indicators: Poverty rate - Average 52% of population but higher in South Africa and Mozambique

Work Packages

	Work Package	Study Objectives	Work Package Leader
1	Poverty Analysis	Improved insight into the status of poverty within the basin; its water-related causes; and opportunities for poverty alleviation	Prof Charles Mataya (FANRPAN - Malawi) cmataya@poly.ac.mw
2	Analysis of Water Availability and Access	Improved understanding of water availability and access by different users	Mr Kevin Scott (ARC) scott@arc.agric.za
3	Analysis of Agricultural Water Productivity	Analysis of agricultural water productivity at basin and detailed scales, including an assessment of potential increases and their contribution to poverty alleviation	Dr Hilmy Sally (IWMI) h.sally@cgiar.org
4	Institutional Analysis	Improved understanding of the institutional and policy context, the constraints to and opportunities for improved water management for poverty alleviation and changes needed to enable improvement	Dr Douglas Merrey (FANRPAN) djmerrey@fanrpan.org
5	Intervention Analysis	Interventions are human actions that will significantly change or contribute to changes in water availability, access and productivity	Dr Lindiwe Sibanda (FANRPAN) lmsibanda@fanrpan.org
6	Development and Application of the Knowledge Base	To maximise the benefit from new and existing insight and data through effective knowledge sharing processes. The desired outcome is significantly enhanced knowledge flow from and to agricultural producers, researchers and development agencies	Mr Terry Newby (ARC) Terry@arc.agric.za