

Theory of change

The above alternative scenario can be summarized into a Theory of Change (described and graphically presented below):

The intervention logic for the project is premised on the understanding that resources will be deployed to implement the interventions (activities) to deliver outputs which in turn will lead to certain institutional and behavioral changes (outcomes) at the intermediate level provided that the assumptions and certain pre-conditions governing project implementation hold true. At the lowest level of the theory of change, necessary and sufficient interventions will be deployed to deliver outputs. The key assumptions underpinning this level of the theory of change is that there is political will for integrated landscape management, interest and commitment from the local communities. The next level of the theory of change, shows that outputs will lead directly to the delivery of the project outcomes, namely: (a) the Government of Eswatini adopts and starts enforcing an updated policy, institutional and legislative framework for SLM and ecosystem restoration (b) Reduced Land degradation through capacity strengthening for innovative SLM technologies in productive landscapes across 60,700 ha of the Mbuluzi River Basin (c) Capacity strengthening for Effective management of the three nature reserves of (Malolotja Nature Reserve, Mlawula nature reserve and Hawane Dam (Ramsar site) in the basin is undertaken d) Active participation of women and youth in biodiversity conservation and integrated land management will directly lead to an eco-resilient and highly productive Mbuluzi River landscape and effectively managed protected areas providing critical ecosystem goods and services (Project Objective). The underpinning assumption here is that government is fully committed to the conservation and sustainable use of the Mbuluzi river basin. The outputs are deemed as sufficient and adequate to deliver the stated outcomes if the following assumptions are true: (i) Stakeholders are willing to cooperate in the project; (ii) Local communities are cooperative; (iii) Local scientists and other professionals are willing to partner with local communities; (iv) Information dissemination pathways are readily available for awareness creation. It is anticipated that delivery of the project objective will lead to the delivery of the anticipated project impact which is “Food security and natural resource management are improved and contribute to rural livelihoods, national, regional and global environmental benefits”. In order to achieve the stated impact, factors/conditions (impact drivers) are necessary for the project to move from outcomes to delivery of impact: (i) target stakeholders exhibiting continuous commitment to integrated landscape management approaches; (ii) continuous engagement and ultimate ownership/buy-in of project activities by stakeholders; and (iii) project partnerships and personnel with key institutions/policy champions to drive political will necessary for policy change are stable.



