



ALIANÇA COMUNITÁRIA PARA RESILIÊNCIA E GESTÃO DE RECURSOS NATURAIS

Mangrove of the Limpopo River Estuary, Current Situation After January and March 2026 Floods. Call for Awareness and Support

Organization Name	COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOR RESILIENCE AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT – ASSOCIAÇÃO ACRE
Report Title	Mangrove of the Limpopo River Estuary, Current Situation After January and March 2026 Floods. Appeal and Awareness
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Executive Summary:

The mangrove of the Limpopo River estuary is heavily impacted by the floods that occur on a recurring basis in the Limpopo River Basin. The floods of the year 2000 destroyed more than half of the mangrove area, with the species *Rhizophora mucronata*, *Ceriops tagal*, *Bruguiera gymnorhiza*, *Xylocarpus granatum*. The floods of 2013 partially destroyed the mangrove, mainly affecting plants with a height below 3 meters. The recent floods of 2026 deeply affected the mangrove and extinguished again the same species they affected in 2000. These species were reintroduced as part of the Limpopo River estuary mangrove restoration programme, through the participation of the Local Community. In this context, Associação ACRE launches an appeal and awareness for Biodiversity Conservation Organizations and Entities to support the construction of the Mangrove Ecosystem Resilience of the Limpopo River Estuary, through support for post-flood recovery interventions of this ecosystem, allowing the reintroduction of extinct mangrove species, recovery of destroyed mangrove areas, to support the resilience of local communities that depend on this ecosystem.

I. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

In Limpopo River estuary the most important cause of mangrove deforestation and degradation is natural pressure. Natural phenomena such as floods were in the origin of significant losses of mangrove in the Limpopo River estuary. Mangrove degradation due to human causes is very insignificant when compared to natural causes (Bandeira and Balidy, 2016; Macamo et al., 2016).

Recurrent flooding has significantly affected mangroves and local communities. The floods of 2000 increased the width of the river to over 200m, causing 45 days of continuous flooding, with severe impacts on the mangrove that lost more than half of its area due to continued submersion. These floods were like the worst since 1848, causing 640 deaths and affecting more than 2 million people. The 2013 floods were also severe, affecting an estimated 380,693 people, with 154,816 displaced and 45 deaths, the young plants of mangrove species less than 3m tall died, mainly the newly reforested areas at that time (Bandeira and Balidy, 2016).

The recent floods of the Limpopo basin that occurred in January and March 2026, with two consecutive flood waves, also negatively affected the mangrove due to consecutive submergence of about 70 days. A significant area of mangrove is completely dead, the most affected species were *Rhizophora mucronata*, *Ceriops tagal*, *Bruguiera gymnorhiza*, *Xylocarpus granatum*. The species *Avicennia marina* was the only one more resilient, with fewer impacts, this species had a low mortality rate compared to the others mentioned (see the attached photos).

The community mangrove nursery managed by the Zimilene Natural Resources Management Committee, established in 2009 with funding from IUCN, was the most affected infrastructure supporting the Limpopo River estuary mangrove restoration programme, is completely destroyed and more than 60,000 growing seedlings completely dead (see the attached photos). This infrastructure functioned as a regional mangrove nursery in the southern part of the country, supplied seedlings of various species of mangrove to interested entities, mainly the Government of the provinces of Maputo and Inhambane, through the Provincial Delegations of the Oceanographic Institute of Mozambique – InOM.

The Limpopo River estuary mangrove restoration programme started in 2007 by the Centre for Sustainable Development for Coastal Zones – CDS Coastal Zones, as part of its mandate of Applied Research for Environmental and Social Problem Solutions in the Coastal Zone of Mozambique, providing technical assistance to local communities and other stakeholders at all levels.

In 2010, IUCN was funded the first financial package for the CDS Coastal Zones to develop a sustainable methodological approach to the restoration of the Limpopo River estuary mangrove. It was in this context that the Community-Based Mangrove Ecological Restoration Approach and the Hydrological Restoration methodology for Inducing Natural Mangrove Regeneration were developed, which resulted in a successful experience of ecological mangrove restoration in the country and in the region.

This approach is being replicated to other areas of the country, through training of various mangrove restoration stakeholders, including government institutions at all levels, NGOs, Academies, the Private Sector and local communities.

In addition to IUCN, several other stakeholders supported the mangrove restoration programme in the Limpopo estuary after the 2000 floods. The program partners were: the local community was the main implementer of the activities, the CDS Coastal Zones technical support for all stakeholders, UDEBA LAB local implementing partner, financial support partners (IUCN, Government through PASA I and II, RESILIM, AWARD, USAID Southern Africa, UNEP Nairobi Convention, FAO), scientific research partners UEM, IIP. From 2010 to 2025, the program restored nearly 200 hectares of mangrove area lost in the 2000 floods.

II. CALL FOR AWARENESS AND SUPPORT

Associação ACRE launches an appeal and awareness to Biodiversity Conservation Organizations and Entities to support the construction of the Resilience of the Mangrove Ecosystem of the Limpopo River Estuary, through support for post-flood recovery interventions of this ecosystem, enabling the reintroduction of extinct mangrove species, recovery of destroyed mangrove areas, to support the resilience of local communities that depend on this ecosystem.

III. ANNEX, THE PHOTOS DEPICTING THE IMPACT OF THE FLOODS ON THE MANGROVE

























































