

# Dialogues for Climate Change Literacy & Adaptation [DICLAD]



Extensive research on and implementation of climate change adaptation initiatives over the last few years have revealed fundamental challenges to seeing action-for-change on the ground. In part, this is to do with capacity but most importantly reflects **the ‘reified’ nature of how climate change** is conceptualized and introduced. Often spoken about as a highly technical subject that is introduced as an ‘add on’ with little practical meaning, it is hard for role-players and stakeholders to see their way into tenable adaptation practices. Therefore, there is a **need to rethink** how researchers, practitioners and activists communicate on climate change and facilitate processes for capacity development. **AWARD’s Dialogues for Climate Change Literacy and Adaptation [DICLAD]** project

addressed this challenge under the USAID-funded program RESILIM-O.

The project team developed a **dialogue process based on social learning and systemic thinking principles**, with the fundamental premise that climate change **“is everyone’s business”**. It is a reframing process making climate change meaningful at the ground level and in the lived context of an individual or institution. Within the RESILIM-O program, the dialogues were designed to support the embedding of climate change and adaptation discussions across sectors. The narratives from these dialogues were synthesised to inform ongoing discourse (including policy) on climate change at regional and national arenas in South Africa.





The dialogues include three modules which address aspects of climate change impacts, adaptation and implementation.

## Module 1

### The basics of climate and understanding climate change impacts on our system

- Introduces key concepts essential for climate change conversations (e.g. weather vs. climate)
- Covers downscaled and localised historical climate trends and climate change projections for a specific area, using both personal experience and information from scientific modelling
- Uses a key message pertaining to the climate variables that may change to initiate a group discussion on the potential impacts of these changes for a sector or interest area (e.g. water or food security) that is pertinent to the participants' practices
- Potential impacts are explored systemically mainly by constructing a concept map through a collaborative dialogical process



## Module 2

### Exploring adaptation options

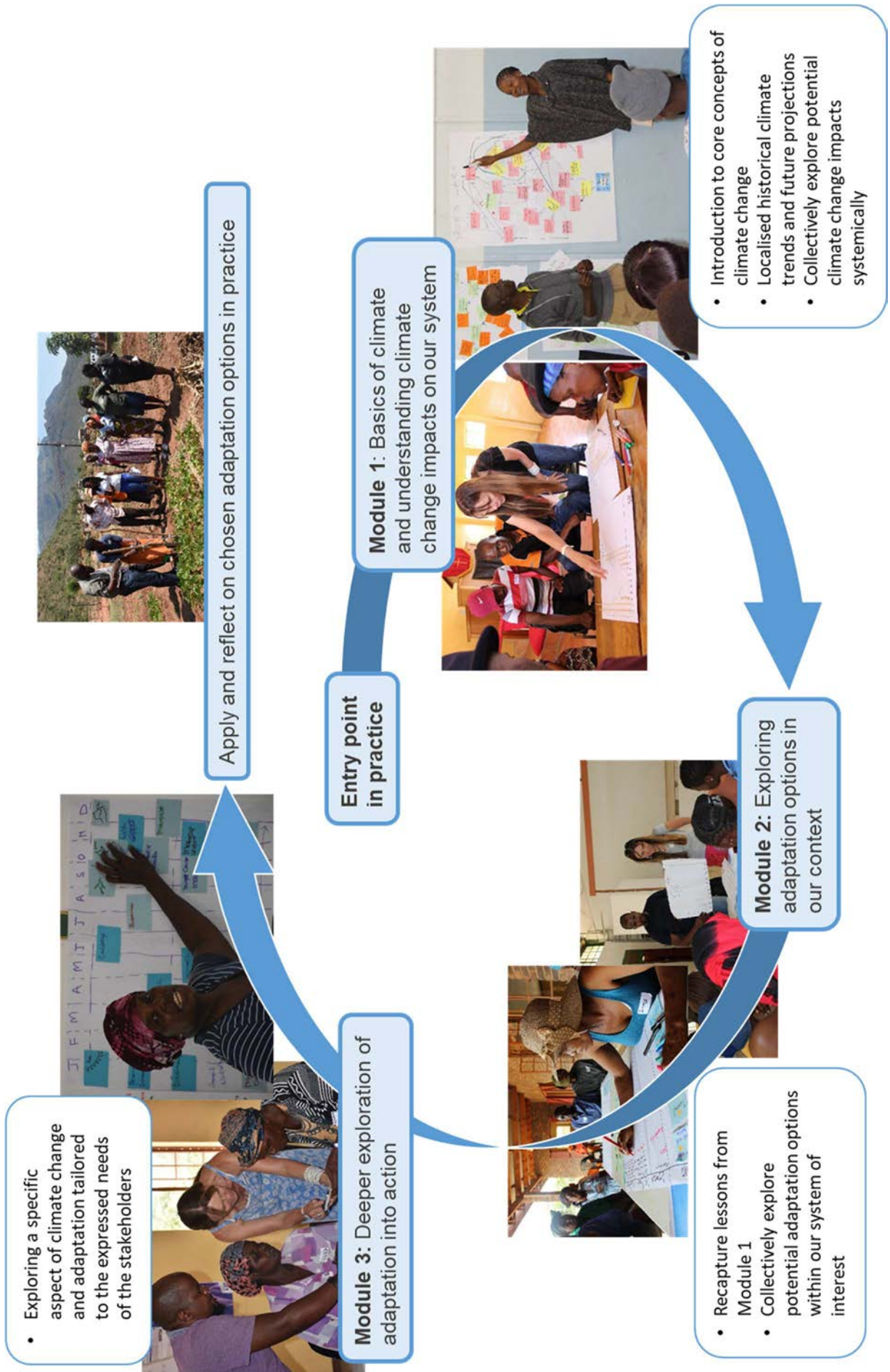
- Introduces key concepts related to adaptation
- Explores relevant, feasible and sustainable adaptation actions for a sector or interest area drawing on the systemic picture of impacts developed in Module 1

## Module 3

### Deeper exploration into action

- Explore the shortlisted tenable adaptation actions in greater depth to support participants to plan for concrete steps toward some of these actions
- Process transitions into an active “doing” project









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The Association for Water and Rural Development

AWARD is a non-profit organisation specialising in participatory, research-based project implementation. Their work addresses issues of sustainability, inequity and poverty by building natural-resource management competence and supporting sustainable livelihoods. One of their current projects, supported by USAID, focuses on the Olifants River and the way in which people living in South Africa and Mozambique depend on the Olifants and its contributing waterways. It aims to improve water security and resource management in support of the healthy ecosystems to sustain livelihoods and resilient economic development in the catchment.

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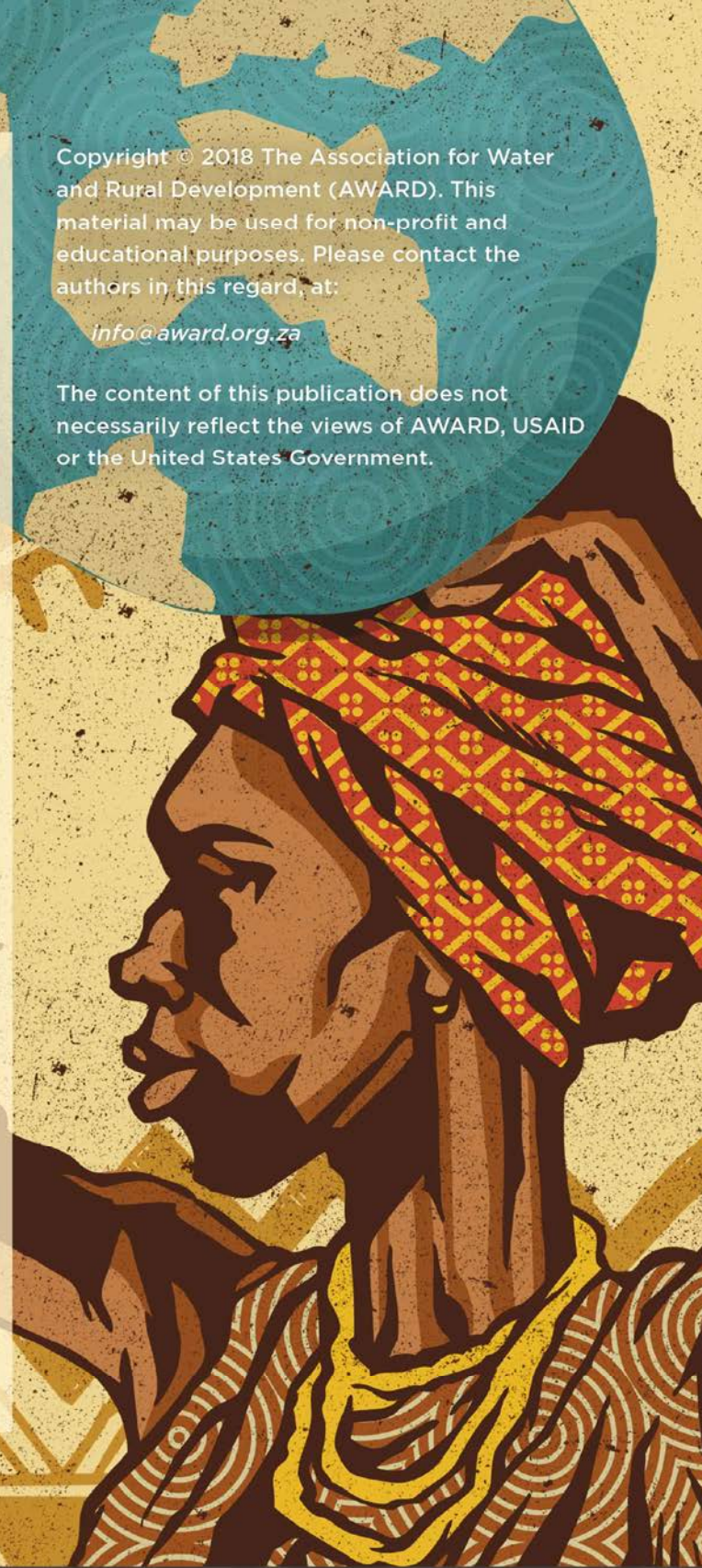
## About USAID: RESILIM-O

USAID: RESILIM-O focuses on the Olifants River Basin and the way in which people living in South Africa and Mozambique depend on the Olifants and its contributing waterways. It aims to improve water security and resource management in support of the healthy ecosystems that support livelihoods and resilient economic development in the catchment. The 5-year programme, involving the South African and Mozambican portions of the Olifants catchment, is being implemented by the Association for Water and Rural Development (AWARD) and is funded by USAID Southern Africa.

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