Title of case study	**eMalahleni: Water for adaptation**
Name of organization(s)	**Anglo American**
Business sector	Mining and Metals
Region(s) relevant to case study	☐ All regions ☒ Africa and the Arab States ☐ Asia and the Pacific ☐ Caribbean and Central America ☐ Europe ☐ Least Developed Countries ☐ North America ☐ Polar regions ☐ Small Island Developing States ☐ South America
Country(s) relevant to case study	South Africa
Adaptation sector(s) relevant to case study	☐ Business ☐ Education and training ☐ Food security, agriculture, forestry and fisheries ☐ Human health ☐ Oceans and coastal areas ☐ Science, assessment, monitoring and early warning ☐ Terrestrial ecosystems ☐ Tourism ☐ Transport, infrastructure and human settlements ☒ Water resources ☐ Other (please specify):
Adaptation activity	eMalahleni is a municipality of 400,000 people in a water-stressed region of north-eastern South Africa, where Anglo American has invested almost US $100 million in a water reclamation plant to treat underground water from its mining operations in the Witbank coalfield. The city lies within the Olifants River Catchment, where climate models predict a potential reduction in mean annual rainfall by 2050. Water shortages – or flooding as a result of extreme rainfall events – could have serious implications for the area, where demand for water is

	increasing as supply tightens. In 2007, after a decade of research, Anglo American established the eMalahleni Water Reclamation Plant to treat the water from its local operations. The research was a partnership that included South Africa's power utility, Eskom, and several other mining operators. The plant currently treats 30 million litres a day, producing potable water for use by the local municipality. The plant already supplies 20% of the city's daily water requirement, and a second phase is expected to increase its treatment capacity to 50 million litres a day by 2013. This water supply provides the eMalahleni community with the capacity to address long-term climate adaptation risks from altered precipitation.
Cost-benefit	Too little water on the surface is a problem for communities, while too much water underground is also a problem for a mining company. Anglo American's mining operations in the area around eMalahleni contain approximately 140 million m^3 of water – a figure that is rising by over 25 megalitres a day. The development of the eMalahleni Water Reclamation Plant allows Anglo American to appropriately deal with this excess water, and is a win-win for both Anglo American and the local community. The project closely follows the central government's mine closure and rehabilitation strategy, and the municipality's employment, development and environmental requirements.
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eMalahleni Water Reclamation Plant
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