ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.36/Inf.10
15 September 2025

Adaptation Fund Board
Project and Programme Review Committee
Thirty-sixth Meeting
Bonn, Germany, 7-8 October 2025

PROPOSAL FOR ZIMBABWE

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PROJECT/PROGRAMME CATEGORY: Regular-sized Project Concept

Country/Region: Zimbabwe
Project Title: Strengthening Climate Change Adaptation of Vulnerable Communities in Zaka, Chivi and Mutare districts
Thematic Focal Area: Disaster risk management - early warning systems, climate change adaptation, agriculture
Implementing Entity: Environmental Management Agency
Executing Entities: Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife
AF Project ID:
IE Project ID: **Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars):**
Reviewer and contact person: Lystra Fletcher-Paul **Co-reviewer(s):** Una May Gordon
IE Contact Person:

Technical Summary	The project "Strengthening Climate Change Adaptation of Vulnerable Communities in Zaka, Chivi and Mutare districts" aims to enhance productivity, resilience and sustainability of agricultural based livelihoods in Zaka, Chivi, and Mutare districts.. This will be done through the five components below: Component 1: Strengthening the Enabling Environment for Climate Change Adaptation in Zaka, Chivi, and Mutare Districts (USD 500,000); Component 2: Strengthening Early Warning Systems and Disaster Risk Management in Zaka, Chivi, and Mutare Districts (USD 1,500,000); Component 3: Strengthening the uptake of Climate Smart Agriculture in Zaka Chivi and Mutare Districts (USD 3,000,000). Component 4: Enhancing Market Linkages for Project Beneficiaries in Zaka, Chivi, and Mutare Districts (USD 600,000) Component 5: Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management (USD 481,030)

	Requested financing overview: Project/Programme Execution Cost: USD 577,705 Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 6,658,730 Implementing Fee: USD 566,270 Financing Requested: USD 7,225,000 The proposal includes a request for a project formulation grant and/or project formulation assistance grant of USD 150,000. The initial technical review raises several issues, such as the lack of information on climate scenarios, the need for strengthening the adaptation rationale of some of the components, the lack of the Theory of Change, the quantification of the benefits and cost effectiveness of the project, the lack of information about potential overlapping projects, sustainability and the need for inclusion of the Initial Gender Assessment, among others as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Requests (CARs) raised in the review. Please be advised that the findings of the AFB Secretariat's review of the funding proposal(s) do not reflect, indicate, or prejudge the outcome of the reaccreditation process currently underway. The Implementing Entity (IE) shall acknowledge that the funding proposal will not be approved by the Board if the IE's accreditation has expired, and reaccreditation has not been achieved at the time of the Board's decision. Notwithstanding this potential risk, the IE has elected to proceed with the development of the funding proposal.
Date:	August 8, 2025

Review Criteria	**Questions**	**Comments August 8 2025**
Country Eligibility	1. Is the country party to the Kyoto Protocol, and/or the Paris Agreement?	**Yes**
	2. Is the country a developing country particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?	**Yes**, the country is a developing country which is vulnerable to the adverse climate change effects of droughts, floods and rising temperatures, which have impacted agricultural production, food security, energy access, human settlements, communications and

		social infrastructure as well as downstream effects on climate sensitive economic sectors.
Project Eligibility	1. Has the designated government authority for the Adaptation Fund endorsed the project/programme?	**Yes.** As per the Endorsement letter dated July 14, 2025
	2. Does the length of the proposal amount to no more than Fifty pages for the project/programme concept, including its annexes?	**Yes.** **Please delete window in the template header.**
	3. Does the project / programme support concrete adaptation actions to assist the country in addressing adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience?	**Yes,** **However additional information is needed.** The project is aimed at enhancing productivity, resilience and sustainability of agriculture-based livelihoods in Zaka, Chivi, and Mutare districts in Zimbabwe. This will be achieved through 5 components which address the areas of the Enabling environment, Early Warning Systems, Climate Smart Agriculture, Market Linkages and Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation Systems. The concept note provides information on the 5 components which will be used to achieve these objectives and the respective Outcomes and Activities. (Part II pages 8 to 10). However, some elements of the proposal need to be strengthened as follows: While the project background provides some information on the problems to be solved, there is need for additional data to better explain the situation and context in the target districts as well as the magnitude of the threats posed by the likely climate scenarios, particularly with respect to the impacts of climate change on the sectors and the projections

		under the various scenarios, thereby strengthening the case for the adaptation strategies being proposed. **CAR1:** At Part II, Section B, please include additional information on the social, economic and environmental context in each of the districts to better explain how the project will contribute to alleviating the problems identified. Also, please include a paragraph on gender context. This can be separate or connected to the paragraph related to social context. You may state how climate change impacts men and women differently. **CAR2:** The concept note is missing a clear and evidence-based overview of climate vulnerabilities affecting the targeting country. A robust initial assessment is needed. Please include a section entitled “Vulnerabilities” to document this. **CAR3:** Please include additional data on the likely climate scenarios and the impacts of climate change on the sectors for each of the climate effects. **CAR4:** For Component 1: Please provide some additional information on the institutions involved in policy making as well as information on the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the project. **CAR5:** Please include a Theory of Change which shows how the activities respond to the likely threats caused by the climate scenarios and the linkages among the components. Note that a ToC is critical, as the project includes many Outcomes. Developing a

		well-thought-out Theory of change will help clarify the logical linkages between activities, outputs and outcomes. Ideally the project could focus on 3-4 well-defined outcomes to ensure coherency and be feasible to manage. Please ensure that each of the Outcomes, outputs, and activities is numbered. In Component 3 the focus of the Climate Smart Agriculture technologies is mainly on irrigation technologies and infrastructure, with little information on other drought related technologies such as Rainwater Harvesting as well as adaptation technologies to respond to other risks such as floods and increased temperatures. **CAR6:** Please provide additional information on CSA technologies related to other climate risks. **CAR7:** Please state clearly the AF Strategic Outcomes that are supported by the Activities at Part II B.
	4. Does the project / programme provide economic, social and environmental benefits, particularly to vulnerable communities, including gender considerations, while avoiding or mitigating negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?	**Yes.** **However, additional information is required:** Part II B (Pages 10 and 11) of the concept note briefly outlines some of the project's economic, social, and environmental benefits; however, there is need to provide additional information on the estimated benefits. Moreover, the document does not provide information on the expected total number of beneficiaries of the project and the specific vulnerable

		groups targeted, neither does the concept note include an Initial Gender Assessment. **CR1:** Please include in the economic benefits section, how many people will benefit in each district and what is the dollar-value of the economic benefit to them for each of the target communities. It would also be useful to present overall figures of the estimated economic and social benefits if available. **CR2:** Please strengthen the social, and environmental benefits with specific and quantifiable data where possible. Additional qualitative data is also required. **CAR8:** Please include an initial gender assessment as required for the concept note stage which includes qualitative and quantitative data for gender roles, activities, needs, and available opportunities and challenges or risks for men and women relevant to the project to the extent possible, and ensure that the findings are integrated within the proposal. **CAR9:** 1. Please include the total intended number of beneficiaries, direct and indirect. 2. Kindly provide specific information on the expected beneficiaries, disaggregated by gender and age, where possible. Also, please indicate whether marginalized and vulnerable groups and indigenous communities have been identified in the project districts and if so, specify benefits of the project to those groups. Sustainable land and water management, along with nature-based risk reduction measures are mentioned

		among the Environmental benefits of the project (Page 11), yet the CSA technologies mentioned in the CN are mainly related to water management. **CR3:** Please provide additional information on the land management and nature-based risk reduction measures which are planned to be included in the project to ensure coherence.
	5. Is the project / programme cost effective?	**Unsure.** While the explanation provided outlines several qualitative reasons why the project should be cost-effective, but it lacks concrete evidence and quantitative data needed to fully demonstrate cost-effectiveness. Specifically, there are no specific numerical indicators such or comparison to alternatives. **CAR10:** More detailed analyses including quantitative comparison of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed measures with alternative adaptation measures is required.
	6. Is the project / programme consistent with national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications and adaptation programs of action and other relevant instruments?	**Yes.** However, additional information is required. **Part II Section D** shows the alignment with the Zimbabwe's climate policy framework: specifically, Zimbabwe's National Adaptation Plan (NAP), the National Development Strategy, National Climate Policy, NDCs, gender action plan, National Development and Poverty Reduction Strategies as well as the agricultural and water management policy frameworks.

		CR4: More specific alignment needed with the national policies and plans, please clarify the <u>which element</u> of the plans that the proposal is responsive to and <u>how</u>. **CR5:** Please also clarify if the project is not aiming to be responsive to any national meteorological and hydrological plans.
	7. Does the project / programme meet the relevant national technical standards, where applicable, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund?	**Unsure.** Part II Section E of the Concept Note states the intention to: • Conduct Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) in line with Zimbabwe's Environmental Management Act • Comply with national engineering and construction standards to guarantee durability, safety, and environmental compatibility. • Follow national water use and conservation policies, and • Comply with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy. *However, no information is presented on how the project will aim to meet the required national standards.* **CAR11:** Please clarify how *the project will aim to meet the required national standards.* ***CR6:** Please provide a fuller list of applicable standards plans and p*

		relevant national building codes and standards to the extent possible.
	8. Is there duplication of project / programme with other funding sources?	**No.** **However, additional information is required.** Part II Section lists three AF funded projects and mentions other "resilient building initiatives supported by the Government and partners". However, these are not listed. The CN also indicates that coordination mechanisms are in place at the national and district levels to ensure complementarity and synergy with other donor-funded projects and government programmes. However the details of those coordination mechanisms were not provided in the CN. **CAR12:** Please prepare a comprehensive list of all projects (not only AF funded) currently being implemented in the country and the target districts, which may be of relevance to the project and compile a table showing the Objectives of the projects and possible areas of synergy and overlap with the proposed project and lessons learned. **CR7:** Please provide details of the coordinating mechanisms which are currently in place to ensure complementarity and synergy.
	9. Does the project / programme have a learning and knowledge management component to capture and feedback lessons?	**Yes.** Component 5 of the project is specifically related to Knowledge Management. Part II, Section G lists all the related activities, which include periodic analysis, regular M& E, documentation of best practices,

		capacity building, stakeholder workshops and learning exchanges and knowledge products and dissemination.
	10. Has a consultative process taken place, and has it involved all key stakeholders, and vulnerable groups, including gender considerations in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?	**Yes.** **However, additional information is required** Part II, Section H described the consultative process which built on mapping and engagements that were done during the National Adaptation Planning Readiness program (2019-2023). The stakeholder engagements were informed by a comprehensive mapping of stakeholders which was conducted to identify key actors at national, district, and community levels. **CAR13:** 1. Please include at Part II, Section H, a summary of the main findings of the consultative process. 2. Include in an Annex a comprehensive list of stakeholders engaged throughout the process, meeting dates, names of participants, key discussion points and the main outcomes that informed project design. Please note that the list of stakeholders should explicitly include the country's gender machinery, if such exists, as well as any women's associations/organizations/groups that were consulted. This is particularly important given that the concept note refers to gender dynamics - this understanding should be clearly reflected in the narrative.

		CR8: Since the mapping was done prior to 2019, please indicate whether any subsequent consultations were conducted, particularly in the project districts and if so, whether there are any changes in the results which may warrant an adjustments to the current project.
	11. Is the requested financing justified on the basis of full cost of adaptation reasoning?	**Unsure.** Part II, Section I provides justifies the funding as a means of implementing the NAP and specifically rationalizes the cost on the basis of the scope, complexity and additional costs associated with delivering equitable and effective climate adaptation that would not be achievable through partial or fragmented financing. However, there is need for further clarification as follows: **CR9:** The total cost of implementing the NAP is given as 10.3 billion. However, the currency of this amount is not provided. Please provide the currency of this cost. **CAR14:** Kindly clarify whether the project requires co-financing or not. If co-financing is being considered, please clearly indicate how the project with the AF resources only, will be able to effectively meet its objectives. The project details the consequences of the project's failure to implement a number of interventions related to agro-forestry, livestock production and soil

		management. However, none of these interventions are included among activities mentioned in the project. **CAR15:** Please ensure consistency between the proposed activities and the narrative provided in the justification section.
	12. Is the project / program aligned with AF's results framework?	**Yes.** **However additional information is required.** Table in Part III Section A shows the alignment of some of the Project's Objectives and Outcomes with the AF Results framework. However, there are some inconsistencies: The Expected Outcomes in Part II (Pages 5 to 7) are not consistent with the Expected Outcomes in Part III. For example, the project has 5 Components and for each of those components, there was at least one Expected Outcome. However, in the AF Alignment Table, only 4 Expected Outcomes were mentioned were aligned. (i.e. no Expected Outcomes for Component 5 were included in the Alignment table). In addition, Expected Outcome 4 in the Table in Part III - Improved income of communities through value addition and accessing markets is not mentioned among the Expected Outcomes for Component 4 in the Table on Project/Programme Components and Financing (Page 6 and 7). **CAR16:**

		1. Please ensure consistency between the Expected Outcomes of the project and the Outcomes in the Alignment Table. 2. Please ensure that the grant amount column is completed for both the top and bottom part of the Alignment table and that the figures presented represent the total component costs. • Results Framework Alignment Table (Amended in March 2019) (77 kB, DOC)
	13. Has the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes been taken into account when designing the project?	**Yes.** However, additional information is required. Part II Section J, outlines the key sustainability dimensions which have been taken into account in the project design. However, there are some other aspects which should be considered. **CAR17:** Please include additional elements of sustainability such as: long term financing instruments (such as dedicated funds, access to credit schemes), and engagement of private sector.
	14. Does the project / programme provide an overview of environmental and social impacts / risks identified, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?	**Yes.** **However, some additional information is required.** Part II Section K, identifies the potential environmental and social impacts and risks and elaborates on the gender-specific cultural and legal context under which the project will operate. The checklist is completed and the risks have been identified against each of the 15 ESP principles.

		CAR18: 1. Please include the risk level and anticipated impacts and mitigation measures for each principle in a separate table to enhance its usefulness and provide clearer context in the table. 2. Please note that ESP 1,4, and 6 will always require assessments, please amend the table to suit. The category in which the screening process has classified the project/programme. (Category A, B or C has not been provided. Neither has the initial gender assessment been included. **CAR19:** Please kindly state the project classification from the screening in Section K, Part II. In addition, some of the activities mentioned in association with the Marginalized and Vulnerable groups such as activities related to conservation agriculture and livestock, sustainable land and forest management were not explicitly mentioned in the Activities. **CR10:** To ensure consistency, these activities should be included in the Section on Project Components
Resource Availability	1. Is the requested project / programme funding within the cap of the country?	**Yes.**
	2. Is the Implementing Entity Management Fee at or below 8.5 per cent of the total project/programme budget before the fee?	**Yes.** **Be sure to use the IE and EE fees calculator to ensure values are accurate.**

		• **IE and EE Fees Calculator (EXCEL)** • **PFG Amount Calculator (EXCEL)** A PFG of USD 150,000 is also requested, which is within appropriate for the size of the project. **CAR20:** Please include the IE fee amount in the PFG budget. **CR11:** Please clarify if it is the intention for the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife to execute the PFG. If it will be EMA executing the PFG, please update the information in the PFG request form.
	3. Are the Project/Programme Execution Costs at or below 9.5 per cent of the total project/programme budget (including the fee)?	**Yes.** *However, amendment is required.* **CAR 21:** In the alignment table the total components amount to $6M which in the components and financing table the figure is less. 1. Please review the project budgets and ensure consistency across all budget presentations. 2. The review may also have implication for the exact execution costs. Please address.

Eligibility of IE	1. Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?	**Yes.** The Environmental Management Agency is the accredited Implementing entity. However, the accreditation expired in June 30, 2024 but the Agency is currently in the process of re-accreditation. *Please be advised that the findings of the AFB Secretariat's review of the funding proposal(s) do not reflect, indicate, or prejudge the outcome of the reaccreditation process currently underway. The Implementing Entity (IE) shall acknowledge that the funding proposal will not be approved by the Board if the IE's accreditation has expired, and reaccreditation has not been achieved at the time of the Board's decision. Notwithstanding this potential risk, the IE has elected to proceed with the development of the funding proposal.*
Implementation Arrangements	1. Is there adequate arrangement for project / programme management, in compliance with the Gender Policy of the Fund?	n/a at concept stage
	2. Are there measures for financial and project/programme risk management?	n/a at concept stage
	3. Are there measures in place for the management of for environmental and social risks, in line with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?	n/a at concept stage
	4. Is a budget on the Implementing Entity Management Fee use included?	n/a at concept stage
	5. Is an explanation and a breakdown of the execution costs included?	n/a at concept stage
	6. Is a detailed budget including budget notes included?	n/a at concept stage
	7. Are arrangements for monitoring and evaluation clearly defined, including budgeted M&E plans and	n/a at concept stage

	sex-disaggregated data, targets and indicators, in compliance with the Gender Policy of the Fund?	
	8. Does the M&E Framework include a break-down of how implementing entity IE fees will be utilized in the supervision of the M&E function?	n/a at concept stage
	9. Does the project/programme's results framework align with the AF's results framework? Does it include at least one core outcome indicator from the Fund's results framework?	n/a at concept stage
	10. Is a disbursement schedule with time-bound milestones included?	n/a at concept stage

ADAPTATION FUND

CONCEPT NOTE PROPOSAL FOR SINGLE COUNTRY WINDOW

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Title of Project/Programme: Strengthening Climate Change Adaptation of Vulnerable Communities in Zaka, Chivi and Mutare districts

Country:	Zimbabwe
Thematic Focal Area:	Disaster risk management - early warning systems, climate change adaptation, agriculture
Type of Implementing Entity:	National Implementing Entity
Implementing Entity:	Environmental Management Agency
Executing Entities:	Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife
Amount of Financing Requested:	$7 225 000

Project Formulation Grant Request (available to NIEs only): Yes ☐☒ No ☐ ☐

Amount of Requested financing for PFG: $150 000

Letter of Endorsement (LOE) signed: Yes ☒ ☐ No ☐ ☐

NOTE: LOEs should be signed by the Designated Authority (DA). The signatory DA must be on file with the Adaptation Fund. To find the DA currently on file check this page: https://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/designated-authorities

Stage of Submission:

☐☐ This concept has been submitted before

☐☒ This is the first submission ever of the concept proposal

In case of a resubmission, please indicate the last submission date: Click or tap to enter a date.

Please note that concept note documents should not exceed 50 pages, including annexes.

Project/Programme Background and Context:

Provide brief information on the problem the proposed project/programme is aiming to solve. Outline the economic social, development and environmental context in which the project would operate.

The Government of Zimbabwe regards climate change as one of the threats to the country and its people and recognizes its potential to undermine sustainable development. Like many other African countries, Zimbabwe is bearing the brunt of climate variability and change, hence the need for a coordinated approach to address related vulnerabilities and risks caused by these extreme weather events. The impacts of climate change in Zimbabwe are already being felt throughout all socio-economic sectors. The last three decades in Zimbabwe have seen increased variability in the seasonal distribution of rainfall, increased incidences of intense rainfall interspaced by long dry spells as well as late onset and early cessation of rains. There have also been increasing frequency and severity of droughts, floods and rising temperatures. These variations in rainfall and temperature are having profound impacts on Zimbabwe's agricultural production, food security, energy access, human settlements, communications and social infrastructure as well as downstream effects on climate sensitive economic sectors. This has subsequently slowed down economic growth and impacted the quality of life. Zimbabwe's population was estimated to be 15,178,957 by the last National Census in 2022, Zimbabwe's 2025 Human Development Report then estimated that 39.8 % of Zimbabwe's population are living below the international poverty line of $2.15 (in purchasing power parity [PPP] terms) a day. With climate change exacerbating this poverty the statistics translates to more than a third of the total population requiring urgent support to cushion their livelihoods against the ravaging impacts of climate change. To add on, livelihoods of vulnerable groups, particularly women, children, youth, people with disabilities and the elderly, who are highly dependent on climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture, are disproportionately affected by climate change. This brings the need to employ a gendered lens in programing for climate change resilience.

In the Zimbabwean context, Adaptation is closely intertwined with local climate, ecosystems, hydrology, livelihood options, culture and traditions, governance structures, levels of poverty and even political dynamics. This means responses to the changes in climate need to be implemented and managed at the national and sub-national level. Zimbabwe's adaptive capacity is constrained by limited alternative livelihood options for the majority of the population, inadequate ability to withstand or absorb disasters, and its socio-economic status. The southern part of the country is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change bringing about the need to urgently put in place concrete steps for building resilience. To this end, adaptation and resilience building are Zimbabwe's priority responses to climate change. This brings about the need to develop adaptation strategies that can reduce vulnerability and enhance the country's adaptive capacity to climate change and resilience in the long term. Zimbabwe needs to operationalize the country's recently launched National Adaptation Plan (2024-2030) costed at approximately US10.3 Billion required between now and 2030 to bridge the adaptation finance gap pursuant to climate change mainstreaming through unpacking some of the prioritized areas into concrete bankable interventions capable of transforming the lives of thousands of communities at the grassroots level. The grant being applied for will therefore come in very timely in supporting the proposed activities. Zimbabwe is one of

the leading countries to have completed its NAP and seeking resources for its implementation hence it provides the Adaptation Fund with an opportunity to pilot NAP roll out support towards advancing the NAP agenda aligning with the issues of Paris Agreement as it relates to the Global Goal on Adaptation. The implementation of Zimbabwe's NAP will translate to capacity to mainstream climate change, reduce vulnerability and strengthened resilience towards an effective enabling environment for climate change response embracing the emerging issues of loss and damage.

Despite concerted efforts being made to mainstream climate change in development planning, there still exists capacity gaps that limit a smooth enabling environment for climate change response in Zimbabwe hence there is need to sustain capacity building and awareness programmes for technical institutions as well as communities to be able to fully respond to climate change related vagaries at national and subnational level. Zimbabwe has put in place a National Climate Policy supported by a National Climate Change Response Strategy and has Sector-specific regulations that embed climate risks into key sectors (e.g. water, agriculture, infrastructure), however it still lacks a consolidated Climate Change Act to create legally enforceable obligations. In the absence of a Bill climate change priorities often remain aspirational, without detailed regulations or penalties for non-compliance. Further, there exists weak institutional coordination with Ministries and agencies sometimes working in silos in some instances. Consequently, provincial and district structures lack clear roles and resources to mainstream climate change adaptation issues. The subnational structures have limited capacity to mainstreami climate change, often lack training in climate risk assessments or adaptation planning, have limited technical skills for integrating climate change into local development plans. Local authorities struggle to interpret and apply national climate policies practically into their localized planning and budgetary processes. The rural communities they serve in turn have limited awareness of climate risks and adaptation options, struggle to connect policy-level discussions to their daily realities limiting their capacity to respond to climate change. Gender and youth inclusion in adaptation planning is improving but remains inconsistent and this project provides an opportunity to ensure the mainstreaming of gender issues and ensure inclusivity where possible.

Zimbabwe's early warning system and disaster risk management is limited in terms of hardware infrastructure and coverage gaps as well as capacity of the early warning systems which amplifies risk given the increased occurrence of extreme weather events such as droughts an flooding which not only ravage livelihoods but often lead to loss of lives. There exist significant gaps in hydro and meteorological monitoring with many stations relying on manual readings rather than automated systems. With limited hardware infrastructure means that farmers practicing dryland farming are vulnerable as they are not informed of rainfall and temperature updates timely to sustain a fruitful agrobased enterprise. Early warnings often fail to reach vulnerable rural areas due to communication network gaps i.e. no radio, mobile service, or flood evacuation equipment like boats or helicopters. Local knowledge i.e. indigenous systems is underused. Although scientific EWS exist, they often fail to align with local understandings, preventing effective uptake. Whereas in a changing climate the integration of IKS in early warning systems may enhance early warning. Furthermore, early warning often fails to reach vulnerable communities due to limited radio/TV coverage in remote rural areas. In remote parts of the country this is augmented by the fact that mobile networks such as Econet do not cover all wards which translates to community members sometimes receive warnings too late to evacuate or respond. Community based disaster preparedness also faces limitations as there are often few resources for community-led

risk assessments or contingency planning, indigenous knowledge remains underutilized, communities lack equipment for rapid response.

Whereas in Zimbabwe agriculture is the mainstay of the economy, the sector is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change owing to increased occurrence of extreme weather events such as droughts and flooding resulting in uncertainty in sustaining dry land farming. Regards to climate smart water conveyancing systems to support irrigation, there is an issue of high initial costs and lack of financial support. Practices like drip irrigation, improved seeds, water harvesting structures, and mechanized planting equipment require upfront investment which is out of reach for communal dry land farmers. In addition, communal farmers lack collateral to secure loans, as communal land cannot be mortgaged. Credit products for CSA remain limited or have high interest rates (>20–30% p.a.). For instance, drip irrigation kits cost ~US $200–600 per 0.1ha — unaffordable for most smallholders without subsidies or grants (World Bank). Distribution networks for smallholder-adapted technologies (e.g. small-scale irrigation kits) remain underdeveloped. Erratic rainfall and more frequent droughts discourage investment in technologies like conservation agriculture if farmers fear crops will still fail. There is also the challenge of limited farmer organization and collective action which in turn hinder, group purchasing of CSA inputs in order to get bargains and discounts, shared use of CSA machinery and access to markets paying premiums for sustainable. According to the World Bank, the 2023-2024 El Nino drought caused a 60% decline in maize yields entailing that climate change risks could potentially erode up to 12% GDP annually if not addressed hence the urgent need to climate proof rain fed agro-systems towards building resilience.

Coming to the issue of market linkages, high transaction costs & poor rural infrastructure entail poor road networks, especially in semi-arid regions like Manicaland, Masvingo and Matabeleland South provinces which makes it expensive to move produce to urban markets. Lack of storage infrastructure and absence of driers forces farmers to sell immediately after harvest, often when prices are lowest. In addition, there is limited access to finance & working capital, only less than 15% of smallholder farmers have formal credit access. Dryland farmers often lack collateral because communal lands cannot be used as security for loans. Even when contract farming is available (e.g. for sorghum or sesame), late payments and low prices reduce farmers' trust. Farmers struggle with quality standards and traceability. Middlemen capture most value, leaving farmers with low margins. Furthermore, there is weak farmer organization & bargaining power. Many dryland farmers sell individually rather than bulk through cooperatives. This limits price negotiation power, access to better markets (e.g. institutional buyers or exporters) and ability to share transport costs or access group storage. Additionally market price information is not consistently available in local languages or rural areas. Even where mobile platforms exist (e.g. Econet's EcoFarmer), adoption remains low due to Network coverage gaps, digital literacy barriers and lack of tailored data for dryland crops. Recurrent droughts reduce yields unpredictably, making farmers risk averse to growing surplus for markets. Input supply chains for drought-tolerant crops (e.g. sorghum seed) remain underdeveloped. Hence the need for an intervention to support market value chains towards enhancing income from the climate proofed livelihood options.

Project Goal: To enhance productivity, resilience and sustainability of agricultural based livelihoods in Zaka, Chivi, and Mutare districts.

Project/Programme Objectives:-

List the main objectives of the project/programme.

- To build a supportive institutional, policy, and knowledge environment that promotes effective, inclusive, and sustainable climate change adaptation in Zaka, Chivi, and Mutare districts.
- To enhance community preparedness and resilience to climate-induced disasters by strengthening early warning systems (EWS) and disaster risk management (DRM) frameworks in Zaka, Chivi, and Mutare districts.
- To increase the adoption and integration of Climate Smart Agriculture practices among small holder farmers in Zaka, Chivi and Mutare Districts.
- To improve post-harvest management and access to reliable markets for smallholder farmers in Zaka, Chivi and Mutare districts through strengthening value chains, building market readiness and creating sustainable linkages with buyers and agri-business.

Project/Programme Components and Financing:

Fill in the table presenting the relationships among project components, activities, expected concrete outputs, and the corresponding budgets. If necessary, please refer to the attached instructions for a detailed description of each term.

For the case of a programme, individual components are likely to refer to specific sub-sets of stakeholders, regions and/or sectors that can be addressed through a set of well-defined interventions / projects.

Project/Programme Components	Expected Concrete Outputs	Expected Outcomes	Amount (US$)
1. Strengthening the Enabling Environment for Climate Change Adaptation in Zaka, Chivi, and Mutare Districts	● Climate smart district-level policy frameworks developed/updated. ● Local authorities and community groups trained on climate change adaptation. ● Functional climate information and planning platforms established in each district. ● Strengthened community voice and participation in adaptation decision-making. ● Increased funding proposals and partnerships supporting local adaptation actions.	● Enhanced institutional capacity for climate-resilient planning and development. ● Improved planning coordination and accountability in climate adaptation efforts. ● Improved public awareness and stakeholder engagement in climate resilience through knowledge generation and management. ● Enhanced integration of adaptation into local governance and service delivery. ● Institutionalized support for continued CSA uptake at local levels.	500 000

Project/Programme Components	Expected Concrete Outputs	Expected Outcomes	Amount (US$)
2. Strengthening Early Warning Systems and Disaster Risk Management in Zaka, Chivi, and Mutare Districts	• Hydrological monitoring stations established • Meteorological monitoring stations established • District level hydro-meteorological early warning systems established/operationalised • Disaster response plans reviewed/ updated and disseminated • Community volunteers and local DRM committees capacitated on climate related disaster risk reduction. • Risk reduction interventions implemented.	• Strengthened coordination between local institutions on DRM. • Enhanced timely access to weather and climate information services including the use of local languages. • Reduced loss of life, assets, and livelihoods during climate-related disasters. • Enhanced community readiness and adaptive capacity to deal with extreme weather events. • Institutionalized disaster risk governance at local and district levels.	1 500 000
3. Strengthening the uptake of Climate Smart Agriculture in Zaka Chivi and Mutare Districts	• Rehabilitated and modernized irrigation schemes supporting smallholder farmers. • Area under water efficient irrigation systems across the three districts. • Trained farmers practicing improved irrigation management and scheduling. • Diversified and climate resilient agricultural enterprises adopted. • Functional water user associations established and managing irrigation systems effectively.	• CSA mainstreamed into local development and agricultural extension plans. • Improved agricultural productivity, food security and incomes among smallholder farmers. • Enhanced resilience of farming communities to climate risks. • Sustainable land and water management in target districts. • Increased resilience of smallholder farming systems to water stress and drought. • Sustainable management of local water resources in irrigated farming areas. • Improved yields, food security and incomes among smallholder households.	3 000 000
4. Enhancing Market Linkages for Project Beneficiaries in	• Post-harvest management techniques promoted and adopted	• Reduced post-harvest yield losses,	600 000

Project/Programme Components	Expected Concrete Outputs	Expected Outcomes	Amount (US$)
Zaka, Chivi, and Mutare Districts	• Post-harvest processing infrastructure established • Market linkages established between farmer groups and reliable buyers/processors. • Smallholder farmers trained on post-harvest processing, value addition, produce marketing and enterprise management • Functioning producer groups/cooperatives (business units) actively engaged in collective marketing.	• Improved agricultural value chains and market access for smallholder farmers. • Greater inclusion of women and youth in agri-business opportunities. • Improved household income and wellbeing of communities	
5. Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management	• Monitoring and Evaluation Framework developed. • Communication strategy developed and implemented. • Farmers trained on climate change adaptation options including measures for the effective participation of women and men. • Use of community early warning and monitoring system for disaster management promoted. • Project knowledge and experience shared	• Improved access to climate change adaptation information • Improved monitoring and evaluation of project	481 030
6. Project/Programme Execution cost			577707 (9.5%)
7. Total Project/Programme Cost			6 658 730
8. Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable)			566 270 (8,5%)
Amount of Financing Requested			7 225 000

Projected Calendar:

Indicate the dates of the following milestones for the proposed project/programme

Milestones	Expected Dates
Start of Project/Programme Implementation	01/01/2026
Mid-term Review (if planned)	31/01/2028
Project/Programme Closing	31/12/2029
Terminal Evaluation	01/02/2030

PART II: PROJECT / PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

A. Describe the project/programme components, particularly focusing on the concrete adaptation activities of the project, and how these activities contribute to climate resilience. For the case of a programme, show how the combination of individual projects will contribute to the overall increase in resilience.

The proposed project comprises five integrated components designed to build climate resilience in Zaka, Chivi, and Mutare Districts. Each component implements concrete adaptation activities that address specific climate risks and vulnerabilities faced by communities, while collectively contributing to a robust and sustainable climate-resilient development pathway.

Component 1: Strengthening the Enabling Environment for Climate Change Adaptation. This component focuses on institutional and policy capacity-building to create a supportive environment for long-term climate resilience. Concrete adaptation activities under this component include:

- Developing and updating climate-smart district policy frameworks.
- Training local authorities and community groups on climate change adaptation.
- Establishing functional climate information and planning platforms.
- Strengthening community voice and participation in adaptation planning.
- Supporting the preparation of funding proposals and fostering partnerships.

These activities institutionalize climate change adaptation at the district level, embed resilience considerations into governance processes, and empower communities to proactively address climate risks. By improving coordination, knowledge sharing, and stakeholder participation, the component ensures adaptation becomes part of local development planning and service delivery.

Component 2: Strengthening Early Warning Systems and Disaster Risk Management. This component aims to reduce the vulnerability of communities to climate-induced hazards through improved disaster preparedness and response systems. Key concrete activities include:

- Installing hydrological and meteorological monitoring stations.
- Operationalizing district-level hydro-meteorological early warning systems.
- Developing and disseminating disaster response plans.
- Training community volunteers and local Disaster Risk Management (DRM) committees.
- Implementing risk reduction infrastructure and nature-based solutions.

By enhancing the accuracy and reach of early warning systems, this component reduces loss of life, livelihoods, and assets during extreme weather events caused by climate change such as cyclones, flooding and droughts. Community training and local disaster planning build adaptive capacity and readiness, ensuring rapid and effective responses when hazards occur. Risk reduction infrastructure mitigates physical exposure to climate hazards, providing direct protection for vulnerable populations.

Component 3: Strengthening the Uptake of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA). While Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy, it is highly climate-sensitive, and this component addresses vulnerabilities by promoting resilient farming practices through the uptake of climate smart initiatives. Concrete adaptation activities under the component include:

- Rehabilitating and modernizing irrigation schemes.
- Training smallholder farmers in improved irrigation management and climate-smart practices.
- Establishing and supporting Water User Associations (WUAs).
- Mainstreaming CSA into local development and agricultural extension plans.

These activities increase the resilience of smallholder farming systems to water scarcity and erratic weather. They stabilize food production, improve household incomes, and reduce communities' dependence on rainfed agriculture. Institutionalizing CSA ensures that knowledge and practices persist beyond the project's lifetime, sustaining resilience gains.

Component 4: Enhancing Market Linkages for Project Beneficiaries. Climate resilience depends not only on production systems but also on economic opportunities. This component focuses on strengthening livelihoods through market engagement and value addition. Concrete activities include:

- Promoting post-harvest yield management techniques.
- Establishing post-harvest processing infrastructure.
- Facilitating market linkages between farmer groups and reliable buyers/processors.
- Training smallholder farmers in value addition, produce marketing, and enterprise management.
- Supporting the formation and strengthening of producer groups or cooperatives.

These activities help farmers capture higher value from their production, improving incomes and economic stability. By reducing post-harvest losses, communities become less vulnerable to climate-induced yield variability. Strengthened market linkages diversify income streams, providing a buffer against climate shocks and ensuring sustainable livelihoods.

While each component targets specific vulnerabilities, they are designed as an integrated

programme. The cumulative effect of these components ensures comprehensive resilience:

- Institutional capacity strengthening and climate smart policies (Component 1) create the enabling environment for sustainable implementation of CSA, DRM, and market interventions.
- Early warning systems (Component 2) protect agricultural investments (Component 3) and safeguard market-oriented production (Component 4).
- CSA adoption (Component 3) increases productivity and stability, making market linkages (Component 4) more viable and profitable.
- Improved livelihoods and incomes through market linkages (Component 4) empower communities to invest further in climate resilience, sustaining the benefits of policy reforms and infrastructure.

Together, the components build a multi-layered shield of resilience from governance to household livelihoods equipping communities to anticipate, absorb, and adapt to climate change impacts while pursuing sustainable development along the lines of National Adaptation Planning and the country's medium term strategy, National Development 1 (2021-2025).

Component 5: **Implement a comprehensive knowledge management system and monitoring and evaluation system.** This component will share project successes to provide inspiration to trigger action in other areas in the districts, country and further afield. Concrete activities include:

- Development and implementation of a robust monitoring and evaluation framework
- Development and implementation of a communication strategy
- Training of farmers trained on climate change adaptation options including measures for the effective participation of women and men.
- Promotion of the use of community early warning and monitoring system for disaster management.
- Sharing of project knowledge and experience shared

A communication strategy will be designed and implemented to guide the transmission of project related information. The strategy will inform the types of messages to be transmitted, communication channels and the targeting of the audience.

As part of knowledge management, a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system will be implemented to assess progress, evaluate success, and identify lessons learnt. Adaptive management will be done during the project cycle to ensure strategic lessons are implemented.

The project will increase the existing and new body of knowledge on adaptation best practices, governance structures for adaptation and indigenous knowledge systems for early warning systems. This information will be available to individuals, communities, and institutions across the project landscape and in the country.

B. Describe how the project/programme provides economic, social and environmental benefits, with particular reference to the most vulnerable communities, and vulnerable groups within communities, including gender considerations. Describe how the project/programme will avoid or mitigate negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

This project aims to build climate resilience in Zaka, Chivi, and Mutare Districts by delivering significant economic, social, and environmental benefits, with a strong focus

on vulnerable communities including women, youth, and marginalized groups.

Economic Benefits: Improved irrigation systems and climate-smart agriculture practices will increase crop productivity and household incomes. Enhanced post-harvest management and market linkages will reduce losses and expand economic opportunities, particularly benefiting smallholder farmers. Job creation during infrastructure development and ongoing livelihood activities will further support local economies.

Social Benefits: The project promotes empowerment and inclusion of women, youth, and marginalized groups through targeted training and leadership roles in water user associations and disaster risk committees. Strengthened early warning systems and disaster preparedness will reduce loss of life and assets whilst also fostering community volunteerism. Improved food security and nutrition will result from increased agricultural productivity and stable incomes.

Environmental Benefits: Sustainable land and water management, along with nature-based risk reduction measures, will protect natural resources, enhance biodiversity, and support ecosystem restoration. Efficient water use will reduce stress on local water sources and contribute to climate change mitigation.

Gender and Vulnerable Groups: Activities are designed to ensure equal participation and benefits for women, youth, and marginalized groups, in line with the Adaptation Fund's Gender Policy. Barriers to participation are addressed through inclusive training and community engagement.

Safeguards and Mitigation: The project complies with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy by conducting risk screening and, where necessary, environmental impact assessments. Construction and rehabilitation activities will minimize negative impacts on ecosystems and communities. A grievance mechanism and ongoing stakeholder engagement will address any concerns promptly. Summatively, the project integrates climate resilience with sustainable development goals, fostering equitable benefits while avoiding adverse environmental and social impacts.

C. Describe or provide an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project/programme.

The proposed climate change adaptation project for Zaka, Chivi, and Mutare Districts has been designed to maximize the impact of every dollar invested by adopting a strategic, integrated approach to building climate resilience.

Strategic Use of Resources: The project targets critical vulnerabilities through five mutually reinforcing components: enabling environment strengthening, early warning systems, climate-smart agriculture uptake, market linkages and a robust knowledge management system. This integrated approach ensures that investments generate multiple co-benefits across sectors, avoiding duplication and maximizing efficiency.

Leveraging Existing Capacities and Infrastructure: By building on existing local institutions for implementation such as line ministries, district level authorities, community groups, water user associations, and disaster management committees, the project

leverages established governance structures to deliver adaptation interventions, reducing administrative overhead and accelerating implementation.

Focus on Sustainable and Scalable Interventions: The project prioritizes sustainable solutions like rehabilitated irrigation infrastructure, nature-based risk reduction, and institutional capacity building. These investments provide durable benefits beyond the project timeframe, increasing resilience while reducing the need for repeated costly interventions. Market linkages will result in the sustainable introduction of the private sector in the climate change adaptation discourse hence strengthening sustainability of the intervention beyond the grant life.

Community Engagement and Capacity Building: Training and empowering local stakeholders including women and vulnerable groups ensures that knowledge and adaptive practices are embedded locally, fostering ownership and reducing dependence on external support, which enhances sustainability and cost-effectiveness.

Economic Returns and Risk Reduction: Improved agricultural productivity and reduced crop losses translate directly into higher incomes and food security, generating economic returns that outweigh project costs. The enhanced early warning systems and disaster preparedness reduce the risk of costly disaster impacts, lowering overall vulnerability.

Optimized Financial Allocation: With a total budget of USD 7, 225 million, funds are allocated proportionately across components to balance support towards enabling environment strengthening, early warning, CSA and market development. This balanced allocation ensures that capital-intensive investments are complemented by softer, yet critical, interventions such as policy development and training. The project's comprehensive design, focus on sustainability, and engagement of existing institutions enable it to deliver high-value adaptation outcomes at an efficient cost, making it a cost-effective investment in climate resilience for vulnerable districts.

D. Describe how the project/programme is consistent with national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, including, where appropriate, national adaptation plan (NAP), national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications, or national adaptation programs of action, or other relevant instruments, where they exist.-

The proposed Climate Change Adaptation Project for Zaka, Chivi, and Mutare Districts is fully aligned with Zimbabwe's national and sub-national sustainable development priorities, particularly those addressing climate resilience, poverty reduction, and sustainable agriculture.

Alignment with Zimbabwe's climate policy framework: The project supports the objectives of Zimbabwe's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) by promoting climate-resilient agriculture, strengthening early warning systems, and enhancing institutional capacities for climate change adaptation at sub national level. In addition, Zimbabwe's medium term strategy national development strategy emphasizes on the need to mainstream climate change in development planning which forms the core of this project. The interventions respond directly to adaptation priorities identified in Zimbabwe's National Climate Policy, NDCs,

gender action plan among others which emphasizes improving water management, disaster risk reduction, and integrating climate change into development planning.

Contribution to National Development and Poverty Reduction Strategies- By targeting vulnerable rural districts, the project advances the goals of Zimbabwe's National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1- 2021- 2025) and Poverty Reduction Strategy, which prioritize agricultural productivity, food security, and inclusive economic growth. The emphasis on empowering women, youth, and marginalized groups is consistent with national commitments to social equity and gender mainstreaming.

Support to Sub-national Development Plans- The project's focus on district-level policy frameworks and capacity building complements sub-national development plans for Zaka, Chivi, and Mutare districts, enabling local governments to integrate climate adaptation into their planning and service delivery. This localized approach enhances ownership, relevance, and sustainability of interventions.

Consistency with Sectoral Policies- The promotion of Climate Smart Agriculture aligns with Zimbabwe's agricultural and water management policy frameworks, while strengthening early warning systems supports national disaster risk management frameworks. Market linkage components contribute to rural economic development and value chain strengthening, key priorities in the country's economic diversification efforts. The project is designed to complement and reinforce existing national and sub-national frameworks, ensuring coherence with Zimbabwe's sustainable development and climate adaptation agenda, and maximizing the potential for scaling and sustained impact towards leaving no one behind.

E. Describe how the project/programme meets relevant national technical standards, where applicable, such as standards for environmental assessment, building codes, etc., and complies with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

Compliance with National Technical Standards and Environmental and Social Policy: The project adheres to all relevant national technical standards and regulatory frameworks to ensure environmental sustainability, social responsibility, and safety throughout its implementation.

National Technical Standards

- Environmental Assessment Standards: The project will conduct Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) in line with Zimbabwe's Environmental Management Act and guidelines before any construction or rehabilitation activities. This ensures potential impacts on ecosystems, water resources, and communities are identified and mitigated appropriately.
- Building Codes and Infrastructure Standards: All physical infrastructure developments, such as irrigation systems and post-harvest facilities, will comply with national engineering and construction standards to guarantee durability, safety, and environmental compatibility.
- Water Resource Management: The project follows national water use and conservation policies, ensuring sustainable extraction and equitable distribution of water resources among users, minimizing risks of resource depletion or conflicts.

Compliance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy

- The project has been screened to identify potential environmental and social risks and impacts.
- Appropriate mitigation measures, monitoring plans, and stakeholder engagement processes are embedded to prevent, minimize, or manage adverse effects.
- Special attention is given to protecting vulnerable groups, promoting gender equality, and safeguarding cultural heritage.
- A grievance redress mechanism will be established to allow affected parties to raise concerns promptly and have them addressed transparently.

Monitoring and Reporting: Regular monitoring and evaluation will ensure continued compliance with national standards and Adaptation Fund policies throughout the project lifecycle, with corrective actions taken as needed. This approach guarantees that the project contributes positively to climate resilience without causing unintended harm, fulfilling both national obligations and Adaptation Fund requirements.

F. Describe if there is duplication of project/programme with other funding sources, if any.

A thorough review has been conducted to identify any potential duplication or overlap with existing or planned projects funded by other sources in Zaka, Chivi, and Mutare Districts. The project seeks to build complementarity with currently running (Adaptation Funded) projects such as the Strengthening Local Communities Adaptive Capacity and Resilience to Climate Change through Sustainable Groundwater Utilization in Zimbabwe as well as Enhancing Resilience of Communities and Ecosystems in the Face of a Changing Climate in Arid and Semi Arid Areas of Zimbabwe and other resilient building initiatives supported by the Government and partners, where the focus is to build resilience of communities in line with the country' National Climate Change Adaptation Plan and the broader economic development trajectory.

To date, no other project fully replicates the integrated approach of this programme, which combines strengthening institutional frameworks, early warning systems, climate-smart agriculture, and market linkages within these specific districts. While other initiatives may address individual components such as irrigation rehabilitation or disaster risk management this project integrates these elements to achieve holistic climate resilience. Furthermore, coordination mechanisms are in place at the national and district levels to ensure complementarity and synergy with other donor-funded projects and government programmes, thereby avoiding duplication of efforts and maximizing resource efficiency. Hence the project will strengthen ongoing resilience building programmes scaling out and scaling up what has been successful in line with the vision of Zimbabwe's National Climate Policy of a Climate Resilient and Low Carbon Zimbabwe.

G. If applicable, describe the learning and knowledge management component to capture and disseminate lessons learned.

The project incorporates a robust learning and knowledge management framework to systematically capture, document, and disseminate lessons learned throughout its implementation. This component aims to enhance adaptive management, inform future programming, and promote wider uptake of best practices in climate change adaptation.

Key Activities Include:

- Regular Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E): The project will conduct periodic assessments to track progress, challenges, and successes across all components, using both quantitative and qualitative methods.
- Documentation of Best Practices: Case studies, success stories, and technical briefs will be developed to showcase effective adaptation measures, innovations, and community experiences.
- Stakeholder Workshops and Learning Exchanges: Organized at district and national levels, these forums will bring together project beneficiaries, government officials, civil society, and development partners to share knowledge, discuss challenges, and identify solutions.
- Knowledge Products and Dissemination: Reports, policy briefs, and multimedia content will be produced and shared via digital platforms, local media, and community outreach to broaden accessibility.
- Capacity Building: Training on knowledge management will be provided to local institutions and community groups to strengthen their ability to document and apply lessons learned beyond the project lifecycle.

Expected Outcomes:

- Enhanced adaptive capacity of stakeholders through continuous learning.
- Improved project design and implementation based on real-time feedback.
- Strengthened networks and partnerships for climate resilience.
- Increased awareness and replication of successful adaptation strategies.

This comprehensive learning approach ensures that the project remains responsive, transparent, and contributes to the growing body of knowledge on climate adaptation in Zimbabwe and the region.

H. Describe the consultative process, including the list of stakeholders consulted, undertaken during project preparation, with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

The project builds on mapping and engagements that were done during the National Adaptation Planning Readiness program (2019-2023) where district engagement meetings were held to appreciate the vulnerability of the aforementioned districts as part of the bigger NAP countrywide outreach programme. As such the project preparation process involved an inclusive, participatory consultative approach to ensure broad stakeholder engagement and incorporation of diverse perspectives, particularly from vulnerable groups and gender considerations as concerted efforts were made to ensure that the meetings also included representatives of vulnerable groups such as women and people with disabilities. This approach aligns with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund. The stakeholder engagements was informed by a comprehensive mapping of stakeholders which was conducted to identify key actors at national, district, and community levels, including:

- Government Ministries and Parastatals: Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate in Zaka, Chivi, and Mutare; EMA, Forestry Commission, National Parks, MSD, local agricultural extension services and disaster management offices.
- Community groups: Water User Associations, farmer cooperatives, women's groups, youth organizations, and vulnerable populations such as persons with disabilities and indigenous communities.

- Civil society organizations: Local NGOs working on climate change, gender equity, and social inclusion.
- Development partners and donors: Agencies active in climate adaptation and rural development in the target districts.

Consultative Activities

- Focus group discussions (FGDs): Held at community levels during the NAP Readiness phase to gather input from women, youth, elderly, and marginalized groups about climate vulnerabilities, adaptation needs, and barriers to participation.
- Key informant interviews: Conducted with government officials and local leaders to understand policy contexts, institutional capacities, and coordination mechanisms.
- Workshops and validation meetings: Organized to solicit for input and validate priority areas, ensuring transparency and shared ownership during the consultations and awareness raising meetings for the National Adaptation Planning agenda.
- Gender-sensitive approaches: The consultative engagements ensured balanced representation to ensure that the gender constituency was well represented and that their voices were heard and their specific adaptation priorities integrated.

Outcomes of the Consultative Process

- Identification of priority climate risks and adaptation strategies reflecting local realities in the proposed project area.
- Strengthened collaboration and buy-in among stakeholders across sectors and levels.
- Enhanced understanding of gender dynamics and social inclusion needs, informing project design.
- Commitment to ongoing stakeholder engagement throughout project implementation.

Compliance with Adaptation Fund Policies

The consultative process followed the Environmental and Social Policy by proactively addressing potential social and environmental risks and fostering inclusive participation. Gender Policy compliance was ensured by integrating gender analysis, promoting equitable participation, and addressing gender-specific barriers in consultation methods.

This inclusive and gender-responsive consultative process lays a strong foundation for the project's success and sustainability. During the development of the project concerted efforts were made to engage with local authorities, line ministries, private sector players, among other key stakeholders on appreciating existing gaps since the National Adaptation Plan was launched and how best they can be supported to propel the climate change mainstreaming agenda. The engagements informed the priority areas of the project.

I. Provide justification for funding requested, focusing on the full cost of adaptation reasoning.-

Zimbabwe just like other developing countries requires urgent support to implement its National Adaptation Plan. The National Adaptation Plan was costed and an amount of

10.3 Billion is needed in order for the prioritized vulnerable sectors to adapt to the impacts of Climate Change. With so much money needed, treasury allocation alone will not be enough hence the urgent request to cover the components expounded in this project. The need for financial support to support planning and implementation of adaptive actions cannot be over-emphasized especially for developing countries such as Zimbabwe where the communities are failing to adequately feed themselves.

The project targets building adaptive capacity and enhancing resilience of local communities to climate change through concrete adaptive actions that are uniquely appropriate for them. Furthermore, the programme components are designed to employ a more integrated and holistic approach of supporting communities in vulnerable communities of Zimbabwe resulting in increased resilience to droughts, rainfall variability and other extreme events. This improves their adaptation capacity to the risks while simultaneously improving their livelihood strategies and enhancing food security. Community participation will improve sustainability of natural resources management actions including biodiversity conservation and hence boosts agricultural productivity by communities. Climate compatible agricultural practices such as conservation agriculture, water harvesting, and agroforestry will not only improve agricultural productivity but also improve reliability of production outputs thereby contributing to household food security.

The funding requested under this project represents the full cost of adaptation necessary to address the complex and interlinked climate vulnerabilities faced by the vulnerable communities in Zaka, Chivi, and Mutare Districts.

Rationale for Full Cost Funding:

- Comprehensive Intervention Package: The project entails an integrated approach combining institutional capacity building, early warning systems, climate-smart agriculture, market access improvements and learning and knowledge management. Each component is essential and interdependent, requiring full funding to deliver sustainable, systemic adaptation outcomes. Partial funding would undermine the effectiveness and durability of the interventions.
- Addressing Climate Change as an Additional Burden: Climate change imposes additional costs beyond routine development needs, including infrastructure rehabilitation to withstand new climate extremes, training for climate-resilient practices, and establishing new early warning systems. These costs are incremental and cannot be borne by the communities or national budgets alone. This also aligns with the provisions of Articles 7,9, 10 and 11 of the Paris Agreement pursuant to means of implementation for the global south to adapt to climate change
- Targeting Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups: The project prioritizes vulnerable populations disproportionately affected by climate impacts, including women, youth, and marginalized groups, necessitating tailored, resource-intensive measures to ensure equitable resilience gains.
- Ensuring Long-Term Sustainability: Investments in durable and climate smart infrastructure, institutional frameworks, and knowledge management require adequate funding to guarantee sustained benefits beyond the project's lifetime.
- Complementarity with Other Funding: The requested funds fill gaps not covered by existing development or humanitarian aid programs, specifically targeting climate risks and adaptation needs unique to the project areas.

- Given this scenario, effective adaptation to climate change is required to ensure long-term effects of a changing climate are addressed.
- Without the project, communities will not be able to implement conservation agriculture and agroforestry which are more resource effective than traditional methods of food production. With no appropriate interventions, the soil will continue to deteriorate impacting on the food production system and consequently, food security of the communities. Additionally, there will be continued extensification into grazing, forest and other land uses in order to compensate for poor yields thereby disrupting ecological services such as carbon sequestration. Loss of livestock to diseases, shortage of fodder and lack of climate smart livestock management principles will continue leaving communities poorer. With AF funding, investments will lead to improved food production systems, improved soil management through climate-smart agriculture, increased productivity, increased food security, better livestock management, increased capital base for the communities and increased revenue streams. Women and girls will spend less time looking for firewood and preparing meals and hence engage in more productive activities, attend school and become more empowered
- Without appropriate project interventions, communities will not have local action plans, ecologically degradation practices that affect their livelihoods will continue, weak governance structures in the communities will provide a conducive environment for illegal actions with no recourse, traditional and local leadership will run short of the requisite skills to manage their resources so as to allow resilience to climate change adaptation. With AF funding, the community members will develop a shared adaptation vision for their communities through the action planning process ensuring where members and leaders are mutually accountable. The participation of women in action planning processes will ensure that they are involved in the decision-making process and will open community leadership opportunities for them. Drafting adaptation policies at local level that are compliant with the new constitution and adaptation fund policies will inform and provide a framework for adaptation actions not just in the project wards, but in all districts.
- Without project investments, there will be no structured platforms for sharing experiences and adaptation best practices. Indigenous knowledge practises will remain accessible to a select few with no validation. However with AF Funding, the project will increase the existing and new body of knowledge on adaptation best practices, governance structures for adaptation and indigenous knowledge systems for early warning systems. This information will be available to individuals, communities, and institutions across the project landscape and in the country.

In summary, the full funding requested is justified by the scope, complexity, and additional costs associated with delivering equitable and effective climate adaptation that would not be achievable through partial or fragmented financing.

J. Describe how the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes has been taken into account when designing the project/programme.-

Sustainability Considerations in Project Design: The design of the Climate Change Adaptation Project for Zaka, Chivi, and Mutare Districts has been carefully crafted to ensure the long-term sustainability of its outcomes beyond the project lifecycle.

Institutional Sustainability: The project strengthens local institutions, including district councils, water user associations, and community groups, by building their capacities in climate-resilient planning, management, and decision-making. This institutional empowerment ensures that adaptation practices and governance frameworks remain functional and effective after project completion. Integration of climate adaptation into local policy frameworks and development plans institutionalizes the interventions, securing ongoing political and administrative support.

Financial Sustainability: By promoting climate-smart agriculture and enhancing market linkages, the project aims to increase the economic resilience and incomes of beneficiary communities, enabling them to sustain adaptation measures independently. The project encourages cost-sharing and co-financing mechanisms at local levels to support maintenance of infrastructure and continued service delivery.

Environmental Sustainability: Adoption of nature-based solutions, sustainable land and water management practices, and efficient irrigation technologies protects natural resources and ecosystems, ensuring their capacity to support livelihoods is preserved in the long term. The project carefully adheres to environmental standards to avoid negative impacts and promote ecosystem restoration.

Social and Community Sustainability: Active engagement and empowerment of vulnerable groups including women, youth, and marginalized populations through training and leadership roles foster community ownership and social cohesion. Knowledge management and learning initiatives build local skills and adaptive capacity, enabling communities to continue adapting to evolving climate challenges.

Technical Sustainability: Use of locally appropriate, proven technologies and participatory approaches ensures relevance, ease of maintenance, and replicability. Collaboration with government agencies and technical experts guarantees ongoing technical support and alignment with national systems.

The project's integrated approach to capacity building, institutionalization, economic empowerment, environmental stewardship, and community engagement is designed to secure the durability and lasting impact of its climate resilience outcomes.

K. Provide an overview of the environmental and social impacts and risks identified as being relevant to the project/programme.

The Climate Change Adaptation Project for Zaka, Chivi, and Mutare Districts has undergone an initial screening to identify potential environmental and social impacts and risks in compliance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy.

This proactive approach to identifying and managing risks ensures that the project's benefits are maximized while minimizing potential negative impacts.

Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
Compliance with the Law	x	
Access and Equity		x
Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups		x
Human Rights	x	
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		x
Core Labour Rights	x	
Indigenous Peoples	x	
Involuntary Resettlement	x	
Protection of Natural Habitats		x
Conservation of Biological Diversity		x
Climate Change	x	
Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		x
Public Health	x	
Physical and Cultural Heritage	x	
Lands and Soil Conservation		x

Compliance with the Law

The project complies with all relevant legal requirements in the country including financial, social, and environmental laws and regulations including local bylaws in the targeted districts. The project complies with the Environmental Management Act [Chapter 20:27] and its Ancillary Statutes in the implementation of sustainable land management activities. The Forest Act [Chapter 19:05], Communal Land Act (20:04), Climate Change Policy and the Rural District Councils Act provide guidelines for the implementation of sustainable forest management activities within communal areas. The project is aligned to the Water Act [Chapter 20:24] and the Wetland Policy and Guidelines in the Wetlands Restoration and water provision activities, Wetland Policy and

Guidelines. Other Acts and Policies include the Gender Policy, the Constitution, and the National Development Strategy provide guidance in the implementation of the project. Where required, Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) will be conducted.

Access and Equity
The programme components promote equality and access by all participants. There are however some risks of the potential exclusion/ marginalization of some groups such as the women, elderly, disabled and youths within the project if participation and benefit-sharing are not adequately ensured. To mitigate this risk, project beneficiaries will be clearly identified during project development and will be tracked through the monitoring and evaluation system. Conflict over fodder between livestock and agricultural farmers practicing conservation agriculture is also a potential risk, which the project will mitigate through provision of fodder banks The Grievance Redress Mechanism of the project will provide a channel for any participants to raise any concerns that may arise.

Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups
The project has risks associated with exclusion of the most vulnerable in the communities in activities related to conservation agriculture and livestock, early warning systems and disaster risk reduction, sustainable land and forest management and consultative processes for policy development and reviews. This will be mitigated by the clear identification of project beneficiaries including the disabled, orphan headed households and women (including female headed households) to ensure their inclusion. In consultative processes the project will ensure beneficiary representative quarters for each of the marginalized and vulnerable groups are identified within the project landscape.

Human Rights
If the project execution falls in the hands of wrong people/leadership, human rights can be violated. In this programme, there are no proposed activities that will impact on Universal Human Rights. A grievance redress mechanism will be implemented to ensure that all perceived and actual infringements on people's rights are registered and addressed. No further assessment required for compliance.

Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment
Current studies show that women are the most vulnerable to climate change and as such, the adaptation project will have a bigger impact on women. There are risks associated with the discrimination, unequal access, distribution and representation for women in the implementation of activities under conservation agriculture and livestock production, sustainable land and forest management, early warning systems and disaster risk reduction as well as policy review and development. To address this the project will clearly identify the number of women beneficiaries (included female headed households) and the expected quota for female representation in consultative processes. A Gender Assessment Report with a Gender Action Plan as well as gender aggregated indicators within the Project Results Framework will enable monitoring and evaluation of the gender inclusion parameters during implementation.

Core Labour Rights
Zimbabwe has ratified ILO convention, the core labour rights including avoidance of child

labour and these will be respected by the project and all necessary measures will be taken to ensure this is maintained throughout project implementation.

Indigenous Peoples
The project area does not have a resident indigenous peoples' population. All are referred to as local communities. No further assessment for compliance required.

Involuntary Resettlement
There are no project activities that will require Involuntary Resettlement of people in the project target area. However, some activities may result in temporary loss of land or disturbance of income generating activities. Involuntary resettlement for economic reasons in such instances will be mitigated through extensive consultation processes and the voluntary nature of foregoing economic and livelihood activities. Alternative economic and livelihood options will be provided as part of the project activities. Project benefits sharing, assessment of social impacts, information disclosure, consultation, grievance redress mechanism, and monitoring and reporting will provide a framework for Involuntary Resettlement Safeguards during project implementation.

Protection of Natural Habitats
The project will support the protection of natural habitats through nature-based income generating activities that incentivise protection of natural habitats. However, veldfires and climate change (mainly drought) are likely to pose risk to biodiversity in project areas. The project will support fire management activities that will mitigate veldfires and implement sustainable water management and soil conservation practices. The project activities will not result in conversion of any areas protected by law, proposed for protection, or recognized as protected by local communities.

Conservation of Biological Diversity
Biodiversity is part of a well-functioning ecosystem which is what the project is aiming to achieve. There will therefore be no adverse impact on biodiversity. However, construction activities may temporarily disturb local habitats, biodiversity, or cause soil erosion if safeguards are not followed. Veldfires and climate change (mainly drought are likely to pose risk to biodiversity in project areas. Projects will not introduce invasive species or reduce biological diversity.

Climate Change
No project activities will result in net positive emissions of GHG. The project intends to help communities to adapt to climate change and some of the activities will result in mitigating climate change through environmental conservation actions that broaden the carbon sink. Project activities will not include large-scale energy, transport, heavy industry, building materials, large-scale agriculture, large-scale forest products, and waste management practices which result in significant emissions but will focus on promoting resilience of communities.

Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency
Some of the identified actions such as intensified irrigation may inadvertently result in salinisation. Rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure and increased water use for agriculture could lead to localized water stress or soil degradation if not properly managed. Post-harvest processing facilities may generate waste that requires proper disposal to avoid environmental contamination. However, an Environmental and Social Management System will be implemented to ensure that adverse impacts are effectively

managed. Resource efficiency particularly on water is part of the project design while there will be no significant waste generation because of the project.

Public Health

Generally, under a changing climate, food insecurity and associated effects on human health occur. There are no project activities that are anticipated to impact on public health. However, construction and operational activities could pose occupational health and safety risks to workers and community members without proper protocols. Occupational health and safety standards will be applied and training provided for all relevant stakeholders. It is by design that the project will improve health by ensuring a clean environment and food and nutrition security at household level. Improved diets will positively impact on non-communicable diseases such as hypertension and diabetes.

Physical and Cultural Heritage

The project is not expected to impact on any places of physical and cultural heritage as there are no places identified as such in the project area. All efforts will be made to ensure that any local cultural heritage sites are protected, and the relevant local traditional leadership and government departments are alerted of their presence. Indigenous knowledge systems will be mainstreamed in the project to ensure that they are propagated. Project activities will respect local customs, traditions, and cultural heritage sites to avoid social discord.

Lands and Soil Conservation

The risk of deforestation and land degradation will be minimized as project activities will not pose any risk to land and soil. Project activities are designed to avoid, reduce, and reverse land degradation based on assessments that have been conducted by the NIE on the state of the environment at district level. As part of the project, community based Local Environmental Action Plans will be developed which will be climate smart and will be aimed at ensuring that land and soil are protected for holistic adaptation.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

A. Demonstrate how the project/programme aligns with the Results Framework of the Adaptation Fund

Project Objective(s)[1]	Project Objective Indicator(s)	Fund Outcome	Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
To enable a supportive institutional, policy and knowledge environment that promotes effective, inclusive and sustainable climate change adaptation in Zaka, Chivi and Mutare districts	Number of GESI compliant district-level climate adaptation policy frameworks adopted Number of trainings conducted	**Outcome 2:** Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate-induced socioeconomic and environmental losses	2.1. Capacity of staff to respond to, and mitigate impacts of, climate-related events from targeted institutions increased	500 000
To enhance community preparedness and resilience to climate induced disasters by strengthening early warning systems (EWS) and disaster risk management (DRM) in Zaka Chivi and Mutare districts	Percentage of households in target districts reporting timely receipt, understanding, and use of early warning information and participating in community-based disaster risk management plans	**Outcome 1:** Reduced exposure to climate-related hazards and threats	1. Relevant threat and hazard information generated and disseminated to stakeholders on a timely basis	1 500 000
To increase the adoption and integration of Climate Smart Agriculture practices among small holder farmers in Zaka Chivi and Mutare districts	Percentage of smallholder farmers in target districts adopting at least two climate-smart agriculture practices as part of their farming systems	***Outcome 8:*** Support the development and diffusion of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies	8. Innovative adaptation practices are rolled out, scaled up, encouraged and/or accelerated at regional, national and/or subnational level	3 000 000
To improve post- harvest management and access	Percentage increase in the volume of	**Outcome 6:** Diversified and strengthened	6.2. Percentage of targeted population with sustained	1 000 000

to reliable markets for smallholder farmers in Zaka Chivi and Mutare districts through strengthening value chains, building market readiness and creating sustainable linkages with buyers and agric-business.	smallholder farmers agricultural produce sold through formal markets or value chains in the target area	livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas	climate-resilient alternative livelihoods	
Project Outcome(s)	**Project Outcome Indicator(s)**	**Fund Output**	**Fund Output Indicator**	**Grant Amount (USD)**
Enhanced institutional capacity for climate-resilient planning and development	Number of local institutions in target districts demonstrating improved capacity to integrate climate risk considerations into planning, budgeting, and service delivery	***Output 2.1***: Strengthened capacity of national and sub-national centres and networks to respond rapidly to extreme weather events	2.1.2 No. of targeted institutions with increased capacity to minimize exposure to climate variability risks (by type, sector and scale) 2.1.1. No. of staff trained to respond to, and mitigate impacts of, climate-related events (by gender)	
Enhanced community readiness and adaptive capacity to deal with extreme weather events.	Percentage of households in target districts reporting confidence in their ability to respond effectively to extreme weather events due to access to early warning information, preparedness measures, and adaptive practices	***Output 1.2:*** Targeted population groups covered by adequate risk reduction systems	1.2.1. Percentage of target population covered by adequate risk-reduction systems	
Improved agricultural productivity, food security	Percentage increase in average agricultural	***Output 8:*** Viable innovations are	8.1. No. of innovative	

and incomes among smallholder farmers.	yields, household food security levels, and income from farming activities among smallholder farmers in target districts	rolled out, scaled up, encouraged and/or accelerated.	adaptation practices, tools and technologies accelerated, scaled-up and/or replicated	
Improved income of communities through value addition and accessing markets.	Percentage increase in average household income derived from sales of value-added agricultural products and participation in markets among targeted communities	***Output 6:*** Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts, including variability	6.1.1. No. and type of adaptation assets (tangible and intangible) created or strengthened in support of individual or community livelihood strategies	

[1] The AF utilized OECD/DAC terminology for its results framework. Project proponents may use different terminology but the overall principle should still apply

PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENT AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING

A. **Record of endorsement on behalf of the government**[2] *Provide the name and position of the government official and indicate date of endorsement. If this is a regional project/programme, list the endorsing officials all the participating countries. The endorsement letter(s) should be attached as an annex to the project/programme proposal. Please attach the endorsement letter(s) with this template; add as many participating governments if a regional project/programme:*

(Washington Zhakata, Chief Director Climate Change Management and Meteorological Services, Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife)	Date*: (July, 14, 2025)*

B. **Implementing Entity certification** *Provide the name and signature of the Implementing Entity Coordinator and the date of signature. Provide also the project/programme contact person's name, telephone number and email address*

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans (National Development Strategy 1, National Climate Policy, National Climate Change Adaptation Plan, Nationally Determined Contributions 3.0 statement, Climate Change Gender Action Plan) and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and the Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.

[6] Each Party shall designate and communicate to the secretariat the authority that will endorse on behalf of the national government the projects and programmes proposed by the implementing entities.

Name & Signature Steady Kangata ~~Kangata~~	
Date: 11/07/2025 25/07/2025	Tel. and email: +263 773404779 steady.kangata@ema.co.zw
Project Contact Person: Hlompho Naledi Kalube	
Tel. And Email: +263775196726 naledi.kalube@ema.co.zw	

Annex IV- Endorsement Letter

All communications should be addressed, "The Secretary for Environment, Climate and Wildlife."

P Bag 7753 Causeway,
Zimbabwe
Telephone: 701681/3
Fax: 252673

Your Ref.:
Our Ref:

ZIMBABWE

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
CLIMATE AND WILDLIFE

11th Floor, Kaguvi Building
Cnr 4th Street/Central Avenue
Harare
ZIMBABWE

14 July 2025

To: The Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
Email: afbsec@adaptation-fund.org
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Endorsement of the Strengthening Climate Change Adaptation of Vulnerable Communities in Zaka, Chivi and Mutare districts Project Concept, 2026- 2029, USD 7,225 Million

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Zimbabwe, I confirm that the above national project proposal is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in Zimbabwe.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by Environmental Management Agency and executed by the Climate Change Management Department.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND WILDLIFE
PERMANENT SECRETARY
15 JUL 2025
12TH FLOOR KAGUVI BUILDING
P. BAG 7767, CAUSEWAY, HARARE
ZIMBABWE

Washington Zhakata
Chief Director, Climate and Meteorological Services, GCF and AF National Focal Point
Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife, Zimbabwe

Revised PFG Submission Form[1]

Project Formulation Grant (PFG)

Submission Date: 25 July 2025

Adaptation Fund Project ID:
Country/ies: Zimbabwe
Title of Project/Programme: Strengthening Climate Change Adaptation of Vulnerable Communities in Zaka, Chivi and Mutare districts
Type of IE (NIE/RIE/MIE): National Implementing Entity
Implementing Entity: Environmental Management Agency (EMA) Zimbabwe
Executing Entity/ies: Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife, Zimbabwe

A. Project Preparation Timeframe

Start date of PFG	Upon AF disbursement of PFG grant to EMA
Completion date of PFG	12 months after concept note approval

B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities ($)

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	US$ Amount
Public Consultations	Public consultation & validation workshops planned as follows: - 2 national workshops targeting nationalstakeholders (design and validation workshops); - 3 District-level consultation rounds (including workshops targeting sub-national and local stakeholders, and prioritization and co-design workshops at the community-level).	30,000
Travel/participation	- Field travel by EMA and MECW Zimbabwe teams to support PFG studies and consultations. - Technical participation in district workshops and stakeholder meetings. - On-site verification of proposed project sites and adaptation measures. - Coordination between national and district-level stakeholders.	15,000

Economic assessment	- Assess the economic and financial contribution for the project beneficiaries - Analyze the profitability of project taking into account the cost-effectiveness of the proposed activities related to early warning systems, disaster risk management, climate smart agriculture, post-harvest management, strengthening of value chains, building market readiness and creating sustainable linkages with buyers and agri-business as well as the project added-value at the environmental, social and economic levels.	5,000
Gender Assessment and Action Plan	- Gender review of relevant policies and legal frameworks of Zimbabwe including national climate change policy documents. - Mainstream gender-responsive approaches into the project design: outcomes, outputs, activities, indicators and targets. - Develop a Gender Action Plan - Mainstream AF Gender policy into project design in compliance with the Adaptation Fund Gender Policy. - Monitoring and Evaluation interventions to measure progress and/ or impact of gender mainstreaming from the climate change anddisaster perspective	30,000
Environment and Social ImpactStudies/ Reviews	- Environmental and social screening of proposed adaptation measures in line with AF's ESP. - Identification of potential risks, mitigation measures, and opportunities for environmental co-benefits. - Development of an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). - Stakeholder engagement to validate key findings and E&S safeguards.	20,000
Capacity Needs Assessment	- Assessment of institutional and community-level capacity to implement project interventions. - Identification of training, resource, and coordination gaps across implementing and executing entities.	15,000
Baseline Assessments	- Baseline studies on hydro-meteorological early warning systems, disaster response plans, climate smart irrigation schemes, climate resilient agricultural enterprises, post-harvest processing, value addition systems, produce marketing systems and enterprise management.	15,000
Design of the full projectproposal	- Drafting of full AF project proposal, integrating findings from assessments. - Preparation of Theory of Change, results framework, and alignment with national adaptation priorities. - Incorporation of technical inputs from consultations, gender and E&S studies. - Internal and external validation of draft proposal prior to submission.	20,000
Total Project Formulation Grant		**150,000**

Description of Project Preparation Activities:

Consultations: The project formulation process will involve an extensive programme of consultations and validation workshops at both national and sub-national levels. Two national-level workshops will be organized, one for design input and one for validation, bringing together government institutions, technical experts, and sectoral stakeholders.

Additionally, 3 district-level consultation rounds will be conducted, each lasting at least one week and incorporating engagements with sub-national authorities, community-based organizations, and vulnerable groups. These sessions will include structured 'prioritization and co-design workshops' at community level, ensuring that adaptation priorities are informed by local knowledge and lived experience.

Travel and Participation: Field travel will be undertaken by EMA and Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife Zimbabwe teams to support the implementation of key PFG studies and stakeholder engagements. This includes technical participation in district consultations, site visits to verify proposed intervention areas, and coordination meetings with decentralized structures.

Economic Assessment: A dedicated economic analysis will be conducted to assess the economic and financial contributions of the proposed adaptation measures for target communities. The study will analyse the profitability and value-for-money of project interventions, including early warning systems, disaster risk management, climate smart agriculture, post-harvest management, strengthening of value chains, building market readiness and creating sustainable linkages with buyers and agri-business as well as the project added-value at the environmental, social and economic levels, providing justification for project scale and modality.

Gender Assessment and Action Plan: A comprehensive gender assessment will be carried out to inform the design of a gender-responsive project. This will include a review of Zimbabwe's policy and legal frameworks, as well as an analysis of climate vulnerability and adaptation roles differentiated by gender. The consultant will lead the development of a Gender Action Plan, aligned with the Adaptation Fund's Gender Policy, and will ensure that gender considerations are mainstreamed throughout the project's results framework. The assessment will also define gender-sensitive monitoring indicators and recommend inclusive grievance mechanisms.

Environmental and Social Impact Studies: Environmental and social screening will be conducted in line with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP). The process will include the identification of potential risks and co-benefits associated with proposed interventions, the development of an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), and stakeholder validation of key findings. This activity ensures compliance with safeguard standards and promotes the integration of environmental sustainability and social equity considerations throughout the project.

Capacity Needs Assessment: A targeted capacity needs assessment will be undertaken to identify institutional and operational gaps that may affect the implementation of project interventions. The assessment will focus on both executing entities and community-based structures, mapping existing capacities and defining training, technical assistance, and governance support requirements. The results will inform the design of tailored capacity-building components in the full project proposal.

Baseline Assessments - Baseline studies will be undertaken on hydro-meteorological early warning systems, disaster response plans, climate smart irrigation schemes, climate resilient agricultural enterprises, post-harvest processing, value addition systems, produce marketing systems and enterprise management. These studies will guide the project monitoring framework and activities during full project design.

Design of the Full Project Proposal: The full project proposal will be developed through a structured drafting process that synthesizes the outputs of all technical assessments and stakeholder consultations. The proposal will include a robust theory of change, a results framework with targets and indicators, a detailed budget, and risk management strategies. Contributions will be made by both national experts and regional technical support from the Humana Climate Team, ensuring the integration of lessons from similar initiatives in neighbouring countries. The proposal will undergo internal and external validation prior to submission.

C. Implementing Entity

This request has been prepared in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Board's procedures and meets the Adaptation Fund's criteria for project identification and formulation

Implementing Entity Coordinator, IE Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Steady Kangata Environmental Management Agency (EMA)	~~Kangata~~	25/07/25	Hlompho Naledi Kulube	+263775 196726	naledi.kulube@ema.co.zw