



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.36/Inf.30
8-9 October 2025

Adaptation Fund Board
Project and Programme Review Committee
Thirty-sixth Meeting
Bonn, Germany, 8-9 October 2025

PROPOSAL FOR SINGLE COUNTRY LOCALLY LED ADAPTATION PROPOSAL ZIMBABWE



ADAPTATION FUND

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PROJECT/PROGRAMME CATEGORY: LLA Single country concept note

Country/Region: Zimbabwe

Project Title: Locally-Led Resilience: Enhancing Community-Based Disaster Preparedness and Climate Adaptation in Manicaland and Masvingo

Thematic Focal Area: Disaster Risk Reduction, Agriculture, Food Security

Implementing Entity: Environmental Management Agency (EMA)

Executing Entities: Development Aid from People to People Zimbabwe (DAPP)

AF Project ID:

IE Project ID:

Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars): 5,000,000

Reviewer and contact person: Ishani Debnath

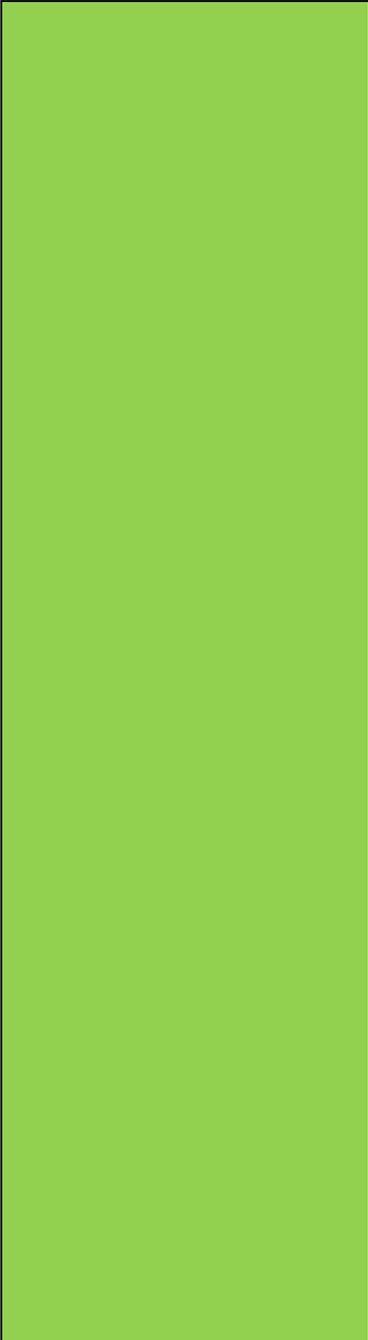
Co-reviewer(s):

IE Contact Person: Hlompho Naledi Kulube

Technical Summary:	<p>The project “Locally-Led Resilience: Enhancing Community-Based Disaster Preparedness and Climate Adaptation in Manicaland and Masvingo” aims to enhance the adaptation capacity and resilience of communities to climate change impacts and variability in Manicaland and Masvingo Provinces. This will be done through the three components below:</p> <p><u>Component 1:</u> Enhancing Knowledge and Capacities for Climate Resilience, Emergency Preparedness and Adaptation (USD 795,000);</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u> Enhancing Climate Resilience of Physical and Natural Assets (USD 800,000);</p> <p><u>Component 3:</u> Improving Climate-Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security (USD 2,625,000).</p> <p><u>Requested financing overview:</u> Project/Programme Execution Cost: USD 390,000 Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 4,610,000 Implementing Fee: USD 390,000 Financing Requested: USD 5,000,000</p> <p>The proposal includes a request for a Project Formulation Grant (PFG) of USD 120,000.</p>
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	<p>The initial technical review raises several issues such as insufficient details on the adaptation interventions, locally led adaptation arrangements, cost-effectiveness and sustainability measures, compliance with national standards and the Fund's Environmental and Social Policy, clarification on duplication, project categorization classification and PFM management fee as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Requests (CARs) raised in the review.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
Date:	August 25, 2025

Review Criteria	Questions	Comments 1 st Review [August 25, 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. Zimbabwe faces major vulnerabilities from widespread poverty, food and nutrition insecurity, and declining agricultural productivity, which is highly dependent on rain-fed farming and increasingly threatened by climate change, land degradation, and water scarcity. Gender inequality, high debt, environmental degradation, and recurrent droughts and cyclones further exacerbate rural poverty and household vulnerability, undermining economic and social resilience. Pages 4-14.
Project Eligibility	1. Has the designated government authority for the Adaptation Fund endorsed the project/programme?	Yes. With the endorsement letter is dated as 6 August 2024.
	2. Does the length of the proposal amount to no more than fifty (50) pages for the Concept note project document, including its annexes?	Yes. The proposal amounts to 48 pages. Annex has not been attached.
	3. Does the project / programme support concrete adaptation actions to assist the country and/or the local actors in addressing adaptive capacity	Needs Clarification

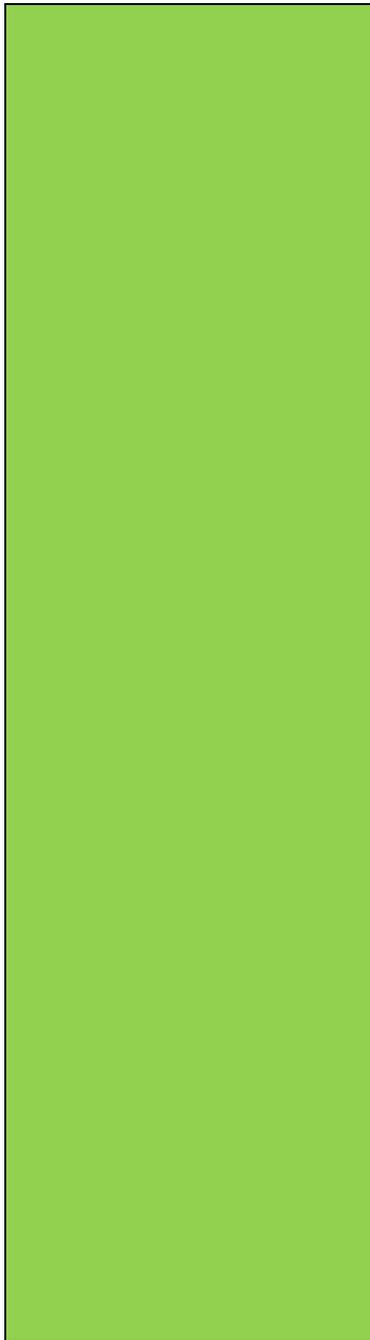


to the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience?

The proposed project supports several concrete adaptation actions aimed at strengthening community resilience to climate change in Zimbabwe's Manicaland and Masvingo provinces. While the overall approach is promising, several elements require further elaboration to assess how effectively the proposed actions will be translated into tangible outcomes.

Project/Programme beneficiaries: The target areas were prioritized because they are the most exposed and vulnerable to multiple climate hazards, food insecurity, and land degradation, while also being heavily reliant on agriculture for livelihoods. The choice also reflects a deliberate alignment with district-level Disaster Risk Management plans and ensures interventions address both immediate disaster risks and long-term resilience needs. Evidence from vulnerability assessments, including ZimVAC and World Bank data, demonstrates that these provinces rank highest in exposure to shocks, face recurrent food insecurity and malnutrition, and have among the lowest adaptive capacities due to heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture and degraded land and water resources.

Adaptation Interventions: The project promotes climate resilient agriculture (CRA) and integrated farming systems through Farmers' Clubs, including crop diversification, livestock and fish farming, and community gardens. The project invests in strengthening last-mile connectivity of EWS, providing communities with better access to climate and weather information. It supports Civil Protection Committees (CPCs) in participatory planning and the development of Community-Based Emergency and Adaptation Plans. The project also proposes climate-proofing of community infrastructure (e.g., emergency shelters, food storage, WASH facilities) and introduces land and water restoration



interventions through sustainable land management (SLM) in highly degraded districts. The project incorporates nutrition awareness alongside agricultural interventions. The project builds on EMA's technical leadership as the IE and DAPPZ's Farmers' Clubs model, which has a proven record in enhancing agricultural productivity and household resilience, and anchors activities in local institutions (CPCs, cooperatives, district structures) to foster ownership and continuity.

While the project identifies priority areas for intervention, it falls short in detailing how these measures will be implemented, scaled, and sustained. While broad adaptation measures are outlined, the proposal lacks specific methodologies. For example, CRA techniques (e.g., conservation farming, drought-tolerant seeds, irrigation technologies) are not clearly defined. Land and water restoration approaches are mentioned but not elaborated in terms of scale, methods, or anticipated outcomes. The proposal also does not present clear, measurable indicators for tracking improvements in adaptive capacity.

Indigenous Knowledge: The project recognizes local disaster risk management plans but gives limited detail on how indigenous coping strategies and traditional knowledge will be incorporated into adaptation actions. While the proposal acknowledges that local Civil Protection Committees (CPCs) have limited financial and material resources, and Civil Protection Units (CPUs) will be put in place, it does not fully explain how the project will sustainably overcome these structural weaknesses.

CR1: Please clarify how the creation of FCs and strengthening of existing CPCs will ensure transparency, inclusivity, and responsiveness to



local needs and vulnerabilities in the target areas. What criteria will the CPUs use to define the composition and mandate of these committees, ensuring they are inclusive of diverse community members, including women, youth, and Indigenous peoples?

If these details will be completely finalized at the full proposal stage, then this should be clarified in the proposal document.

CR2: How will the committee’s authority and responsibilities be formally recognized and integrated into the project’s decision-making framework?

CR3: Please clarify how Indigenous knowledge will inform the mapping and systematization of adaptation actions?

CR4: Please explain EMA’s direct role in capacity building:

- Component 1 activities on para 62 include targeted trainings, operational support, provision of necessary equipment, and the integration of traditional knowledge with modern EWS. Will EMA directly train or mentor the FCs and CPCs, women’s groups, or village councils? If so, what is the planned approach?
- Para 63 notes the project will leverage DAPP’s previous experience in institutional and community capacity building on climate resilience, emergency response, and adaptation. DAPP implemented the “Building community led resilience through climate change adaptation actions” project in Makoni District, Manicaland Province, from 2023 to 2024, with a component of strengthening

		<p>capacities of community structures and District CPCs, and integrating modern EWS with indigenous EWS. But it is not clear what were the gaps in these previous projects by both DAPP and EMA, and how EMA will ensure that evidence-based data will be collected and analyzed to ensure it is directly informing decision-making at both FC and CPC levels.</p>
	<p>4. Does the project/programme enable devolving decision making to the lowest appropriate level? Does it give local institutions and communities more direct access to finance and decision-making power over how adaptation actions are defined, prioritized, designed, implemented; how progress is monitored and how success is evaluated.</p>	<p>Needs Clarification</p> <p><u>LLA Approach:</u></p> <p>The proposal makes strong commitments to LLA in design and rhetoric, proposing structures for devolved decision-making and direct access to resources. Still, it falls short in detailing how these mechanisms will secure genuine power transfer to local institutions and communities during implementation, leaving open the possibility that final authority remains centralized with the implementing and executing entities and with ministry level bodies.</p> <p>Based on the proposal, the project/programme is explicitly framed around a LLA approach, with several mechanisms intended to devolve decision-making to community level. It commits to strengthening and operationalizing Civil Protection Committees (CPCs) at village and ward level, supporting Farmers' Clubs (FCs), cooperatives, and environment committees, and embedding these local structures in the design, prioritization, and implementation of activities. Communities are expected to co-develop emergency response and adaptation plans, identify and manage climate-resilient infrastructure upgrades, and participate in grant schemes for micro-enterprises, thereby gaining direct access to finance and a say in defining priorities and monitoring progress.</p>



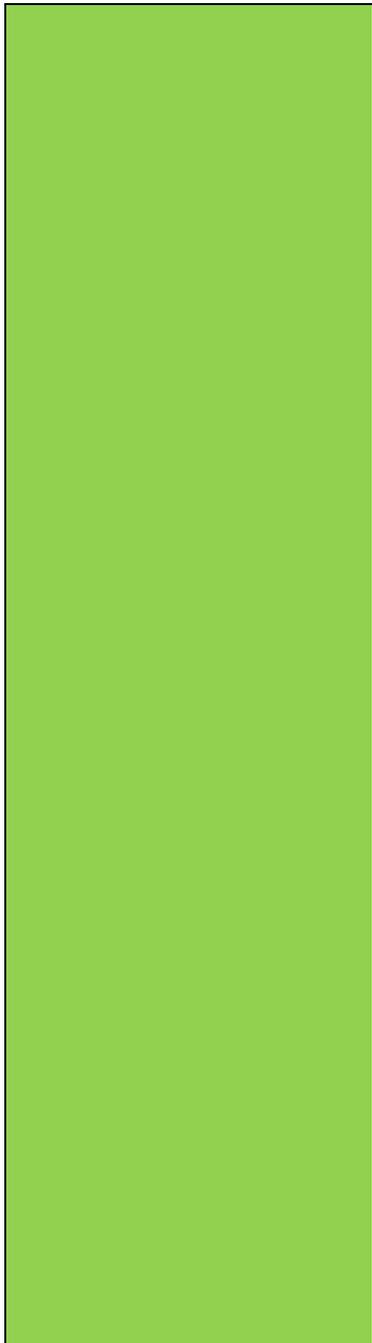
On ownership, the proposal does stress that plans will be co-designed, reviewed, and updated in line with local contexts, integrating indigenous knowledge with formal systems. It also includes provisions for community awareness, peer-to-peer learning, and inclusive participation of women and vulnerable groups, which strengthen consistency with LLA principles. Para 67 notes that the project will also support the development and implementation of the Local Authority Management Information Systems (LAMIS) systems, which is an EWS with climate change information that ensures real-time, two-way SMS-based communication between Local Authorities and communities. This system will help stakeholders, including community members, access climate risk information and providing science-based quality assured information to support climate-informed decision making at the community and district levels. EW messages will be translated to Shona and the needs of PLWD will be integrated in message design to ensure inclusivity.

However, while the proposal emphasizes participatory processes, it is less detailed on how devolved authority will translate into binding decision-making power. For example, although CPCs and FCs are to be engaged in planning and implementation, the proposal does not clarify how their decisions will be weighed against oversight by EMA (as the Implementing Entity) or DAPP (as the Executing Entity).

CR5: Please provide further clarification on the specific mechanisms by which community-level priorities will directly influence decision-making and resource allocation for adaptation actions. What steps will be taken to ensure that community engagement is not limited to consultation within a

		<p>pre-set framework, with established mechanisms guaranteeing revision of priorities or full autonomy in resource allocation.</p> <p>CR6: Please clarify the role and power of the Local Adaptation Committees, and the mechanism by which their input will directly influence the selection and funding of adaptation actions.</p> <p><u>Direct Access to Finance & Grant Management:</u></p> <p>Para 100 notes that the project will facilitate cooperatives and micro-enterprises to improve their access to markets, value-chain integration, and financial services. Capacity-building workshops will be organized to provide FCs/Cooperatives with the necessary skills in financial literacy, business planning, and market analysis. To enhance financial inclusion, the project will facilitate savings group schemes and improve access to banking services. This includes establishing partnerships with local financial institutions to provide tailored financial products, such as microloans and savings accounts, that meet the specific needs of rural farmers and entrepreneurs. Similarly, while a small grants facility is mentioned, the document does not provide a clear governance framework for how communities will access, manage, and account for funds independently, raising questions about the extent of “direct access.”</p> <p>CR7: Please provide preliminary information on the grant management mechanism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a clear, detailed explanation of the proposed grant management mechanism. • Specify the responsible entity for this mechanism and describe its anticipated role and composition.
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	<p>5. 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? Does the project/programme address structural inequalities faced by women, youth, children, people with disabilities, people who are displaced, Indigenous Peoples and marginalized ethnic groups?</p>	<p>Needs Clarification</p> <p>The concept note indicates the project’s intent to deliver economic, social, and environmental benefits, particularly to vulnerable groups, however, it does not yet provide concrete information on how these benefits will be delivered through specific project activities, nor does it explain how risks and structural inequalities will be identified and addressed.</p> <p>The proposal does not present a clear, evidence-based methodology for systematically identifying the most vulnerable groups. It draws extensively on national and provincial vulnerability assessments (e.g., ZimVAC, World Bank 2020 drought vulnerability data, provincial Disaster Risk Management plans) to demonstrate that Manicaland and Masvingo rank highest in exposure to climate shocks and food insecurity. However, while these sources provide strong justification for the selection of target areas, they are less specific about how the project itself will identify and prioritize vulnerable sub-groups (e.g., women-headed households, PLWD, youth, displaced people, Indigenous or marginalized ethnic groups) during implementation.</p>

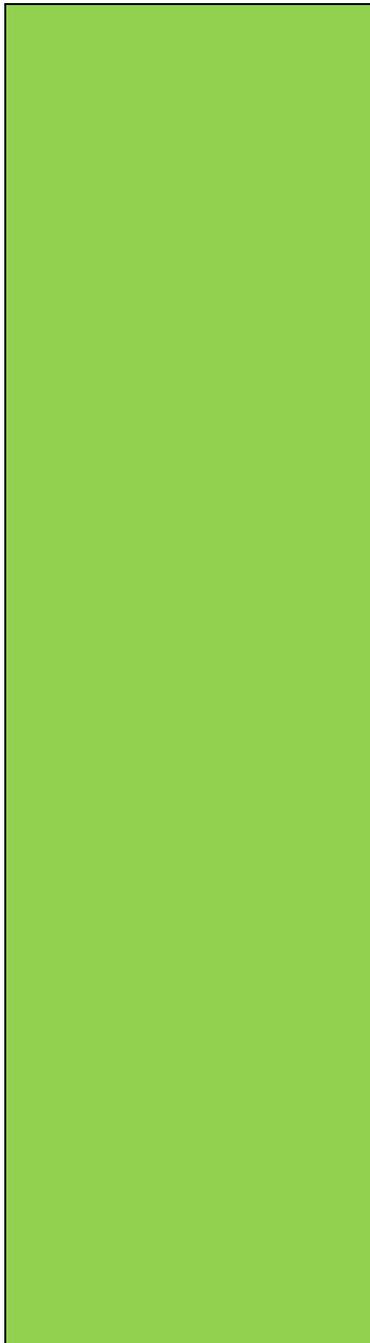


CR8: Please provide a clear methodology for identifying and prioritizing the most vulnerable groups. This should include the provisional criteria to be used (including environmental, social, and gender considerations), along with available socioeconomic and demographic data that will inform the selection process.

Gender analysis: The proposal contains a descriptive gender analysis, outlining women’s critical role in agriculture, their exclusion from land ownership and access to credit, and their disproportionate exposure to unpaid labor and gender based violence. It commits to targets such as 50% women among direct farmer beneficiaries and 35–40% women’s representation in committees, alongside measures like childcare support and safe spaces in emergency shelters. Yet, the proposal does not include an initial structured gender assessment that demonstrates how gender dynamics were systematically analyzed and incorporated into project design. Instead, gender considerations are integrated narratively, relying on existing national data and broad commitments, rather than on a project-specific, evidence-based assessment framework. It is mentioned that a gender action plan along with gender analysis and Environmental and Social Impact assessment will be developed during the full proposal stage on page on para 103 on page 26.

Please note that a preliminary gender analysis at the project/program identification stage is required for the project/programme pre-concept/concept notes to inform the eventual design and further planning stages of the measure.

CAR1: Please include an initial gender assessment to demonstrate how gender considerations have been incorporated into the project design. Please



provide information on how the unique concerns of women and youth were incorporated into project design.

At the fully developed proposal stage, please include an in-depth gender analysis and gender action plan that includes disaggregated data for women, youth, indigenous peoples, and marginalized groups, and provides specific strategies to address their unique vulnerabilities.

Identification of inequalities: While the proposal cites general data (e.g., women’s limited land ownership and credit access), it does not present a structured methodology for systematically identifying structural barriers across all target groups (women, youth, PLWD, displaced households, Indigenous Peoples, marginalized ethnic groups) at the project inception or throughout implementation. The proposal references solutions such as childcare systems, safe spaces, and training, but these remain broad intentions. There is little concrete explanation of how these interventions will be financed, scaled, or institutionalized to ensure lasting change. For example, while gender-based violence awareness is highlighted, no specific mechanisms have been mentioned (e.g., referral systems, partnerships with specialist services).

Monitoring and accountability: Participation quotas and inclusion commitments are mentioned, but there is no clear monitoring framework detailing how compliance will be tracked, who will be responsible, and what corrective action will follow if targets are not met. This leaves inclusion more aspirational than enforceable.

The proposal relies on broad commitments and numerical participation targets, without detailing the

		<p>specific processes, tools, and accountability mechanisms that would systematically identify, monitor, and redress inequalities during implementation. These risks leave vulnerable groups underrepresented in practice, despite the project’s inclusive framing.</p> <p>CR9: Please explain how the project will ensure an equitable distribution of benefits and please provide further details on the mechanisms for promoting inclusion and how this will be monitored.</p>
	<p>6. Is the project / programme cost effective?</p>	<p>Needs Clarification</p> <p>The proposal presents its approach as cost-effective, emphasizing the efficiencies of locally led implementation, capacity building, and sequenced activities that build on existing structures and prior programmes as noted on pages 28-29. From a sustainability point of view, the proposal emphasizes cost-effectiveness by strengthening local institutions, community ownership, and capacity building, the interventions will remain functional and replicable after project closure, thereby reducing the risk of dependency and repeated investment. However, no comparative analysis—whether qualitative or quantitative—is presented to assess the relative cost-effectiveness of the selected design versus other feasible approaches.</p> <p>Please note that cost effectiveness analysis for AF projects needs to make a comparison of the proposed project costs to an alternative approach to LLA or activities that could achieve the same project results and that could have taken place to help adapt and build resilience in the same sector, geographic region, and/or community. At the concept stage, this can be a general description, including addressing cost effectiveness from a</p>



sustainability point of view. For a fully developed proposal stage, quantitative estimates of cost-effectiveness could be provided where feasible.

The proposal highlights several factors contributing to cost-effectiveness:

- Locally-led implementation: by channeling resources directly through village and ward-level structures (e.g., CPCs, Farmers' Clubs, cooperatives), the project claims to reduce overheads, increase ownership, and ensure sustainability.
- Capacity building and sequencing: activities are designed to build on existing structures and past experience (e.g., EMA and DAPP's track record, ZRBF and WASH projects), which is presented as an efficiency gain.
- Multi-benefit interventions: measures such as climate-proofing water systems, improving storage, and introducing climate-resilient agriculture are framed as delivering economic (reduced losses), social (improved food security), and environmental (land restoration) benefits simultaneously.

However, while these arguments present a logic of cost-benefit advantages, the proposal does not include quantified cost-benefit analyses of the components (e.g., dollar savings per household or avoided losses per intervention). Nor does it provide a clear description of alternative options that were considered to achieve similar objectives. Instead, the narrative assumes that a community-led, integrated resilience model is inherently the most efficient.

CAR2: Please provide a comparative assessment to substantiate the cost effectiveness, along with a clear description of alternative options to the proposed measures that would receive the same

		<p>outcome, even if preliminary and general, including how proposed cost effectiveness is optimal from a sustainability point of view.</p> <p><i>At fully developed proposal stage, please provide more specific comparative analysis and, where feasible, include quantitative estimates of cost-effectiveness.</i></p>
	<p>7. Is the project / programme consistent with national, sub-national or local sustainable development strategies, national, sub-national or local development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications and adaptation programs of action and other relevant instruments?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The project/programme is explicitly aligned with national, sub-national, and local strategies and plans as noted on pages 29-31. The proposal makes consistent reference to Zimbabwe’s key adaptation and development frameworks, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs): the project is aligned with Zimbabwe’s Revised NDC, which prioritizes adaptation in agriculture, water, and disaster risk management, especially in southern and eastern regions projected to face the most severe climate impacts. • National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS): the proposal echoes the NCCRS by focusing on building resilience in agriculture and food security, improving disaster preparedness, and strengthening Early Warning Systems. • National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1, 2021–2025): it supports NDS1’s objectives of poverty reduction, enhanced resilience, and inclusive, sustainable livelihoods, particularly for rural communities dependent on rain-fed agriculture. • National Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Targets (2017): the project addresses land and water degradation in highly vulnerable areas of Manicaland and Masvingo, consistent with LDN priorities.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sectoral plans: the proposal references strategies in agriculture (e.g., promotion of Climate-Resilient Agriculture), disaster risk reduction (through Civil Protection Committees and DRM Plans), and water resource management (through collaboration with ZINWA and AGRITEX). • Local plans: district-level Disaster Risk Management Plans for Chimanimani, Chipinge, Bikita, and Masvingo Rural are explicitly cited, showing that the project is rooted in sub-national priorities. <p>On sustainable development, the proposal references Zimbabwe’s broader commitments to the SDGs, especially SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land). It also links activities to poverty reduction through livelihood diversification, food security, and inclusive enterprise development.</p>
	<p>8. Does the project / programme meet the relevant national technical standards, where applicable, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund? Does the project provide support to local actors and build their capacities to comply with the standards?</p>	<p>Needs Clarification</p> <p>The proposal acknowledges compliance with Zimbabwe’s building codes, water quality standards, environmental regulations, and agriculture-related technical standards. For instance, climate-proofing of water and sanitation facilities, upgrading of emergency shelters, and sustainable land management interventions are said to follow national guidelines and be subject to Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) under EMA oversight. However, it does not provide specific sectoral standards or detailed checklists within the text, and how they will be monitored—these are deferred to the full proposal and implementation phases.</p>

		<p>CR10: Please outline how compliance with each identified national standard will be monitored throughout project implementation. Outline the steps taken to comply with the standards and the nature of the authorization/clearance granted for the project to be implemented.</p> <p><u>Support and capacity building:</u> The project commits to strengthening local institutions (CPCs, Farmers' Clubs, cooperatives) and training them to manage adaptation interventions. This implies support for compliance with national standards. However, the proposal doesn't elaborate on specific capacity-building mechanisms. For example, it does not explain whether local actors will receive technical training on building code requirements, water quality monitoring, or reporting obligations, nor how compliance will be monitored or enforced. These risks leave communities with responsibilities but insufficient technical backing to adhere fully to standards.</p> <p>CR11: Please explain what kind of capacity-building support and mechanisms will be provided to ensure that local actors are equipped to comply with these standards during project implementation.</p>
	<p>9. Is there duplication of project / programme with other funding sources? Does the project enhance collaboration across sectors and enhance efficiencies and good practice?</p>	<p>Needs Clarification</p> <p>The proposal does not demonstrate concrete, ward-level coordination, activity mapping, or operational agreements to deconflict its investments from ongoing programs with the same government counterparts, geographies, and themes. It largely defers duplication checks to "full proposal stage," while planning similar activities (boreholes, irrigation/CRA, hydro-met/EWS, groundwater use, and landscape/natural resource management) in the same districts where GCF, AF/UNESCO, AF/EMA,</p>



GEF/FAO, and UNESCO projects are already active, as noted on pages 32-34.

The Proposed Project targets many of the same districts and catchments as ongoing programs (e.g., Chimanimani, Chipinge, Bikita, Masvingo, Buhera, Chivi; Lower Gwayi and Upper Save).

Climate-resilient agriculture and irrigation: The Project references CRA-related activities and irrigation support. GCF FP127 is already implementing Farmer Field School-based climate-resilient practices, irrigation schemes, and climate-proofed designs in overlapping districts. Without a detailed understanding of non-duplication efforts at concept note stage, the new project would duplicate farmer-facing CRA extension and irrigation investments instead of filling gaps.

Hydro-meteorological and EWS: GCF FP127 is investing in hydrological stations and hydro-met data transmission to strengthen preparedness and last-mile EWS. The Proposed Project also aims to enhance community preparedness and EWS.

Groundwater development and boreholes: The Proposed Project plans solar-powered boreholes at drought mitigation centers. AF's UNESCO-implemented groundwater project is already assessing and strengthening sustainable groundwater use in overlapping catchments/districts. If the new boreholes are not explicitly sited and designed off the AF hydrogeological assessments (and coordinated on abstraction/recharge), it duplicates diagnostics and risks unsustainable drawdown.

Anticipatory action and indigenous knowledge in drought EWS: WFP's NORAD-funded anticipatory action program already tested integrating

		<p>indigenous knowledge into drought EWS. If the Proposed Project independently repeats feasibility studies and design work on last-mile EWS content and triggers, it duplicates prior analytics and capacity development rather than operationalizing and scaling established approaches</p> <p>CR12: Please provide further details and clarification on non-duplication with the above projects.</p>
	<p>10. Does the project / programme have a learning and knowledge management component to capture and feedback lessons, in particular managing traditional and/or indigenous knowledge, where relevant? Does it contribute to building and institutionalizing local capabilities?</p>	<p>Needs Clarification</p> <p>The proposal does contain knowledge management and learning component but lacks sufficient detail on how knowledge will be managed and sustained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Learning and feedback mechanisms:</u> The project includes activities to capture feedback and lessons through participatory monitoring and evaluation, storytelling, mobile data collection, and community scorecards. It commits to co-designing the M&E system with communities so that indicators reflect local priorities and lived experiences. • <u>Traditional and indigenous knowledge:</u> The proposal emphasizes integrating indigenous knowledge with modern Early Warning Systems (EWS) and climate-resilient practices. It notes that lessons from local coping strategies will be captured and documented, though concrete methods are not well elaborated. • <u>Knowledge dissemination:</u> The proposal mentions the creation of locally tailored communication packages, peer-to-peer exchanges, workshops, and policy dialogues, with dissemination workshops planned at mid-term and project closure. However, while the proposal outlines who is engaged in knowledge

		<p>generation (EMA, DAPP, CPCs, FCs), it is less clear who will own and manage dissemination platforms long-term once project funding ends.</p> <p>The project does not provide a detailed system for sustaining knowledge management after the project cycle, e.g., whether local institutions will maintain databases, platforms, or formal knowledge hubs. There is no clarification on how learning exchanges will be tracked with measurable outputs (such as number of case studies produced, communities participating in exchanges, or policy briefs influencing decision-making). Further, responsibility for long-term management of dissemination platforms is not defined beyond project partners (EMA and DAPP), leaving continuity uncertain, as noted on pages 32-33.</p> <p>CR13: Please consider including clear and functional feedback mechanisms that empower communities to report back on issues and success and adjust strategies accordingly.</p> <p><i>At the fully developed proposal stage, please identify the entity responsible for managing and maintaining the proposed digital dissemination platforms (e.g., web repository), and indicate how their sustainability will be ensured beyond the life of the project. Please clarify measures to ensure accessibility of knowledge sharing platforms (e.g., web-based repository and audiovisual materials) to reach diverse local stakeholders.</i></p> <p><i>At the fully developed proposal stage, please include quantitative targets and indicators for key knowledge-sharing and documentation activities in the project results framework.</i></p>
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11. Has a consultative process taken place, and has it involved and encouraged all key stakeholders, and vulnerable groups, to meaningfully participate in and lead adaptation decisions? Did the consultative process consider and address gender-based, economic and other inequalities in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?

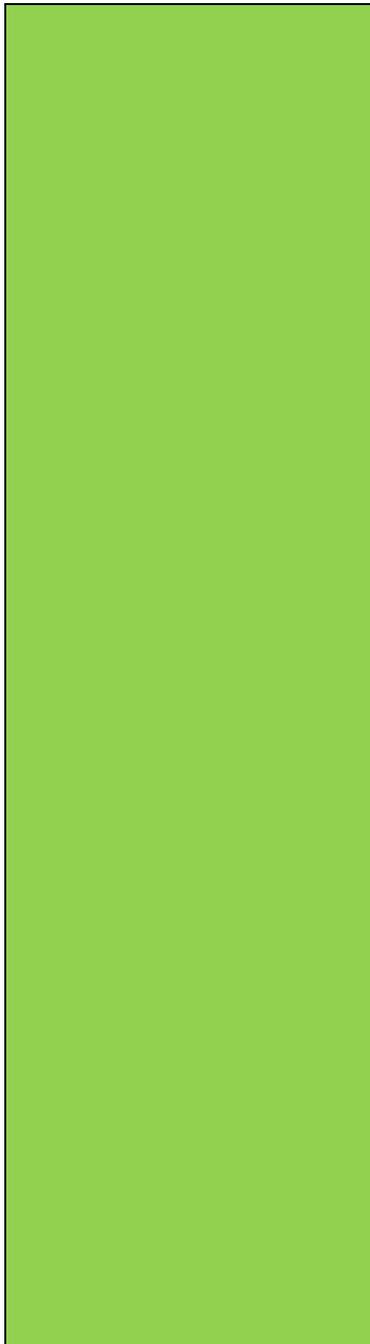
Needs Clarification

The proposal does show that a consultative process has taken place, but while it demonstrates efforts toward inclusivity, it leaves some gaps in evidence and detail, with limited evidence of direct engagement with local communities, particularly marginalized groups, during concept formulation as noted on pages 35-36.

- Consultative process: The project describes that consultations were carried out in the four target districts (Chimanimani, Chipinge, Bikita, and Masvingo Rural), involving CPCs, District Development Coordinators, line ministries, farmer representatives, and community-based organizations. These consultations were used to identify priority hazards (e.g., drought, floods, cyclones) and resilience gaps, which directly informed project design.
- Inclusion of vulnerable groups: The proposal expresses a strong commitment to gender equity and social inclusion, citing the need to address inequalities in land access, agricultural inputs, and decision-making for women, as well as challenges faced by youth, persons with disabilities (PLWD), and other marginalized groups.

The external annex attached to para 171 identifies Indigenous knowledge as important, however it does not clearly state whether Indigenous Peoples or marginalized ethnic groups were specifically consulted at this stage or how their unique perspectives shaped the design. Similarly, while PLWD are mentioned as a vulnerable group, the document is less explicit about whether they were directly engaged in consultations, or if their concerns were only anticipated by project designers. It does not provide detailed accounts of

		<p>how marginalized sub-groups were involved or how their feedback influenced activities.</p> <p>CR14: Please explain how feedback from these discussions informed the project's design. Clarify how the concerns of vulnerable and marginalized groups, including Indigenous Peoples and persons with disabilities, were specifically considered and addressed. Detail the mechanisms for ensuring their meaningful inclusion.</p> <p>CAR3: Please explain how gender considerations have been addressed in project design and planning, particularly in the targeted zones.</p> <p><i>At the fully developed proposal stage, a gender-responsive framework for implementation and ongoing stakeholder input should be included.</i></p>
	<p>12. Is the requested financing justified on the basis of full cost of adaptation reasoning?</p>	<p>Needs clarification</p> <p>The proposal outlines the adaptation rationale, but the justification remains qualitative rather than quantitative. There are no proposed metrics, models, or estimates to demonstrate how much risk or vulnerability will be reduced through the proposed measures. Without this, it's difficult to assess whether the costs are proportional to the adaptation benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Relevance of activities:</u> The proposal demonstrates that its activities—climate-resilient agriculture, community-based disaster preparedness, climate-proofed infrastructure, and land and water restoration—are directly relevant to its stated adaptation objectives. It argues that, without AF financing, vulnerable communities in Manicaland and Masvingo would remain exposed to escalating droughts,

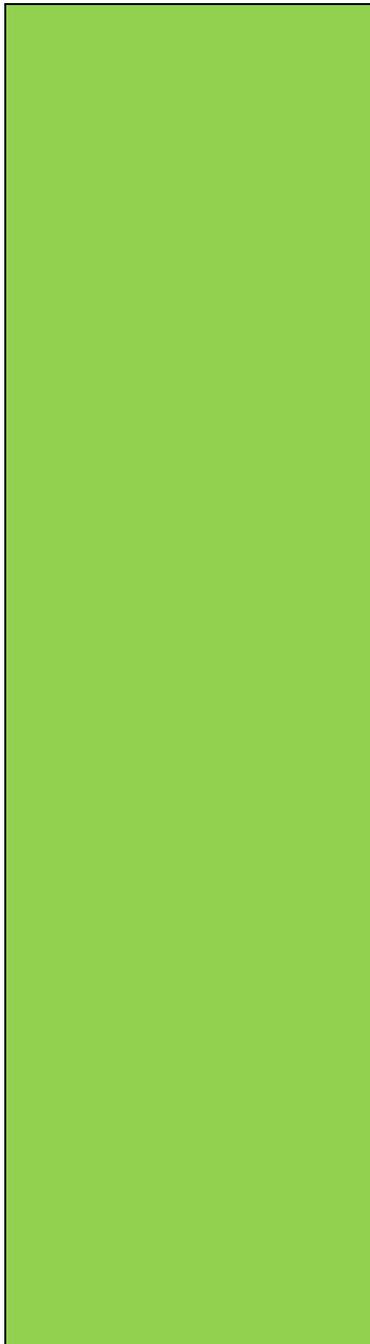


floods, and cyclones due to reliance on rain-fed agriculture, degraded ecosystems, and weak preparedness systems.

- Full cost of adaptation: The document explains that the requested funding represents the full cost of adaptation, over and above a “business-as-usual” baseline scenario, where communities would only continue with subsistence agriculture, underfunded disaster risk management, and fragmented support systems, as noted on pages 36-40.
- The proposal notes that the funding enables transformative adaptation measures (e.g., CRA practices, early warning integration, food storage systems, resilient infrastructure) that go beyond existing development efforts. However, the proposal does not provide a quantified baseline-versus-project cost comparison or modelled estimates of avoided losses, which would strengthen the full cost justification.
- Metrics and models: While the proposal references vulnerability assessments (e.g., ZimVAC food insecurity figures, World Bank drought exposure indices) to justify the selection of target areas, it does not provide quantified models, metrics, or estimates of how much climate risk or vulnerability will be reduced by the project (e.g., percentage reduction in drought losses, avoided damages in USD). The expected outcomes are presented narratively and with beneficiary numbers (e.g., 4,000 farmers directly, 50,000 indirectly), but without measurable adaptation effectiveness indicators.

CR15: Please clarify how the requested funding corresponds to the full cost of adaptation, and how the proposed activities specifically address climate risks beyond existing development measures.

		<p><i>At the fully developed proposal stage, please provide clearer baselines, cost delineation, and adaptation effectiveness indicators to fully satisfy the adaptation reasoning criteria.</i></p>
	<p>13. Is the project / program aligned with AF's results framework?</p>	<p>Needs Clarification</p> <p>CAR4: Please include alignment with the AF Strategic Results Framework (SRF) outcomes in the description of the components. https://www.adaptationfund.org/document/strategic-results-framework-of-theadaptation-fund-amended-in-march-2019/</p>
	<p>14. Has the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes been taken into account when designing the project? Does the project/programme support long-term development of local governance processes, and improve the capacity of local institutions to ensure that communities can effectively implement adaptation actions over the long term?</p>	<p>Needs Clarification</p> <p>The proposal outlines strategies to sustain outcomes beyond implementation, though the level of operational detail is uneven.</p> <p><u>Long-term governance and institutional capacity:</u> The project emphasizes strengthening Civil Protection Committees (CPCs), Farmers' Clubs, cooperatives, and environment committees as the core local governance structures to lead and sustain adaptation beyond the project. It links these community-based institutions to district and provincial disaster risk management plans and national frameworks, thereby embedding them into existing governance systems. This suggests an intent to ensure communities can continue implementing adaptation actions over the long term.</p> <p><u>Replication and scaling up:</u> The project notes that its model is designed for scaling and replication. For example, the Farmers' Clubs are expected to evolve into cooperatives that can leverage other funds, while CPCs and local DRM plans could be expanded to other districts. Yet, this remains at the conceptual level—the proposal does not outline</p>



specific mechanisms (such as partnerships, financial instruments, or mainstreaming into government budgets) to guarantee replication after AF support ends.

Sustainability of infrastructure and governance arrangements: The proposal indicates that communities will manage climate-proofed water systems, WASH facilities, storage units, and upgraded shelters, with oversight from EMA and line ministries. But it does not provide detailed arrangements for long-term financing of maintenance or how responsibilities will be shared between communities and government after project closure. There are no concrete mechanisms in place for financing maintenance costs, replacement of equipment, or technical support once donor funding ends. For example, there is no indication of whether user fees, revolving funds, or government budget allocations will cover maintenance. Without such arrangements, there is an increased risk of infrastructure degradation after project completion, undermining adaptation benefits.

Long-term financing mechanisms: The project emphasizes that activities like Farmers' Clubs and cooperatives will evolve into income-generating structures capable of sustaining themselves. Yet, the proposal does not present financial models, partnerships, or pathways to ensure these entities will generate adequate and reliable resources to support ongoing adaptation activities. There is also no discussion of whether adaptation measures will be mainstreamed into government development budgets, which would secure continuity beyond the AF grant.

Institutionalization of knowledge management systems: The proposal highlights peer-to-peer exchanges, community scorecards, storytelling, and

		<p>integration of indigenous knowledge as important learning mechanisms. However, it does not clarify who will own, maintain, and manage the knowledge platforms after the project. For instance, there is no designated institution tasked with curating lessons, producing regular adaptation reports, or hosting dissemination hubs. It also lacks measurable commitments for tracking knowledge outputs (e.g., number of case studies produced, training modules institutionalized, or policy briefs influencing national planning). This makes it unclear how knowledge captured during implementation will be institutionalized and sustained in local or national systems.</p> <p>CR16: Please clarify how the long-term sustainability of outcomes mentioned above will be ensured. This also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangements for the operation, maintenance after project closure; and • How communities and institutions will be supported to mobilize resources or access funding after the project ends.
	<p>15. 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?</p>	<p>Needs Clarification</p> <p>The Checklist of Environmental and Social Principles mixes the identification of potential risks with perceived impacts and proposed mitigation measures. A risk assessment should focus solely on identifying potential direct, indirect, transboundary, and cumulative risks associated with the project, without incorporating mitigation strategies or perceived benefits at this stage.</p> <p>Initial gender assessment: The proposal includes a descriptive gender analysis based on secondary data (e.g., statistics on women’s agricultural roles and constraints). However, it does not present a formal initial gender assessment with both</p>

		<p>qualitative and quantitative baseline data on gender roles, needs, and opportunities in the specific target areas. Nor does it outline a methodology for ongoing gender-responsive monitoring.</p> <p>CAR5: Please revise the checklist to focus solely on identifying potential risks under each principle without including impacts or mitigation measures.</p> <p>Category classification: The document does not explicitly state whether the project has been classified as Category A, B, or C under the Fund's ESP. Classification is required to establish the level of environmental and social risk management needed.</p> <p>CAR6: Please provide a project categorization whether the project falls under category A, B, or C under the Fund's ESP.</p>
Resource Availability	1. Is the requested project / programme funding within the size for LLA single country grants?	<p>Yes</p> <p>The requested financing is USD 5,000,000.</p>
	2. Is the Implementing Entity Management Fee at or below 8.5% per cent of the total project/programme budget before the fee?	<p>Needs Clarification</p> <p>The Implementing Entity Management Fee is 8.5% of the total project budget before the fee, which is within the cap.</p> <p>The proposal requests a Project Formulation Grant (PFG) of USD 120,000, which is appropriate for a single-country LLA project with a total budget of USD 5 million.</p> <p>However, the associated PFG fee is 10,000, which is 9.09%, this is not in line with the allowable cap of 8.5%.</p>

		<p>CAR7: Please change the EMA management fee in the PFG application to fall under 8.5%.</p>
	<p>3. Are the Project/Programme Execution Costs at or below 9.5% per cent of the total project/programme budget (including the fee)?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The execution costs are within 8.5% of the total project/programme budget. However, the IE has noted it as 9.24% under Project/Programme Components and Financing on page 16. Please use the IE and EE fees calculator and change the EE percentage to 8.5%: https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/ie-and-ee-fees-calculator/</p>
<p>Eligibility of IE</p>	<p>1. Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?</p>	<p>EMA’s accreditation expired on 30 June 2024 and is currently in reaccreditation process.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>



ADAPTATION FUND

LOCALLY-LED ADAPTATION PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL FOR SINGLE COUNTRY

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Title of Project/Programme: Locally-Led Resilience: Enhancing Community-Based Disaster Preparedness and Climate Adaptation in Manicaland and Masvingo

Country: Zimbabwe

Thematic Focal Area: Disaster Risk Reduction, Agriculture, Food Security

Type of Implementing Entity: National Implementing Entity.

Implementing Entity: Environmental Management Agency (EMA)

Executing Entities: Development Aid from People to People Zimbabwe (DAPP)

Amount of Financing Requested: 5,000,000 USD

Letter of Endorsement (LOE) signed: Yes No

NOTE: The LOE 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 proposal has been submitted before including at a different stage (pre-concept, concept, fully- developed proposal)
- This is the first submission ever of the proposal at any stage

In case of a resubmission, please indicate the last submission date: [Click or tap to enter a date.](#)

Please note that fully-developed proposal documents should not exceed 50 pages for the main document, and 100 pages for the annexes.

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List of Acronyms

AC	Adaptive Capacity	IE	Implementing Entity
AEZs	Agro-ecological Zones	IGA	Income-Generating Activities
AF	Adaptation Fund	ILO	International Labour Organization
AGRITEX	Agriculture Technical Extension Services	IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome	ISAL	Internal Saving and Lending
CAAP	Community Adaptation Action Plans	KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices
CAMPFIRE	Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources	LAMIS	Local Authority Management Information Systems
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality
CC	Climate Change	LLA	Locally-led Adaptation
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
CCAC	Climate Change Action Centres	MLAFW&RD	Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development
CISU	Civil Society Fund	MSD	Meteorological Services Department
CPC	Civil Protection Committee	NCCRS	National Climate Change Response Strategy
CPU	Civil Protection Unit	NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
CRA	Climate-Resilient Agriculture	NDL	National Degradation Neutrality
CTDO	Community Technology Development Organization	NDS1	National Development Strategy 1
cWASH	community-Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	NR	Natural Resources
DAPPZ	Development Aid from People to People Zimbabwe	O&M	Operation and Maintenance
DDC	District Development Coordinator	ORAP	Organization for Rural Associations for Progress
DDF	District Development Fund	PLWD	People Living with Disabilities
DERF	Denmark Emergency Relief Fund	PMU	Project Management Unit
DRM	Disaster Risk Management	RIDA	Rural Infrastructure Development Agency
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	RINA	Rapid Impact Needs Assessment
EE	Executing Entity	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessments	SLM	Sustainable Land Management
EMA	Environmental Management Agency	TNC	Third National Communication
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan	TSURO	Towards Sustainable Use of Resources Organization
ESP	Environmental and Social Policy	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
EWS	Early Warning Systems	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
FAW	Fall Army Worm	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
FC	Forestry Commission	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
FCs	Farmers' Clubs	UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
FTLRP	Fast Track Land Reform Program	VIDCO	Village Development Committee
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	WB	World Bank
GCF	Green Climate Fund	WFP	World Food Program
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	WHO	World Health Organization
GEF	Global Environment Facility	WV	World Vision
GoZ	Government of Zimbabwe	ZimVAC	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee
GWLs	Global Warming Levels	ZNWA	Zimbabwe National Water Authority
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	ZPWMA	Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority
ICT4D	Information, Communication, and Technology for Development	ZRBF	Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund

1. Project/Programme Background and Context

1.1 Context

Socioeconomic Development

1. Zimbabwe is a landlocked low-income developing country with a steady population growth and more than 15 million people.¹ Agriculture, mining and tourism constitute the main sectors of its economy. The country's economic growth has been driven by its natural resources' endowment, a relatively skilled workforce and good, though ageing, infrastructure. Although in the past years (1980s-2005) Zimbabwe experienced a decrease in economic growth, it has seen a steady growth of GDP in the subsequent two decades.² Nonetheless, the country's debt of 58.6% (2025) of the GDP,³ is hindering its economic development.
2. Poverty remains high, estimated at 38.7% in 2023⁴. Extreme poverty (less than \$2.15/day) has traditionally been high in remote and poorly connected but densely populated rural areas, where agricultural conditions are not optimal. As measured by the Gini index, welfare inequality has risen from 43 in 2011-2012 to 50 in 2019.⁵ The rise in extreme poverty during 2017-2019 was largely driven by the economic crisis and exacerbated by poor rains during the 2018-2019 growing season and tropical cyclone Idai in March 2019 and Cyclone Kenneth in 2019 which were then followed by Cyclone Ana in 2022, and Cyclone Freddy in 2023. This has led to a deterioration of household incomes in both rural and urban areas.
3. Land tenure. Land allocation in post-2000 Zimbabwe is embedded within wider sociocultural relationships, and succession and inheritance laws. Community lands, excluding state lands and private registered lands, amount to 42.43% of the total country area excluding water bodies. Tenure within communal lands is permissive occupancy and use only, on lands are governed officially by Rural Councils in consultation with local chiefs. Ownership is vested in the President.⁶ Protected Forest Areas on communal lands remain communal property and use permits to inhabitants may be issued. National Parks & Reserves are state property often transferred from Communal Land, and use is subjected to permits.
4. Agriculture. Among the 39 million hectares of the country, 85.4% is used for agricultural purposes, while the remaining land is reserved for national parks, wildlife and urban settlements. Agriculture remains a key economic sector providing livelihoods to more than 70% of the population and supplying more than 60% of the raw materials⁷, and about 45% of the country's exports⁸. Land degradation, climate change, loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services pose significant challenges for the majority of people whose livelihoods depend on agriculture. In Zimbabwe the agricultural sector is key to employment creation, raising living standards, alleviating rural poverty and assuring food and nutritional security. However, much of the agricultural sector is predominantly rain-fed and therefore highly sensitive to climate variability and change. Zimbabwe's agricultural practice was based on Agro-ecological Zones (AEZs) or Natural Regions (NR) which were developed in the 1960s and modified by the AGRITEX department in 1984. In response to the urgent need of aligning agricultural practices with the changing climatic patterns, the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) initiated a new revision of the country's AEZs, based on the observed rainfall patterns and temperature and their influence on agricultural practice. The AEZs were redefined and land-use practices were recommended for each zone. Currently, the country comprises seven AEZs based on rainfall (decreasing rainfall gradient from I to V), temperature and other factors (like soil types).

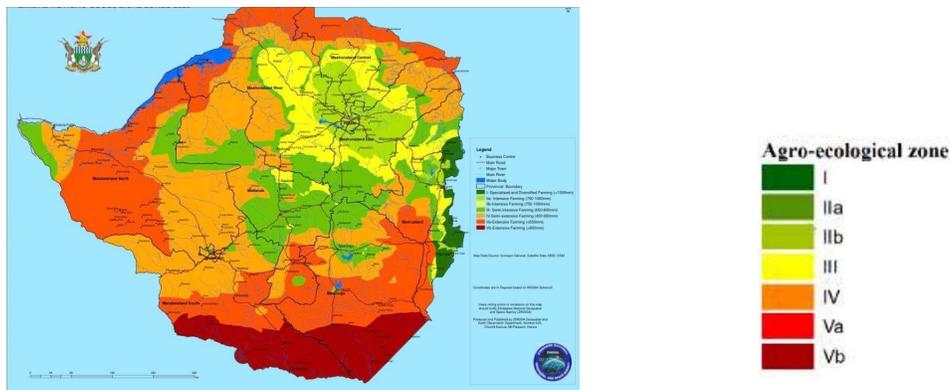


Figure 1. Revised Agro-ecological zones in Zimbabwe⁹:

¹ The World Bank Data, <https://data.worldbank.org/country/zimbabwe>.

² The World Bank Data (*ibid.*).

³ International Monetary Fund (IMF), <https://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/profile/ZWE>.

⁴ AfDB.2024. African Economic Outlook (AEO).<https://www.afdb.org/en/countries/southern-africa/zimbabwe/zimbabwe-economic-outlook>

⁵ World Bank Group (*ibid.*).

⁶ LandMark (Global Platform of Indigenous And Community Lands) (n.d), <https://www.landmarkmap.org>.

⁷ Manatsa, D., Mushore, T.D., Gwitira, I., Wuta, M., Chemura, A., Shekede, M.D., Mugandani R., Sakala, L.C., Ali, L. H., Masukwedza, G.I., Mupuro, J.M., and Muzira., N.M. (2020). Revision of Zimbabwe's Agro-Ecological Zones. ISBN (In Press)

⁸ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. <https://www.zimfa.gov.zw/index.php/about-us/zimbabwe-in-brief/agriculture>

⁹ Manatsa, D., Mushore, T.D., Gwitira, I., Wuta, M., Chemura, A., Shekede, M.D., Mugandani R., Sakala, L.C., Ali, L. H., Masukwedza, G.I., Mupuro, J.M., and Muzira., N.M. (2020). Revision Of Zimbabwe's Agro-Ecological Zones.

5. Agricultural productivity is fundamental for rural communities' resilience and locally-led adaptation (LLA).¹⁰ According to World Bank Risk Assessment¹¹ data from 1986–2016, production risks led to losses in crop production valued at approximately US\$126 million per year, which represented an annual average loss of around 7.3 per cent of agricultural GDP. Additionally, a recent study using a Computable General Equilibrium Model found that under a dry/hot future climate scenario, Zimbabwe may lose about 2.3 per cent of its 2030 GDP—or up to US\$370 million. Specifically, a production risk assessment was performed for a selected portfolio of nine crops (coffee, cotton, groundnuts, maize, sorghum, soybeans, sugarcane, tobacco, and wheat) over different periods of recurrence. Most of the staple crops, notably maize, sorghum, groundnut and beans, are predicted to experience significant decreases in production.
6. General challenges that small-scale farmers face include low and erratic rainfall, low and declining soil fertility, low investment, shortages of farm power-labour and draft animals, poor physical and institutional infrastructure, poverty and recurring food insecurity. The agriculture sector (crop and livestock) has been on a decline in productivity due to several constraints, which include: limited access to agricultural support services, namely extension services, as well as to reliable markets and inputs; and post-harvest losses.¹² It is observed that agricultural productivity decreased after the FTLRP (Fast Track Land Reform Programme) for various reasons. This led to a decrease in exports of main commodities since the 2000s, including maize, cotton or coffee, which compromised the Zimbabwean economy. The decline in agricultural productivity forced an increase in produce imports and staple crops, such as maize, to ensure the food security of the population.¹³
7. Main crops. Maize is nonetheless the most important food crop (82% of households consume it daily)¹⁴ and it is grown throughout the whole country, but best in the well-watered northeast. The Zimbabwe National Climate Change Response¹⁵ predicted that by 2080, excellent maize growing area will be reduced from 75% to 55% due to climate change. Tobacco accounts as the country's principal cash crop. Prior to agricultural decline in the early 2000s, Zimbabwe was the largest producer of tobacco in Africa. Today tobacco is grown mostly by smallholders. Cotton is grown by both smallholders and large commercial farmers. Cotton was once a chief export crop and was also the foundation of a large domestic textile industry, but declined as well in the early 21st century. Sugar is grown in the southern Low veld. It is exported, and the basis for an important fuel industry, which mixes the sugar by-product ethanol with gasoline to help decrease the country's reliance on expensive imported fuels. Coffee production has increased since the early 1970s, and it is grown mainly in the eastern highlands. Additional crops cultivated in Zimbabwe are wheat, millet, sorghum, barley, cassava, peanuts (groundnuts), soybeans, bananas and oranges.^{16,17}
8. Gender. Women in Zimbabwe play a pivotal role in agriculture. Approximately 80% of women in rural areas live in communal areas and provide 70% of the labour in agriculture. 60% of the women directly produce agricultural commodities, and representing the majority of smallholder farmers. Women are thus largely responsible for ensuring food security for the household.¹⁸ Access and ownership of agricultural land is skewed in favor of males, and women ownership continues to lag for all land holding types. In this regard, women were marginalised in land allocations during the FTLRP, and only 10-16% of beneficiaries were women¹⁹. Communities operate in a patriarchal society and gender roles put an immense burden on women and girls. Access to agricultural inputs, such as tractors, planters and harvesters drastically reduce the labor burden faced by women; but, by 2017, only 12% of women owned tractors compared to 88% of men.²⁰ This means that more women are engaged in manual and tedious modes of agricultural production, reinforcing low productivity and perpetuating poverty among women. Furthermore, the proportion of access to credit to farmers remains skewed in favor of men.²¹ Women generally do not have a direct relationship with land, nor can they make any claim to it except through their male relatives or husbands. Customary law allows the husband, by virtue of his matrimonial power, to dispose of assets, including land, on behalf of the family. Many women farm for a living on land in communal areas run by traditional chiefs. According to custom, chiefs allocate land to male heads of households.²²
9. Overall, women often work for no pay in the home, or in subsistence agriculture. Alternatively, they perform low-paid wage work. Zimbabwean women search for firewood, make the fire, collect water, cook and clean dishes. The rest of many women's

¹⁰ FAO in Zimbabwe (n.d.), <https://www.fao.org/zimbabwe/fao-in-zimbabwe/zimbabwe-at-a-glance/en/>.

¹¹ World Bank Group, 2019. Zimbabwe: Agriculture Sector Disaster Risk Assessment

¹² FAO. Crop Prospects and Food Situation (2016).

¹³ FAO FAOSTAT (n.d.), Crops and livestock products, <https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/TCL>.

¹⁴ Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) 2023 Rural Livelihoods Assessment

¹⁵ Government of Zimbabwe 2017. Zimbabwe Nation Climate Change Response

¹⁶ ZIMFACT (March 2018), https://zimfact.org/agriculture_in_zimbabwe/.

¹⁷ Britannica (n.d.). *The economy of Zimbabwe*, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Zimbabwe/Finance-and-trade>.

¹⁸ Zimbabwe Country Gender Profile (2021).

¹⁹ Sachikonye (2005:37), in Maguranyanga, Brian (2006).

²⁰ ZIMSTAT (2019).

²¹ Zimbabwe Country Gender Profile (2021).

²² FAO (n.d.). Gender and Land Rights Database

days are spent tending to their families' crops. Social and gender norms combine with the work involved in child rearing, which is viewed as a woman's responsibility.²³

10. Zimbabwe has a high rate of sexual and Gender-Based Violence (GBV), with one in three women being affected. There is often a "normalization and trivialization" of GBV.²⁴ Data from 2018 reveals that "the proportion of ever-partnered 15 to 49 years old women and girls subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months was 18.2%".²⁵ Harmful traditional practices, religious beliefs and an entrenched patriarchy contribute to perpetuating the subjugation of women.²⁶
11. Food and Nutrition Security. The UN World Food Program (WFP) identifies major factors that exacerbate food insecurity in Zimbabwe, namely "widespread poverty, HIV/AIDS, limited employment opportunities, liquidity challenges, recurrent climate-induced shocks and economic instability".²⁷ Additionally, low productivity of agricultural practices and lack of access to markets are also affecting the food security of the vast majority of rural Zimbabweans.
12. Frequent and severe droughts have significant consequences on livelihoods and food security. About 70% of the population is dependent on rain-fed farming, while most farmers are smallholders with low productivity. Rural households face enormous challenges due to drought impacts that, in combination with crop diseases and pest attacks, lead to yield losses and highly uncertain incomes, representing the biggest poverty trap in Zimbabwe. Slow-onset changes in climate like droughts are predicted to increase in Zimbabwe by 21% (2040-2059) and by 47% (2080-2099)²⁸, with the national water availability rate per capita estimated to decline 38% by 2050, causing decreased crop yields and increased crop failure, risking the main source of livelihood for 70% of the population and an estimated yearly value of US \$126 million in crop losses. Families will face decreased savings, as product prices increase during drought years by 30 to 40%²⁹, and women's burdens will increase with longer distances and more time spent in search of water for domestic purposes. The 2024 Rural Livelihoods Assessment Report estimated that by the first quarter of 2025, approximately 57% of the rural households were estimated to be cereal insecure (5.8 million people) requiring support (592,733 MT) from the national Strategic Grain Reserves³⁰.
13. Undernutrition rates are high, especially in rural districts which lack dietary diversity and nutritious vegetable production, with maize as the main staple.³¹ Chronic malnutrition and stunting remain major challenges. Data from ZIMVAC 2022³² showed that the prevalence of global acute malnutrition is 7.2% and stunting remains high (26.7%) according to the WHO standards. Children living in rural areas are more likely to be stunted and underweight than those in urban areas due to multiple factors; including low agriculture productivity caused by poor agricultural performance and climate change, lower access to food due to high levels of poverty and inadequate nutrition habits due to lack of knowledge.

Environment

14. Land degradation which stems from the excessive concentration of human and livestock populations in ecologically marginal, dry and fragile soils in communal areas, remains one of the biggest environmental problems³³. The GoZ has tried to find and apply solutions to this problem for years. The country is experiencing high levels of land degradation, which threatens the resource base on which most of the population depends. Already, land degradation costs up to 6.3 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) annually, and this will worsen with climate change³⁴. Zimbabwe's National Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Targets from 2017 used three globally adopted indicators: (1) land cover; (2) land productivity; and (3) soil organic carbon. Additional degradation indicators in Zimbabwe are soil loss, illegal mining, invasive alien species and veld fires. The LDN report specifies that the increase in areas under bushland is a result of bush encroachment on woodland, wooded grassland and grassland. The decline in land productivity is a serious challenge.³⁵ The main drivers of land degradation in Zimbabwe include forest clearing for agricultural expansion, road construction and settlements, over-dependence of rural communities on fuelwood to meet their energy requirements, overutilization of trees for curing tobacco, construction and fencing purposes, brick burning and wood carvings, population pressure particularly in communal areas where 41.2 % of the population resides³⁶, droughts and floods aggravated by climate change, expansion of small and large mines, high level of poverty among rural communities, poor agricultural practices, inappropriate land management practices and limited investment

²³ The Borgen Project (July, 2020). *Zimbabwe Challenges Cultural Gender Normalities*

²⁴ Zimbabwe Country Gender Profile (2021).

²⁵ UNSTATS (n.d.), <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/zwe#goal-5>.

²⁶ Kingdom of the Netherlands (n.d.). *Zimbabwe. Women's Rights and Gender*

²⁷ World Food Programme (WFP), <https://www.wfp.org/countries/zimbabwe>.

²⁸ https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/14956-WB_Zimbabwe%20Country%20Profile-WEB%20%281%29.pdf

²⁹ Zimbabwe Revised Nationally Determined Contribution, 2021.

³⁰ ZimLAC, 2024. Rural Livelihoods Assessment Report.

³¹ World Food Programme (WFP), <https://www.wfp.org/countries/zimbabwe>.

³² Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC), 2022 Rural Livelihoods Assessment Report

³³ Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate. Environmental Management Agency (2017), *Republic of Zimbabwe. National Land Degradation Neutrality Targets*.

³⁴ World Bank. 2023. Agriculture Global Practice Note. Valuing Ecosystem Services in Zimbabwe—JULY 2023. Source: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099806007282322341/pdf/IDU154e2faec1448b146e51bfec1587585677fbf.pdf>

³⁵ Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate. Environmental Management Agency (2017) (*ibid.*).

³⁶ ZimStat, 2022. Zimbabwe 2022 Population and Housing Census Report. Volume 1. https://www.zimstat.co.zw/wp-content/uploads/publications/Population/population/phc2022/2022_PHC_Report_27012023_Final.pdf

- in land, inappropriate land use resulting from non-adherence to land classification and land use plans, veldt fires which deprive the land of forest and grass cover resulting in soil and gully erosion, and electricity shortage which forces people to turn to biomass fuel to meet their energy requirements in both urban and rural areas³⁷.
15. Most of the country's land degradation is caused by agricultural practices with high rates of soil loss in croplands and rangelands. Erosion rates vary depending on soil type, slope, plant cover and land use. It is estimated that soil loss from arable lands ranges from 15 to 50 tons/hectare/year. National soil loss average at 3.3 tons/hectare/year in communal lands and 0,6 tons/hectare/year in commercial farms.³⁸
 16. Land degradation is also pronounced in mineral-rich districts and along the country's rivers where informal artisanal gold mining takes place. Forest loss is a key driver of land degradation; caused by forest clearing for agricultural expansion, road construction and settlements, and dependence of rural communities on fuel wood. The GoZ is strengthening policy, institutional and legal frameworks aimed at controlling the identified drivers of land degradation.
 17. Forest. The forestry sector plays an important role in socio-economic growth. Forest rents make up 4.1% of the country's total GDP in 2016.³⁹ In the past decades, the country's forest cover has been declining dramatically mainly due to over-exploitation and degradation of the indigenous forest, caused by the expansion of agricultural land, overharvesting of fuel wood, human settlements, lack of sustainable land-use and forest management system, and frequent wildfires (due to both anthropogenic and natural causes).
 18. Zimbabwe ranks 3rd among African countries after Sudan and Nigeria in deforestation rate.⁴⁰ The forest area ratio over total land area has seen a drastic decrease from 57% (1990) to 36% (2015).⁴¹ Zimbabwe has had a steady deforestation rate in the last twenty years with more than 6 million ha of forests lost in the last two decades.
 19. Water. In the recent "Climate Risk Country Profile", data showed that Zimbabwe relies mostly on its surface water resources (about 90%) from its seven river catchments⁴² due to limited groundwater resources (about 10%).⁴³ The implications of climate change on water resources include limited runoff for hydropower plants, increased demand in agriculture and energy generation sectors, and regional differences in water supply and shortages.⁴⁴ Warming temperatures can contribute to increased water loss through evapotranspiration,⁴⁵ and lower rainfall will negatively affect groundwater recharge and water runoff.⁴⁶ ⁴⁷ indicates that Zimbabwe is highly susceptible to groundwater drought risk, and without measures to adapt to the effects of climate change, the percentage of population at very high risk of groundwater drought could rise from 32% to 86%.
 20. Water availability has a direct impact on agriculture and food and nutrition security. Only 7% of households in Zimbabwe have access to irrigation, while the rest are dependent on rain-fed agriculture.⁴⁸
 21. Water availability can be extremely affected by changes in annual precipitation. A small decline in mean annual precipitation could potentially lead to a significant drop in mean annual runoff and groundwater recharge. For instance, a 3 to 7% decrease in annual rainfall is projected to cause a 23% annual runoff decline in the Sanyati catchment by 2050 and 35% by 2080.⁴⁹ The table below shows the decreasing trends in water run-off for each of the catchments and for two emissions scenarios.

³⁷ Republic of Zimbabwe, 2018. Final Country Report of the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme. Source: https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/ldn_targets/Zimbabwe%20LDN%20TSP%20Country%20Report.pdf

³⁸ Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate. Environmental Management Agency (2017), *Republic of Zimbabwe National Land Degradation Neutrality Targets*.

³⁹ World Bank Open Data (2018), <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.FRST.RT.ZS?locations=ZW>.

⁴⁰ FAO (n.d.), <https://www.fao.org/zimbabwe/fao-in-zimbabwe/zimbabwe-at-a-glance/en/>.

⁴¹ World Bank Open Data (2018) (*ibid.*)

⁴² The country has seven river catchments: Gwayi, Manyame, Mazowe, Mzingwane, Runde, Sanyati and Save. Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate, GoZ (2015). *Zimbabwe's National Climate Change Response Strategy*, <https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC169511/>

⁴³ Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate, GoZ (2016). *Zimbabwe's Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, <http://www.un-gsp.org/sites/default/files/documents/zwenc3.pdf>.

⁴⁴ Preparation of A National Water Resources Master Plan, Interim Report-1, Volume 1 - Main Report (October 2017).

⁴⁵ Zimbabwe's Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (TNC, 2016). URL: <http://www.un-gsp.org/sites/default/files/documents/zwenc3.pdf>

⁴⁶ Preparation of A National Water Resources Master Plan, Interim Report-1, Volume 1 - Main Report (October 2017).

⁴⁷ R. Davis and R. Hirji (2014). Climate Change and Water Resources Planning, Development and Management in Zimbabwe. URL: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/925611468329355687/pdf/937310WP0Box380babwe000Issues0Paper.pdf>

⁴⁸ World Bank Group (2021) (*Ibid.*)

⁴⁹ World Bank Group (2021). Climate Risk Country Profile Zimbabwe, https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/14956-WB_Zimbabwe%20Country%20Profile-WEB%20%281%29.pdf.

Table 1. Estimated current, 2050, and 2080 mean annual runoff (Giga-Liter/Year) in Zimbabwean catchments under two emissions scenarios⁵⁰.

Catchment	Current (World Climate Data)	2050 Business as usual scenario (A2a)	2050 Ecologically aware scenario (B2a)	2080 Business as usual scenario (A2a)	2080 Ecologically aware scenario (B2a)
Gwayi	2,088	–	1,047 (–50%)	–	1,432 (–31%)
Manyame	4,496	4,244 (–6%)	4,661 (4%)	4,046 (–10%)	4,736 (5%)
Mazowe	5,665	4,825 (–15%)	5,559 (–2%)	4,874 (–12%)	5,443 (–4%)
Mzingwane	1,082	–	379 (–65%)	–	356 (–67%)
Runde	3,530	1,967 (–44%)	2,343 (–33%)	1,311 (–63%)	2,271 (–26%)
Sanyati	6,905	5,314 (–23%)	6,248 (–10%)	4,483 (–35%)	6,471 (–6%)
Save	8,010	5,455 (–32%)	6,558 (–18%)	4,970 (–38%)	6,414 (–20%)

Note: Percentage decreases in recharge are shown in brackets.

Climate

22. The IPCC sixth Assessment Report, *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis*, predicts the following changes for East Southern Africa for mid-21st century under a global warming scenario of at least 2°C temperature increase:
 - Observed decreases in mean precipitation;
 - Observed and projected increases in heavy precipitation and pluvial flooding;
 - Observed and projected increase in aridity, agricultural and ecological droughts;
 - Observed increase in meteorological drought, projected increase in meteorological droughts from 1.5°C, higher confidence at higher GWLs (Global Warning Levels);
 - Projected increases in fire weather conditions; increases in mean wind speed; increase of average tropical cyclone wind speeds and associated heavy precipitations and of the proportion of category 4-5 tropical cyclones.⁵¹
23. During the last century, Zimbabwe has experienced a warming trend, evidenced by a 0.4°C increase in annual mean temperatures, with most of the warming having been experienced over the last two decades, and minimum temperatures increasing more rapidly than maximum temperatures.⁵²
24. Future scenarios in the country project an increase of average annual temperature between 3°C and 4°C from 2020-2100, relative to records for 1900-2000. An increase in temperature may result in evapotranspiration increases and runoff declines, which will significantly impact water availability for agriculture, domestic and industry use.

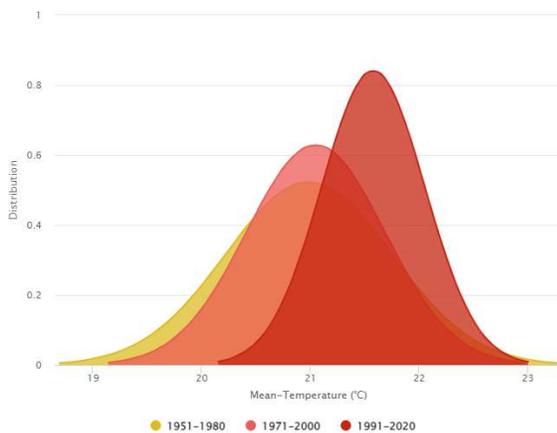


Figure 2. Change in Distribution of Mean-Temperature from 1951 to 2020⁵³.

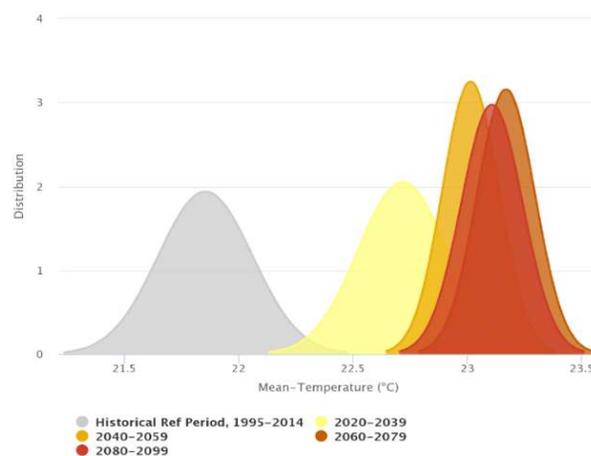


Figure 3. Projected change in Distribution and Mean Temperature under scenario SSP1-2.6 and with Multi-Model Ensemble.⁵⁴

⁵⁰ WB, 2021. Climate Risk Country Profile: Zimbabwe

⁵¹ IPCC (2021). *Sixth Assessment Report. Working Group I – The Physical Science Basis. Regional fact sheet – Africa*, https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/factsheets/IPCC_AR6_WGI_Regional_Fact_Sheet_Africa.pdf

⁵² Mtisi, S., & Prowse, M. (Ed.) (2012). *Baseline report on climate change and development in Zimbabwe*. Government of Zimbabwe.

⁵³ WB Climate Change Knowledge Portal

⁵⁴ SSP refers to Shared Socioeconomic Pathways within the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, which are scenarios of projected socioeconomic global changes until 2100, and are used to derive greenhouse gas emissions scenarios with different climate policies. In this proposal, the scenario SSP1-2.6 has been selected with low GHG emissions, as arguably being the most optimistic but also realistic, with expected: CO₂ emissions cut to net zero around 2075. Source: WB Climate Change Knowledge Portal

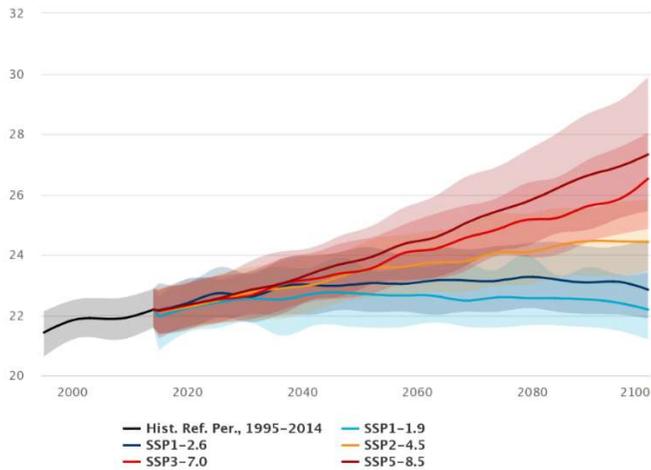


Figure 4. Projected Mean-Temperature (Ref. Period: 1995-2014), Multi-Model Ensemble⁵⁵.

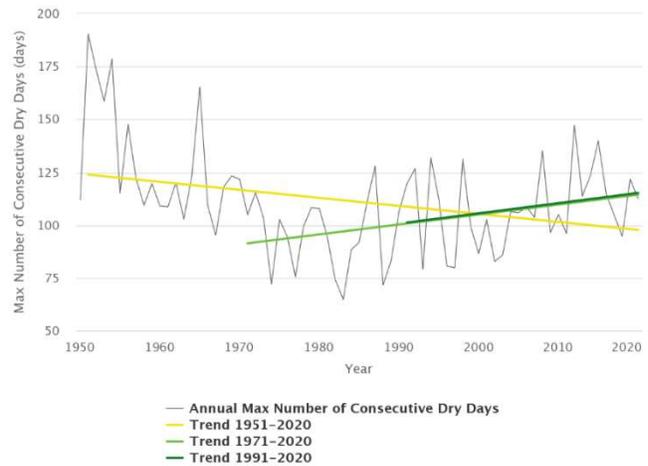


Figure 5. Maximum Number of Consecutive Dry Days Annual Trends with Significance of Trend per Decade⁵⁶.

25. Zimbabwe is also likely to continue to experience increased droughts. Over the last decade, rainfall patterns have become increasingly unpredictable and extreme weather events have become more frequent and intense, notably droughts and remnants of tropical cyclones over the Indian Ocean.⁵⁷ The distribution of precipitation and the amount of rainfall is predicted to increase in the following decades, with more erratic precipitation patterns and heavier rains.

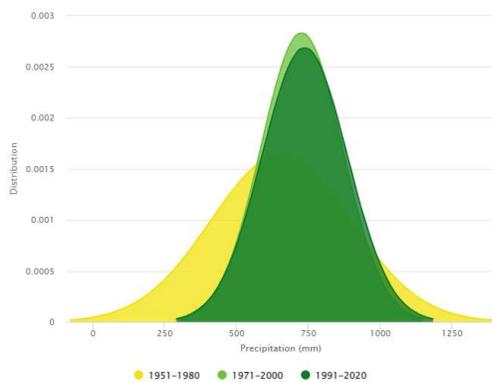


Figure 6. Change in Distribution of Precipitation from 1951 to 2020⁵⁸.

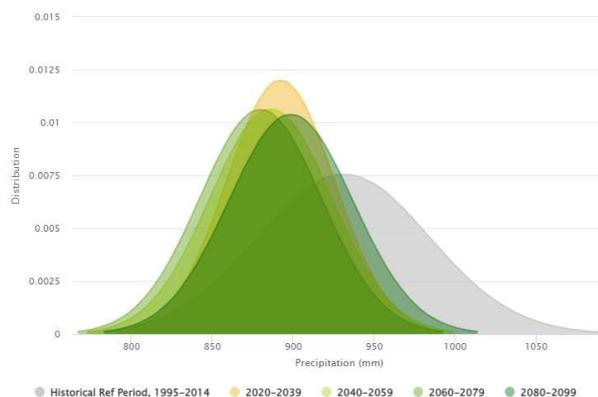


Figure 7. Projected Change in Distribution and Precipitation under scenario SSP1-2.6 and with Multi-Model Ensemble⁵⁹.

26. Climatic events. The country is extremely vulnerable to climate change effects, with an increase in droughts, veld fires, floods and storms. Vulnerability is measured by the high exposure to climate phenomena added to the high sensitivity to be harmed by hazards and the insufficient capacity to cope and adapt to extreme climate events. Drought is the observed most significant climate-related risk, followed by floods. Severe drought episodes have been observed in 1991–1992, 1994–1995, 2002–2003, 2015–2016, and 2018–2019, with drought vulnerability and exposure varying substantially in the country⁶⁰.

⁵⁵ WB Climate Change Knowledge Portal

⁵⁶ Ibid

⁵⁷ Brown, Donald et al. *Climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation in Zimbabwe* (2012).

⁵⁸ WB Climate Change Knowledge Portal

⁵⁹ Ibid

⁶⁰ Frischen, Janna, Isabel Meza, Daniel Rupp, Katharina Wietler, and Michael Hagenlocher. 2020. "Drought Risk to Agricultural Systems in Zimbabwe: A Spatial Analysis of Hazard, Exposure, and Vulnerability" *Sustainability* 12, no. 3: 752. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12030752>

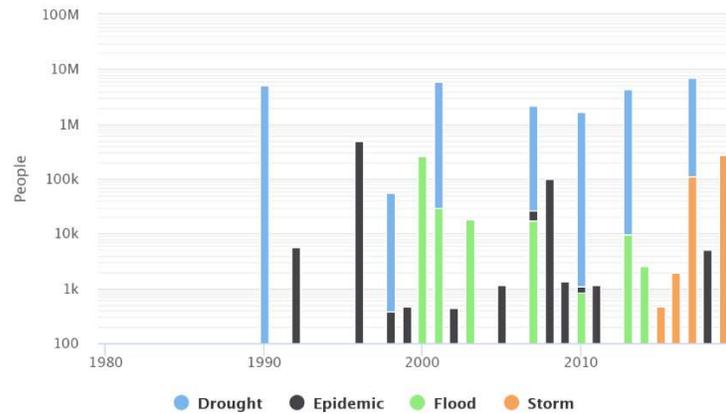


Figure 8. Number of Affected People by key Natural Hazard Statistics for 1980, 2000 and 2010 ⁶¹.

27. The adverse consequences that extreme weather events pose on lives and livelihoods in Zimbabwe are growing. The number of total people affected and economic losses caused by droughts have increased exponentially in the last years (see graph above), and the GDP growth has been severely affected by a series of major droughts. The likelihood of the country suffering severe drought is predicted to increase by 21% in the period 2040-2059 and 47% in 2080-2099 compared to the baseline period of 1986-2005 under RCP 8.5 scenarios.
28. Floods are strongly associated with economic loss. The country is extremely prone to riverine floods; from 1900 to 2017, nine riverine floods occurred, affecting over 300,000 people, killing over 270 and leading to more than 270 million USD loss.⁶²
29. Extreme weather events, notably heavy rains and flooding, can intensify and increase the frequency of epidemic episodes, which can lead to great social and economic losses across multiple sectors.⁶³ Epidemic diseases, particularly bacterial and parasitic, significantly contribute to the toll of total deaths and people affected by natural disasters. The El Niño phenomenon negatively impacted agricultural productivity for the 2023-24 cropping season. A widespread crop failure occurred in February 2024, with a significant proportion of crops reaching the permanent wilting stage. Decreased rainfall and soaring temperatures are leading to dwindling water sources, jeopardizing livestock well-being and access to food⁶⁴.
30. Zimbabwe, located adjacent to the coastal country of Mozambique, has experienced a series of cyclones and tropical storms, including Cyclone Eline in 2000, Japhet in 2003, Dineo in 2017, Idai in 2019, Batsirai in 2022, as well as tropical storms Chalane in 2020, Eloise in 2021, and Ana in 2022. These cyclones have disproportionately affected the provinces of Midlands, Manicaland, Masvingo, and Matabeleland South, resulting in approximately 1,000 fatalities, \$5 billion in property damage, displacement of people, and extensive environmental degradation.⁶⁵ Zimbabwe faces unique challenges and vulnerabilities in the face of tropical cyclones, necessitating effective disaster risk reduction strategies, robust communication infrastructures, and Early Warning Systems (EWS) to mitigate the loss of life and property.⁶⁶ Prompt dissemination of information about TC occurrences is crucial for protecting public safety, assisting with preparedness, and mitigating the possible consequences of these extreme weather phenomena.
31. Pests. There is evidence of a causal positive correlation between climate change and swarming pests. Climate change can affect the reproduction rate and population size, survival rate and geographical distribution of pests.⁶⁷ Migratory Transboundary Pests and other diseases are expected to impact production during the cropping seasons. The Fall Army Worm (FAW) has been identified as a threat to crop production in Zimbabwe, mostly impacting maize. In 2018, the FAW pest destroyed 47% of the country's maize yield.⁶⁸ An additional major threat is the Quelea birds that are affecting sorghum and millet crops. The Zimbabwe Ministry of Agriculture's Migratory Pests and Biosecurity Control Department has estimated that around 95% of wheat damages in the country are caused by the Quelea bird.⁶⁹ Other pests include large grain stalk borer, and wild animal attacks on crops, livestock, and humans in parts of the country. Typical livestock diseases, such as foot and mouth, anthrax and

⁶¹ WB Climate Change Knowledge Portal, Zimbabwe

⁶² *Ibid.*

⁶³ *Ibid.*

⁶⁴ WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief. February 2024

⁶⁵ Chatiza, 2019; Mavhura, 2020, as cited Hungwe et al.2024.Comparative analysis of the variability and impacts of tropical cyclones in flood-prone areas of Zimbabwe. *Frontiers in Climate*. Vol.6.

⁶⁶ Dube, K., and Nhamo, G. (2021). Tropical cyclones as an emerging global disaster risk and management issue. *Cycl. Southern Africa Found. Fund. Topics* 4, 3–16. doi: 10.1007/978-3-030-74262-1_1

⁶⁷ UNDP (2022). *The Tomorrow War – Climate Change, Hunger, and Swarming Pests* (29 September, 2022), <https://www.undp.org/zimbabwe/blog/tomorrow-war-climate-change-hunger-and-swarming-pests>.

⁶⁸ UNDP (2022) (*ibid.*).

⁶⁹ UNDP (2022) (*ibid.*).

others will also likely affect herds in various areas. The economic losses and the effects on food security caused by pests add to already existing vulnerabilities.

1.2. Target areas

32. The Republic of Zimbabwe is divided into ten administrative provinces, which are further subdivided into 59 districts and 1200 wards. The targeted project areas include four vulnerable districts within the provinces of Manicaland and Masvingo. Particularly the selected districts are Chimanimani and Chipinge (Manicaland Province) and Bikita and Masvingo Rural (Masvingo province). See the location as per the maps below.

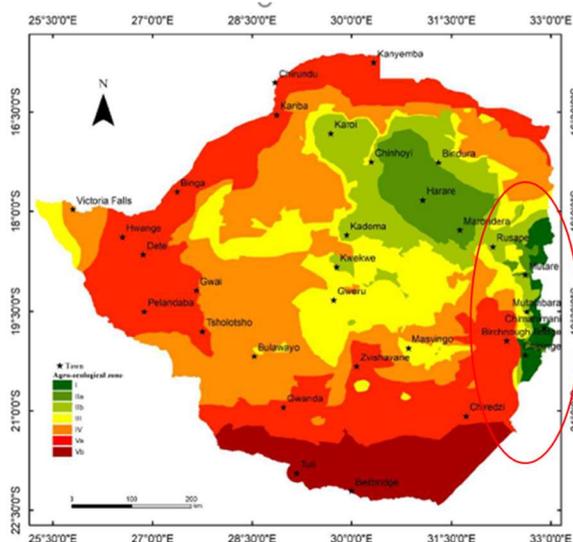


Figure 9. Map of Agroecological Zones (AEZ) of Zimbabwe with location of target areas.



Figure 10. Target districts' location in Manicaland and Masvingo provinces

33. Manicaland's landscape and agricultural profile. The Eastern Highlands dominate the province which is characterized by dense evergreen vegetation, and low temperatures. The country's timber production is located in this region, with timber plantations dominating the high altitudes and steep slopes. The country's timber production is located in this region. Diversified agriculture and livestock production, mainly dairy farming in combination with crops such as coffee and tea, deciduous fruits (such as bananas, apples), horticultural crops (such as Irish potatoes, field peas and other vegetables), flowers and grapes. This region has the steepest AEZ gradient in the country, moving from AEZ I to AEZ Va in less than 10 km from Chipinge town towards the Save Valley (see Figure 11 below). The targeted districts within the province are presented in the map above (Figure 10).
34. Masvingo landscape and agricultural profile. Masvingo province is found in the drier south-eastern lowveld of the country. The province is predominantly semi-arid, rainfall is minimal, highly variable/erratic and uncertain, making the province prone to droughts. A large portion of the province ranges from AEZ III to region Vb, which normally receives less than 500 mm per year (Figure 12). Rainfall is increasingly erratic due to climate change. The targeted districts within the province are presented in the map above (Figure 10). Though most of the province is generally dry, it does possess some of the most agriculturally fertile soils, inland water bodies and river systems (Save, Runde, Mwenezi, Mutirikwi and Limpopo river systems dominate the drainage system), drought tolerant and sturdy vegetation like Mopani trees, and very rich natural pastures. Kopjes⁷⁰, hills and mountain ranges dot the countryside. The dominant agricultural activities include subsistence cultivation of drought resistant cereal crops (sorghum, rapoko, millet, and some varieties of maize) and cattle rearing (and commercial cattle ranching).⁷¹ In overgrazed rangelands, the region is dominated by bush encroachment, especially by aggressive Acacia shrubs which form impenetrable thickets. Cattle ranching, goat rearing and wildlife conservation are the dominant natural resource based activities carried out in the region. The province also has some of the most successful Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE)⁷² community-based natural resource management programs in the country. Stakeholders consulted as part of the AEZ revision exercise⁷³ in Masvingo province confirmed that climate change impacts had essentially degraded the farming activities in the province, concurring that the area south of Chiredzi in

⁷⁰ granite hillocks known locally as kopjes

⁷¹ Chikodzi D. et al. 2013. Reclassification of agro-ecological zones in Zimbabwe – the rationale, methods and expected benefits: the case of Masvingo province. Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa (Volume 15, No.1, 2013). Sourced from <https://www.jsd-africa.com/Jsda/Vol15No1-Spring2013A/PDF/Reclassification%20of%20Agro-ecological%20Zones%20of%20Zimbabwe.David%20Chikodzi.pdf>

⁷² CAMPFIRE is one of the first programs to consider wildlife as renewable natural resources, while addressing the allocation of its ownership to indigenous peoples in and around conservation protected areas.

⁷³ Manatsa, D., Mushore, T.D., Gwitira, I., Wuta, M., Chemura, A., Shekede, M.D., Mugandani R., Sakala, L.C., Ali, L. H., Masukwedza, G.I., Mupuro, J.M., and Muzira, N.M. (2020). Revision of Zimbabwe's Agro-Ecological Zones. ISBN (In Press)

the Save and Limpopo valleys had changed to such an extent that rain-fed agriculture was increasingly becoming impossible. In Bikita district (Masvingo province) the population relies heavily on agriculture for livelihood, making it particularly vulnerable to climate-related disasters⁷⁴.

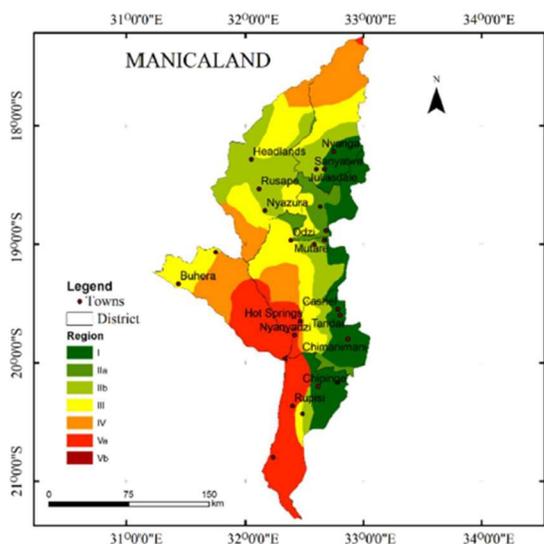


Figure 11. Map of Agroecological Zones (AEZ) of Manicaland province.

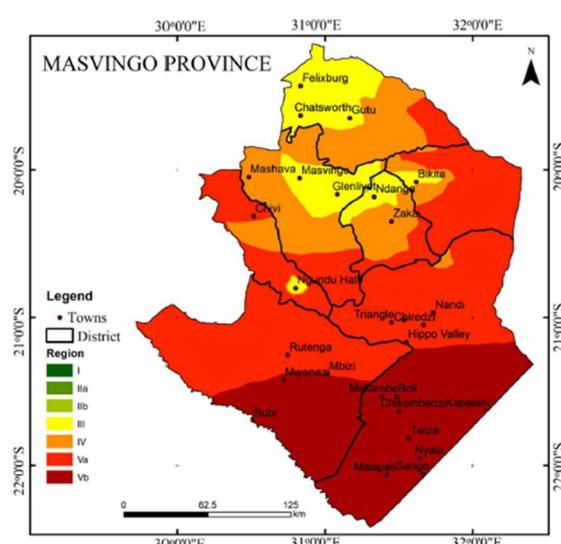


Figure 12. Map of Agroecological Zones (AEZ) in Masvingo province.

1.3. Vulnerabilities in the target areas to be addressed through the project

35. Climatic events. During Tropical Cyclone Idai in mid-March 2019, the worst natural disaster to hit southern Africa in the last two decades, Zimbabwe experienced heavy rains and flooding, causing the death of hundreds of people and displacing and affecting thousands. In Zimbabwe, cyclone Idai mostly hit the eastern provinces of Manicaland and Masvingo.
36. The cyclone affected more than 270,000 people and caused 341 deaths in the country. The infrastructure damages generated across the country affected 17,608 houses, 12 health facilities, 139 schools, 18 irrigation schemes, 86 livestock dipping facilities, roads, bridges, and WASH facilities. In terms of agricultural livelihood loss, more than 50% of land under maize crops, banana plantations and tubers, notably yams, were wiped away.⁷⁵ The disaster displaced over 60,000 people, devastated over 50,000 households, and caused over \$622 million in property, land and environmental damages.⁷⁶ More than 16,000 houses were destroyed in Chimanimani, Mutasa, Mutare, Chipinge, Buhera, Chikomba, Gutu and Bikita districts. In Chimanimani, eight bridges were swept away and, in Buhera, the Marowanyati dam overflowed.⁷⁷ Above 90% of road networks in Chimanimani and Chipinge were also damaged and 584 km of roads were affected by landslides.⁷⁸
37. Regarding tropical storm projections, there are also specific threats from storm systems coming from the Mozambique channel over the Eastern Highlands, such as was observed during Cyclone Idai, and these will continue to intensify with increases in higher global average temperatures⁷⁹. These projected changes in climate are evident even in the multi-model ensembles for different levels of global warming⁸⁰.
38. Flood risk in the target areas – Flood risk in target provinces is high according to the Aqueduct Atlas of Water risk produced by WRI in 2023⁸¹.
39. As per district level Disaster Management Plans, **Chimanimani DRM plan (2023)** identifies cyclones, droughts, floods, veld fires, Malaria and landslides, prioritizing drought and storm damage as the most impacting ones for the agriculture sector in the district. **Chipinge DRM Plan (2023)** states that the majority of the communities in lowveld Chipinge are vulnerable to drought, and those low-lying wards along Save river are vulnerable to floods. Chipinge district has seen an increase in disasters post Cyclone Idai of March 2019. Cyclone Ana, strong winds, droughts and flooding have been experienced in the past 3 years.

⁷⁴ Bikita District, Masvingo Province, Disaster Risk Management Planning [DRM PLAN], May 2025 to June 2026

⁷⁵ OCHA Reliefweb (2020). Zimbabwe: Tropical Cyclone Idai Final Report, DREF Operation n°: MDRZW014, 25 August 2020, <https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/zimbabwe-tropical-cyclone-idai-final-report-dref-operation-n-mdrzw014>.

⁷⁶ The World Bank (2020), A Story of Resilience in Zimbabwe: Cultivating Dreams for a Better Future After Cyclone Idai, 10 November 2020, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2020/11/10/a-story-of-resilience-in-zimbabwe-cultivating-dreams-for-a-better-future-after-cyclone-idai>.

⁷⁷ OCHA Reliefweb (2019). Mozambique, Zimbabwe: Emergency Response to Cyclone Idai-SAF191, 2 April 2019, <https://reliefweb.int/report/mozambique/mozambique-zimbabwe-and-malawi-emergency-response-cyclone-idai-saf191>.

⁷⁸ OCHA Reliefweb (2020). (Ibid).

⁷⁹ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/344157243_Learning_from_the_tropical_cyclones_that_ravaged_Zimbabwe_policy_implications_for_effective_disaster_preparedness/figures

⁸⁰ World Bank Group. 2024. Zimbabwe Country Climate and Development Report.

⁸¹ <https://www.wri.org/applications/aqueduct/water-risk-atlas>

Bikita DRM plan (2025) identifies as primary hazards drought, storm damage, disease outbreaks, livestock diseases and crop pests. Bikita’s population relies heavily on agriculture for livelihood, making it particularly vulnerable to climate-related disasters (see section D for further details on alignment of local plans with project design)

40. In terms of access to EWS, ZimVAC’s most recent report acknowledges that EWS access differs from its use, and although a high percentage of households in the target provinces (about 83% in Manicaland and 89% in Masvingo) receive Early Warning information such as weather, climate change or seasonal performance, only around 53% of them attested to use the information to plan response mechanisms. Improving communities’ access to technology, such as risk monitoring tools and EWS can assist in preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. The project will contribute to this by strengthening the last-mile connectivity of EWS (Output 1.1). Additionally, context analysis including aspects of behavioural change will be part of the Inception phase, facilitating the design of awareness raising interventions to contribute to higher adherence to EW messages and implementation of preventive measures.
41. Existing preparedness structures at the district level are the Civil Protection Committees (CPC). In all four (4) districts consulted⁸², the District Development Coordinators (DDCs), who also served as the Civil Protection Units (CPU) Coordinators, confirmed that CPU exist and that they all have Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response Plans in place, but there are gaps in implementation and limited capacity for them to function due to limited financial and material resources.
42. Droughts. At the provincial level, more than 60 % of farmers rely on rain-fed agriculture⁸³. Varying rainfall patterns are affecting aquifer and river water levels. The peasant sector, which produces 70% of the staple foods (maize, millet, and groundnut), is particularly vulnerable as it has access to less than 5-7% of national irrigation facilities.⁸⁴ Worsening agricultural conditions are increasing malnourishment and undernourishment. According to WB Vulnerability on Drought (2021) data, the target districts experience High to very High vulnerability to drought (see Figure 13 below). At the household level, in Manicaland and Masvingo 78% and 87% of households, respectively, reported drought or prolonged mid-season dry spells (Figure 14)⁸⁵.

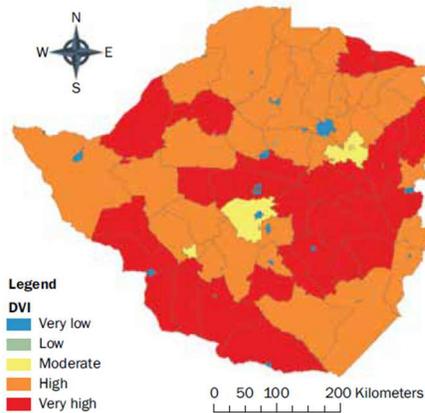


Figure 13. Spatial variation of vulnerability to drought in Zimbabwe⁸⁶

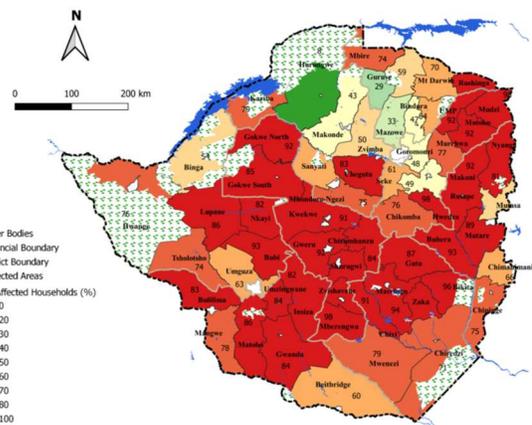


Figure 14. Households reporting drought⁸⁷

43. Drought has had a widespread impact across all provinces in Zimbabwe, with particularly severe effects in Masvingo. The region’s vulnerability is heightened due to its large population of communal farmers who lack the resources to protect their livestock and crops. Drought significantly reduces water supplies, affecting agriculture, ecosystems, and human livelihoods. The 1991–1992 drought was especially devastating, with Masvingo losing nearly one-third of the over one million cattle that died nationwide. Recurrent droughts have continued to degrade pastures, reduce livestock numbers, and damage crops permanently, exacerbated by poor land management practices. Farmers also face financial losses due to the cost of agricultural inputs that yield little or no return. Major water bodies like Lake Kyle, Bangala Dam, and the Runde River have recorded over 65% reductions in water levels during droughts, affecting water quality and contributing to health crises such as cholera

⁸² District level consultations were undertaken in May 2024. See Section H.

⁸³ <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/12/3/752>

⁸⁴ <https://www.fao.org/zimbabwe/fao-in-zimbabwe/zimbabwe-at-a-glance/en/>

⁸⁵ ZimVAC 2022

⁸⁶ World Bank, 2021. A Technical Assessment for Updating Drought Risk Mapping in Zimbabwe.

⁸⁷ ZimVAC 2022

outbreaks. Agricultural production has been severely disrupted, with poor or failed harvests prompting the government to import maize for drought relief⁸⁸.

44. According to the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment⁸⁹, both target provinces score high in the Shock Exposure Index⁹⁰, with Masvingo scoring 1st and Manicaland 2nd in the ranking of provinces. These high exposure scores, jointly with other vulnerability dimensions make the case for both regions to receive support on disaster risk reduction and preparedness measures to increase target communities' and farmers' coping capacities towards environmental and humanitarian disasters. The availability of disaster preparedness, programs, EWS, capacity-building mechanisms, and education, has proven⁹¹ to contribute to the ability of rural communities to respond and recover from natural hazard-induced shocks.
45. Changes in the rainfall season. In terms of observed trends, in Manicaland there is an observed late start of the rainfall season, however, in Masvingo, the opposite has been observed with a trend of an early start. Additionally, field observations and discussions with stakeholders done for the AEZ revision study show significant changes in the length of the rainfall season in both provinces. In Manicaland, there is a reduction of the rainfall season from -5 to -20 less rainfall days spanning from the North to the South (see Figure 15 below). In Masvingo, there has been a reduction in the length of the rainfall season of up to 20 days. There is also an observed tendency in the increased length of dry spells, with Manicaland dry spells' average length expanding 5 to 10 days longer. In terms of projections, the Revised NDC⁹² states that the Southern and Eastern geographies of Zimbabwe are projected to experience the most significant decreases in rainfall between 2020 and 2080.

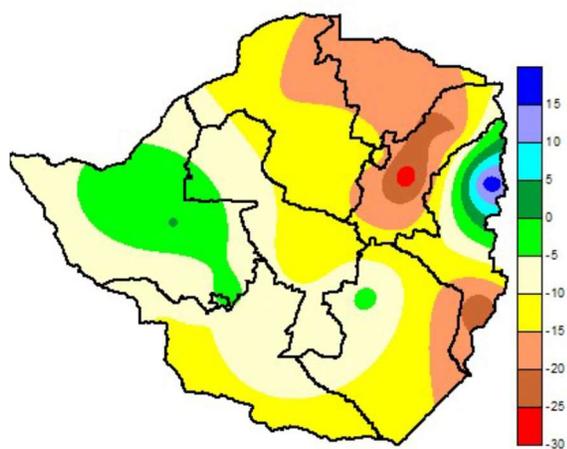


Figure 15. Spatial variation in the changes in the length of the rainfall season between the period 1951 to 1981 and from 1982 to 2016 for Zimbabwe. ⁹³

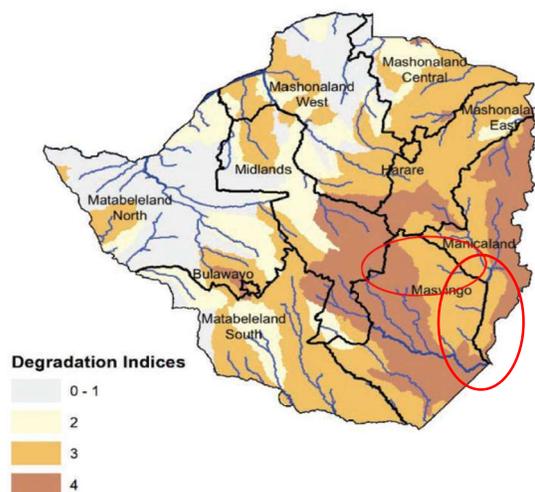


Figure 16. Land and Water Degradation Index⁹⁴

46. Land and Water Degradation: Land degradation is making Zimbabwe less resilient to existing climate variability, and to the future impacts of climate change. According to the Land Degradation Neutrality Report⁹⁵, districts in the southeast of Manicaland province and east of Masvingo (where target areas are located) score high and very high in terms of the Land and Water Degradation Index⁹⁶. Therefore, the areas that show the highest degradation trends are those where ecosystem services may need restoration and recovery. The interventions proposed under the project will ultimately seek to enhance land and water ecosystem services through the implementation of CRA solutions and Sustainable Land Management (component 3).
47. Adaptation and Resilience. The findings of an impact evaluation of the ZRBF program in 2018 revealed that communities in Zimbabwe's provinces, including Masvingo, still exhibit low levels of resilience, expressed in terms of various outcomes: high rates of poverty as measured by the multidimensional poverty index and poor rates of food security measured by the food consumption score. The proposed initiative is expected to increase the adaptive capacities of smallholder households, making them more resilient to impacts of climate change as they become food, nutrition and income secure. Adaptive Capacity (AC) of agricultural households, understood as their capacity to respond and adapt to the impacts of climate change, has been

⁸⁸ Chitongo, L. 2013. Towards Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management in Zimbabwe: Evaluating Masvingo Rural District's Community Drought Management Program (MRDCCDMP). International Journal of Economy, Management and Social Sciences, 2(8) August 2013, Pages: 644-653

⁸⁹ Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) 2023 Rural Livelihoods Assessment

⁹⁰ Shock Exposure Index is calculated by multiplying the number of shocks experienced with the impact severity of the shock to the household

⁹¹ Nyahunda L., Nemaokonde L.D., Khoza S.2024. Exploring the determinants of disaster and climate resilience building in Zimbabwe's rural communities. Natural Hazards Journal.

⁹² Government of Zimbabwe. 2021. Zimbabwe Revised Nationally Determined Contribution

⁹³ Negative values indicate contracting whilst positive values imply expansion of the rainfall season. Source: 2020 AEZ Revision

⁹⁴ LDN, 2018

⁹⁵ Republic of Zimbabwe, 2018. Final Country Report of the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme. Source:

https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/ldn_targets/Zimbabwe%20LDN%20TSP%20Country%20Report.pdf

⁹⁶ Degradation indexes are based on the slope of a 20-year trend analysis and indicate a high rate of loss of vegetation productivity (net primary productivity [NPP]), reduction in evapotranspiration, reduction in soil moisture and baseflow, and increasing surface runoff

assessed according to a set of indicators on access to education, access to agricultural information and adoption of improved agricultural practices. From this assessment⁹⁷, a provincial AC ranking (out of 8 rural provinces) was developed. Manicaland is 5th in the adaptive capacity ranking, with Masvingo in 6th position, evidence of the need for strengthening farmers' adaptation capacities. Surveys undertaken for the Provincial Rural Livelihoods report in Masvingo show that⁹⁸ the majority of households in the province experienced economic and climatic related shocks and exposure to shocks was higher than the ability to cope. This data highlights the need to scale up resilience building initiatives to increase the capacity of households and communities to withstand the effects of shocks and stresses.

48. Food security status- ZimVAC (2019) attributed the food deficit in Masvingo Province to various factors, including: droughts that have affected crops and caused death of livestock, especially cattle used as draught power, unaffordability of agricultural inputs for communal farmers, use of retained seed with reduced vigor, rising prices of basic goods, animal and crop diseases and effects of cyclones, which have affected production yield levels as well as access to and availability of food. Recent data⁹⁹ shows that for the peak hunger period (January to March 2025), approximately 56% of the rural households in Masvingo will be cereal insecure (839,503 individuals requiring a total of 31,062MT of cereal). One additional challenge affecting food security in Masvingo is the issue of post-harvest losses due to poor crop management. Farmers in Masvingo Province face difficulties in storing produce after harvest. Crops such as maize are stored in simple granaries called *tsapi* or *huze*, where the commodity is vulnerable to rodents, also known as *zviphukuto* in vernacular language, and this considerably affects the quality of the maize¹⁰⁰. In Manicaland agricultural productivity is low, and poverty prevalence affects more than 70% of the population¹⁰¹. The province experiences acute food insecurity due to a number of factors that include poor rains, unfair pricing mechanisms, high input prices, lack of access to markets, land tenure insecurity, limited availability of agricultural extension services, and animal diseases.
49. In Manicaland, 50 per cent of rural households were food insecure¹⁰², where households' access to food is affected by the many economic shocks suffered including high prices, cash shortage, loss of employment, and shocks to agricultural production. Some of the coping strategies employed by families are selling household assets (including house or land), spending savings on food and reducing non-food expenditures¹⁰³. According to recent IPC reports (2024), southern Manicaland and east Masvingo were recorded to be in Crisis stage, the project interventions will contribute to improving farmers' food security through component 3 which includes activities around CRA practices, alternative livelihoods and micro-enterprise creation as well as providing support on food storage.
50. Nutritional status: Limited dietary diversity resulting from a cereal-based diet contributes to nutritional deficiencies. Undernutrition and malnutrition rates are high in Manicaland and Masvingo, especially in rural districts where diets lack diversity. In addition to increasing farmers' sustainable production and disaster preparedness, the project will also enhance farmers' and communities' nutritious consumption habits. The proposed intervention will ultimately focus on strengthening the whole agriculture value chain for smallholder rural farmers who are most affected by climate change.
51. This project builds upon the working experience, track record and built trust of the Implementing Entity– Environmental Management Agency (EMA) – and the Executing Entity, – Development Aid from People to People in Zimbabwe (DAPPZ). DAPPZ's existing and longstanding community development work and structures will add to EMA's leading institutional role in the project. DAPPZ's Farmers' Clubs¹⁰⁴ model has been used in Zimbabwe since 1996 and has proven successful in terms of increasing agriculture production and productivity, as well as increasing household income, and food and nutrition security for smallholder farmers.

2. Project/Programme Objectives

52. The **Overall Objective** of the project is to enhance the adaptation capacity and resilience of communities to climate change impacts and variability in Manicaland and Masvingo Provinces.
53. The **Specific Objectives** of the project are to:

⁹⁷ Hunter, R., Crespo, O., Coldrey, K., Cronin, K., New, M. 2020. Research Highlights – Climate Change and Future Crop Suitability in Zimbabwe. University of Cape Town, South Africa, undertaken in support of Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme' (ASAP) Phase 2. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Rome. Sourced from: https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/42164624/climate_analysis_zimbabwe.pdf/31fb5ab0-7a57-5978-4b82-51ddf99ba71?t=1606831141000

⁹⁸ ZIMLAC, 2024. Masvingo Rural Provincial Livelihoods Assessment Report.

⁹⁹ ZIMLAC, 2024. Masvingo Province. Rural Livelihoods Assessment Report.

¹⁰⁰ Chingarande, et al. (2020). Zimbabwe Food Security Desk Research: Masvingo Province. Washington, DC: Research Technical Assistance Center.

¹⁰¹ ZIMSTAT, 2015

¹⁰² ZIMVAC, 2019

¹⁰³ USAID (nd) Zimbabwe Food security, Manicaland. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00ZHFQ.pdf

¹⁰⁴ The Farmers' Clubs model used by DAPPZ is a community-based approach that empowers small-scale farmers to improve their agricultural practices, increase food security, and boost incomes. Farmers are organized into clubs of about 50 members who receive training in sustainable farming techniques, climate adaptation, nutrition, and cooperative marketing. The model emphasizes peer learning, local leadership, and collective action, enabling farmers to share knowledge, access inputs, and strengthen their voice in local decision-making. It integrates social development with agriculture, aiming for long-term resilience and self-sufficiency.

- (1) To enhance knowledge and capacities of local communities and authorities for climate resilience, emergency preparedness and adaptation;
- (2) To enhance climate resilience of physical and natural assets;
- (3) To improve climate-resilient livelihoods and food security.

54. It is estimated that overall, the project will directly benefit 4,000 smallholder farmers (at least 50% women), their families (+16,000 family members) through concrete adaptation interventions, while another 50,000 people will directly benefit from increased capacities and services of local institutions (*10 Ward Civil Protection Committees; 80 Village CPCs; 80 Cooperatives*). An estimated additional 100,000 people will benefit from the project indirectly (*altogether 18% of the districts' population*).

3. Project/Programme Components and Financing ¹⁰⁵

Project/Programme Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Concrete Outputs	Amount (US\$)
1. Enhancing Knowledge and Capacities for Climate Resilience, Emergency Preparedness and Adaptation.	Outcome 1: Local Actors Lead Climate Resilience, Emergency Preparedness, and Adaptation	Output 1.1: Strengthened community capacity in disaster risk management, emergency response, and locally-led adaptation.	525,000
		Output 1.2: Strengthened local awareness, and inclusive learning platforms	270,000
2. Enhancing Climate Resilience of Physical and Natural Assets.	Outcome 2: Communities Strengthen and Sustain Climate-Resilient Infrastructure and Natural Systems.	Output 2.1: Community-prioritized infrastructure is built or upgraded for climate resilience	800,000
3. Improving Climate-Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security	Outcome 3: Local Livelihoods and Food Systems are more Equitable, and Climate-Resilient	Output 3.1: Community water resources are more climate-resilient and are community- managed with equitable access	725,000
		Output 3.2: Inclusive and climate-resilient agricultural systems are strengthened and led by local actors.	1,450,000
		Output 3.3: Increased and diversified income through the development of small-scale, climate-resilient enterprises	450,000
6. Project/Programme Execution cost (9,24 %)			390,000 (9,24%)
7. Total Project/Programme Cost			4,610,000
8. Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (8,46%)			390,000 (8.46%)
Amount of Financing Requested			5,000,000

4. Projected Calendar

Milestones	Expected Dates
Start of Project/Programme Implementation	March 2027
Mid-term Review (if planned)	March 2029
Project/Programme Closing	March 2031
Terminal Evaluation	September 2031

PART II: PROJECT / PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

A. Project Components

55. The project in eastern Manicaland and northeastern Masvingo is designed to enhance the resilience of rural communities to climate change impacts through a comprehensive approach that integrates community-based and locally-led disaster risk management, climate-resilient agricultural (CRA) practices and sustainable land management (SLM), and community-driven,

¹⁰⁵ IE and EE fees calculator: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/ie-and-ee-fees-calculator/>

concrete adaptation actions, including adaptation of natural and physical assets and livelihoods. By focusing on those, the project aims to empower communities to be better prepared and be the drivers of the response to climate-induced challenges.

56. Building on the experience and expertise of EMA and DAPP Zimbabwe, the proposed intervention hinges on a community-based and locally-led philosophy as the project approach. Activities will be implemented by communities themselves, facilitated by the project and supported by project staff. Communities will be engaged through existing and new local and community-based structures (e.g. CPCs and FCs), which will be capacitated and empowered by the project, so that communities can make decisions and take charge of their own adaptation and emergency preparedness activities (e.g. through the co-design of community-based emergency response and adaptation plans, A.1.1.3.), within the scope of this project, as well as beyond. The following **local institutions and organizations will be the key actors** in the project:
- Civil Protection Committees (CPCs) at village-level will be strengthened and operationalized as needed, and will be the key actors in the activities under Outputs 1.1 and Output 2.1, being the main decision makers on the design of community emergency and adaptation plans (Output 1.1.) which will involve prioritizing and managing decisions around critical infrastructure upgrades (Output 2.1). CPCs are, on paper, an existing structure, yet in many villages these are still to be established and operationalized¹⁰⁶. The project will work together with District- and Ward-level Civil Protection Units (CPUs) to coordinate the strengthening of the CPCs and their actions. The CPUs are made up of local representation of key line Ministries and government Departments. Through engagement with the CPU the project will engage authorities as relevant to the activities. These Ministries and Departments include, among others: Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Extension Offices (AGRITEX); the Environmental Management Agency; the Meteorological Services Department; the Rural Infrastructure Development Agency; the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender, Small and Medium Enterprises; the Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Culture; the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Finance and the Department of Social Development. Apart from these national-level institutions, local government will equally be engaged, including the District Councils and District Development Offices (under the Ministry of Local Government), among others. Other local institutions that will ensure devolution of decision-making have been preliminarily mapped as part of the analysis of Institutional Sustainability (see Table 4 in section J for further details).
 - Local leaders will be engaged in the design of governance structures as they are best positioned to identify effective communication and decision-making methods, given that their insight ensures that local voices are meaningfully included and that partnerships with external actors are productive and responsive to community needs.
 - Farmers' Clubs (FCs) will be established to facilitate mutual learning and implementation of adaptive measures in local agricultural production systems. Where farmer organizations already exist, those will be strengthened. During the lifespan of the project, the FCs will be supported to graduate into cooperatives and/or small social enterprises to enhance their access to formal markets and market opportunities, therefore enhancing the sustainability of these structures after the project's lifespan.
 - Environment committees (EC) are appointed by the Rural District Act and focus on addressing environmental issues within their districts. They engage with local communities, coordinate district-level environmental projects, and ensure compliance with environmental regulations. These EC are supported by Environmental Sub-Committees (ESC) with the major role of promoting environmental awareness and supporting the enforcement of environmental laws. Overall, EC and ESC in Zimbabwe serve as vital platforms for multi-stakeholder collaboration in the pursuit of environmental sustainability and resilience. The EC and ESC will support the project to increase outreach, and provide contextual knowledge on environmental aspects in a consultative role.
57. The project enhances communities' direct access to finance by (1) supporting local structures in charge of planning and management of adaptation and disaster risk reduction interventions (CPCs, CCACs, FCs, ECs); (2) supporting the creation and growth of Village Cooperatives and micro-enterprises in the target areas, through training, financial literacy programs, and market integration support; and (3) creating and managing a grant scheme that will provide small grants to help climate-resilient businesses overcome start-up barriers, expand operations, and achieve long-term financial sustainability.
58. DAPP – as the EE, with extensive experience in rural settings and strong community links, will lead the execution of all activities, under the oversight of a national-level Project Steering Committee (PSC), and under the direct management of EMA – the IE. DAPP will work in direct collaboration with the Civil Protection Units (CPUs), and their respective member institutions, in each of the targeted districts.
59. Given the LLA approach, the M&E system will be grounded in participatory, flexible, and context-specific approaches that center local leadership and knowledge. It will be co-designed with communities to ensure that indicators reflect local priorities, values, and experiences of climate resilience. Some potential tools to be used could be community scorecards, storytelling, and mobile data collection to track both outcomes and processes. Local actors will play a central role in data collection, analysis, and reflection, enabling real-time learning and adaptation. The M&E system will contribute to building local capacity, fostering accountability through transparent feedback loops, and emphasizing adaptive learning to ensure that the

¹⁰⁶ Information that was gathered in the district-level consultations (see section H).

project remains responsive to evolving needs and climate realities.

60. The project encompasses three main components: (1) strengthening community capacity for climate resilience and emergency preparedness, (2) increasing the resilience of physical and natural assets, and (3) improving climate-resilient livelihoods and food security. The components and respective outputs and activities are all interlinked and strengthen one another. As such, strengthening the Village CPCs, and supporting their respective plans and actions (under Outcomes 1 and 2) will include and contribute to strengthening interventions that are targeting agricultural practices and livelihoods (under Outcome 3). Equally, improved and more sustainable agricultural practices and the resulting food security and household incomes (Outcome 3) will contribute to enhanced resilience of ecosystems and better use of food storage (Outcome 2). Exchanges and coordination among the CPCs and FCs will strengthen not only cooperation and knowledge management, but will also enhance social capital, considered a key building block of resilience and emergency preparedness.

The below table depicts the project logic, which is further elaborated and detailed in the sections below.

Table 2. Proposed project logic.

Outcome	Outputs	Activities (<i>shortened activity titles</i>)
Outcome 1: Local Actors Lead Climate Resilience, Emergency Preparedness, and Adaptation	Op1.1: Strengthened community capacity in disaster risk management, emergency response and locally-led adaptation.	A1.1.1 Build capacities of ward- and village-level CPCs. A1.1.2 Strengthen last-mile connectivity of Early Warning Systems. A1.1.3 Support participatory development and updating of CBAPs.
	Op1.2: Strengthened local awareness, and inclusive learning platforms	A1.2.1 Co-create/implement locally-tailored communication package. A1.2.2 Address gender /social barriers A1.2.3 Promote local knowledge generation, and peer-to-peer learning.
Outcome 2: Communities Strengthen and Sustain Climate-Resilient Infrastructure and Natural Systems.	Op 2.1: Community-prioritized infrastructure is built or upgraded for climate resilience	A2.1.1 Co-design /upgrade emergency shelters A2.1.2 Implement farm- and community-level adaptive measures. A2.1.3 Climate-proofing of water and sanitation facilities.
Outcome 3: Local Livelihoods and Food Systems are more Equitable, and Climate-Resilient	Op 3.1: Community water resources are more climate-resilient, and are community managed with equitable access	A3.1.1 Identify and implement water solutions for improved irrigation. A3.1.2 Implement locally-managed groundwater recharge activities.
	Op 3.2: Inclusive and climate-resilient agricultural systems are strengthened and led by local actors.	A3.2.1 Establish and operate Climate Change Action Centres. A3.2.2 Support implementation of CRA and IFS through Farmers' Clubs. A3.2.3 Promote integrated livestock and fish farming. A3.2.4 Establish community gardens to enhance nutrition and inclusion.
	Op 3.3: Increased and diversified income through the development of small-scale, climate-resilient enterprises.	A3.3.1 Support establishment and capacity building of cooperatives and micro-enterprises A3.3.2 Provide small grants to micro-enterprises and cooperatives.

Component 1 – Enhancing Knowledge and Capacities for Climate Resilience, Emergency Preparedness and Adaptation.

61. Communities in eastern Manicaland and northeastern Masvingo are increasingly facing the impacts of climate change, including more frequent and severe droughts, floods, and storms. These climate-related events pose significant threats to livelihoods, food security, and overall community resilience. Enhancing the knowledge and capacity of these communities to prepare for and respond to climate risks is critical for building long-term resilience.
62. The first component of the project focuses on strengthening the capacities of local communities in disaster risk management (DRM), emergency response, and locally-led adaptation (LLA) strategies. By building the capacities of ward- and village-level Civil Protection Committees (CPCs), strengthening effective EWS, and developing comprehensive emergency response and adaptation plans, this component aims to empower communities to proactively manage climate risks. Activities under this component will include targeted trainings, operational support, provision of necessary equipment, and the integration of traditional knowledge with modern EWS. Additionally, a comprehensive communication strategy will be implemented and co-designed and delivered jointly with the communities to raise awareness about climate resilience, disaster preparedness, participatory and locally-led approaches, and improved nutrition and health. Addressing gender barriers and ensuring inclusive participation of women and vulnerable groups will be a key focus to ensure that all community members can contribute to and benefit from resilience-building efforts. By fostering a collaborative approach that involves local authorities, local leaders, community members, farmers, and extension workers, this component aims to create a well-informed and prepared community capable of effectively responding to and recovering from climate-induced disasters. The knowledge and capacities developed through this component will lay a strong foundation for sustainable adaptation and resilience in the face of ongoing and future climate challenges such as drought, floods, cyclones, and land degradation.

63. The project will leverage DAPP’s previous experience in institutional and community capacity building on climate resilience, emergency response, and adaptation. DAPP implemented the “*Building community led resilience through climate change adaptation actions*” project in Makoni District, Manicaland Province, from 2023 to 2024, with a component of strengthening capacities of community structures and District CPCs, and integrating modern EWS with indigenous EWS. The Environmental Management Agency implemented Zimbabwe’s initial climate change adaptation project in Chiredzi District. A key purpose of this project was to develop an adaptation model that helps smallholder farmers in Chiredzi build resilience to the impacts of climate change, including variability. The project was implemented around four main outcomes: (i) National institutions have capacity to improve knowledge base to facilitate climate change adaptation, (ii) Livelihood strategies and resilience of vulnerable farmers/pastoralists in the selected pilot sites improved and sustained to cope with drought, (iii) Use of climate early warning systems by vulnerable communities in pilot sites increase and drought preparedness improved, and (iv) Farmers/pastoralists outside the pilot site replicate successful approaches to cope with drought.
64. **Key output indicators and targets under this Component** are¹⁰⁷: (a) # of CPCs strengthened (*targets: 10 at ward-level; 80 at village level*); (b) # of CPC members trained in DRM (disaggregated by sex) (*target: 1,000 people trained, of which at least 40% women*); (c) # of emergency response and adaptation plans developed (*targets: 80 emergency response plans developed; 80 community adaptation action plans developed*); (d) % of participants in the WCPCs and VCPCs that are female (*target: at least 35%*); (e) # of people reached with communication package (*target: 50,000 people – 50% women, 25% youth*).

Outcome 1: Local Actors Lead Climate Resilience, Emergency Preparedness, and Adaptation

Output 1.1: Strengthened community capacity in disaster risk management, emergency response, and locally-led adaptation.

65. Climate change exacerbates the frequency and intensity of natural disasters such as floods, droughts, and storms. Communities in eastern Manicaland and northeastern Masvingo are particularly vulnerable due to their limited resources and preparedness. This output addresses vulnerability by building the capacity of local CPCs at the ward and village levels, ensuring that these communities can respond effectively to emergencies and be able to recover after the disaster. By providing training, operational support, and necessary equipment, these initiatives enhance the ability of local CPCs to campaign and educate their communities about disaster preparedness, thus reducing the impact of climate-related disasters.

A1.1.1 Build capacities of ward- and village-level Civil Protection Committees for improved Disaster Risk Management and Emergency Response

66. This activity involves conducting comprehensive capacity building¹⁰⁸ for CPCs at the ward and village levels. The capacity building will focus on providing training, operational support, necessary equipment, and small infrastructure to enhance the committees' effectiveness in disaster management. Training will include emergency response protocols, risk and vulnerability assessments, resource mobilization, adaptation and disaster risk management (DRM), and community outreach strategies. Additionally, the project will support village CPCs in their efforts to campaign within their communities. This involves equipping them with the knowledge and tools needed to raise awareness about disaster preparedness and locally-appropriate responses. Continuous support and refresher trainings during the project’s lifespan will ensure that CPC members stay updated on best practices and new technologies in disaster management.

A1.1.2 Co-develop and Strengthen locally-managed last-mile Early Warning Systems.

67. To ensure comprehensive community coverage by EWS, this activity will implement actions to strengthen that all individuals, even in very remote areas, are reached effectively. EWS are in place, yet only about 3 out of 4 people are reached when they are issued. The project will capacitate the CPCs to strengthen the last mile, among others by working on protocols, training CPC members on how to interpret and relay warnings accurately and promptly, as well as providing bicycles to CPCs, which will enable them to disseminate warning signals quickly and efficiently. Regular drills and simulations will be conducted to ensure the community is familiar with the warning signals and appropriate response actions. Additionally, integrating traditional knowledge with modern EWS will enhance its effectiveness, making it more relatable and trusted by the community. Under this activity, the project will also support the development and implementation of the Local Authority Management Information Systems (LAMIS) systems, which is an EWS with climate change information that ensures real-time, two-way SMS-based communication between Local Authorities and communities. This system works even on non-Android phones, so aims to design a local climate information system for CCA, helping stakeholders, including community members access climate risk information and providing science-based quality assured information to support climate-informed decision making at the community and district levels. EW messages will be translated to Shona and the needs of PLWD will be integrated in message design to ensure inclusivity.

A1.1.3 Support participatory development and updating of Community-Based Emergency and Adaptation Plans.

68. In close collaboration with the community, with a strong participatory approach, and supported by project staff, CPCs will develop simple, actionable plans for responding to disasters, considering various scenarios, including impacts on farmland.

¹⁰⁷ Indicators and targets are tentative, and will further be developed and validated during the Full Proposal stage.

¹⁰⁸ An extensive capacity assessment exercise will be undertaken as part of the Full Proposal Development

This activity will involve organizing training sessions and community awareness programs to educate community members on interpreting and reacting to EWS protocols. The response plans will be designed to be easily understood and implemented by all community members, ensuring that everyone knows their roles and responsibilities during an emergency and that these plans are aligned with existing community structures. These plans will be reviewed and updated to reflect new insights, changing conditions, and lessons learned from past experiences, and will be aligned with existing District- and Ward-level disaster preparedness and response plans. This activity also includes supporting CPCs and/or Village Development Committees (VIDCOs) in conducting climate vulnerability assessments at the village level, and developing appropriate and simple adaptation plans (Community Based Emergency response and Adaptation Action Plans – CAAPs). The participatory vulnerability assessments will identify current and future vulnerabilities, allowing for the development of targeted action plans to address them. The action plans will outline specific interventions to enhance the community's resilience to climate-related challenges. This may include measures such as improving water management, diversifying crops, and strengthening infrastructure. Project staff will be trained in relevant methodologies, with the support of EMA experts, before facilitating the CAAP development with the communities.

Output 1.2: Strengthened local awareness, and inclusive learning platforms.

69. Communities lack critical information on how to prepare for and respond to climate-induced emergencies, leading to increased vulnerability. This output addresses this gap by implementing comprehensive communication strategies that include climate change and adaptation literacy, resilience, nutrition, and sanitation campaigns. By working with community radio stations and addressing specific gender barriers, the project ensures that all community members, including women and vulnerable groups (including People Living with Disabilities -PLWD), receive essential information. Additionally, facilitating knowledge exchange among farmers, extension workers, and researchers ensures that best practices and local traditional knowledge are integrated into climate resilience strategies.

A1.2.1 Co-create and implement locally-tailored communication package.

70. A comprehensive communication strategy for climate resilience, disaster preparedness, improved nutrition and health will be developed, including materials for community campaigns focused on climate literacy, nutrition, the importance of participation and integration of local/indigenous knowledge, sanitation and hygiene. This strategy will leverage various communication channels such as local radio stations, community events, and social media, where applicable, and printed materials (in the local language) to ensure a broad reach. Collaboration with radio stations will ensure effective messaging and early warning dissemination, enhancing community awareness and preparedness. The communication strategy will be tailored to meet the needs of different audience segments, ensuring that information is accessible and relevant. Partnerships with local associations working with PLWD will be explored to ensure communication reaches those community members with communication challenges.

A1.2.2 Facilitate participatory processes to identify and address specific gender and social barriers hindering meaningful participation of women and vulnerable groups.

71. This activity aims to address a set of specific barriers that hinder women and other vulnerable groups from participating in the project's activities. This will include establishing childcare systems, conducting campaigns against gender-based violence, especially post-disaster, and ensuring equal participation of women and vulnerable groups in village-based committees and groups. This will involve creating safe and inclusive spaces for women to participate in decision-making processes and receive support during emergencies. Campaigns will be conducted to raise awareness about the importance of gender equality and the specific needs of women and vulnerable groups in disaster preparedness and resilience efforts. By addressing these barriers, the project empowers women and vulnerable groups to take an active role in building community resilience, ensuring that their needs and perspectives are considered in all interventions.

A1.2.3 Promote local knowledge generation, documentation and peer-to-peer learning systems.

72. Facilitating communication among farmers, extension workers, and researchers is essential for integrating research ideas into practice. This activity will involve capturing best practices and local traditional knowledge, engaging local universities and researchers, and organizing short-term courses, workshops, and seminars for various stakeholders. Exchange visits among CPCs, Farmers' Clubs (FCs), and individual project participants will be facilitated to promote knowledge sharing. These efforts will allow communities to draw inspiration from one another, build networks, and continuously learn and adopt innovative and effective climate resilience strategies. This activity also includes conducting a Baseline Study, a Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) survey, an endline assessment, M&E activities, as well as potential research activities (to be further defined during Full Proposal development).
73. By systematically monitoring and evaluating the project's impact, stakeholders can make informed adjustments to strategies and interventions, ensuring that they remain effective and relevant.
74. Policy dialogues will be conducted with duty bearers from AGRITEX, EMA, Local authorities, and other CPU members, and policy briefs will be produced to inform the review and formulation of CCA policies, plans or strategies. These policy briefs will be submitted to the parliamentary portfolio on climate change through relevant authorities. Dissemination workshops will

be held mid-term and at the end of the project to share findings and lessons learned, ensuring transparency and continuous learning throughout the project lifecycle. Regular reporting and feedback mechanisms will ensure that all stakeholders are kept informed of progress and challenges, fostering a culture of accountability and continuous improvement. Documentation and dissemination of successful practices will be a key component of this activity, ensuring that knowledge is accessible to a wider audience.

Component 2 – Enhancing Climate Resilience of Physical and Natural Assets.

75. Climate change poses a significant threat to the physical and natural assets of rural communities in eastern Manicaland and northeastern Masvingo. Infrastructure such as homes, schools, and water systems are often not designed to withstand extreme weather events, leaving communities vulnerable to damage and disruption. Similarly, natural assets like water sources and agricultural lands are increasingly at risk from droughts, floods, and other climate impacts.
76. Based on the consultations undertaken at the district level (see section H), the priorities identified point to the need of enhancing the resilience of critical local infrastructure and natural assets to climate-induced extreme weather events, covered by the second component. This involves upgrading and reinforcing existing structures to ensure they can withstand the impacts of climate change, thereby protecting the lives and livelihoods of community members. Activities under this component will include establishing and strengthening emergency shelters that cater to the specific needs of women and children, implementing adaptive measures for disaster preparedness at both farm and community levels, and climate-proofing water and sanitation facilities. The project will also focus on establishing disaster-proof food storage systems to ensure food security during and after climate-related events. By investing in resilient infrastructure and natural asset management, this component seeks to reduce the vulnerability of communities to climate impacts and ensure that essential services and resources are maintained even during extreme weather events. Strengthening the physical and natural assets of these communities not only provides immediate protection but also supports long-term sustainable development and resilience.
77. In previous projects, DAPP-Zimbabwe collaborated with AGRITEX, under the auspices of the Min. of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, and Rural Development and Zimbabwe National Water Authority, in improving rural communities' access to water for drinking, household use, and for their livestock. In Mutasa, Chipinge, and Chimanimani districts in Manicaland Province, under the WASH project, DAPP-Zimbabwe installed 20 climate-proofed solar powered boreholes that benefited more than 2,000 households. In Chipinge, Chimanimani, Bikita and Masvingo, the Environmental Management Agency is collaborating with the Food and Agriculture Organization in implementing a Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes **with support** from the Global Environment Facility. The Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes aims to a) foster resilience of production systems in drylands; **b) promote restoration and rehabilitation;** and c) improve livelihoods through a comprehensive landscape approach.
78. Key indicators under this component are ¹⁰⁹: (a) # of emergency shelters that are strengthened and/or rehabilitated and considered disaster-proof (*target: 40 emergency shelters*); (b) % of emergency shelters that are providing safe space for women and children (*target: 100%*); (c) total ha of farm-land brought under protection for flooding and storms (*target: 2,000 ha*); (d) # of food storage systems that are strengthened and/or rehabilitated and considered disaster-proof (*target: 10 at ward level; 20 at village level*); (e) # of public institutions that have flood-proofed sanitation facilities (*target: 80 schools and/or community centers*).

Outcome 2: Communities Strengthen and Sustain Climate-Resilient Infrastructure and Natural Systems

Output 2.1: Community-prioritized infrastructure is built or upgraded for climate resilience

79. The physical infrastructure in many rural communities is not designed to withstand extreme weather events, making them highly susceptible to damage and disruption. This output focuses on establishing and strengthening emergency shelters and reinforcing natural protective systems such as riverbeds. By equipping shelters with essential supplies and implementing climate-proofing measures for water and sanitation facilities, the project reduces the risk of infrastructure failure during disasters. This ensures that communities have safe havens during emergencies and access to clean water and sanitation, which are crucial for health and survival.
 80. Decisions on which community infrastructure interventions to prioritize will be determined by the communities themselves, as outlined in the Community-Based Emergency Response and Adaptation Plans. These plans will be developed through participatory processes facilitated by the locally established CPCs.
- #### **A2.1.1 Co-design and upgrade emergency shelters that account for the safety and specific needs of women and children.**
81. This activity focuses on enhancing the safety and resilience of community infrastructure by establishing or reinforcing emergency shelters, coordinated by the CPCs (local structure). Locally available materials and local labour will be prioritized to improve the infrastructure. Existing buildings such as schools, churches, and other public facilities will be retrofitted/strengthened to serve as emergency shelters during extreme weather events. These structures will be strengthened

¹⁰⁹ Indicators and targets are tentative, and will further be developed and validated during the Full Proposal stage.

to withstand severe climate impacts, ensuring they provide reliable protection. The shelters will be equipped with essential supplies to support the needs of the community during emergencies. These supplies include first aid kits, radios for communication, conserved food, tents, and sanitary products. Special attention will be given to creating safe spaces for women and children, who are often the most vulnerable during disasters.

A2.1.2 Implement farm- and community-level adaptive measures for disaster preparedness.

82. This activity aims to enhance the disaster preparedness of farms and communities through the implementation of small-scale adaptive measures. Reinforcing natural protective systems such as riverbeds helps to mitigate the impact of flooding and soil erosion. Additionally, simple protective measures on farms, such as creating swales (shallow channels to redirect water) and planting windbreaker trees, will be implemented to protect crops and soil from wind and water damage. These practices not only protect the immediate environment but also enhance long-term agricultural productivity and sustainability. This activity also includes strengthening and climate-proofing food reserves at district and ward levels, where applicable and/or needed, as well as establishing or enhancing village-level storage systems. The storage systems will be able to protect food supplies from damage caused by extreme weather events. The village-level food reserve will be managed through a locally led approach by empowering community members to oversee storage, distribution, and replenishment processes through inclusive committees that ensure transparency, local ownership, and culturally appropriate practices. These locally-managed reserves will be coordinated with strategic reserves currently managed by the Grain Marketing Board (GMB).
83. Efforts will also be made to promote improved household-level storage methods. Training will be provided on best practices for food storage, including the use of airtight containers, cool and dry storage conditions, and pest control measures.

A2.1.3 Climate-proofing of water and sanitation facilities.

84. Ensuring access to clean water and sanitation is crucial for community health and resilience, particularly in the aftermath of disasters (floods and droughts). This activity focuses on strengthening and/or establishing clean drinking water solutions, including the rehabilitation of water points and the provision of water purification methods such as filters and chlorine. Training will be provided to local water point committees, with a strong emphasis on women's participation, to manage and maintain these water systems effectively. This includes technical training on system operation, routine maintenance, and water quality monitoring. Additionally, flood-proofing of latrines at schools and other communal facilities will be undertaken to prevent contamination during flooding events.

Component 3 – Improving Climate-Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security

85. Agricultural communities in eastern Manicaland and northeastern Masvingo are heavily reliant on climate-sensitive farming practices, making them particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Droughts, unpredictable rainfall patterns, and extreme weather events threaten food security and livelihoods, exacerbating poverty and instability in these regions.
86. The third component of the project focuses on improving climate-resilient livelihoods and food security through the adoption of climate-resilient agricultural (CRA) practices, sustainable land management (SLM), and diversified income-generating activities (IGAs). By enhancing the resilience of community water resources, promoting climate-resilient agricultural systems, and supporting the development of climate-resilient enterprises, this component aims to build a more robust and adaptable local agricultural sector. Key activities under this component will include identifying and implementing small-scale water solutions for agriculture, establishing and promoting small-scale irrigation systems, and supporting the establishment of Farmers' Clubs and Village Cooperatives. The project will also establish Climate Change Action Centres (CCACs) and Demonstration/Communal Plots for CRA, providing farmers with hands-on training and access to innovative farming techniques. In addition to agricultural improvements, the project will promote diversified IGAs such as beekeeping, fish farming, and integrated livestock. These activities will provide additional income sources and enhance food security, reducing the vulnerability of communities to climate shocks. This component will not only improve food security and improved economic stability for rural households but also contribute to the overall resilience and development of the communities.
87. The proposed project will capitalize on DAPP's accumulated experience in implementing locally-led development programs over decades, delivering community-led resilience building interventions in CCA and disaster risk management. With the Farmers' Club Model, DAPP-Zimbabwe addressed the intersecting challenges of climate, health, gender, food security and agricultural livelihoods for rural people in Zimbabwe. DAPP has implemented Farmers' Clubs for over twenty-eight years, reaching over 27,200 smallholder farmers. Farmers' Clubs enabled the adoption of CRA practices, improved livelihoods, reduced malnutrition by increasing agricultural products, as well as preserving the environment and natural resources.
88. The Farmers' Club model promoted by DAPP is aligned with the LLA principles in key ways:
- **Local Ownership and Empowerment:** The model emphasizes organizing farmers into self-managed groups, enabling them to identify their own challenges and solutions. This fosters local ownership and strengthens decision-making at the grassroots level.

- **Participatory Planning and Action:** Farmers are actively involved in designing and implementing agricultural practices, climate-smart techniques, and income-generating activities. This participatory approach ensures that adaptation actions are community-driven.
- **Strengthening Local Institutions:** By building farmers' capacity and establishing community-based structures, the model reinforces local institutions that are essential for long-term resilience and sustainability.
- **Equity and Inclusion:** The model intentionally includes vulnerable groups such as women, PLWD and smallholder farmers, promoting equitable participation in planning and benefit-sharing.
- **Building Local Knowledge:** The Farmers' Club encourages knowledge exchange among farmers and integrates indigenous practices with new techniques, enhancing local adaptive capacity through context-specific learning.

89. Key output indicators under this component are¹¹⁰: (a) # of water solutions identified and implemented (*target: 80 climate-resilient, small-scale water solutions are established*); (b) # of farmer organizations supported and strengthened (*target: 80 farmers' clubs organized, strengthened and operational as cooperatives by project end, with at least 50% women in management positions*); (c) total ha of farmland brought under climate-resilient agricultural practices (*target: 4,000 ha*); (d) # of people that have improved food security at project's end (disaggregated by sex) (*target: 16,000 people, of which 50% women*); (e) # of households that have increased their household income as a result of project activities (head of households disaggregated by sex) (*target: 3,000 households, of which 25% female-headed*).

Outcome 3: Local Livelihoods and Food Systems are more Equitable, and Climate-Resilient

Output 3.1: Community water resources are more climate-resilient and are community-managed with equitable access.

90. Water scarcity and unreliable water sources are significant vulnerabilities for agricultural communities, especially in the face of changing climate patterns. This output addresses these vulnerabilities by identifying and implementing small-scale water solutions, such as rainwater capture systems, boreholes, and irrigation systems. Training farmers and community members in the operation and maintenance of these systems ensures sustainable water management, which is essential for agricultural productivity and food security.

A3.1.1 Identify and implement community-selected small-scale water solutions for improved irrigation.

91. The project will conduct comprehensive and participatory assessments to identify the most viable and context-relevant small-scale water solutions for each target area. These assessments will consider factors such as local hydrology, soil type, and community needs. Potential solutions may include rainwater capture systems, boreholes, and small channels from nearby rivers. Once suitable water solutions are identified, the project will proceed with the installation and implementation of these systems. Training will be provided to farmers and community members on the operation and maintenance (O&M) of these water systems, including topics such as system installation, water conservation techniques, and routine maintenance tasks. This activity also focuses on establishing and promoting small-scale irrigation systems, by setting up irrigation systems at the demonstration plots (A3.2.3), which will serve as practical learning sites where farmers can observe the benefits of irrigation methods and receive hands-on training. Training sessions will be organized to educate farmers on the O&M of these irrigation systems. Farmers will learn how to install the systems on their own fields, manage water distribution efficiently, and perform regular maintenance to ensure optimal performance. The training will also cover best practices for irrigating different types of crops and managing irrigation schedules based on crop needs and weather conditions. In addition to technical training, the project will work to identify and facilitate access to financial solutions that enable farmers to implement irrigation systems independently. This may involve connecting farmers with microfinance institutions, providing information on available grants or subsidies, and supporting the formation of savings groups within the community.

A3.1.2 Support locally-managed groundwater recharge actions.

92. This activity aims to replenish and sustain groundwater resources, which are crucial for agricultural activities and domestic water supply in the target areas. The project will begin by conducting participatory assessments to identify suitable locations for groundwater recharge interventions. These assessments will consider factors such as aquifer characteristics, surface topography, soil infiltration rates, water uses and demands across the community to ensure solutions are technically viable and socially inclusive. Once potential recharge sites are identified, the project will implement various groundwater recharge techniques. These may include the construction of check dams, and recharge pits/shafts. These structures will be strategically located near water sources, such as rivers or streams that tend to flood, to maximize the capture and infiltration of water during periods of flood or high flow. In addition to implementing physical structures, the project will also promote soil and water conservation practices that enhance groundwater recharge (contour bunding, trenching, and afforestation). Training and capacity-building programs will be conducted for community members and local authorities on the O&M of groundwater recharge structures. Participants will learn about monitoring water levels, managing recharge rates, and maintaining the structures to ensure their long-term effectiveness.

¹¹⁰ Indicators and targets are tentative, and will further be developed and validated during the Full Proposal stage.

Output 3.2: Inclusive and climate-resilient agricultural systems are strengthened and led by local actors.

93. Climate change disproportionately affects women and marginalized groups, who often have less access to resources and decision-making processes. This output aims to strengthen agricultural systems by establishing Farmers' Organizations and Village Cooperatives, ensuring that women and vulnerable groups are actively involved and supported. By promoting integrated farming systems and providing extension support, the project enhances the resilience of agricultural practices, enabling farmers to adapt to changing climate conditions and sustain their livelihoods.

A3.2.1 Establish and operate Climate Change Action Centres (CCACs) to demonstrate CRA and Integrated Farming Systems run by local champions and groups.

94. This activity focuses on creating CCACs that serve as hubs for innovation and best practices in CRA, and integrated farming systems. The CCACs will be established, as applicable, at existing public facilities, and will be located in the vicinity of the targeted communities. One CCAs will be established in each District. These centers will establish extended model fields incorporating a range of integrated farming systems, including crop production, animal husbandry, fish farming, bee keeping, mushroom production, and irrigation, among others. By demonstrating the synergies between these different farming practices, the centers will showcase effective techniques for maximizing productivity while enhancing resilience to climate change. The CCACs will host open days and site visits to facilitate knowledge exchange and learning among farmers. These events will provide opportunities for farmers to observe successful farming practices in action, interact with experts, and learn from their peers. Each center will consist of demonstration plots, training facilities, and resource centers where farmers can access information, tools, and support. The centers will also host workshops and training sessions on various topics, such as soil health, water management, pest control, and sustainable farming practices.

95. CCACs will play a crucial role in developing effective decision-making related to CCA by providing a platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and participatory processes. These centers will help to bridge the gap between scientific research and practical implementation, ensuring that decisions are informed, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of communities and farmers.

A3.2.3 Support Farmers Clubs in planning and implementing CRA and Integrated Farming Systems.

96. This activity will firstly focus on establishing and operationalizing Farmers' Clubs (FCs) – 4,000 farmers will be organized in 80 FCs. The FCs consist of 50 members each, subdivided into 5 core groups of 10, with a respective lead farmer each. The 5 lead farmers are elected by the member farmers, and together they will form the FC Committee. The FC committee will receive specific trainings in administration, bookkeeping, planning and organizational management, and will subsequently take charge of organizing all other member-farmers in their core groups according to the project's activity calendar, ensuring farmers' participation in all trainings and activities. The FC model allows for easy access for extension workers, who are able to reach 50 farmers at once, instead of individually. Project staff will conduct the mobilization of farmers, trainings of the committees, technical trainings of farmers, and will provide operational support throughout the 4 years of the project. For each FC, the project will establish a demonstration plot, which will showcase effective practices and technologies, such as CRA and SLM practices, including conservation agriculture, agroforestry, efficient water management systems, and integrated farming approaches. Technically, practices will include, among others, land preparation, potholing for water retention, simple rain retention techniques, sustainable irrigation with solar-powered drip systems, composting, the application of organic inputs, nursery preparation, transplanting, conservation practices, crop rotation, and Zaï techniques for water retention and improved cereal growth. This activity also includes providing extension support to individual farmers. Extension officers and project staff will work closely with farmers to implement CRA practices. Extension officers will provide ongoing technical assistance, monitor progress, and help farmers address any challenges they encounter. The project will develop ICT4D tools to handle crop and livestock emergencies, as well as generate and disseminate knowledge on tried-and-true innovative crop and animal management, to assist smallholder farmers to proactively protect their crops and livestock from climate-related diseases.

A3.2.3 Promote locally appropriate integrated livestock/fish farming.

97. This activity focuses on promoting integrated livestock and fish farming practices, which combine different farming activities to optimize resource use and reduce risk. The project will provide pass-on loans or gifts for small livestock, such as chickens, goats, and rabbits, and facilitate linkages with organizations like AgriMarine and ZimGoats. These partnerships will provide farmers with access to high-quality livestock and technical support. Integrated livestock and fish farming practices will be promoted through training sessions at the demonstration plots and CCACs. Farmers will learn how to manage different farming activities in a way that enhances productivity and resilience. For example, fish farming can provide a reliable source of protein and income, while livestock can contribute to soil fertility and crop production through manure.

A3.2.4 Co-develop and sustain community gardens with attention to nutrition and inclusion.

98. This activity involves establishing small horticulture plots within villages, managed by interested farmers participating in clubs. To ensure inclusiveness (1) diverse community members will be engaged from the planning stage to ensure their needs are considered, (2) it will provide equal access to land, tools, training and harvest benefits, (3) it will incorporate accessibility

feature in its design, (4) it will offer tailored and culturally sensitive training. These community gardens will contribute to improved nutrition security by providing a reliable source of fresh produce for community members. The gardens will be planted with a variety of vegetables and fruits, ensuring a diverse and nutritious diet. Community gardens will also promote social cohesion and collective action, as farmers work together to plant, maintain, and harvest the gardens. This collaborative approach fosters a sense of community ownership and responsibility, enhancing the sustainability of the gardens. Training sessions will be provided to farmers on best practices for horticulture, including soil preparation, planting, irrigation, pest control, and harvesting. Farmers will also learn about the nutritional benefits of different crops and how to incorporate them into their diets.

Output 3.3: Increased and diversified income through the development of small-scale, climate-resilient enterprises.

99. Economic vulnerability is a significant issue for rural communities, where income sources are often limited and heavily dependent on climate-sensitive activities. This Output addresses economic vulnerability by supporting the establishment and operationalization of Village Cooperatives and micro-enterprises. By improving access to markets, financial services, and business development support, the project helps diversify income sources and promote climate-smart enterprises. Small grants and financial literacy training further empower community members to build resilient businesses, reducing their economic dependence on climate-affected sectors.

A3.3.1 Support the establishment and operationalization of inclusive Village Cooperatives and Micro-enterprises.

100. This activity aims to empower rural communities by supporting the graduation of FCs into fully operational cooperatives and/or small micro-enterprises. The transition from informal FCs to formal cooperatives will be facilitated through a series of training sessions and capacity-building activities. These will cover essential aspects of cooperative management, including governance, financial management, and operational planning. The project will also encourage the formation of micro-enterprises by sub-sets of farmers' clubs or women's groups. These enterprises will be supported to operate climate-resilient and environment-positive practices, contributing to both economic resilience and environmental sustainability. The project will facilitate cooperatives and micro-enterprises to improve their access to markets, value-chain integration, and financial services. Capacity-building workshops will be organized to provide FCs/Cooperatives with the necessary skills in financial literacy, business planning, and market analysis. To enhance financial inclusion, the project will facilitate savings group schemes and improve access to banking services. This includes establishing partnerships with local financial institutions to provide tailored financial products, such as microloans and savings accounts, that meet the specific needs of rural farmers and entrepreneurs.

A3.3.2 Provide flexible, locally-managed small grants for climate-resilient micro-enterprises and cooperatives.

101. In collaboration with a local bank (to be identified during Full Proposal stage), this activity will establish and manage a grant scheme designed to support climate-resilient businesses. Small grants will be provided to cooperatives and micro-enterprises to help them establish and expand their operations. These grants will cover critical start-up costs, such as purchasing equipment, raw materials, and initial operating expenses, as well as scaling activities like expanding production capacity or entering new markets. The grant scheme will be administered through a transparent and accountable process, ensuring that funds are allocated efficiently and equitably. Criteria for grant eligibility will include the demonstration of climate-resilient business practices and the potential for significant social and economic impact. By providing crucial financial support, these small grants help overcome barriers to business development that many rural entrepreneurs face. The grants will enable cooperatives and micro-enterprises to implement innovative solutions, improve their competitiveness, and achieve financial sustainability.

102. The small grants system will be designed to integrate the Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) principles by embedding community ownership, inclusivity, flexibility, and accountability into every stage. Particularly the system will: (1) ensure that the grant proposals are aligned with locally identified priorities (community adaptation plans or district-level disaster management plans); (2) involve local committees in the selection/evaluation of grant proposals to foster transparency and local ownership; (3) design criteria and outreach strategies that enable access for vulnerable groups and support them with proposal development and technical assistance; (4) allow for adaptable budgets and timelines that reflect local realities and changing climate conditions; (5) integrate training and mentoring to help communities manage funds, implement projects, and monitor outcomes effectively; (6) make reporting and feedback mechanisms community-friendly; (7) value traditional knowledge and community-led innovations as valid bases for adaptation action.

B. Economic, Social and Environmental Benefits

103. The project's design promotes activities that are compatible with the ecological and socio-economic context of communities and smallholder farmers in Manicaland and Masvingo province, as well as the Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and with the Gender Policy (GP) of the Adaptation Fund. To mitigate potential negative impacts of the interventions, an

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, and a Gender analysis will be developed during the development of the full proposal document, together with a Gender Action Plan and a gender sensitive grievance redress mechanism.

104. The diverse impacts of climate change in the project's target areas, such as droughts and floods, worsen water scarcity and disaster risk, placing more domestic burdens on women and girls than on men. The primary beneficiaries of the project are rural communities, mainly residing in communal areas, who are particularly vulnerable to climate change and variability.
105. The project will take a gender-responsive approach, which will involve tailored consultations that engage women groups, and include beneficiaries of at least 50% women and 25% youth, who are disproportionately affected by climate change. Specific benefits are discussed below and include the following.

Economic benefits.

106. Diversifying cropping systems as part of CSA and intercropping reduces the risk of total crop failure from extreme weather events. Similarly, engaging in alternative livelihoods (e.g., agroforestry, aquaculture) and therefore diversifying income sources through the promotion of integrated farming systems, and micro-enterprise creation and coaching, reduces dependency on a single source of income, providing financial stability during climate-related disruptions.
107. Improved Water Management practices: practices like rainwater harvesting which provide a reliable water source during dry periods and efficient irrigation systems reduce water usage, ensuring a stable water supply for crops and livestock. These will reduce the risk of crop failure and subsequent economic losses and food insecurity.
108. Promoting access to resources: Ensuring access to seeds, tools, and other resources necessary for climate-resilient farming enhances the ability of farmers to adapt and thrive despite changing conditions. Additionally, reducing input cost through conservation farming increases soil organic matter and reduces fertilizer use, lowers production costs, and becomes more economically efficient, saving more water and preventing its loss, creating a healthy environment for livestock, and maintaining the environmental services. Increased agricultural activities resulting from climate-smart and organic farming support, capacity development and the inputs for pest, disease, drought and heat-tolerant crop and livestock varieties promote as well as increased income flows.
109. Reducing the potential loss of assets and improving livelihood security: through the implementation of activities which will promote the implementation of farm and community-level adaptive measures for disaster preparedness, the project will analyze the potential risks of climate-induced disasters and define and implement mitigation measures, therefore reducing the impact on physical assets in the event of a disaster and subsequent economic losses. Economic benefits also come in the form of deferred costs which communities will cease to incur because of the project. The communities will realize economic benefits by being more food secure even when periods of droughts occur, as they utilize EWS and climate smart activities. By adopting technologies proposed in this program, communities can realize higher yields with less inputs resulting in increased farm profits. The communities will become self-reliant and reduce dependence on Government food assistance. In this regard, communities become more resilient with diversified livelihoods.
110. CRA impacts on income: The target districts are home to close to one million people (943,816, according to 2002 census). With the support of the project, a total of 170,000 men and women (at least 50%) including children are expected to benefit from improved livelihoods brought about by the agricultural, disaster preparedness, and value chain related activities. The introduction of CRA practices can be expected to significantly increase yields, thereby also improving food and nutrition security, as well as generating income from selling surplus produce. The savings groups and promotion of income generation activities along the value chains will equally generate economic benefits for the project participants.
111. Increased individual and organizational capacities: The project will build technical capacities among the project participants that are lasting and will have a continued benefit at the community level, hence creating long-term socio-economic benefits. To further encompass the benefits gained by communities and farmers, the strengthening of FOs will allow for farmers to benefit from aggregating their production as well as the purchase of inputs, and from having capacities that will allow for access to credit and funds as required for further investments. Informal credit and saving groups within the FOs will also facilitate access to credit where necessary which may provide further benefits to farmers and communities. The overall empowerment of participants will improve peoples' sense of dignity and self-worth. To ensure that capacity building activities target structural barriers, a structural barrier analysis will be conducted at full proposal stage, additionally the project will engage vulnerable groups in designing capacity building activities to ensure that a meaningful participation takes place.
112. Climate-informed decision-making: The project will enhance awareness of CC, as well as access to climate information and EWS, which will lead to better-informed decision-making for production and for the protection of assets. Enhanced planning capacities will allow better livelihood resilience. Additionally, the active participation of farmers and communities in joint activities and local organizational structures will strengthen the cohesion of communities and the coordination and integration between stakeholders.
113. Women's economic empowerment and employment generation: The adaptation initiative supports the development of best practices to support women's economic empowerment. Other indirect vulnerable beneficiaries include children/youths, the

elderly and people living with disability, and other downstream communities, who will gain employment and other benefits through value chain linkages with direct beneficiaries of the project.

Social benefits

114. Increased social capital and community empowerment- Community cohesion will also be enhanced through communal decision-making processes which will be implemented by the project. The quality of decision-making will also improve with increased participation of women and young people thereby ensuring the sustainability of project interventions across generations. Involving communities in disaster preparedness planning through community-based emergency response plans and community adaptation action plans (CAAPs), fosters ownership, agency, local knowledge sharing, collective action, and social cohesion, strengthening overall community resilience. Community agency will be improved through the operationalization of CPCs and Village Development Committees (VIDCOs). To ensure equal participation of all groups the project makes provisions for addressing gender barriers that hinder women and vulnerable groups' meaningful participation. For instance, as per consultations, the project will adapt materials and activities to ensure the participation and meaningful integration of PLWD:
115. EWS: Implementing last-mile EWS, and improving dissemination and messaging for extreme weather events allows for a timely evacuation and preparation, reducing loss of life and property.
116. Gender-responsive approach: The project will be gender-sensitive and responsive, in compliance with the National¹¹¹ and AF's Gender Policy and Action Plan. In consultation with women and girls, the project will take affirmative actions to reduce discriminative behaviour and address women-specific vulnerabilities (e.g. ensuring women's protection in emergency shelters). A gender action plan for the project will be developed, building upon the existing Zimbabwe CC Gender Action Plan. The development of the full proposal will scope the gender differences in preferred alternative livelihoods and ensure that resources are appropriately distributed such that equitable benefits accrue to both women and men.
117. Women and youth economic empowerment: The project will strengthen the position of women in society, taking concrete measures for the participation of women in decision-making, increasing their knowledge and capacities through training, inputs and across all project activities, women will be put at the core of implementation and it will demonstrate and reinforce their importance in the farmer organizations. Agriculture is more likely than other sectors to provide diverse opportunities for empowering women. Experiences with similar projects¹¹² show that more than 50 % of participants in agricultural activities within the project are women, and in savings group structures the vast majority are women entrepreneurs.
118. Gender equity promotion: The project will enhance gender equity and the benefits for women and youth. The project will implicitly and explicitly address the community norms and promote gender equity in the target population and entities with which the project works. All services provided to the community will be based on the specific needs and will support community livelihood needs, independent of whether they are male or female. The different project activities will be culturally sensitive and consistent, promote non-sexist language, encourage the participation of female and male, young people and adults, and provide the same opportunities based on particular needs. Through a gender focus, the project seeks to implement activities aiming at real equity between females, males, young people and elders when it comes to decisions related to livelihood and access to information. The integration of gender as a cross-cutting issue will promote equality and positive discrimination to compensate for the historic inequality between men and women. Particular attention will be given to the specific needs of women and of men, specific risks linked to activities or tasks originally defined as female or male, and ensuring women and children's protection through the enhancement and establishment of emergency shelters which will take specific needs of vulnerable groups as a core consideration in the design and provision of supplies.
119. Improved human health outcomes: improved awareness of nutrition and health will be sought under the development of a comprehensive communication strategy and indirectly under the activities related to disaster preparedness. Activities designed under Output 2.1 will ensure that communities have safe havens during emergencies and access to clean water and sanitation, which are crucial for health and survival. The interventions geared towards climate-proofing water and sanitation facilities will contribute to ensuring access to clean water and sanitation which is crucial for community health and resilience, particularly in the aftermath of disasters (floods and droughts).
120. Increased food security and water availability - The project focuses on increasing and diversifying crop and livestock production including small livestock that are more climate resilient. Activities under Component 3 promote both increased diversified production, including nutritious vegetables, climate-resilient grains, and fruit trees, which lead to improved diets and nutrition. Organized community gardens can supplement food security and provide an opportunity for communities to earn a better living. Few women in project areas own small livestock such as chicken, goats, sheep, and other small ruminants as a form of livelihood and household food source, while older men usually own most of the cattle. The promotion of small livestock and the proper management of grazing areas through the project, benefits both men and women. Water harvesting, boreholes and climate-smart irrigation techniques will result in greater water conservation and availability for households and

¹¹¹ 2023-2030 National Strategy To Prevent And Address Gender Based Violence and the National Gender Policy (2013-2017)

¹¹² Data sourced from DAPP experience

agricultural use. The burden of fetching water and searching for food is reduced on the women and youth, giving them more time to participate in other productive and community development activities and programmes. Through the establishment or strengthening of disaster-proof storage systems, ensuring that in the event of a climatic shock like expected drought or flooding events, food supplies will be protected from damage caused by extreme events such as floods, droughts, high temperatures the communities can access food for a period of time to allow for recovery. This will be complemented with training on food storage best practices.

121. Increased knowledge on climate change, climate risks and responses: The climate change awareness raising meetings and the training on climate change adaptation and food security creates room for a well-informed community-based planning process facilitating concrete resilience and adaptation. Furthermore, the climate change awareness meetings increase knowledge and empower women and youths with information on climate risks and responses making them important change agents. Representation of women, youth, PLWD and other vulnerable groups ensures that all community members can voice their perspectives during adaptation planning meetings.

Environmental benefits

122. Adoption of CRA practices: The adoption of CRA affects the ecosystem services of the surrounding environment and mitigates the environmental damage of traditional agricultural activities by relying on eco-friendly methods. Conservation farming helps keep soils from eroding, preserve land fertility, and improve water infiltration and retention capacity, contributing to ecosystem resilience. Climate-smart water management conserves water supplies by optimizing consumption, while rainwater harvesting and irrigation practices introduced and promoted will lead to an improved water resource use, critical in target areas due to current water scarcity and drought risk. Organic farming and Integrated Pest Management reduce the need for harmful chemical treatments, minimizing pollution and harmful effects to biodiversity. Food and nutrition security in the face of CC will be improved, which will reduce the need for the communities to fall back on environmentally negative coping practices such as unsustainable management and exploitation of forest resources and indigenous natural resources.
123. Soil Management Practices: Techniques such as no-till farming, cover cropping, and mulching improve soil health and water retention, making crops more resilient to droughts and heavy rainfall.
124. Flood-proofed sanitation facilities reduce the risk of sewage contamination in water bodies during floods, improving public and environmental health. By making emergency shelters and food storage facilities disaster-proof, the project minimizes the destruction of buildings and contamination of the environment from construction debris, spoiled food, or hazardous materials.

C. Cost-Effectiveness of the Proposed Project/Programme

125. The project's cost-effectiveness is rooted in its comprehensive and integrated approach, leveraging existing community structures such as CPCs, and establishing simple structures that have proven to work in the target areas (CCACs, FCs). By focusing on community-based and locally-led approaches, the project ensures that interventions are both cost-effective and sustainable. Training and equipping these local committees enhance their ability to manage disasters and implement adaptation strategies, ensuring that resources are used efficiently and effectively. By focusing on community-driven initiatives and leveraging local resources, the project minimizes costs while maximizing impact. Additionally, building on local structures enhances sustainability and self-sufficiency.
126. The project promotes the use of cost-effective adaptation measures such as small-scale water solutions, climate-resilient agricultural practices, and integrated farming systems. These interventions are designed to be low-cost yet highly effective in improving resilience and productivity. For example, rainwater capture systems, boreholes, and small irrigation channels are relatively inexpensive to implement but provide significant benefits in terms of water security and agricultural productivity. The project leverages well-established climate-resilient agricultural practices, such as conservation agriculture and agroforestry, which have been shown to enhance soil health, increase yields, and improve water retention. Additionally, the implementation of EWS and community-based disaster risk management strategies builds on existing models that have proven effective in reducing vulnerability and enhancing preparedness. By utilizing these tried-and-tested approaches, the project ensures that resources are directed towards interventions with a high likelihood of success, optimizing the cost-benefit ratio.
127. By integrating traditional and local knowledge with modern technologies, the project enhances the effectiveness of its interventions. Traditional knowledge about local environmental conditions and historical responses to climate variability is invaluable for designing relevant and practical adaptation measures. This knowledge, when combined with modern technologies such as improved water management systems and climate-resilient crop varieties, creates a robust framework for addressing climate challenges. For example, local techniques for soil conservation and water harvesting can be enhanced with scientific methods, ensuring that interventions are both culturally appropriate and technologically advanced. This blended approach ensures that the project leverages the strengths of both traditional wisdom and modern innovation, thereby optimizing resource use and improving outcomes.

128. The project also emphasizes knowledge sharing and capacity building, which could create economies of scale. Facilitating knowledge exchange among farmers, extension workers, and researchers ensures that best practices are widely disseminated, reducing the need for repeated training sessions and workshops. This collaborative approach harnesses the collective expertise of local and external stakeholders, leading to more efficient and effective implementation of adaptation strategies.
129. The project will be implemented by local organizations (DAPP, and local authorities). This local implementation is both cost-effective and contextually appropriate. Local organizations have a deep understanding of the specific challenges and needs of the communities they serve, ensuring that interventions are well-tailored and culturally relevant. Moreover, local implementation reduces costs associated with international project management, such as higher administrative expenses and logistical complexities. By relying on local expertise and infrastructure, the project not only ensures cost savings but also fosters local ownership and sustainability, leading to more enduring impacts.
130. Additionally, a small grants system, managed by a local financial institution, will be designed to reflect the LLA principles. The system will: (1) align grants with locally identified priorities; (2) involve local committees in proposal evaluation to ensure transparency; (3) support vulnerable groups through inclusive criteria and technical assistance; (4) allow flexible budgets and timelines responsive to local conditions; (5) provide training to strengthen fund management and project implementation; (6) use community-friendly reporting tools; and (7) recognize traditional knowledge and local innovation as valid foundations for adaptation.
131. In summary, the project's design ensures cost-effectiveness through community-based approaches, cost-efficient adaptation measures, and leveraging local capacities and knowledge. By building on existing structures and promoting sustainable practices, the project reduces costs while enhancing the long-term resilience and adaptive capacity of rural communities. During the full proposal development, a detailed cost-effectiveness study of concrete adaptation activities will be conducted, and the findings will be incorporated into the activity budget and quantification to ensure optimal resource allocation.

D. Consistency with National and Sub-National Development and Climate Strategies

132. The project in eastern Manicaland and northeastern Masvingo is designed to align closely with Zimbabwe's national development policies and climate strategies, as follows:

Alignment with National Development Strategies.

133. Zimbabwe's development plans, including the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1 - 2021-2025), emphasize the importance of achieving a green and clean environment by 2030, as outlined in Vision 2030. NDS1 specifically amplifies actions for adapting to climate change, including setting targets for protecting and promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable forest management, combating desertification, halting land degradation, and preventing biodiversity loss. The project aligns with these documents in the aim to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters, improve education and awareness, increase adaptation capacity, and strengthen EWS.
134. The Zimbabwe Agriculture Investment Plan (2017-21) aims to facilitate sustainable increases in agricultural production and competitiveness. The draft National Agriculture Policy Framework (2018-30) focuses on improving productivity, diversification, financing, and integrating climate change into all aspects of agriculture. The new climate-smart agriculture policy emphasizes adopting climate-hardy farming practices, and a manual on Climate Smart Agriculture for Professional level Agriculture Education in Zimbabwe has been produced. The proposed project is designed to support these national policies and strategies, enhancing climate resilience and sustainable development in rural Zimbabwe.
135. The project also aligns with the Disaster Risk Management and Response Policy, which outlines strategies for reducing disaster risks and enhancing emergency preparedness. By building the capacities of CPCs, establishing EWS, and developing community-based emergency response plans, the project supports national efforts to strengthen disaster risk management, reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience.

Alignment with National Climate Strategies.

136. The Government of Zimbabwe has developed several guiding policies to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and increase resilience through sustainable environmental management.
137. The Third National Communication (TNC) to the UNFCCC, published in 2017, highlights examples of effective CCA strategies. The proposed project aligns with the lessons learned, and with the revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that prioritize addressing issues like insufficient water availability, sustainable agriculture, natural resource management, and EWS. Specifically on the need to implement adaptation strategies across various sectors, the proposed project aligns with the revised NDC priorities on addressing factors such as insufficient water availability, poverty, reliance on rainfed agriculture, high population growth, gender issues, and inadequate EWS.
138. The project aligns with the National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS) (2014) for a climate-resilient nation and aim to mainstream CCA and mitigation strategies into national and sectoral development plans.

139. The proposed project is strongly aligned with Zimbabwe's National Climate Policy of 2017, which provides a comprehensive framework to guide the country's climate resilience and low-carbon development efforts. The Policy aims to strengthen EWS, enhance drought management frameworks, and support agriculture-based livelihoods to ensure national food security and poverty alleviation. By integrating climate-resilient agricultural practices, promoting sustainable water management solutions, and building the capacity of local institutions such as CPCs and FCs, the project directly supports the Policy's objectives.
140. National Drought Plan for Zimbabwe (2020) establishes a framework for Zimbabwe to conduct an effective, coordinated and appropriate response to drought that minimizes potential adverse impacts. The project will seek to contribute to recommendation (3) on enhancement of cooperation and coordination between various stakeholders and sectors; (4) Training and capacity development in drought mitigation and preparedness including contingency plans at local level and (5) Improve drought awareness and education through public outreach.

Consistency with Subnational Strategies (provincial and district plans)-

141. The project will derive its Disaster Risk Management (DRM) priorities from district-level DRM Plans and operationalize them through the development of community-based response and adaptation plans that reflect and localize these identified priorities.
142. The **Chimanimani District DRM Plan (2023)** reveals that for priority hazards such as cyclones, floods (including storm damage), droughts, landslides, capacity gaps are largely systemic but manifest differently by hazard. *For rapid-onset hazards such as cyclones, floods, and landslides*, there is a shortage of suitably trained response personnel, a lack of emergency kits and updated first-aid supplies, and an acute need for 4x4 vehicles and other transport to support evacuation and relief in the district's rugged terrain. *For drought*, critical gaps include the rehabilitation of boreholes, expansion of water-harvesting and micro-irrigation infrastructure (especially solar-powered systems), and the development of income-generating projects to underpin household resilience. *Across all hazards*, overarching constraints—insufficient funding, inadequate training, a lack of pre-positioned relief materials (tents and other NFIs), weak ward disaster-management committees, and poor stakeholder coordination—hamper the implementation of comprehensive DRM strategies and underscore the need for sustained capacity-building interventions. This shows the alignment of the project design with the locally-identified needs and gaps in terms of DRM. Drought and Storm Damage are prioritised as the most impactful for the agriculture sector in the district. The project aligns with strategies identified (e.g. Climate-smart agriculture, Repair and rehabilitation of buildings), and the plan provides an array of solutions that could guide the decision-making processes of local structures.
143. The **Chipinge District DRM Plan (2023)** outlines both existing capacities and critical gaps in managing droughts, floods, and cyclones, and the proposed project aligns closely with these locally identified priorities. While the district has functional irrigation schemes and designated evacuation centres, key gaps remain in the form of insufficient solar-powered boreholes, non-functional irrigation infrastructure, a shortage of agricultural extension workers, limited evacuation facilities, and a lack of communication tools for emergency coordination. The project addresses these needs by supporting water management solutions expansion and rehabilitation, promoting drought-tolerant agriculture, strengthening EWS, and investing in cyclone- and flood-resilient infrastructure such as evacuation centres and warehouses for pre-positioned relief items. This alignment ensures that the project not only builds on existing capacities but also directly responds to the most pressing resource and institutional gaps identified in the DRM Plan.
144. The **Bikita District Disaster Risk Management Plan (2025)** highlights critical capacity gaps that hinder effective disaster preparedness and response, particularly in a context where livelihoods depend heavily on climate-sensitive agriculture. Key challenges include limited financial resources, inadequate community training and awareness, logistical constraints such as a lack of 4x4 vehicles, and insufficient prepositioned relief supplies. The plan also notes weak coordination among stakeholders and under-resourced ward-level disaster management committees. The proposed project aligns closely with these identified gaps by strengthening local response capacity, enhancing coordination mechanisms, improving logistical support, and supporting community-based preparedness efforts—thereby directly addressing the structural and resource deficits outlined in the DRM plan.
145. **Support from Local and National Authorities.** The project has garnered support from local and national authorities, ensuring that it complements existing initiatives and leverages government resources and expertise. Collaboration with government agencies, such as EMA and the Ministry of Agriculture, ensures that the project is well-coordinated with national efforts and benefits from technical support and guidance.
146. **Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).** The project also aligns with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including: SDG 1 (No Poverty): By improving livelihoods and food security, the project helps reduce poverty in rural communities. SDG 2 (Zero Hunger): The project promotes sustainable agriculture and enhances food security. SDG 5 (Gender Equality): By ensuring inclusive participation and addressing gender barriers, the project promotes gender equality. SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation): The project improves water management and sanitation facilities. SDG 13 (Climate Action): By building climate resilience and supporting adaptation measures, the project contributes to climate action.

147. In summary, the project's alignment with national development policies, climate strategies, local DRM plans and the SDGs ensures that it supports broader national and local goals, benefits from policy frameworks, and contributes to Zimbabwe's sustainable development and climate resilience objectives. This alignment enhances the project's relevance, effectiveness, and potential for scaling up and replication across other regions of Zimbabwe.

E. Compliance with National Technical Standards and Adaptation Fund Environmental and Social Policy

148. Compliance with national technical standards is a critical aspect of the project in eastern Manicaland and northeastern Masvingo. Ensuring that all activities adhere to relevant technical standards not only guarantees the quality and safety of interventions but also aligns the project with regulatory requirements and best practices.

149. **Adherence to Agricultural Standards.** The project will comply with national agricultural standards set by the Ministry of Agriculture and other relevant authorities. This includes the use of certified seeds, adherence to guidelines for sustainable farming practices, and compliance with pest and disease management protocols. Relevant regulations include the *Agricultural and Rural Development Authority Act* and the *Seed Act*. By following these standards, the project ensures that agricultural interventions are effective, safe, and environmentally sustainable.

150. **Water and Sanitation Standards.** Water infrastructure and sanitation facilities developed under the project will comply with national standards set by the Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) and the Ministry of Health and Child Care, as well as international standards from WHO. This includes standards for water quality, construction of water points, and the design and maintenance of sanitation facilities. Relevant regulations include the *Water Act* and the *Public Health Act*. Compliance with these standards ensures that water and sanitation interventions provide safe and reliable services to communities, reducing health risks and enhancing overall well-being.

151. **Building and Infrastructure Standards.** The construction and upgrading of infrastructure, such as emergency shelters and community centers, will adhere to national building codes and standards. This includes compliance with structural safety standards, use of approved construction materials, and adherence to guidelines for disaster-resilient building design. Relevant regulations include the *Building Standards Act* and the *Civil Protection Act*. Ensuring that infrastructure meets these standards enhances the safety and durability of buildings, providing reliable protection against extreme weather events.

152. **Environmental and Social Safeguards.** The project will adhere to environmental and social safeguards as outlined by the Environmental Management Agency (EMA), as well as AF's ESS. This includes conducting environmental impact assessments (EIAs) for major activities, implementing mitigation measures to minimize negative environmental impacts, and ensuring that project activities do not adversely affect local communities. Relevant regulations include the *Environmental Management Act* and the *National Environmental Policy and strategies*. Compliance with these safeguards ensures that the project promotes sustainable development and respects the rights and well-being of affected communities.

153. **Health and Safety Standards.** All project activities will comply with national health and safety standards to protect the well-being of project staff, beneficiaries, and community members. This includes adherence to occupational health and safety guidelines, implementation of safety protocols during construction and agricultural activities, and provision of necessary protective equipment. Relevant regulations include the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. Ensuring compliance with health and safety standards minimizes risks and enhances the overall effectiveness of project interventions.

154. **Collaboration with Regulatory Authorities.** The project will work closely with relevant regulatory authorities to ensure compliance with all applicable standards and regulations. This collaboration includes regular consultations with government agencies, obtaining necessary permits and approvals, and participating in monitoring and evaluation processes conducted by regulatory bodies. By engaging with regulatory authorities, the project ensures that it operates within the legal framework and benefits from expert guidance and oversight.

155. **Support to Local Actors.** After a thorough assessment of institutional and community-level capacities to implement project interventions, focusing on both strengths and limitations within existing systems and relevant technical standards conducted as part of the PFG activities, the proposal will include targeted recommendations for integrating capacity-building strategies, ensuring that all relevant stakeholders are prepared to support the successful and compliant execution.

156. In summary, compliance with national technical standards is integral to the success and sustainability of the project. Adhering to these standards ensures that project interventions are effective, safe, and aligned with national regulations and best practices. This compliance not only enhances the quality and impact of the project but also builds trust and support among stakeholders, contributing to the long-term resilience and development of communities in eastern Manicaland and northeastern Masvingo.

F. Synergies and Avoided Duplication

157. The project is not duplicating efforts funded by other sources. However, it has the potential to complement some pipeline projects awaiting funding. Current adaptation projects in parts of the country primarily focus on sustainable groundwater use, climate-smart livelihoods, access to climate information, climate-resilient irrigation, and water management systems.

Additionally, they emphasize integrated natural resource management, sustainable land practices, adapted crop and livestock development, and farming practices such as breeding drought-tolerant varieties. These projects also aim to mainstream climate change, raise awareness, promote research and development, and build capacity. Some programs have also supported water resource and irrigation management, sustainable forest management, alternative livelihoods, and income loss risk reduction.

158. The Proposed Project is going to leverage on the existing baseline investment launched on the 20th of June 2024 by the GoZ. Under this program, the GoZ is constructing Drought Mitigation Centers in over 1620 rural wards across the country. This is in line with President's declared State of Disaster on the 2nd of April 2024 that is aimed at mitigating the effects on communities of El Niño-induced drought. The project will be under the Rural Infrastructure Development Agency; RIDA (Formerly District Development Fund; DDF). The Program was launched by the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and the Rural Development 8.0 model aimed at eradicating poverty in all its forms, including food and water poverty through. Under this drive, the Government is setting up nutrition gardens, livestock feeding troughs, livestock water troughs and supplementary feeding troughs. Livestock sales centers are being also constructed in each drought mitigation center, which will have solar-powered boreholes.

159. A preliminary mapping exercise (see table below) was undertaken to understand the location of major ongoing projects funded by GCF, AF and GEF in the country and avoid duplication.

Province /Districts covered	Project name and main themes	Comment on potential synergies and complementarities
Manicaland province: Buhera (13 wards), Chimanimani (7 wards), Chipinge (15 wards) Masvingo Province: Masvingo (9 wards), Bikita (4 wards), Zaka (4 wards), Chivi (9). Chiredzi (8 wards) , Mwenezi (5 wards). <u>Matabeleland south</u>	GCF - FP127- Building Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Agricultural Livelihoods in Southern Zimbabwe	UNDP as AE and the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development (MLAFWRD) as EE are implementing a project (June 2020-June 2027) funded by the GCF. At full proposal stage, a thorough comparison of the Wards covered in Chimanimani, Chipinge, Masvingo and Bikita will be done to avoid duplication in the CRA-related activities (component 3). The project will gather lessons learned from the implementation of the Farmer Field School-Based Climate Resilient Practices Manual, irrigation schemes and climate-proofed designs. The investments in hydrological stations and hydro-meteorological data transmission and processing will complement the planned efforts to enhance communities' preparedness capacities and last-mile EWS.
Manicaland province: Buhera district Matabeleland North: Binga district (Lower Gwayi and Upper Save catchments)	AF - Strengthening Local Communities' Adaptive Capacity and Resilience to Climate Change through Sustainable Groundwater Utilisation in Zimbabwe	UNESCO as AE and the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development (MLAFWRD) as EE are implementing a project (May 2023-May 2028) funded by the AF. The project could build on the improved capacities on underground water use/assessment to feed into the water management/water recharge interventions designed under this project. At full proposal development stage, further research will be done to analyze the <i>underground water assessments undertaken under this project which could be an important information source for informed decision-making in Manicaland province interventions</i> . Interviews with UNESCO project focal points will also be undertaken to inform further the project design.
<u>Manicaland Province:</u> Chimanimani <u>Masvingo Province:</u> Gutu and Chivi districts <u>Midlands Province:</u> Mberengwa district (formerly Belingwe) <u>Matabeleland South :</u> Bulilima	AF - Enhancing resilience of communities and ecosystems in the face of a changing climate in arid and semi-arid areas of Zimbabwe	EMA as AE and Care International, Organisation for Rural Associations for Progress (ORAP) and Towards Sustainable Use of Resources Organisation (TSURO) as EEs are implementing a project (2023-2027) funded by AF. At full proposal stage, engagement with the PMU of this project will ensure no duplication at ward level. Additionally, the presence of EMA as AE in both projects will ensure that synergies are built throughout the life of the project.
Manicaland province: Chipinge district Masvingo Province: Bikita, Masvingo rural, Zaka	GEF - A cross-sector approach supporting the mainstream of sustainable forest and land management to enhance ecosystem resilience for improved livelihoods in the Save and Runde Catchments of Zimbabwe	GEF grant (2021-2026) coordinated by FAO and implemented by EMA collaborating with Forestry Commission (FC), Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA), World Vision (WV), Community Technology Development Organization (CTDO). At full proposal development stage, a thorough analysis of activities implemented in each of the target districts will be undertaken. Preliminarily, the proposed project could build on some structures like the district level Rural District Development subcommittee on Agriculture and Environment platforms, and the Provincial-level subcommittee on Environment, Climate and Natural resources, engaging them as key stakeholders, and align with the integrated Landscape Planning process under this GEF project.
<u>Manicaland (Chimanimani district)</u>	Comprehensive Resilience Building in the Chimanimani District of Zimbabwe	UNESCO implemented a project in the Chimanimani District, Zimbabwe, to enhance resilience to natural disasters and improve water resource management . The proposed project will build on lessons learned including utilizing the CRIDA methodology to address water-related risks and vulnerabilities, and the identification and prioritization of adaptation actions, leading to the development of an Adaptation Pathway for the district.
<u>Multicountry (Zimbabwe, national scope)</u>	NORAD - Multi-Country Programme to scale up Anticipatory Action for Food Security (MCP-AA4SS Phase I)	WFP implemented a project (MCP-AA4SS Phase I) (2019-2023) funded by NORAD, delivering AA directly to drought-affected populations while strengthening capacity of national actors with AA c for drought response. The proposed project can also build on the study conducted on the feasibility of including indigenous knowledge systems into drought EWS.

160. Additionally, DAPP (EE) has implemented four projects in the target areas or in their area of influence where lessons could be extracted as well as community structures which could generate synergies with the proposed projects, addressing the various community needs cohesively and sustainably.

Province /Districts covered	Project name and main themes	Comment on potential synergies and complementarities
District: Chimanimani (Manicaland province), (Wards 2, 3,4)	Anticipatory Action for Cholera Outbreak Prevention in Chimanimani District Themes: WASH, Health prevention	Funded by CISU/DERF, implemented in May - 31 October 2023. The project aimed to improve health and hygiene practices, strengthen capacity of health cadres and village action committees to prevent cholera outbreaks, and improve access to clean water for domestic use. The project will build on existing communities' capacities and knowledge acquired on prevention and water access.
District: Makoni (Wards 12,16)	Building community led resilience through CCA actions. Main themes: CCA	Funded by CISU/ CCAM (The Civil Society Fund) and implemented from April 2023-October 2024. The project aimed to: 1. Enhance food and nutritious security of 200 smallholder farmers through sustainable and climate-smart agriculture techniques; 2. Increase income generation through ISAL (Internal Saving and Lending) groups, capacity building on financial literacy and facilitating access to markets and linkages to financial services; 3. Strengthen collaboration between local and provincial authorities, community leaders and farmers towards CCA. The proposed project will draw on capacities built at the organisational level to transfer knowledge and practice acquired on CRA, locally managed financial structures and institutional relations built through the project implementation.
District: Chimanimani (Wards 13,21)	Humanitarian Intervention (Binational: Zimbabwe and Malawi). Main themes: CCA, Post-Disaster Recovery, DRR	Funded by Humana Spain and implemented from Sept 2022-Dec 2023 focused on 1. Post-disaster Recovery; 2. Disaster Management within DAPP; 3. Disaster Risk Reduction. The proposed project will build on the organisational and methodological capacities of DAPP around DRR and disaster preparedness.
Manicaland Province: Mutasa (Wards 11,19)	Kukwanisa Model Farm Building smallholder farmers resilience through climate smart practices and technologies Main theme: CCA	In collaboration with Agri-marine and funded by the GAIA movement, DAPP Zimbabwe is implementing a project (Sept 2023-Sept 2025) to promote the adoption of climate-smart technologies for resilience building by 750 smallholder farmers. The proposed project will build on lessons learned on methodologies and community acceptance and adherence to CRA practices and small livestock production.

161. From the consultations, some programs from the districts were identified. For instance, in Masvingo other previous programmes with potential synergies are (i) the USAID funded R4, implemented by Zambuko Trust in consortium with CIMMYT, Aquaculture Zimbabwe; (ii) USAID funded FARM activity, with SNV, focusing on market development; (iii) Seeds for the Future implemented by CTDO, SAT, COSPE, WHH and Women and Land. These will be further analyzed at full proposal stage.

162. The project will employ a multi-stakeholder coordination framework to align the different project activities and small grants to ensure the accomplishment of the project objectives. A central coordination unit (Project Management Unit) will facilitate regular joint planning sessions, harmonize monitoring and reporting systems, and serve as a knowledge-sharing platform to ensure synergies among partners. By engaging local governments, agricultural extension services, and community-structures, the project will foster cross-sectoral collaboration and integrated landscape management. Strategic mapping of ongoing and planned activities (at full proposal stage) will help identify gaps, avoid duplication, and build on existing best practices, enhancing resource efficiency and amplifying impact. As such, at subnational level the project will be executed in close cooperation with representatives and on the ground managers of key ministries that have had and will have key roles in the project's design, development and implementation – District Civil Protection Unit, Department of Agricultural, Technical and Extension Services (AGRITEX), Meteorology Department, Climate Change Management Department, Ministry of Health and Childcare (MoHCC), Department of Social Development (DSD), Ward protection committees - which are part of the existing provincial and district coordination structures (VIDCOs and CPCs), which will be strengthened by the project. The EE (DAPP Zimbabwe), has been present for over 40 years in rural Zimbabwe, and has permanent presence on the ground¹¹³, also strengthening the continuation of coordination structures. The experience and capacity generated at the subnational level as well as the coordination mechanisms could be replicated to other areas of the country with similar climate-risk profiles. Given that capacities at the institutional level are intended to be sustained after the project's end, there may be room for replication and scaling up, given that the coordination structures are strengthened.

G. Knowledge Management

163. The project integrates a robust learning and knowledge management component to capture and disseminate lessons learned throughout its implementation. This component is vital for ensuring that successful strategies are shared and adopted widely, both within the project areas and beyond, contributing significantly to CCA in Zimbabwe.

¹¹³ After Cyclone Idai hit Chimanimani District in March 2019, DAPP Zimbabwe has been working with the affected communities to drive recovery efforts, providing disaster preparedness training and Disaster Risk Reduction strategies. In 2019, DAPP Zimbabwe implemented an emergency response Program. In 2023, DAPP Zimbabwe has been working in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Child Care in implementing an Anticipatory Action project for preventing a major Cholera spread in Chimanimani District.

164. **Knowledge Generation and Exchange.** To foster continuous learning, the project will facilitate communication among farmers, extension workers, and researchers, promoting the integration of research ideas into practical applications. This will involve capturing best practices and local traditional knowledge, engaging local universities and researchers, and organizing short-term courses, workshops, and seminars for various stakeholders. Exchange visits among CPCs, FCs, and cooperatives will be organized to promote knowledge sharing. These activities ensure that communities continuously learn and adopt innovative and effective climate resilience strategies, which can be replicated in other regions of Zimbabwe to bolster national climate adaptation efforts.
165. **Documentation and Dissemination of Best Practices.** The project will systematically document case studies, good practices, challenges, and lessons learned. This documentation will support the design of future projects and scaling up interventions, ensuring that successful practices are adopted by other communities and local authorities. Dissemination workshops will be held mid-term and at the end of the project to share findings with a wide spectrum of stakeholders, including local, sub-national, national, and international audiences. Annual progress reports will also be shared with relevant stakeholders to maintain transparency and continuous learning. By creating a comprehensive repository of knowledge, the project will provide valuable insights that can inform policy-making and strategic planning for climate adaptation across Zimbabwe.
166. **Community Awareness and Capacity Building.** Implementing a comprehensive communication strategy, the project will develop materials for community campaigns focused on climate literacy, nutrition, and sanitation and hygiene. By working with community radio stations and addressing specific gender barriers, the project ensures inclusive participation and effective dissemination of information. Awareness campaigns and capacity-building activities will raise the overall understanding of climate change impacts and resilience strategies, empowering communities to take informed actions. This enhanced community awareness and capacity will contribute to building a more resilient population capable of responding proactively to climate challenges, thereby strengthening Zimbabwe's overall climate adaptation framework.
167. **Utilization of Traditional and Modern Communication Channels.** To maximize reach, the project will leverage both traditional and modern communication channels, including social media, websites, and online forums. This approach ensures that information on project results, best practices, and lessons learned reaches a broad audience, facilitating knowledge transfer and uptake of innovative solutions. Additionally, participation in national and international forums will allow the project to share its findings and experiences, contributing to global discussions on climate resilience. By employing diverse communication strategies, the project ensures that critical knowledge permeates all levels of society, enhancing national efforts to combat climate change.
168. **Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL).** A detailed plan for knowledge management will be developed during the project's start-up phase, aligning with the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework. This plan will include specific targets and indicators for knowledge generation, learning, and dissemination. Regular monitoring and evaluation will provide insights into the effectiveness of the project's strategies, getting the local knowledge on what does and what does not work, allowing for adaptive management and continuous improvement. Feedback from these processes will be used to refine activities and ensure they are meeting the needs of the communities. This iterative process of learning and adaptation will ensure that the project's interventions remain relevant and effective in the face of evolving climate challenges, thereby supporting sustainable climate adaptation in Zimbabwe. The application of the LLA principles would also imply promoting 'downward' accountability, where contributors and intermediaries are also accountable for their commitments to recipients. The project will engage local actors from the beginning to ensure that learning is meaningfully integrated into MEAL frameworks. The project will consider the use of Community Focal Persons (FPs)¹¹⁴ as an additional channel for eliciting communications to the Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) which will be part of the MEAL system, allowing to leverage existing and trusted community structures which will be activated alongside other CFM channels.
169. **Promoting Sustainability and Long-Term Impact.** By building and institutionalizing the capacities of local authorities, community-based organizations, and individual farmers, the project ensures that the knowledge and skills gained are retained and utilized beyond the project's duration. To effectively institutionalize the building of local capabilities, the project will develop a long-term, strategic approach to integrate capacity building into all aspects of the project. Establishing and strengthening community-based structures such as Farmers' Organizations and Village Cooperatives will provide a solid foundation for sustained resilience building. The project will also foster partnerships with local universities and research institutions to continue research and innovation in climate resilience. This sustained capacity and institutional support will ensure that climate adaptation efforts continue to evolve and expand, contributing to long-term resilience and stability for communities across Zimbabwe.
170. In summary, the learning and knowledge management component of the project is designed to create a dynamic cycle of knowledge generation, sharing, and application. This will ensure that successful strategies are widely adopted, leading to enhanced climate resilience and sustainable development in the project areas and beyond. By contributing to a broader

¹¹⁴ GOAL, 2022. Community Focal Persons for Accountability. Learning Brief.

understanding and implementation of climate adaptation strategies, the project will play a pivotal role in strengthening Zimbabwe's resilience to climate change.

H. Consultative Process

171. Initial consultations were held in May and June 2024, as part of the development of a Concept Note. As a first step in the development of the Concept Note, representatives from DAPP Zimbabwe and EMA consulted a variety of stakeholders at the District Level, in the 4 targeted Districts in two Provinces (*Manicaland Province – Chimanimani and Chipinge Districts, and Masvingo Province – Bikita and Masvingo Rural Districts*). For transparency and accountability reasons the full consultation report can be accessed [here](#).

172. The **purpose** of the consultations was to gather initial inputs from the local stakeholders regarding the project design and the development of the Concept Note, and the identification of actual needs on the ground.

173. The **general objective** of the consultations was to gather inputs and information at the District-level regarding the targeted interventions in climate resilience, emergency preparedness, adaptation and climate resilient livelihoods and food security status and challenges. Following the approach outlined in the Updated Gender Guidance¹¹⁵ the consultations ensured the participation of individuals with gender expertise, such as district focal points from the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MWACSMED).

174. The **specific objectives** were to:

- Gather information on climate vulnerabilities and needs in the Districts;
- Validate and inform the further design of the logical framework and project approach;
- Understand already ongoing initiatives in the districts, and gaps to be addressed;
- Suggest new activities that meet the specificities of the intervention areas and the needs of the beneficiaries;
- Identify roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders especially at local levels.

175. The consultations consisted of bi-lateral meetings between the project proponents and District-level entities, and group workshops with District Officials.

176. During the consultations, project officials from DAPP Zimbabwe and EMA presented a project brief, which included an intended project approach, as well as a set of guiding questions, and facilitated discussions around the main project ideas and proposed activities. Consultations were both general to the project objectives and targeted to the specific expertise of the officials that participated in the meetings. The stakeholders consulted were similar for each of the four districts. An indicative list of those consulted includes government authorities such as District Development Coordinator's Office & Coordinator of Civil Protection Unit, Rural District Council (RDC), Environmental Management Authority (EMA), Ministry of Agriculture (AGRITEX), Department of Social Development (DSD), Ministry of Health and Child Care, Meteorological Services Department (MSD), Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MWACSMED), Ministry of Youth Development, Indigenization and Economic Empowerment, Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (RIDA). Other development partners such as: Green Institute and Vemuganga FM.

177. The first point of contact in each district was the local authorities, specifically the District Development Coordinator (DDC) and the Rural District Council (RDC). These officials were interviewed using a developed interview guide, and follow-up questions were asked. Government officials and development partners working in the district were also interviewed about the adaptation projects they had been involved in.

178. The consultation sessions resulted in several recommendations, which have further informed the project design and development. The table below summarizes some of the key recommendations by the stakeholders:

Table 3 – Overview of key recommendations by consulted stakeholders

Topic	Recommendations
Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and emergency preparedness and Response Mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency shelters shall be strengthened and better equipped • Focus on activities in the existing planning documents e.g. Emergency Preparedness Plans at District- and Ward-level (being finalized). • EWS need strengthening with indigenous knowledge and improved dissemination channels, especially for hard-to-reach areas. • Village-level CPCs shall be trained to become functional and village-level planning for adaptation and emergency response should be facilitated.
WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WASH activities are required for more coverage, especially in light of cholera outbreaks resulting from the floods. • In drought-prone areas, any CCA people-centred response should address water challenges issues. • Ensuring WASH infrastructure and services are sustainable, safe and resilient, and that WASH systems contribute to community resilience.

¹¹⁵ Adaptation Fund.2022. Updated Gender Guidance Document for Implementing Entities (IEs) on Compliance with the Adaptation Fund Gender Policy. AFB/B.38-39/Inf.1. https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Doc.AFB38_39_Inf.1_updated-gender-guidance-doc_1.pdf

Land Degradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyclones and storms cause landslides, affecting natural systems. There is a high need for active land restoration. Food-or cash-for-work schemes should be considered as an option. • Soil erosion calls for SLM approaches • Integrate bio-economy approaches as part of alternative IGAs • Shift to sustainable food production to reduce degradation is needed in areas where desertification is starting to hit.
Access to water for agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider rainwater harvesting technologies (rainwater harvesting, weirs and tapping of water from rivers during the rainy season) • Consider groundwater recharge activities, and dam rehabilitation and maintenance. • Migrate cropping to small grains as they have lower water demand but consider behavior change needed in consumption and labor intensiveness of these grains.
Crops and alternative productions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful practices that need scaling up, include: (i) promoting Conservation Agriculture in maize cropping systems (among others); (ii) promoting small grains (pearl millet, sorghum, rapoko, guava, sesame); (iii) fenced horticulture plots; (iv) village greenhouses. • In terms of alternative IGAs Fish Farming, Beekeeping, and Mushroom growing. In addition, the project could explore nature-friendly micro-enterprises, for example focusing on recycling/upcycling. • <u>Human-wildlife conflict should be addressed as it is affecting food security in some areas</u>
Post-harvest management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train extension workers/ communities in good practices for handling, transportation, storage and processing, and consider traditional methods. • Involve local Governments like RDC to enact By-Laws that protect farmers from unscrupulous off-takers
Livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with a holistic approach, addressing nutrition for livestock, and suggested a focus on short-cycle/small livestock such as goats, chickens and rabbits. • Goats need to be improved breeding due to minimal market prices.
Vulnerable Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Pay attention to vulnerable groups, especially children and people with disabilities (PLWD). There is a lack of facilities for PLWD. Communication materials should be adapted and braille and sign language should be included to integrate PLWD in decision-making and capacity building.</u>

179. The information provided gave key insights into the selection of the target areas, possible interventions and priorities for adaptation. At least 15 institutions were represented and they gave feedback on the concept development process as well as checking the feasibility of the proposed interventions. It is important to note that more localised consultation will be conducted at the full proposal development stage. This consultation will involve a detailed stakeholder and beneficiary mapping exercise to identify all the technical and demographic groups that are pertinent to the project. Consultations will be targeted through focus groups for women, youth and other vulnerable groups. These consultations are meant to develop unity of purpose for the project, build consensus on interventions and to identify direct project beneficiaries for each intervention. In the area there are no resident indigenous people. Technical, extension and relief organisations that are operating in the local area will be consulted as well during the proposal development stage.

I. Full Cost of Adaptation Reasoning

180. Zimbabwe has a climate finance gap of \$440–500 million a year, greatly limiting the country’s ability to build climate resilience¹¹⁶. To address the long-term impacts of climate change, effective adaptation is essential. Financial support for planning and executing adaptive measures is crucial, particularly in developing countries like Zimbabwe, where communities in target areas struggle to achieve adequate food security, nutrition, and emergency preparedness. This project aims to enhance knowledge and capacities for climate resilience and emergency preparedness, strengthen the resilience of physical and natural assets, and improve livelihoods and food security through specific adaptive actions tailored to the needs or target vulnerable rural communities. Additionally, the program components are designed to use an integrated and holistic approach to support vulnerable communities in Zimbabwe, enhancing their resilience to rainfall variability, shorter rainy seasons, longer dry spells, more intense droughts, and increased threats from cyclones and floods.

181. This approach enhances communities’ capacity to adapt to climate risks while simultaneously improving livelihood strategies and food security. Inclusive community participation will ensure the sustainability of adaptation interventions, disaster preparedness actions, climate-resilient agriculture practices and solutions, organizational structures (Farmers’ Organizations, Civil Protection Committees and CCACs), climate-proofed physical and natural assets, including emergency shelters, water and sanitation facilities and food storage systems. These methods will not only enhance agricultural productivity but also improve the reliability of production outputs, thus contributing significantly to household food security.

Component 1 – Enhancing Knowledge and Capacities for Climate Resilience, Emergency Preparedness and Adaptation: USD 775,000

182. The component comprises concrete adaptation actions that enhance the knowledge and strengthen the capacity of targeted vulnerable communities to prepare for and respond to climate risks, directly building their resilience. The component focuses on strengthening the capacities of local communities in disaster risk management (DRM), emergency response, and locally-led adaptation (LLA) strategies.

¹¹⁶ <https://www.afdb.org/en/countries/southern-africa/zimbabwe/zimbabwe-economic-outlook>

183. Recognizing that to effectively employ adaptation and risk management strategies for resilient livelihoods and greater food security, there is a need to grow awareness and understanding of the changing climate and weather, as well as its impacts on livelihoods, food security, nutrition and health, the project will support the generation of tailored information and advisories for communities and authorities (Output 1.2.)
184. This component will share project successes to inspire and trigger action in other areas in the districts, country and further afield. This will prevent invaluable information and lessons learnt from being lost, which creates cost efficiencies for successor projects. 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.
185. The prompt dissemination of information about a TC occurrence is critical for guaranteeing public safety, supporting preparedness, and minimizing the possible repercussions of these extreme weather occurrences. Communication of information enables individuals, communities, and authorities to make informed decisions about evacuation, disaster response, and resource allocation. 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.

Baseline

186. Communities in eastern Manicaland and northeastern Masvingo are particularly vulnerable to climate-related disaster risks due to their limited resources and preparedness. Shock Exposure in the target areas is high, with Masvingo ranking first in the Shock Exposure Index, and Manicaland scoring second in the list¹¹⁷. Smallholder farmers face challenges in accessing timely and accurate climate information for planning and responding to drought and flood risks. Quantitatively, there is a high proportion of households that receive Early Warning information, such as weather, climate change or seasonal performance (83% in Manicaland and 89% in Masvingo), however only 56% of the population in Manicaland uses the information to plan their response mechanisms¹¹⁸.
187. Civil protection committees' operational status at the provincial /district level – In all four (4) districts consulted, the District Development Coordinators (DDCs), who also served as the CPU Coordinators, confirmed that Civil Protection Units exist and that they all have Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergence Response Plans in place, but there are gaps in implementation and limited capacity for them to function due to limited financial and material resources.
188. In terms of knowledge sharing, without project investments, there will be no structured platforms for sharing experiences and adaptation of best practices. Indigenous knowledge practices will remain accessible to a select few with no validation.

Additionally, (with AF funds)

189. By providing training, operational support, and necessary equipment, these initiatives enhance the ability of local (ward and village level) CPCs (A1.1.1) to campaign and educate their communities about disaster preparedness, thus reducing the impact of climate-related disasters. As part of the CPC's efforts, community-based emergency response plan will be developed (A.1.1.3), defining strategic actions with specific roles and responsibilities, to ensure adequate levels of preparedness and response in the event of a climate-induced emergency. The implementation of the response plans through training and community awareness will allow for enhanced coordination and communication, a faster and more effective response, increased safety and reduced number of casualties, and resilience building through preparedness drills and community engagement. It will also contribute to minimizing the economic impact and potential psychological impact, reducing anxiety and increasing community cohesion. By fostering preparedness, ensuring efficient response, and facilitating recovery, a community-level emergency response plan is instrumental in safeguarding lives, property, and the overall well-being of the community.
190. Smallholder farmers in the target areas face challenges in accessing timely and accurate climate information for planning and responding to drought, flood and cyclone risks. The current EWS are inadequate, leading to crop failure, the death of livestock, and food insecurity. There is a strong need to strengthen the dissemination and tailoring of existing EWS in the focal areas to be able to package and disseminate timely early warning information to farmers and communities (A1.1.2). A World Bank study¹¹⁹ on building the resilience of the poor in the face of natural disasters, estimates that early warning reduces asset losses by 20%.
191. Through development of community adaptation action plans (CAAP) (A1.1.4.), the project will foster resilience, promote sustainability, and ensure that all community members benefit from adaptation efforts. Community adaptation action plans play a critical role in preparing for the impacts of climate change, ensuring community ownership, transparency and

¹¹⁷ Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) 2022. Rural Livelihoods Assessment Report.

¹¹⁸ Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) 2022. Rural Livelihoods Assessment Report.

¹¹⁹ Hallegatte, Stephane, Adrien Vogt-Schilb, Mook Bangalore, and Julie Rozenberg. 2017. *Unbreakable: Building the Resilience of the Poor in the Face of Natural Disasters*. Climate Change and Development Series. Washington, DC: World Bank.

accountability. The primary benefits of implementing a CAAP come from a reduction of the climate risk, enhancing infrastructure to withstand the climate-related stresses, allowing efficient use of resources like water and energy, enhancing social cohesion and equity, through sustained community engagement and the encouraged involvement of vulnerable communities.

192. AF funding will enable the project to increase the existing and new body of knowledge on adaptation best practices, governance structures for adaptation and indigenous knowledge systems for EWS. This information will be available to individuals, communities, and institutions across the project landscape and nationally.

Component 2 – Enhancing Climate Resilience of Physical and Natural Assets. USD 800,000

193. Zimbabwe was hit by Cyclone Idai from 15th of March through to 17th of March 2019 in Chimanimani and Chipinge Districts, with an estimated 270,000 people impacted, 21,000 households reported affected, as the two worst affected districts in the country. The cyclone caused floods, violent winds, mudslides, and landfalls. In Chimanimani alone, more than 18,000 households were affected, 271 people were reported dead, and more than 300 people were reported missing. After cyclone Idai, a Rapid Impact Needs Assessment (RINA)¹²⁰ was undertaken to estimate damages and needs. It was estimated that 49,717 farmer-households lost their crops, livestock, assets and livelihoods, seen their coping mechanisms vanish, and became nutritious-food insecure and asset-poor. The total estimated arable land in the affected districts was about 1.4 million hectares, with 46% of the arable land indicating possible flood damage in the first week. In the most affected districts of Chimanimani and Chipinge, the assessment indicated a combined 80% of damage to arable land. In terms of housing, RINA determined that the costs of housing damages in the country ranged between US\$131 million-US\$205 million. Chimanimani as the most affected district with damage costs estimated between US\$66 million-US\$ 71 million. In terms of water supply systems and sanitation (in private households, health facilities, schools, and government buildings) suffered extensive damage or were destroyed. In terms of schools, damages include the complete to partial collapse of buildings, blown away roofs, destruction of property including teaching and learning materials and partial and complete damage to sanitary and latrine facilities, adding a total value of 6.5 million USD, which accounted for 2.7% of the total infrastructure cost estimate.

194. Slow-onset changes in climate like droughts are predicted to increase in Zimbabwe by 21% (2040-2059) and by 47% (2080-2099)¹²¹, with the national water availability rate per capita estimated to decline 38% by 2050, causing decreased crop yields and increased crop failure, risking the main source of livelihood for 70% of the population and an estimated yearly value of US \$126 million in crop losses.

195. Water and sanitation infrastructure remain underdeveloped, and access to clean water has deteriorated in recent years. According to the WHO and UNICEF Joint Monitoring Report of 2021, only 63% of the population has access to at least basic water and sanitation services- a decline from 72% in 2000. Limited investment coupled with ageing infrastructure and poor maintenance are the main contributing factors. Zimbabwe requires US\$25 million per year until 2030 to maintain universal basic coverage, and a further US\$43 million per year to extend access to safely managed services. In terms of water resources, Zimbabwe relies on its surface water resources (about 90%) due to limited ground water resources (about 10%)¹²². The implications of climate change on water resources include: increased competition over water amongst sectors, and intensified regional differences in water supply and shortages.¹²³ Warming temperatures can contribute to increased water loss through evapotranspiration,¹²⁴ and lower rainfall will negatively affect groundwater recharge and water runoff.¹²⁵ Water availability has a direct impact in agriculture and food and nutrition security, with only 7% of households in Zimbabwe having access to irrigation¹²⁶.

196. The Meteorological Services Department (MSD) (Min. of Environment, Water and Climate) and Agriculture Research and Extension Services (AGRITEX) (Min. of Agriculture) are responsible for drought monitoring including monitoring hydro-meteorological parameters; provision and publication of information, forecasts and drought-relevant data. However, the early warning system (EWS) for drought at the national level is ineffective and lacks functional structures and infrastructure.

Baseline

197. According to Zimbabwe National Climate Change Strategy¹²⁷, the most affected people in Zimbabwe are rural communities, likely to have low adaptive capacity to cope with the increasing weather-related hazards that include floods, storms and droughts, making mainstreaming disaster risk management into climate adaptation crucial. The national strategy recommends

¹²⁰ Government of Zimbabwe, World Bank, GFDRR. 2019. Zimbabwe rapid impact and needs assessment (RINA). Source.

<https://recovery.preventionweb.net/media/83572/download?startDownload=20240618>

¹²¹ https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/14956-WB_Zimbabwe%20Country%20Profile-WEB%20%281%29.pdf

¹²² Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate, GoZ (2016). *Zimbabwe's Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, <http://www.un-gsp.org/sites/default/files/documents/zwenc3.pdf>.

¹²³ Preparation of A National Water Resources Master Plan, Interim Report-1, Volume 1 - Main Report (October 2017).

¹²⁴ Zimbabwe's Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (TNC, 2016). URL:

<http://www.un-gsp.org/sites/default/files/documents/zwenc3.pdf>

¹²⁵ Preparation of A National Water Resources Master Plan, Interim Report-1, Volume 1 - Main Report (October 2017).

¹²⁶ World Bank Group (2021) (*Ibid.*)

¹²⁷ Government of Zimbabwe, 2019. Zimbabwe's National Climate Change Response Strategy

that DRM should become a central component in all of Zimbabwe's CCA strategies. Local authorities and communities are best placed to deal with disasters, but they lack adequate financial resources and capacity.

198. In terms of disaster preparedness, Civil Protection authorities¹²⁸ have recognized that the country is facing several challenges on this front, namely: lack of warehousing for disaster response, lack of appropriate hydro-meteorological equipment for early warning for early action, early warning information not always translating to early action inclusive of risk perception issues, a non-correlation of knowledge levels and practice by at-risk communities, an inadequate and centralisation of resources, a lack of standardized services and equipment for search and rescue, emergency communication challenges in the past, a lack of communication strategy for PWD, and physical infrastructure is not climate resilient.

Additionally, (with AF funds)

199. AF funding will allow for the upgrading and climate-proofing of critical infrastructure in the target areas, which will be done by strengthening emergency shelter to make them ready to withstand extreme weather events, as well as analysing available nature-based solutions that can mitigate the effects of flooding. Specific emphasis will be placed on gender-responsive approaches to ensure that women's and children's safety and protection are ensured in this process.

200. In addition, the project will implement farm and community-level measures for disaster preparedness by reinforcing natural protective systems and creating simple protective measures to protect soil and crops from wind and water damages, reducing farms and community vulnerability to climate risks and enhancing long-term agricultural productivity

201. As part of the measures to improve community resilience to climate shocks, the project will strengthen existing or establish clean water drinking solutions to ensure access to clean water and sanitation which are crucial for communities' health and resilience. To protect food supplies from damages caused by extreme weather events the project will establish or strengthen disaster-proof food storage systems which will contribute to the communities' food security and nutrition, which ultimately will affect their capacity to recover from climate shocks.

Component 3 – Improving Climate-Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security. USD 2,625,000

202. The component comprises concrete adaptation actions that directly build the resilience of the identified vulnerable communities. The component focuses on interventions that will improve community livelihoods.

203. According to a World Bank Risk Assessment¹²⁹, data from 1986–2016, showed that production risks led to losses in crop production valued at approximately US\$126 million per year, which represented an annual average loss of around 7.3 per cent of agricultural GDP. Additionally, a recent study using a Computable General Equilibrium Model has found that under a dry/hot future climate scenario, Zimbabwe may lose about 2.3 per cent of its 2030 GDP—or up to US\$370 million in agricultural losses.

Baseline

204. Agricultural production is vulnerable to periodic droughts. Varying rainfall patterns are affecting aquifer and river water levels. The peasant sector, which produces 70 per cent of the staple foods (maize, millets, and groundnuts), is particularly vulnerable as it has access to less than 5-7 per cent of national irrigation facilities.¹³⁰ Primary data (field observations and discussions with stakeholders) gathered by the team revising Zimbabwe's AEZ show that the climate in the Manicaland province had changed as evidenced by the shrinking of the rainfall season accompanied by increased frequency and intensity of dry spells¹³¹. Quantitatively, the reduction of the rainfall season in Manicaland spans from -5 to -20 fewer days on rainfall days from the North to the South. In Masvingo, the reduction in the length of the rainfall season of up to 20 days. According to WB Vulnerability on Drought (2021) data, the districts in the province experience High to very High vulnerability to drought. According to ZIMVAC study (2022) in Manicaland, 78% of households reported drought or prolonged mid-season dry spells, and in Masvingo: 87% of households reported drought or prolonged mid-season dry spells. An additional factor contributing to farmers' climate vulnerability is Land and Water Degradation which is high to very high in the target areas, according to the Land Degradation report¹³². Land degradation is making Zimbabwe less resilient to existing climate variability, as well as to the future impacts of climate change. In terms of adaptive capacities (AC), Manicaland is the 5th in the AC¹³³ ranking (out of 8 rural provinces), with Masvingo on the 6th position.¹³⁴

¹²⁸ Civil Protection Zimbabwe, 2020. SADC Disaster Risk Reduction Project Inception Workshop. 20-24 January 2020. Country Presentation.

¹²⁹ World Bank Group, 2019. Zimbabwe: Agriculture Sector Disaster Risk Assessment

¹³⁰ <https://www.fao.org/zimbabwe/fao-in-zimbabwe/zimbabwe-at-a-glance/en/>

¹³¹ Manatsa, D., Mushore, T.D., Gwitira, I., Wuta, M., Chemura, A., Shekede, M.D., Mugandani R., Sakala, L.C., Ali, L. H., Masukwedza, G.I., Mupuro, J.M., and Muzira, N.M. (2020). Revision Of Zimbabwe's Agro-Ecological Zones

¹³² Land Degradation Report , 2017

¹³³ Adaptive Capacity (AC) is understood as the capacity of agricultural households to respond and adapt to the impacts of climate change (derived from indicators on access to education, access to agricultural information and adoption of improved agricultural practices)

¹³⁴ Hunter. R., Crespo. O., Coldrey, K, Cronin, K, New, M. 2020. Research Highlights – Climate Change and Future Crop Suitability in Zimbabwe. University of Cape Town, South Africa, undertaken in support of Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme' (ASAP) Phase 2. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Rome.

205.Regarding food insecurity, the 2023 Global Hunger Index classified Zimbabwe's situation as serious, with a national estimation of 6 million people who are expected to be food insecure in Zimbabwe during the 2024-2025 lean season (January to March). At the provincial level, data compiled by WFP showed that food security in southern Manicaland and east Masvingo in the Crisis stage in May 2024¹³⁵.The findings of an impact evaluation of the ZRBF program in 2018 revealed that communities in Zimbabwe's provinces, including Masvingo, still exhibit low levels of resilience, expressed in terms of various outcomes: high rates of poverty as measured by the multidimensional poverty index and poor rates of food security a measured by the food consumption score. The 2019 ZimVAC attributed the food deficit in Masvingo Province to various factors, including droughts that have affected crops and caused the death of livestock, especially cattle used as draught power, unaffordability of agricultural inputs for communal farmers, use of retained seed with reduced vigour, rising prices of basic goods, animal and crop diseases and the effects of cyclones, which have affected production yield levels as well as access to and availability of food.

Additionally, (with AF funds)

206.With hotter and drier conditions, driven by more variable and concentrated rainfall patterns, the growing season has been shortened, making it harder for smallholder producers to realize a harvest that will allow them to meet their food needs for the year, yet alone to market a surplus for greater income. While the target locations have been recipients of relief assistance (see section F for synergies), there is a need to move toward climate-resilient development, so that the cycle of food insecurity can be broken.

207.If no adaptation measures are taken, climate change is likely to exacerbate food insecurity, especially during prolonged drought events, which are becoming more frequent and intense. The WFP and UK Met Office Food Insecurity and Climate Vulnerability Index show that under a scenario of high GHG emissions and in the absence of any adaptation efforts, vulnerability to food insecurity in Zimbabwe could increase by 47% from the present day to 2050 and up to 75% by 2080 in comparison to the current level of vulnerability. Therefore, the need to invest in improving climate-resilient livelihoods and food security in agriculture communities of eastern Manicaland and Northern Masvingo through interventions that enhance adaptation such as those targeted to improve access and water management for agriculture (output 3.1.) and increase resilience through the improvement of organizational structures and demonstration facilities (Climate Change Action Centres) that enable innovation and improvement (output 3.2) , as well as the diversification of income sources to reduce dependence from climate sensitive-activities (Output 3.3.).

208.Without the project, communities will not be able to implement conservation agriculture and agroforestry, Minimum Soil Disturbance, Retention of Crop Residues, Crop Diversification, and Intercropping (examples of CRA techniques) which are more resource-effective than traditional methods of food production. With no appropriate interventions, the soil will continue to deteriorate thereby impacting the food production system and consequently, the food security of the communities in the selected districts particularly in Chimanimani and Chipinge (Manicaland Province) and Bikita and Masvingo Rural (Masvingo province) without the project, there will be no improvement of agricultural practices that is responsive to climate change impacts.

209.Several adaptation measures are proposed under the promotion of CRA practices and these will be further refined at the full proposal stage. However, some examples of measures such as the cultivation of drought-tolerant crops can help to ensure more stable crop yields and enhance food security in the face of climate uncertainties. In the case of livestock diversification, it can provide alternative sources of income and food security for communities.

210.To further increase the uptake of project interventions, the project will support the establishment of Farmers' Organizations. These will be structures at the local level and a vehicle for the inclusive participation of communities. The FOs are aimed at creating a cohesive structure at local levels that allows them to share and learn from each other's experience and knowledge. This cross-learning will promote the sustainability of project interventions

J. Sustainability of the Project Outcomes

211.The proposed project is focused on developing and promoting activities that bring sustainable adaptation benefits in various aspects, including strengthening local capacities to reduce climate-associated risks, increasing communities' awareness and empowerment towards climate risks and building resilience of agricultural systems, enhancing social capital and improving organizational and institutional capacities at community- as well as at government-level.

212.An IDS review¹³⁶ on sustainable adaptation highlights key elements such as partnership-building, community engagement, awareness-raising, and integration into existing development processes. The proposed project reflects these elements, cutting

¹³⁵ FEWSNET, 2023.Zimbabwe Food Security Outlook, October 2023 - May 2024.

¹³⁶ Desk review: Evaluation of adaptation to Climate Change from a development perspective.

across sectors like disaster risk management, agriculture, and water management. By addressing poverty reduction, social equity, and environmental integrity alongside risk reduction¹³⁷, the project is well positioned for long-term sustainability.

213. The project's sustainability is rooted in early and continuous engagement with national and sub-national stakeholders. Further engagement with communities, farmers and traditional local leaders (chiefs) will be undertaken at the full proposal stage and will continue during project implementation. Through co-design and inclusive decision-making, the project incorporates local knowledge, prioritizes marginalized voices, and promotes accountability. This approach ensures long-term ownership and relevance of the LLA approach.
214. To ensure that structures established and implemented interventions, will continue beyond the scope and the duration of the project, a special emphasis is placed on building technical and organizational capacities in the local institutions involved. Project components and activities were built upon national and sub-national strategies and priorities, and will be integrated into existing sub-national and local structures. Additionally, the project will establish and institutionalize linkages between communities, representatives of traditional leadership and local government officials, and the Project Steering Committee¹³⁸, which will monitor the continuation of the project's achievements.
215. A detailed exit strategy will be discussed with stakeholders and developed throughout the project but will hinge on basic sustainability principles that were taken into account and will explain in detail the arrangements that would need to take place (MoUs and handover strategies, including maintenance of infrastructure developed as well as any other policy and governance arrangements, knowledge pieces to be generated and management and capacities to be improved). To enhance local ownership and sustainability, the project will progressively reduce beneficiary and institutional dependence on the project and project team as the project progresses. The concrete measures to ensure the sustainability of the key project outputs/activities are described in the subsections that follow.

Institutional Sustainability

216. The project design has secured that the project will be implemented in close collaboration with existing subnational and local governments and CBO structures and programmes, which will facilitate continuity, as they will continue working with the target communities beyond the project life cycle. In complement, the project will train community agents (Ward, Village CPC and VIDCO) and involve local staff such as extension workers, community agents and district-level officials in the project's methodologies, technologies and practices. The project will strengthen cohesion and collaboration among relevant stakeholders.
217. As such, at subnational level the project will be executed in close cooperation with representatives and on the ground managers of key ministries that have had and will have key roles in the project's design, development and implementation – District Civil Protection Unit, Department of Agricultural, Technical and Extension Services (AGRITEX), Meteorology Department, Climate Change Management Department, Ministry of Health and Childcare (MoHCC), Department of Social Development (DSD), Ward protection committees- which are part of the existing provincial and district coordination structures (VIDCOs and CPCs), which will be strengthened by the project. The EE (DAPP Zimbabwe), has been present for over 40 years in rural Zimbabwe, and has permanent presence on the ground¹³⁹, also strengthening the continuation of coordination structures. The experience and capacity generated at the subnational level as well as the coordination mechanisms could be replicated to other areas of the country with similar climate-risk profiles. Given that capacities at the institutional level will most likely stay after the project's end, there may be room for replication and scaling up, given that the coordination structures are strengthened.
218. At the local level, the community- and Indigenous Knowledge System-based and locally-led approach, will ensure that through the development and strengthening of community management structures such as the Ward and Village Civil Protection Committees (CPCs), Farmers' Clubs, Village Development Committees (VIDCOs), as well as through the identification of community-based adaptation initiative, ownership of local authorities of the project's achievements will be fostered. The extension services of the MoLAFW&RD (AGRITEX), will include implementation of all activities related to agriculture in its operation, the MD will manage the climate information infrastructure and dissemination, the water protection and sanitation activities will be integrated within the local operations of the MoHCC.
219. The project will contribute to creating the enabling environment for subnational entities to provide CCA relevant services. The support that subnational structures and farmer-level structures will receive is fundamentally related to creating and strengthening those structures through continuous support through capacity-building activities, technical support, and logistics support. Through the demonstration of CCA approaches and how these improve farmers' resilience and income levels, the

Desk review: Evaluation of adaptation to Climate Change from a development perspective, Springer, vol. 26(7), pages 1-18, October.

¹³⁸ Structures such as the Project steering committee will be described in detail at full proposal stage,

¹³⁹ After Cyclone Idai hit Chimanimani District in March 2019, DAPP Zimbabwe has been working with the affected communities to drive recovery efforts, providing disaster preparedness training and Disaster Risk Reduction strategies. In 2019, DAPP Zimbabwe implemented an emergency response Program. In 2023, DAPP Zimbabwe has been working in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Child Care in implementing an Anticipatory Action project for preventing a major Cholera spread in Chimanimani District.

community-based structures created will be self-incentivized to remain, as they also act as informal safety nets at the community level. A preliminary mapping of local structures was validated in the consultations (see Table 4).

Table 4. Local structures preliminary mapping.

Local structure	Role and sustainability implications
District Development Coordinator	The DDC representing the Local Government being head of the district and Chairperson of District Civil Protection Unit, an Inter-Ministerial Committee that deals with disasters responsible for Coordination, will after the Project life cycle continue to coordinate the disaster preparedness and response. He/She will use the established forums give feedback to all stakeholders on implementation on all the related plans.
District Civil Protection Units	Engage with Ward Protection Committees to plan and consolidate district preparedness and response plans; including traditional knowledge storing.
AGRITEX	The Ministry of Agriculture will offer technical support to the farmers on biodiversity and CRA.
Ward Protection Committees	The Ward disaster protection Committees will cascade the Ward plans and engaging with Village Protection Committees to plan and consolidate district preparedness and response plans; including traditional knowledge storing.
Farmers' Clubs Committees	This structure will remain in the community, they will continue after some have developed into Cooperatives working with the Ministry of Agriculture, and Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises. They will continue with promotion of climate-resilient agriculture farming methods to the rest of the community
WASH Water Point Committees	They will make Maintenance plans for community water points and develop a Water Point Committee Constitution. These structures will continue after the Project lifecycle, overseen by the Local Government structures
Climate Adaptation Action Centres	The School Management together with the Farmers' Clubs Committees will maintain the Climate Adaptation Action Centre where the community will use it as a learning centre for climate change issues.
Local leadership (Village Heads and Councillors)	The Local Leaders will help in the mobilization of community members. They will also help to provide support and goodwill to the people in their areas. They will champion the promotion of Gender equity and equality and promote equal access and usage of productive assets by women.

220. According to the consultative process, there are no legal frameworks or governance structures in which the project operates that could pose risks or jeopardize the sustainability of the project benefits¹⁴⁰.

Social Sustainability.

221. Strengthening the agency of women, men and youth affected by climate change is a precondition for sustainable resilience building. The project will strengthen the position of women in society, taking concrete measures for the participation of women in decision-making, and increasing their knowledge through training. Women will be put at the core of implementation to demonstrate and reinforce their importance in the farmer organizations. In consultation with women and girls, the project will also take affirmative actions to reduce discriminative behaviour. A specific activity to address specific gender barriers (A1.2.2.) will allow, together with the Gender Action Plan, for gender-sensitive approaches to permeate the existing social norms due to training and awareness-raising activities.

222. This project will implement locally owned climate solutions identified through gendered participatory processes. The involvement and participation of women, youth and the targeted local communities in program design and implementation helps to create a sense of ownership, which is important for project sustainability. Inherent in the project design is the element of awareness raising, learning by doing, for example, through the formulation of community-based emergency response and action plans (A1.1.3.), and the activities that will be developed in the Climate Change Action Centres (A3.2.1.), and transformative training that will be implemented to leverage positive changes to communities resulting from project activities. Interventions have also been screened for unintended (negative) social effects on women, and local communities using the AF ESP guidelines (section K). It is assumed that an increased understanding of barriers to resilience building will empower women, youth, and local communities to advocate for relevant measures that address these barriers and for policies and practices that advance climate resilience.

223. Food and nutrition security in the face of CC will be improved, through CRA, income diversification, nutrition gardens (A3.2.4) and integrated livestock/fish farming (A3.2.3) which will reduce the need for the communities to fall back on negative coping practices such as reducing the number of meals, selling household assets, which will ultimately reduce their resilience in the event of a climate shock.

224. Preliminary consultations with the participants will be a key step to guarantee the communities' interest and buy-in. The establishment of FCs will create a knowledge exchange platform under a peer-to-peer model that builds capacity within the group. The knowledge transfer that would take place under the FCs is a multifaceted structure that covers several aspects such as production improvement and diversification as well as the introduction of saving models. Aside from the technical capacities, FCs will provide a platform for farmers to access services from the government and private sector. FC participants will be trained in organizational and management capacities, including planning, organizing and holding meetings, and conflict resolution, among others. FCs will also strengthen social cohesion in the community, therefore reducing gender-based

¹⁴⁰ More info in Section H of this Concept Note

violence and boosting child protection. FCs will be mentored and coached through the project's lifespan. All FCs will be trained and sensitized to maintain and continue the project's activities beyond the scope of the project.

225. Through diversification of income through and FCs capacity building as well as awareness raising activities, communities will increase their adaptive capacity to respond to the impacts of CC, leading to communities buy-in that will ultimately transform the agriculture landscape and practices at the local level.
226. The project will build lasting technical capacities among the project participants and will have a continued benefit at the community-level, hence creating long-term socio-economic benefits (access to aggregation, inputs, credit and funds, creation of alternative sources of income). Community members of benefiting communities, and active members of the different FCs, as well as relevant stakeholders will be actively engaged from the start of the project, and will participate in all phases, to generate the ownership and agency needed for the activities to be sustainable and impactful. The long-term perspectives of the structures will be anchored within plans that go beyond the scope and duration of the project. Notably the DDC will be a tool for the continuation of activities at district-level, while FCs and Cooperatives will have business plans and CPCs will have Community-based emergency response that will continue beyond the scope of the project.
227. The project will enhance awareness on CCA, disaster preparedness and locally-appropriate responses., as well as access to climate information and Early Warning System (EWS) interpretation and reaction, which will lead to better informed decision-making for production and for the protection of assets. Enhanced planning capacities will allow a better livelihood resilience (increased food security, increased production, reduced food losses, etc.). Additionally, the active participation of farmers and communities in joint activities and local organizational structures will strengthen the cohesion of communities and the coordination and integration between stakeholders.
228. The permanence of the expected behaviour changes will be analysed through the implementation of KAP studies since behaviour changes could be transient (or occur only during project implementation). The results obtained from the study will provide valuable information for the team to adapt the project management to achieve the expected sustainability of behaviour and attitudes changes after the end of the project lifespan.

Environmental sustainability

229. Interventions being implemented under this project have been screened for environmental risks and most have been found to be contributing to improving environmental services in the target areas. It is assumed that awareness raising on climate risks, natural resource management, soil health, water management, pest control, and sustainable farming practices (under FC activities and under CCACs training programs) will go a long way in ensuring environmental sustainability.
230. The project will ensure environmental sustainability through strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers through adoption of CRA and SLM practices, including conservation agriculture, agroforestry, efficient water management systems, and integrated farming approaches. This will, on the one hand, allow to cope with CC-related crises and on the other hand avoid overexploitation of NR, which will be reinforced through the awareness campaigns at community level.
231. The project will promote adaptation practices that reduce the environmental footprint (for example A2.1.2. Implement farm and community-level adaptive measures; A.2.1.3. Climate proofing water and sanitation facilities, reducing potential contamination of water sources in the occurrence of a flooding event; A.3.1.2. implement groundwater recharge activities; A3.2.2. Implementation of CRA through FC) and enhance communities' resilience and capacity to adapt to climate change through community driven solutions, for example, *Formulating and updating community-based emergency response and adaptation plans (A1.1.3.)*, promoting integrated livestock and fish farming (A.3.2.3), establishing community gardens to enhance nutrition (A3.2.4.) and promoting the establishment and development of cooperatives and micro-enterprises (A3.3.1 and A3.3.2).
232. The project will promote soil conservation and avoid the degradation or conversion of productive lands or land that provides valuable ecosystem services, through the implementation of CA and CRA approaches in agriculture which will in turn increase land productivity. The observed benefits from implementing these approaches (reduction in soil erosion and soil nutrient depletion, and increased water infiltration and retention capacity) will reduce the need to expand for agricultural development. The sensitization of communities towards reducing environmentally negative behaviour such as burning of crop residues and charcoal production can be expected to have further benefits to the surrounding environment.
233. The rainwater harvesting, irrigation practices and groundwater recharge activities introduced and promoted will lead to an improved water resource use. Food and nutrition security in the face of CC will be improved, through CRA, income diversification and nutrition gardens which will reduce the need for the communities to fall back on environmentally negative coping practices such as unsustainable management and exploitation of forest resources and indigenous products. The implementation of small-scale water infrastructures and nature-based solutions for flood management and erosion control, will need to be analysed at each of the locations individually in order to minimise the potential impacts on riverine or other aquatic ecosystems.

234. As regards to the project implementation, an ESMP will be developed and will act as a guide on handling environmental and social issues. For activities that are anticipated to have significant social and environmental impacts, an independent Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) will be undertaken and approval sought from relevant Environmental Authorities depending on the country laws and regulations. The ESMP has an environmental and social monitoring plan that will guide periodic monitoring and evaluation to track changes that could have adverse environmental and social impacts and ensure adequate mitigation.
235. Environmental sustainability will be maintained through established institutions for environmental management including the Environmental Management Agency, Agriculture Extension Services, and resource management committees that are nested within existing institutions like Village Development Committees (VIDCOs).

Economic sustainability

236. The added agricultural value and income diversification (through alternative IGAs, increased productivity, livestock/fish farming, climate resilient enterprises and cooperative development, diversified cropping) that the project will create, including market linkages, will increase the economic and financial sustainability of women and men smallholder farmers in the targeted districts which is an important element for building adaptive capacity. These economic gains can be sustained into the future through their integration in value chains, development of entrepreneurial mindset and access to financial services.
237. The economic sustainability at the community level will be secured through strengthening the FCs involved in the project, both existing and new ones, to strengthen their technical capacities, which will include the setup and management of simple financial and saving management systems. Additionally, the financial sustainability of FCs is reinforced by the additional income generated through the activities promoted by the project.
238. The introduction of CRA practices can be expected to significantly increase yields, thereby also improving food and nutrition security, as well as generating income from selling surplus produce. The savings groups and promotion of income generation activities (IGA) along the value chains will equally generate economic benefits for the project participants which will, in turn, contribute to the economic sustainability of the structures created. Access to credit and small grants will provide additional opportunities for growth as well as a change towards an entrepreneurial mindset, where the improvements from business development will permeate across the community development and ultimately affect a change in the mindset of those outside the project scope.
239. During the start-up phases of the project, a detailed exit strategy and scale-up plan will be developed. This will include the identification of specific studies and assessments to be conducted during the project (A1.2.3), to generate evidence on the practices, methods and technologies introduced by the project. This will include research on agricultural practices, as well as ‘proof of concept’ research on the service delivery methodologies applied. Specialized research institutions and local universities will be engaged to conduct specific studies. Using the evidence that is being generated, the project will develop a scale-up plan, which will detail both the strategies to be applied, as well as a resource mobilization plan. There is potential to access other international financing for replicating and upscaling the proposed approach, including through the GCF.

Technical sustainability

240. This project invests community level assets/technologies including, last mile connectivity of EWS (a1.1.2.), emergency shelter established or strengthened (A2.1.1.), and water solutions for irrigation (a3.11.). Continued operation, maintenance, repair, and periodic replacement of project technological investments by local users will be key to project sustainability. Technological solutions will be screened for gender responsiveness, local appropriateness, and affordability for replacement by local target user groups before procurement. Low maintenance cost technologies will be introduced especially for conservation farming. For sustainability, these technologies should be able to be serviced locally and training of farmers and the youth on basic maintenance will be done. In addition, the project will incorporate government entities as key stakeholders in the project. The aim of this is to ensure ownership and structuring of the actions into the broader government strategy and plans for the districts. This ensures mainstreaming, complementarity and sustainability within the existing structures.
241. With increased productivity, farmers should be able to raise their own funds to pay for operation and maintenance as necessary. For all assets at the farmers’ groups and community levels, project-specific agreements will be developed before implementation that spell out (i) ownership arrangements; (ii) management arrangements; and (iii) maintenance arrangements, in the interests of sustainability. The latter will include considerations of the availability of service providers in the area, accessibility in terms of costs, the establishment of an Operation and Maintenance fund and replacement strategy as appropriate. The project will also develop manuals (Operation and Maintenance Manuals) for some assets as appropriate that communities will constantly refer to even after the project cycle has ended.

K. Environmental and Social Impacts and Risks

At the design stage of the proposed project, a preliminary E&S impacts and risks assessment was conducted by EMA, in order to ensure that the project complies with the 15 principles of the AF’s Environmental and Social Policy (ESP). The AF ESP

requires that projects comply and respect the laws, people’s rights, gender equity, heritage, biodiversity and environment management. The initial results of screening are presented in the table below. At the Full Proposal development stage, a more a detailed and comprehensive E&S Impact Assessment will be conducted on those E&S that have been identified to have a potential impact, and the ESMP will be developed. From the ESP risk assessment results, the project has been classified preliminarily as Category C.

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

242. **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 Agricultural and Rural Development Authority Act and the Seed Act. Environmental Management Act [Chapter 20:27] and the National Environmental Policy. The Communal Land Act (20:04), Climate Change Policy and the Rural District Councils Act provide guidelines for the implementation of land management activities within communal areas. The project is aligned to the Water Act [Chapter 20:24] and the Public Health Act. The activities related to disaster preparedness will observe the Civil Protection Act [Chapter 10:6] and ensure alignment with the National Policy for Civil Protection. Project staff, beneficiaries and community members well-being will be ensured by observing diligently the Occupational Health and Safety Act, Domestic Violence Act (Chapter 5:16), and Children’s Act (Chapter 5:06). Other Acts and Policies include the National Gender Policy, the Constitution, and the National Development Strategy provide guidance in the implementation of the project.

243. **Access and Equity.** The project aims at promoting equality and access by all participants, and ultimately improving living conditions for the people in the selected areas through the strengthening of capacities and community cohesion, upgrade of local infrastructure, promotion of improved food, nutritional security and emergency preparedness. Although a gender-responsive approach will be applied throughout the project development, some interventions have been preliminarily identified to have the potential for exclusion of groups such as the women, elderly, disabled and youths. Some of the interventions which can be more critical in terms of ensuring access and equity, are those involving communication elements (A1.2.1), ensuring access to last-mile EWS (A1.1.2.), strengthening emergency shelter with a clear protection angle of women and children (A2.1.1), development of Community Adaptation Action Plans (A.1.1.4.), establishment of farmers’ organisations (A3.2.1.). Therefore, special attention will be paid to the abovementioned activities and equitable access will be secured through an informed and consultative development of selection criteria during the full proposal development an ESMP development. To mitigate this risk, project beneficiaries will be identified during project development and will be tracked through the monitoring and evaluation system. The Grievance Redress Mechanism of the project will provide a channel for any participants to raise any concerns that may arise.

244. **Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups.** The Project is designed to increase farmer and target communities’ resilience and adaptation capacities to CC and some of the most vulnerable groups include female-headed households, as well as people living with disabilities. These groups of people also make up a big portion of the potential beneficiaries targeted to benefit from this intervention. Therefore, during the project full proposal development, the E&S assessment and the consultations with the communities will be conducted to identify the best approach to reach the marginalized and vulnerable groups especially; women, youth, orphans, disabled, female and child-headed HHs, and HIV affected groups to make sure they will be targeted by the project activities. To mitigate any potential risks associated with exclusion, representatives will be selected to participate in the beneficiary selection process and in decision-making around design and access to assets and organizational structures.

245. **Human Rights.** If the project execution falls in the hands of wrong people/leadership, human rights can be violated. 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 is required for compliance.
246. **Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment.** Gender analysis will be informed by the Revised National Gender Policy (2017) the Zimbabwe Climate Change Gender Action Plan and the National Strategy to prevent and address gender-based violence (2023-2030), which provide a policy framework policy on how gender can help address CC and form a basis for conducting gender audits within the country. At project development stage a comprehensive gender-responsive stakeholder consultation will be undertaken. Throughout the project, gender equity and women empowerment will be prioritized and as such, through gender-responsive implementation measures that will be ensured through the development of a Gender Action Plan and with applying a gender lens in the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Management Plan. The project has a special focus on women and youth groups especially for capacity building, leadership in FOs, CPCs, Village Cooperatives and Micro-enterprises to ensure that they fully participate and benefit from the project. Also, the participation of women will be encouraged in the field as Lead Farmers, as well as access to small grants to micro-enterprises and cooperatives. The ratio of women to men participation will be 60 to 40 percent where feasible. 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. A Gender-responsive grievance mechanism will be designed and put in place to ensure transparency and accountability.
247. **Core Labour Rights.** Zimbabwe has ratified the 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 maintained throughout project implementation.
248. **Indigenous Peoples.** The project area does not have a resident indigenous peoples' population since the Government of Zimbabwe does not recognize any specific group as indigenous to the country¹⁴¹. All are referred to as local communities. No further assessment for compliance required.
249. **Involuntary Resettlement.** The project will work with communities in their locations and on a voluntary basis. Therefore, no resettlements or even displacement to new locations is expected. Also, during the consultation process the traditional authorities, through Rural District Councils, has expressed their willingness to provide some community lands for demonstration plots
250. **Protection of Natural Habitats.** The project activities will not result in conversion of any natural habitats protected by law, proposed for protection, or recognized as protected by local communities, and will discourage the expansion of farm fields but will promote adapted varieties of cereals and legumes, crop rotation, improved planning of planting seasons, and the introduction of intercropping techniques, including CA, AFS as well as promotion of improved practices for better soil management. The project will support the protection of natural habitats through the development of Community Adaptation Action Plans (A1.1.4) which will consider natural habitats as part of the solution, additionally actions related to groundwater recharge (A3.1.3.) will involve soil and water conservation practices which ultimately will revert in the quality and conservation of natural habitats. Part of the interventions under Climate Change Action Centres (A3.2.2) will involve training around the interlinkages of natural habitats and livelihoods, additionally demonstrations of nature-based income-generating activities that incentivize protection of natural habitats will be carried out. However, a landscape-based study to identify the project risks of intensified agricultural, CRA and agroforestry activities on natural habitat is required, through a E&S assessment and this will be conducted in the full proposal development stage. This assessment will be useful in creating a framework for baseline, mid-term and end of project assessments, as well as for providing clarity on the landscape of the project area.
251. **Conservation of Biological Diversity.** Zimbabwe, being a signatory to United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), is obligated to ensure that all interventions such as this project must be compliant with the requirements of member states of the CBD. Guidance from the CBD that Zimbabwe follows includes integrated management regimes to maintain biodiversity levels through efforts such as management of invasive plant species and similar efforts to conserve the environment. Therefore, at the full proposal design stage, deliberate efforts are taken to ensure that interventions are compliant with all relevant national and international laws on conservation of biological diversity, including any potential impacts on the buffer area of the Chimanimani National Park, which includes Eland Sanctuary, over 2,000 plant species, and the magnificent Chimanimani Mountains, and a 950 hectare Chirinda Forest Botanical Reserve (Key Biodiversity Area in the south of Chipinge) with a unique combination of tropical and subtropical vegetation species, will be analysed in the E&S assessment that will be carried out at full proposal stage. It is important to highlight that no invasive plant species will be planted and other harmful practices to biodiversity that threaten the ecological balance of the region, and promote the sustainable management of the natural resources to the benefit of the local communities, to achieve a balance between

¹⁴¹ <https://www.iwgia.org/en/zimbabwe.html#:~:text=There%20are%20two%20peoples%20who,%2C%20CEDAW%2C%20ICCPR%20and%20ICESCR.>

improving social and economic conditions of local communities, as well as promote natural resources and biodiversity conservation.

252. **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. 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.
253. **Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency.** Some of the identified actions such as sustainable irrigation may inadvertently result in salinization or overexploitation of aquifers. The Environmental Management Agency (AE) will be engaged throughout to ensure that the project is compliant with the applicable environmental regulations, such as the Environmental Management Act. 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.
254. **Public Health.** As an integral part of the project, interventions will among others also include climate proofing of water and sanitation facilities, and sensitization in all targeted communities on safe water use and hygiene. This will include information dissemination to promote that water such as rainwater or river water is used correctly. These efforts lead to avoidance of waterborne diseases and other epidemics hence contributing to public health. Generally, under a changing climate, food insecurity, water scarcity, and associated effects on human health occur, so by ensuring a clean environment and food and nutrition security at household level, certain aspects of human health will be improved. Ultimately, improved diets will positively impact on non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, HIV and TB recovery, and diabetes, and vector and water-borne diseases such as malaria and diarrheal diseases (cholera and typhoid outbreaks). Additionally, improved food and nutrition security positively impact on maternal, neonatal, and child health (MNCH).
255. **Physical and Cultural Heritage.** The project will promote local knowledge and train communities to handle the new technologies without affecting cultural heritage. As regards to physical heritage the project will not implement activities that will target specific physical cultural heritage sites in the project target areas. The project will comply with the National Museums and Monuments Act (Chapter 25/11), as it is the principal law that stipulates the preservation and protection of ancient cultural and natural heritage resources and objects of aesthetic, historical and archaeological value
256. **Lands and Soil Conservation.** The project aims at improving soil management including training on CRA, which will encompass conservation agriculture and agroforestry and undertaking techniques for capturing and holding rainwater in the field for a longer time so that more of the water can infiltrate into soil hence it protects against runoff and soil erosion. Therefore, no damages to soil, vegetation and land resources are expected to occur.

PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENT AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government¹⁴²

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:

(Enter Name, Position, Ministry) Washington Zhakata, Chief Director Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife	Date: (Month, day, year) 06/08/2024
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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 and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, <u>commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and the Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund</u> and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.	
Name & Signature <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> CHIGONA AARON </div>	
Implementing Entity Coordinator	
Date: (Month, Day, Year) 05/08/2025	Tel. and email: aaron.chigona@ema.co.zw +263 712 236 834
Project Contact Person: Hlompho Naledi Kulube	
Tel. And Email: naledi.kulube@ema.co.zw +263 775 196726	

¹⁴² 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.

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:



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
CLIMATE AND WILDLIFE

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

6 August 2024

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

Endorsement for Locally Led Resilience: Enhancing Community-Based Disaster Preparedness and Climate Adaptation in Manicaland and Masvingo

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 the adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in Zimbabwe.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal being submitted for the Adaptation Fund's consideration. If approved, the project will be implemented by Environmental Management Agency (EMA) and executed by Development Aid from People to People Zimbabwe (DAPP).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'W. Zhakata'.

Mr. Washington Zhakata
Director - Climate Change Management Department
Adaptation Fund National Focal Point
Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife
Zimbabwe



Revised PFG Submission Form¹
Project Formulation Grant (PFG)

Submission Date: 05 August 2025

Adaptation Fund Project ID: TBD

Country/ies: Zimbabwe

Title of Project/Programme: *Locally-Led Resilience: Enhancing Community-Based Disaster Preparedness and Climate Adaptation in Manicaland and Masvingo*

Type of IE (NIE/RIE/MIE): National Implementing Entity

Implementing Entity: Environmental Management Agency (EMA) Zimbabwe

Executing Entity/ies: Development Aid from People to People (DAPP) Zimbabwe

A. Project Preparation Timeframe

Start date of PFG	Upon AF disbursement of PFG grant to EMA
Completion date of PFG	9 months after concept note approval

B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities (\$)

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	US\$ Amount	Budget note²
Consultations	Consultation & validation workshops are planned as follows: - Two national workshops targeting national stakeholders (design and validation workshops); - Four District-level consultation rounds of at least 1 week each (including workshops targeting sub-national and local stakeholders, and ‘prioritization and co-design workshops’ at the community-level).	30,000	- Two national workshops (rent of venue, per diems, refreshments) @5,000 (x2) - Four district-level consultation rounds (local accommodation, materials, refreshments, etc.) @5,000 (x4)
Travel/participation	- Field travel by EMA and DAPP 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.	15,000	- Local travel, rent of vehicle and driver @5,000 - Two travels Humana Climate Team ³ @5,000 (x2)

¹ As presented in AFB/PPRC.33/40 Annex 1.

² The proposal should include a detailed budget with budget notes indicating the break-down of costs at the activity level. It should also include a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use.

³ Humana Climate Team refers to the Humana People to People (HPP) Climate Team, housed at Humana Spain, and which supports members of the HPP Federation – including DAPP Zimbabwe – in the design and development of climate change projects.

	- Coordination between national and district-level stakeholders.		
Cost-effectiveness Study	- Assess the economic and financial contribution for the project zones' beneficiaries - Analyze the profitability of project taking into account the cost-effectiveness of the proposed activities related to climate-resilient farming practices, agro-value chain development, and disaster risk management as well as the project added-value at the environmental, social and economic levels.	5,000	Consultant @USD 5,000
Gender Assessment and Action Plan	- Gender review of relevant policies and legal frameworks of Zimbabwe, specifically, to: - 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 using the existing "guidance document for Implementing Entities on compliance with the Adaptation Fund Gender Policy." - Monitoring and Evaluation interventions to measure progress and/ or impact of gender mainstreaming from the climate change and disaster perspective	10,000	- Consultant @7,500; - Expenses for conducting local gender surveys (local travel, accommodation, etc.) @2,500
Environment and Social Impact Studies/ 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.	15,000	Consultant @15,000 USD
Capacity Needs Assessment	- Assessment of institutional and community-level capacity to implement LLA interventions. - Identification of training, resource, and coordination gaps across implementing and executing entities. - Recommendations for integration of capacity building in the full proposal.	10,000	- Consultant @7,500 - Expenses for needs assessment (local travel, accommodation, materials, etc.) @2,500
Design of Small Grants System	- Development of a participatory and accountable small grants mechanism targeting local adaptation actions. - Design of eligibility criteria, governance structures, and disbursement modalities. - Development of operational guidelines for grant oversight and reporting.	15,000	- Consultant @12,500 - Expenses for pilot consultations and meetings with Financial Institutions (local travel, accommodation, materials, etc.) @2,500

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pilot consultations with potential grantees (e.g., CBOs, women’s groups) to test feasibility. - Consultations and pre-teaming agreements with local Financing Institutions. 		
Design of the full project proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. 	10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DAPP Expert for 2 months @5,000 - Technical Assistance Humana Climate Team⁴ @5,000 USD
Others costs	Management fees EMA (8,3%)	10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oversight and management of PFG activities – expert time @5,000; - Monitoring & Evaluation of PFG Activities @2,500; - Financial management and reporting of grant @2,500;
Total Project Formulation Grant		120,000	

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, four 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 DAPP 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. In addition, travel is foreseen for two technical experts from the Humana People to People Climate Team, to contribute cross-country experience and technical input to project development and consultations.

Cost-Effectiveness Study: A dedicated cost-effectiveness study 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 climate-resilient agriculture, agro-value chains, and disaster risk management components. It will also examine the added value of the project at 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.

⁴ Humana Climate Team refers to the Humana People to People (HPP) Climate Team, housed at Humana Spain, and which supports members of the HPP Federation – including DAPP Zimbabwe – in the design and development of climate change projects.

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 Locally-Led Adaptation (LLA) 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.

Design of Small Grants System: The project will develop a participatory and transparent small grants system to support community-driven adaptation actions. This mechanism will include clear eligibility criteria, governance structures, disbursement procedures, and accountability mechanisms. Operational guidelines will be drafted, and consultations will be held with potential grantees—including women’s groups, farmer associations, and youth networks—to test the system’s feasibility. Engagements will also be conducted with local financial institutions to explore partnerships and ensure readiness for implementation.

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.

Preparatory Funding specifically to the LLA Aspect of the Project:

To meaningfully devolve adaptation decision-making to the local level, additional activities are required beyond those typically covered under standard Adaptation Fund project preparation processes. These activities are essential to ensure that community actors – notably those most vulnerable to climate impacts – are empowered to participate in defining, designing, and implementing adaptation actions in a way that reflects their lived realities, capacities, and needs.

The requested additional funding supports four specific interventions that directly contribute to the objectives of Locally-Led Adaptation and are reflected in the PFG budget:

- **Prioritization and Co-Design Workshops at District and Community Level (USD 20,000):** These participatory workshops will serve as structured spaces for local stakeholders – including traditional leaders, CBOs, women’s and youth groups, and smallholder producers – to articulate adaptation priorities and co-design relevant solutions. They go beyond standard consultations by embedding participatory planning methods that allow community members to influence decision-making processes directly.
- **Development of the Small Grant Mechanism, Including Pilot Consultations (USD 15,000):** This activity aims to establish the operational foundations for a devolved financing mechanism that enables community-based entities to access adaptation resources. The additional resources will support in-depth design, consultative meetings, and pilot consultations to ensure the mechanism is transparent, accessible, and responsive to community-level implementation capacities.
- **Capacity Needs Assessment to Identify Gaps and Priorities (USD 10,000):** A targeted capacity assessment will identify specific institutional, technical, and governance gaps at the local level, which are essential for tailoring capacity-building interventions in the full project. This ensures that devolved functions are not only formalized but also practically supported by adequate local capabilities.
- **Additional Technical Expertise from the Humana Climate Team (USD 15,000):** Drawing on cross-country experience from sister organizations engaged in similar locally-led adaptation programming, this support will bring in specialized knowledge on community-driven planning, inclusive monitoring, and local adaptation finance systems. It will strengthen the technical robustness of the LLA components in the full proposal.

The total additional amount requested specific to support the LLA aspects is **USD 60,000**, to ensure the project is designed in line with the principles and operational guidance of the Adaptation Fund’s LLA window.

These additional investments are required to operationalizing the LLA approach in practice. They enable a shift from consultation to shared decision-making and ensure that project mechanisms are not merely top-down instruments, but genuinely co-owned and locally governed.

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
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