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

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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 2023[4]. 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 materials[7], and about 45% of the country's exports[8]. Land degradation, climate change (CC), 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).

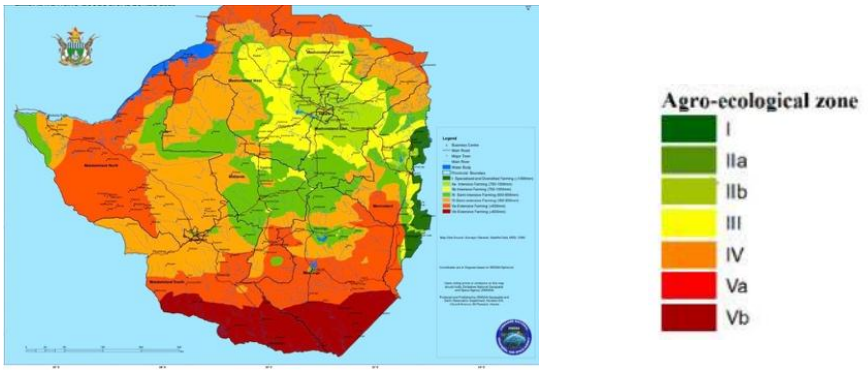

Figure 1. Revised Agro-ecological zones in Zimbabwe[9].

5. Agricultural productivity is fundamental for rural communities' resilience and locally-led adaptation (LLA).[10] According to World Bank Risk Assessment[11] 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,

[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., et al. (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., et al. (2020). Revision Of Zimbabwe's Agro-Ecological Zones.
[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

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 Response[15] predicted that by 2080, excellent maize growing area will be reduced from 75% to 55% due to CC. 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 (SHF). 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 women[19]. 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 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

[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
[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.

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 Reserves[30].

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 2022[32] 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 CC, 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 problems[33]. 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 CC[34]. 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 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 resides[35] , droughts and floods aggravated by CC, expansion of small and large mines, high level of poverty among rural communities, poor agricultural practices, inappropriate land management practices, limited investment in land, inappropriate land use, 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 areas[36].
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.[37]
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.[38] 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.[39] The forest area ratio over total land area has seen a drastic decrease from 57% (1990) to 36% (2015).[40] 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 catchments[41] due to limited groundwater resources (about 10%).[42] The implications of CC 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.[43] Warming temperatures can contribute to increased water loss through evapotranspiration,[44] and lower rainfall will negatively affect groundwater recharge and water runoff.[45] [46] indicates that Zimbabwe is highly susceptible to groundwater drought risk, and without measures to adapt to the effects of CC, the percentage of population at very high risk of groundwater drought could rise from 32% to 86%. 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.[47] 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.[48] The table below shows the decreasing trends in water run-off for each of the catchments and for two emissions scenarios.

[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:
[35] ZimStat, 2022. Zimbabwe 2022 Population and Housing Census Report.
[36] Republic of Zimbabwe, 2018. Final Country Report of the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme. Source:
[37] Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate. Environmental Management Agency (2017), Republic of Zimbabwe National Land Degradation Neutrality Targets.
[38] World Bank Open Data (2018), https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.FRST.RT.ZS?locations=ZW.
[39] FAO (n.d.), https://www.fao.org/zimbabwe/fao-in-zimbabwe/zimbabwe-at-a-glance/en/.
[40] World Bank Open Data (2018) (*ibid.*)
[41] The country has seven river catchments: Gwayi, Manyame, Mazowe, Mzingwane, Runde, Sanyati and Save.
[42] Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate, GoZ (2016). *Zimbabwe's Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*,
[43] Preparation of A National Water Resources Master Plan, Interim Report-1, Volume 1 - Main Report (October 2017).
[44] Zimbabwe's Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (TNC, 2016).
[45] Preparation of A National Water Resources Master Plan, Interim Report-1, Volume 1 - Main Report (October 2017).
[46] R. Davis and R. Hirji (2014). Climate Change and Water Resources Planning, Development and Management in Zimbabwe.
[47] World Bank Group (2021) (*Ibid.)*
[48] World Bank Group (2021). Climate Risk Country Profile Zimbabwe.

Table 1. Estimated current, 2050, and 2080 mean annual runoff (Giga-Liter/Year) in Zimbabwean catchments under two emissions scenarios[49].

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

20. 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 2ºC 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 1.5ºC, 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.* [50]

21. During the last century, Zimbabwe has experienced a warming trend, evidenced by a 0.4ºC 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.[51]

22. Future scenarios in the country project an increase of average annual temperature between 3ºC and 4ºC 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.

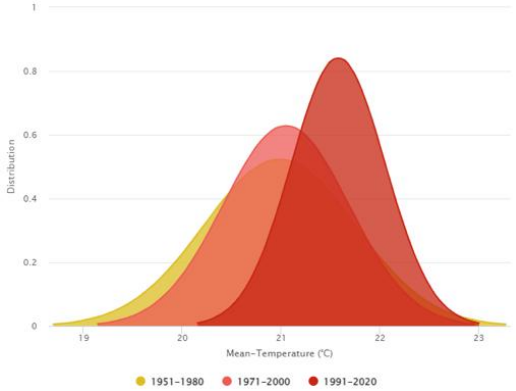

Figure 2. Change in Distribution of Mean-Temperature from 1951 to 2020[52].

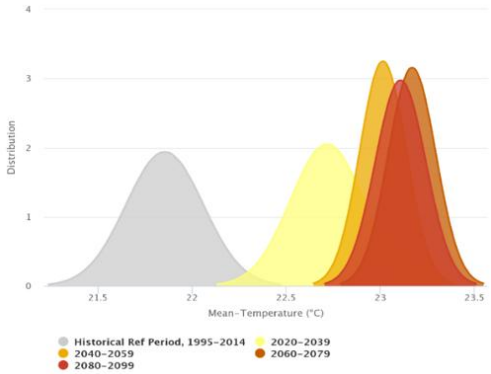

Figure 3. Projected change in Distribution and Mean Temperature under scenario SSP1-2.6 and with Multi-Model Ensemble.

[49] WB, 2021. Climate Risk Country Profile: Zimbabwe
[50] IPCC (2021). *Sixth Assessment Report. Working Group I – The Physical Science Basis. Regional fact sheet – Africa*,
[51] Mtisi, S., & Prowse, M. (Ed.) (2012). *Baseline report on climate change and development in Zimbabwe*. Government of Zimbabwe.
[52] WB Climate Change Knowledge Portal

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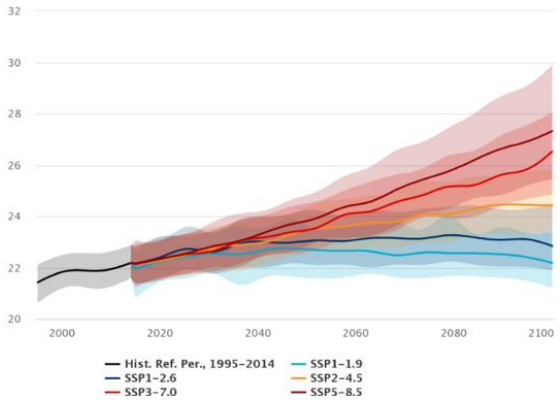

Figure 4. Projected Mean-Temperature (Ref. Period: 1995-2014), Multi-Model Ensemble[53].

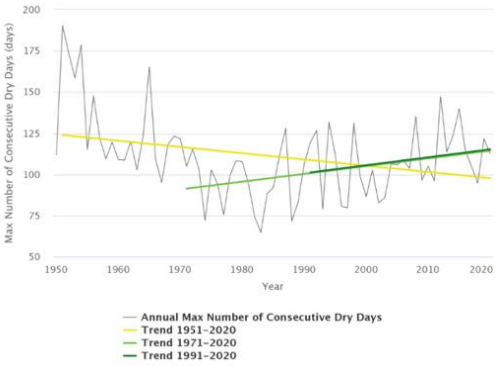

Figure 5. Maximum Number of Consecutive Dry Days Annual Trends with Significance of Trend per Decade[54].

23. Zimbabwe is also likely to continue to <u>experience increased droughts.</u> Over the last decade, rainfall patterns have become increasingly unpredictable and extreme weather events have become <u>more frequent and intense, notably droughts and remnants of tropical cyclones over the Indian Ocean</u>.[55] 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.

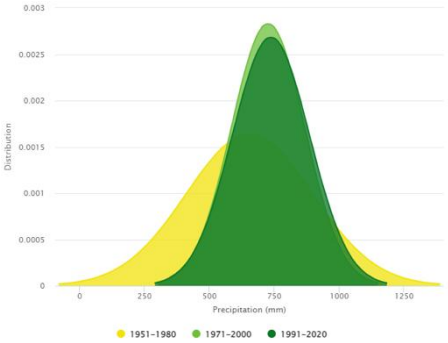

Figure 6. Change in Distribution of Precipitation from 1951 to 2020[56].

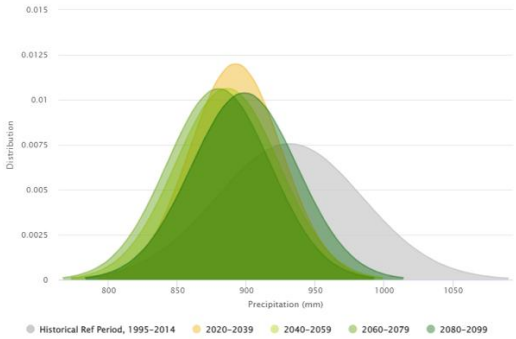

Figure 7. Projected Change in Distribution and Precipitation under scenario SSP1-2.6 and with Multi-Model Ensemble[57].

24. <u>Climatic events</u>. The country is extremely vulnerable to CC 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. <u>Drought is the observed most significant climate-related risk, followed by floods.</u> 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 country[58].

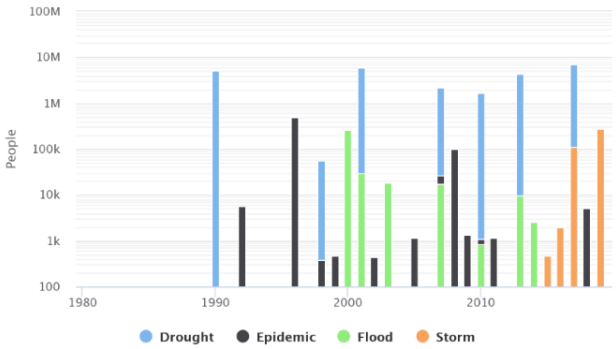

Figure 8. Number of Affected People by key Natural Hazard Statistics for 1980, 2000 and 2010 [59].

25. 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

[53] WB Climate Change Knowledge Portal
[54] Ibid
[55] Brown, Donald et al. *Climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation in Zimbabwe* (2012).
[56] WB Climate Change Knowledge Portal
[57] Ibid
[58] Frischen, Janna, et al.. 2020. "Drought Risk to Agricultural Systems in Zimbabwe: A Spatial Analysis of Hazard, Exposure, and Vulnerability"
[59] WB Climate Change Knowledge Portal, Zimbabwe

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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.

26. 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.[60]

27. 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.[61] Epidemic diseases, particularly bacterial and parasitic, significantly contribute to the toll of total deaths and people affected by natural disasters. The El Niño phenomenon adversely affected agricultural productivity during 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 food[62].

28. 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, and extensive environmental degradation.[63] 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.[64] Prompt dissemination of information about TC occurrences is crucial for protecting public safety, assisting with preparedness, and mitigating the consequences of these.

29. Pests. There is evidence of a causal positive correlation between CC and swarming pests. CC can affect the reproduction rate and population size, survival rate and geographical distribution of pests.[65] Migratory Transboundary Pests and other diseases are expected to impact crop production. 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.[66] An additional major threat is the Quelea birds 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 are caused by the Quelea bird.[67] 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 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

30. 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.

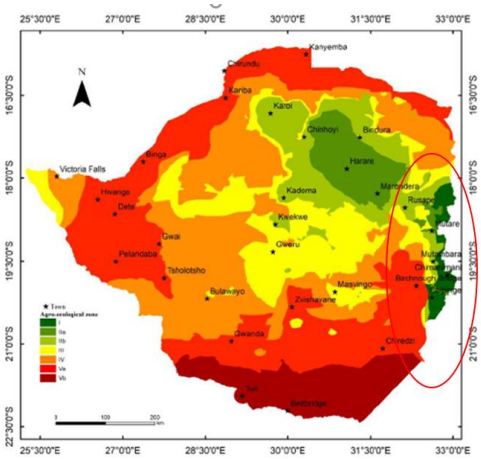

Figure 9. Map of Agroecological Zones (AEZ) of Zimbabwe with location of target areas.



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

31. 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. 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 towards the Save Valley (see **Figure 11** below). The targeted districts within the province are presented in the map above (**Figure 10**).A 2024 provincial

[60] *Ibid.*
[61] Ibid
[62] WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief. February 2024
[63] 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.
[64] Dube, K., and Nhamo, G. (2021). Tropical cyclones as an emerging global disaster risk and management issue.
[65] UNDP (2022). *The Tomorrow War – Climate Change, Hunger, and Swarming Pests* (29 September, 2022)
[66] UNDP (2022) (*ibid.*).
[67] UNDP (2022) (*ibid.*).

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livelihoods assessment[68] indicates that although Pfumvudza[69] has achieved moderate adoption in Chimanimani (35.8% of surveyed households) and relatively high uptake in Chipinge (58.7%), the adoption of complementary CSA practices such as integrated pest management, community seed banks, and improved seed varieties remains limited. These gaps underscore the need for integrated support to scale up CRA practices across the target districts.

Table 2. *Percentage of households implementing climate-smart agriculture practices in the target districts.*

CSA practices	Chimanimani	Chipinge
Quality certified seeds (%)	35,80	6,7
Community seed banks (%)	3,1	0,7
Adapted, suitable Improved Varieties (%)	20,5	7,7
Growing traditional grains (%)	4,1	13,8
Crop rotation (%)	11,9	2,7
Intercropping (%)	16,4	3,4
Cover cropping (%)	2	0,3
Mulching (%)	11,3	0,7
Integrated Pest Management (%)	3,1	0
Compost/Organic fertilizer (%)	7,8	3,4
Drip/Micro Irrigation (%)	0,7	0
Plant Density (%)	0,3	0
Pfumvudza/Int wasa	35,8	58,7

32. Masvingo landscape and agricultural profile. Masvingo province is found in the drier south-eastern lowveld of the country. The province is predominantly semi-arid, with minimal rainfall, 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 CC. 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), drought tolerant and sturdy vegetation like Mopani trees, and very rich natural pastures. Kopjes[70], 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), 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 exercise[73] in Masvingo province confirmed that CC impacts had essentially degraded farming activities in the province, concurring that the area south of Chiredzi in 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 disasters[74]. The Masvingo Rural District Master Plan identifies climate variability, recurrent droughts, water scarcity, land degradation, and siltation of water resources as major environmental and development challenges. Despite the presence of the Tugwi-Mukosi and Lake Mutirikwi reservoirs, inadequate and ageing infrastructure, non-functional boreholes, and rising water demand have resulted in persistent water shortages. These pressures are further exacerbated by soil erosion, streambank cultivation, deforestation, and reservoir siltation, which reduce water storage capacity and degrade ecosystem services, underscoring the need for investments in climate-resilient water management, sustainable land restoration, irrigation development, and CRA.

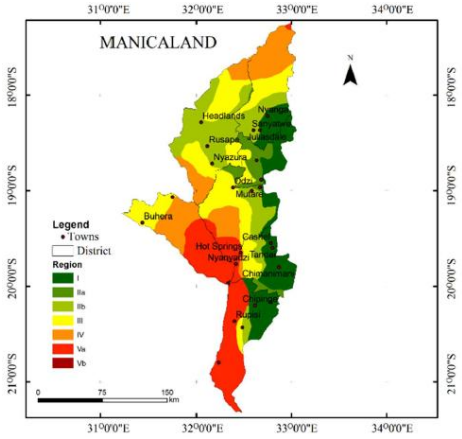

Figure 11. Map of Agroecological Zones (AEZ) of Manicaland province.

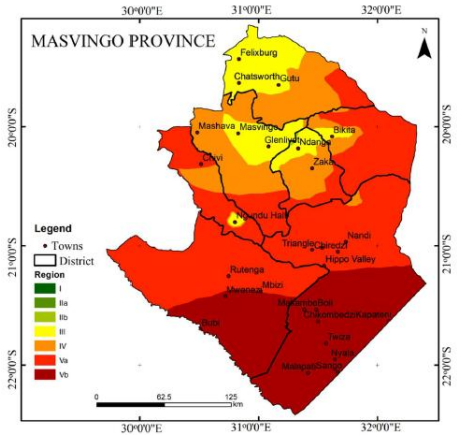

Figure 12. Map of Agroecological Zones (AEZ) in Masvingo province.

[68] Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLac), 2024 Rural Livelihoods Assessment, Manicaland Provincial Report
[69] Pfumvudza is a Zimbabwean climate-smart conservation agriculture concept (derived from Shona for "new season" or "spring") focused on boosting food security by maximizing yields on small, easily managed plots using minimal labor, soil disturbance, precise inputs, and mulching. It promotes high productivity, enabling smallholders to grow, for instance, a year's supply of maize.
[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.
[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., et al (2020). Revision of Zimbabwe's Agro-Ecological Zones. ISBN (In Press)
[74] *Bikita District, Masvingo Province, Disaster Risk Management Planning [DRM PLAN], May 2025 to June 2026*

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

33. 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.

34. The cyclone affected more than 270,000 people and caused 341 deaths in the country. The infrastructure damages 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]

35. 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 temperatures. These projected changes in climate are evident even in the multi-model ensembles for different levels of global warming[79].

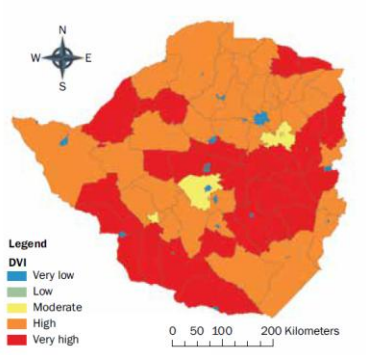
36. Flood risk in the target areas – Flood risk in target provinces is high according to the Aqueduct Atlas of Water risk produced by WRI in 2023[80].

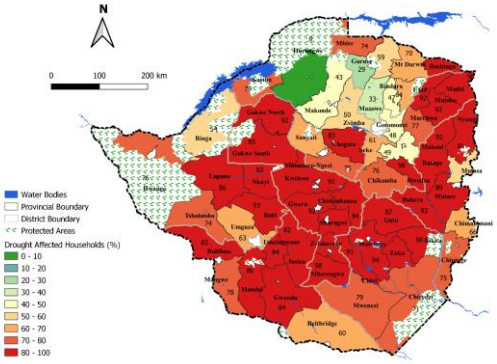
37. As per district level Disaster Management Plans, **Chimanimani DRM plan (2023)** identifies cyclones, droughts, floods, veld fires, Malaria and landslides, as the main hazards, prioritizing drought and storm damage as the most impacting ones for the agriculture sector in the district. **Chipinge 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**.** Additionally, **Chimanimani RDC Master Plan (2024)** indicates that the combined effects of CC are increasing health risks, damaging infrastructure, reducing agricultural productivity and livestock performance, and exacerbating poverty and vulnerability among the district rural communities. **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)

38. 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 55% in Manicaland[81] and 89% in Masvingo) receive Early Warning information such as weather, CC or seasonal performance, only around 53% of them attested to use the information to plan response mechanisms. **Masvingo Master Plan** refers to the need to improve EWS so that impending disasters are communicated immediately. 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, behavioural context analysis during Inception phase will inform awareness-raising interventions to increase adherence to EW messages and uptake of preventive measures.

39. Existing preparedness structures at the district level are the Civil Protection Committees (CPC). In all four (4) districts consulted[82], 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. **Masvingo Master Plan** indicated the need to equip and decentralize CPUs so that each unit can react to region-specific challenges.

40. Droughts. At the provincial level, more than 60 % of farmers rely on rain-fed agriculture[83]. 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. 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)[84] .





[75] OCHA Reliefweb (2020). *Zimbabwe: Tropical Cyclone Idai Final Report, DREF Operation n°: MDRZW014*, 25 August 2020
[76] The World Bank (2020), *A Story of Resilience in Zimbabwe: Cultivating Dreams for a Better Future After Cyclone Idai*, 10 November 2020,
[77] OCHA Reliefweb (2019). *Mozambique, Zimbabwe: Emergency Response to Cyclone Idai-SAF191*, 2 April 2019,
[78] OCHA Reliefweb (2020). (*Ibid)*.
[79] World Bank Group. 2024. Zimbabwe Country Climate and Development Report.
[80] https://www.wri.org/applications/aqueduct/water-risk-atlas
[81] Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLac), 2024 Rural Livelihoods Assessment, Manicaland Provincial Report
[82] District level consultations were undertaken in May 2024. See Section H.
[83] https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/12/3/752
[84] ZimVAC 2022

Figure 13. Spatial variation of vulnerability to drought in Zimbabwe[85]

Figure 14. Households reporting drought[86]

41. 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. 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 outbreaks. Agricultural production has been severely disrupted, with poor or failed harvests prompting the government to import maize for drought relief[87]. At the district level, **Bikita District Land Management Plan** reports that the increased frequency of droughts associated with El Niño events with the recent 2023/2024 drought considered as the worst in 40 years. The impact of CC in the catchment was illustrated by instances reported within Bikita district where people were moving away from the drier regions (wards) to the Save and Devure River to undertake stream bank cultivation (SBC), which degrades wetlands, resulting in poor water recharge, consequently leading to drying of boreholes and wells.
42. According to the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment[88], both target provinces score high in the Shock Exposure Index[89], 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. In Manicaland province, prolonged mid-season dry spell is recognized by 46.5% of the population as the highest development challenge, followed by lack of income generating projects (43.8%).[90].The availability of disaster preparedness, programs, EWS, capacity-building mechanisms, and education, strengthens[91] rural communities' ability to respond to and recover from climate-induced shocks. At the local level, the provincial Livelihoods Assessment for Manicaland [92] shows that both Chimanimani and Chipinge's households report relatively high exposure to prolonged mid-season dry spell (88.7% and 77.9% of households respectively).
43. 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 NDC[93] states that the Southern and Eastern geographies of Zimbabwe are projected to experience the most significant decreases in rainfall between 2020 and 2080.

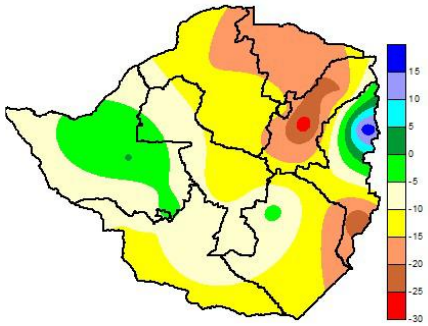


Figure 15. Spatial variation in the changes in the length of the rainfall season between the period 1951 to 1981 and from 1982 to 2016 for Zimbabwe. [94].

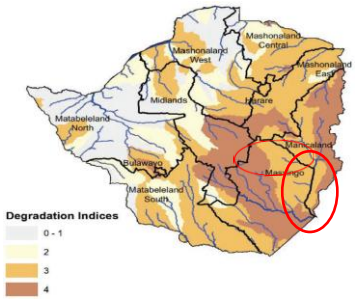


Figure 16. Land and Water Degradation Index[95]

44. Land and Water Degradation: Land degradation is making Zimbabwe less resilient to existing climate variability, and to the future impacts of CC. According to the Land Degradation Neutrality Report [96], 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 Index (see **Figure 16**). 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). At the district level**, Bikita Land Management Plan** shows 17% of cropland and 28.4% of water bodies as degraded. Other local sources like the Ward Environmental Action Plans (WEAP), traced for a sample of wards in Chipinge district (Manicaland) also list deforestation, soil erosion and SBC as the main environmental issues. The **Masvingo Master Plan** (2024-2044) indicates that climate-related pressures are compounded by land degradation, soil erosion, SBC, deforestation and dams/reservoir siltation, reducing water storage capacity and threatening ecosystem services, negatively affecting agricultural productivity,

[85] World Bank, 2021. A Technical Assessment for Updating Drought Risk Mapping in Zimbabwe.
[86] ZImVAC 2022
[87] Chitongo, L. 2013. Towards Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management in Zimbabwe: Evaluating Masvingo Rural District's Community Drought Management Program
[88] Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) 2023 Rural Livelihoods Assessment
[89] Shock Exposure Index is calculated by multiplying the number of shocks experienced with the impact severity of the shock to the household
[90] Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLac), 2024 Rural Livelihoods Assessment, Manicaland Provincial Report
[91] Nyahunda L., Nemakonde L.D:, Khoza S.2024. Exploring the determinants of disaster and climate resilience building in Zimbabwe's rural communities. Natural Hazards Journal.
[92] Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLac), 2024 Rural Livelihoods Assessment, Manicaland Provincial Report
[93] Government of Zimbabwe. 2021. Zimbabwe Revised Nationally Determined Contribution
[94] Negative values indicate contracting whilst positive values imply expansion of the rainfall season. Source: 2020 AEZ Revision
[95] LDN, 2018
[96] Republic of Zimbabwe, 2018. Final Country Report of the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme. Source:

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livestock production and community resilience, highlighting the need for investments in climate-resilient water management, sustainable land restoration, irrigation and CRA.

45. 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. Among the target districts, Bikita has the highest poverty prevalence rate (71.2%) in Masvingo province, which has led communities to resort to undertaking cultivation on fragile wetlands and steep slopes, and engage in livelihood options like wood fuel vending, charcoal production, brick moulding and NTFP overharvesting , resulting in overexploitation of natural resources[97].

46. The proposed initiative is expected to increase the adaptive capacities of smallholder households, making them more resilient to impacts of CC 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 CC, has been assessed according to a set of indicators on access to education, access to agricultural information and adoption of improved agricultural practices. From this assessment[98], a provincial AC ranking (out of 8 rural provinces) was developed. Manicaland is 5th in the AC 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 that[99] the majority of households in the province experienced economic and climatic related shocks and exposure to shocks was higher than the ability to cope. In Manicaland the provincial ZimLac[100] report showed that in 2024, the majority of households (55.9%) did not have any measures in place to cover the cereal gap 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.

47. 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 data[101] 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 (e.g. produce storage). Crops such as maize are stored in simple granaries called *tsapi* or *huze*, where the commodity is vulnerable to rodents, (*zvipfukuto* in vernacular language), and considerably affecting maize quality[102]. In Manicaland, agricultural productivity is low, and poverty prevalence affects more than 70% of the population[103]. The province experiences acute food insecurity due to a number of factors including 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.

48. In Manicaland, 50 per cent of rural households were food insecure[104], due to high prices, cash shortage, loss of employment, and shocks to agricultural production. Some of the families' coping strategies are: selling household assets (including house or land), spending savings on food and reducing non-food expenditures[105]. 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. At the district level (2024 in Bikita[106]), it was noted that local communities were seriously grappling with food insecurity and water scarcity due to high climate variability and limited livelihood options, affecting a large proportion of the population, contributing to their vulnerability to CC.

49. 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, focusing on strengthening the whole agriculture value chain.

50. A preliminary Gender Assessment [107]was undertaken to complement stakeholder consultations and better understand the differentiated impacts of CC on women and men in the target districts. The assessment found that CC is exacerbating gender inequalities across Chipinge, Masvingo Rural, and Bikita, disproportionately affecting women due to their central role in agriculture, household food security, water collection, caregiving, and natural resource management. Despite providing much of the agricultural labour, women continue to face unequal access to land, finance, productive assets, climate information, extension services, and decision-making processes. Climate-related shocks, including droughts and extreme weather events, are increasing women's workloads, reducing agricultural productivity, worsening food insecurity, and heightening vulnerability to poverty, protection risks, and GBV.

51. District-specific vulnerabilities were also identified. In Chipinge, the impact of Cyclone Idai has left many communities with inadequate access to safe water, disproportionately affecting women's health, hygiene, and caregiving responsibilities. In Masvingo Rural, chronic drought, limited access to agricultural water sources, and male out-migration have increased women's workloads and undermined food security, while the transition to more labour-intensive small grains places additional demands on women. In Bikita, increasing pressure on land and natural resources associated with lithium mining, combined with limited access to productive assets and finance, constrains livelihood opportunities for women, youth, PWDs, and child-headed households. Across the districts, restrictive social norms continue to limit women's mobility, participation in economic activities, leadership roles, and decision-making processes, while unpaid care responsibilities further reduce their ability to benefit from livelihood opportunities.

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[97] Environmental Management Agency, 2024.Integrated Land Use and Land Management Plan For Bikita District
[98] Hunter. R., Crespo. O., Coldrey, K, Cronin, K, New, M. 2020. Research Highlights – Climate Change and Future Crop Suitability in Zimbabwe.
[99] ZIMLAC, 2024. Masvingo Rural Provincial Livelihoods Assessment Report.
[100] Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLac), 2024 Rural Livelihoods Assessment, Maniacland Provincial Report
[101] ZIMLAC, 2024. Masvingo Province. Rural Livelihoods Assessmnet Report.
[102] Chingarande, et al. (2020). Zimbabwe Food Security Desk Research: Masvingo Province. Washington, DC: Research Technical Assistance Center.
[103] ZIMSTAT,2015
[104] ZIMVAC, 2019
[105] USAID (nd) Zimbabwe Food security, Manicaland.
[106] Environmental Management Agency, 2024.Integrated Land Use and Land Management Plan For Bikita District
[107] DAPP/EMA, 2026, Preliminary Gender Assessment can be accessed here

52. These findings are consistent with broader national evidence [108]which indicates that rural women in Zimbabwe continue to face significant barriers in education, employment, leadership, and personal safety. Women have lower rates of post-secondary education and paid employment than men, are frequently concentrated in informal and vulnerable livelihoods, and often face social norms that restrict their participation in economic and public life. Existing programmes, including R4, FARM, and Seeds for the Future, support agricultural development and market access; however, substantial gender gaps persist[109]. Overall, the assessment highlights the need for adaptation interventions that strengthen women's access to resources, economic opportunities, leadership roles, decision-making processes, and climate resilience while promoting the inclusion of other vulnerable and marginalized groups.

53. 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' Clubs[110] 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 SHF.

2. Project/Programme Objectives

54. The **Overall Objective** of the project is to enhance the adaptation capacity and resilience of communities to CC impacts and variability in Manicaland and Masvingo Provinces.

55. The **Specific Objectives** of the project are to:

(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.

56. It is estimated that the project will directly benefit 4,000 SHF through concrete adaptation interventions (Component 3), with targeted inclusion quotas to ensure equitable participation of vulnerable groups, including at least 50% women, 20% women-headed households, 15% youth, 5% persons living with disabilities (PLWDs), 10% displaced and migrant-affected households, and targeted participation of marginalized and vulnerable ethnic groups where present in the project area. The direct beneficiaries will also include approximately 16,000 household family members (Comp. 3) . A further 50,000 people are expected to benefit directly from strengthened capacities and improved services provided by local institutions, including 10 Ward Civil Protection Committees, 80 Village Civil Protection Committees, and 80 cooperatives, all of which will apply inclusive participation and representation principles for vulnerable groups (Component 1). In addition, an estimated 100,000 people (approximately 18% of the districts' population) are expected to benefit indirectly from improved resilience, climate information services, ecosystem restoration, and strengthened disaster risk management systems supported by the project. While Component 3 focuses on intensive support for 4,000 SHF, Components 1 and 2 provide broader community-wide benefits, with the 4,000 SHF acting as 'lead' practitioners whose assets and knowledge serve as the core of the ward's resilience system

3. Project/Programme Components and Financing [111]

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
		Output 2.2.: Community water resources strengthened for climate resilience	725,000
3. Improving Climate-Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security	Outcome 3: Local Livelihoods and Food Systems are more Equitable, and Climate-Resilient	Output 3.1: Inclusive and climate-resilient agricultural systems are strengthened and led by local actors.	1,450,000
		Output 3.2: Increased and diversified income through the development of small-scale, climate-resilient enterprises	450,000
6. Project/Programme Execution cost (8.46 %)			390,000 (8.46%)
7. Total Project/Programme Cost			4,610,000
8. Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (8,5%)			390,000 (8.5%)
Amount of Financing Requested			5,000,000

4. Projected Calendar

[108] Afrobarometer, 2025. Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 1010, 3 July 2025. Zimbabwean women face gender obstacles, Source: here
[109] DAPP/EMA, 2024. The consultation report can be accessed here
[110] 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.
[111] IE and EE fees calculator: https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/ie-and-ee-fees-calculator/

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

57. The project in eastern Manicaland and northeastern Masvingo is designed to enhance the resilience of rural communities to CC 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, 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.

58. 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)[112] 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 operationalized[113]. 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 8** 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)[114] 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) and Environmental Monitors with the major role of promoting environmental awareness and supporting the enforcement of environmental laws. Overall, EC, ESC and Environmental Monitors in Zimbabwe serve as vital platforms for multi-stakeholder collaboration in the pursuit of environmental sustainability and resilience. The ECs ESCs and Environmental Monitors will support the project to increase outreach, and provide contextual knowledge on environmental aspects in a consultative role.

59. The project enhances communities' direct access to finance by (1) supporting adaptation and disaster risk reduction local governance structures (CPCs, CCACs, FCs, ECs); (2) supporting Village Cooperatives and micro-enterprises in the target areas, and (3) establishing a small-grants mechanism to support climate-resilient businesses overcome start-up barriers, expand operations, and achieve long-term financial sustainability. FCs and CPCs will be established at village and ward levels as inclusive, community-based structures responsible for planning, coordinating, overseeing, and monitoring of adaptation and DRR interventions. These structures will be designed to ensure transparency, accountability, inclusivity, and responsiveness to local needs and vulnerabilities. FCs will serve to organize SHF around climate-resilient livelihoods, sustainable land and water management, savings and lending activities, access to climate information, and collective marketing. Each FC will comprise 50 members elected through open community meetings using transparent, participatory selection processes. Village Civil Protection Committees (VCPCs) and Ward Civil Protection Committees (WCPCs) will function as local

[112] CPCs are established under the Civil Protection Act [Chapter 10:06] to manage and respond to disasters. These committees operate at national, provincial, and district levels, with the National Civil Protection Committee (NCPC) coordinating activities and providing guidance to lower-level committees. Their work is supported by the Department of Civil Protection (DCP), which is the main government authority for disaster management, housed within the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works

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

114 In Chimanimani this is called the District Climate Change and Watershed Management Committee

coordination and governance mechanisms for DRR, climate adaptation planning, EWS dissemination, preparedness, and emergency response. To ensure responsiveness to local needs, these committees will coordinate participatory identification of local climate risks and vulnerabilities, supporting community contingency planning, coordinating adaptation investments, monitoring implementation progress, and ensuring that the needs of vulnerable groups are reflected in local development and resilience strategies. Membership and leadership structures across all FCs and CPCs, will prioritise representation of vulnerable and marginalized groups through minimum quotas, including: at least 50% women; 20% youth (18–35 years); and 10% PWDs; representation of women-headed households and displaced or migrant-affected households to prevent elite capture. Committee members will be selected through participatory consultations, to ensure broad-based participation. To strengthen transparency and accountability, the project will support: public community meetings for planning and reporting; participatory vulnerability assessments and prioritization of interventions; transparent beneficiary selection criteria; community feedback and grievance redress mechanisms; public disclosure of project resources and activities at the community level; regular monitoring and social accountability sessions involving beneficiaries and local authorities. Capacity building of FCs and CPCs on inclusive governance, leadership, financial management, gender equality, disability inclusion, conflict sensitivity, climate risk management, and participatory monitoring, will ensure that local institutions are representative, trusted, and capable of addressing the differentiated needs of target communities.

60. 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.

61. 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 project remains responsive to evolving needs and climate realities.

62. The project encompasses three main components: (C1) strengthening community capacity for climate resilience and emergency preparedness, aligned with Outcome 1, 2 and 3 of AF's Strategic Results Based Framework (SRF) (C2) increasing the resilience of physical and natural assets, aligned with Outcome 4 of AF's SRF and (C3) improving climate-resilient livelihoods and food security, aligned with Outcome 6 of AF's SRF. The components and respective outputs and activities are all interlinked and strengthen one another, where Component 1 serves as the foundational governance and planning engine. The Community-Based Emergency and Adaptation Plans (CAAPs) developed in Output 1.1 provide the community-led mandate and strategic direction for all subsequent investments. Component 2 then implements the physical and natural asset upgrades identified in these plans, while Component 3 addresses the livelihood and food security priorities. This ensures that "locally-led" is not a separate activity but the guiding logic: local knowledge drives the plan (C1), which in turn drives the resource allocation for assets (C2) and farming (C3). 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 3**. Proposed project logic.*

Outcome	Outputs	Activities *(shortened activity titles)*
Outcome 1: Local Actors Lead Climate Resilience, Emergency Preparedness, and Adaptation.	Op 1.1: 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 CAAPs.
	Op 1.2: Strengthened local awareness, and inclusive learning platforms.	A1.2.1 Co-create/implement locally-tailored communication packages. 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.
	Op 2.2.: Community water resources and natural resources are strengthened for climate resilience	A2.2.1. Identify and implement water solutions for improved irrigation. A2.2.2 Implement locally-managed groundwater recharge zones A2.2.3 Restore and protect critical water catchments and water sources. A2.2.4 Community-led land restoration and soil/water conservation
Outcome 3: Local Livelihoods and Food Systems are more Equitable, and Climate-Resilient.	Op 3.1: Inclusive and climate-resilient agricultural systems are strengthened and led by local actors.	A3.1.1 Establish and operate Climate Change Action Centres (CCACs). A3.1.2 Support implementation of CRA and IFS through Farmers' Clubs. A3.1.3 Promote locally-appropriate integrated, climate-resilient livestock and fish farming. A3.1.4 Establish climate-resilient community gardens
	Op 3.2: Increased and diversified income through the development of small-scale, climate-resilient enterprises.	A3.2.1 Establishment/ capacity building of cooperatives/ micro-enterprises. A3.2.2 Provide small grants to micro-enterprises and cooperatives.

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

63. Communities in eastern Manicaland and northeastern Masvingo are increasingly facing the impacts of CC, 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.

64. 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. The component is aligned with Outcome 1, 2 and 3 of the revised AF's Strategic Results-Based Framework (SRF)[115]. 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. DAPP, in collaboration with the relevant Ministries and Departments (e.g. Agriculture and Veterinary, Environment, CPU, Women Affairs, Youth and SMES) will be responsible for directly training and mentoring FCs, CPCs, women's groups, and village councils. EMA will provide technical support and validate the development of the training materials and overall approach. Training approaches will be tailored to each group. combining peer-to-peer learning (FC), Training of Trainers (ToT) model (extension officers, lead farmers, and CPC leaders), simulation drills, demonstration plots, workshops, and community dialogues. Capacity building will be delivered through gender-responsive and youth-inclusive methodologies, with detailed approaches to be finalized during full proposal.

65. 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. This experience identified several gaps that informed the project design. The main adaptation challenges faced by SHF include limited financial capacity, inadequate funding for adaptation projects, and a lack of understanding of CC—with some farmers even dismissing it as a myth—resulting in low participation. Furthermore, the project evaluation revealed that existing governance structures and protocols sometimes hinder coordination and support for adaptation initiatives.

66. 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 SHF in Chiredzi build resilience to the impacts of CC, including variability. The project was implemented around four main outcomes: (i) National institutions have capacity to improve knowledge base to facilitate CC 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. To ensure that evidence data from this project will inform decision making at FC and CPC level, and according to the project document[116], at the local level, communities will exchange knowledge and experiences through various platforms, including social media, print and electronic media. Existing community radio stations will be used to promote awareness across districts. Additionally, the project will deliver an adaptation toolkit and a comprehensive How-to Manual to capture successful interventions and the processes required.

67. Key Outcome / output indicators and targets under this Component are[117]: Outcome Indicators: 1.People using threat and hazard information from locally strengthened EWS. *(#of people, by sex, by sector and by hazard), 2.* Local institutions (CPCs, VIDCOs and Ward structures) strengthened and trained to better address climate risks. *(#of local institutions, disaggregated by type), 3.* People with strengthened awareness of CC risks and how to better address them *(# of people, disaggregated by sex, by vulnerable groups and by sector). Output indicators:* (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 inclusive climate communication package (*target: 50,000 people – 50% women, 25% youth)., e)* # Early Warning Systems improved last mile connectivity [*# of systems, disaggregated by hazard and by scale*], f) People covered by strengthened EWS *[# of people, disaggregated by sex and by hazard), g)* Number of local institutions (CPCs, VIDCOs and Ward structures) responsible for defining, prioritizing and implementing Community Adaptation Action Plans (CAAPs).

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.

68. CC 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. To build on past projects experience and methodologies (see NORAD funded project in section F) the project will draw directly from WFP's validated methodologies and lessons learned to operationalize and scale proven approaches at the community level.

[115] Following the guidance provided for alignment https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/AF-Strategic-Results-Framework-Guidance-Document_Final.pdf#SRF%20GUIDANCE%208.indd%3A.13115%3A822

[116] https://www.adaptation-fund.org/project/enhancing-resilience-of-communities-and-ecosystems-in-the-face-of-a-changing-climate-in-arid-and-semi-arid-areas-of-zimbabwe-3/

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

Collaboration with WFP and national institutions will ensure alignment of EWS triggers, content, and dissemination mechanisms, thereby strengthening coherence, maximizing impact, and enhancing the reach of anticipatory action frameworks across vulnerable districts.

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

69. This activity involves conducting comprehensive capacity building[118] 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 connectivity of Early Warning Systems.

70. 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 CC 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 (CAAPs).

71. 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. 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. The CAAP process is open-ended; while the project provides a framework of potential interventions, communities are empowered to propose and prioritize novel or site-specific adaptation actions that they identify as critical for their resilience. This ensures the process uncovers localized needs not captured during district-level design, provided they align with the project's core objectives and the AF ESP. Resource allocation will then be defined in a participatory budget which will be overseen by the CPCs (and monitored by the CPU and EE). CPCs will hold the final authority over the selection of interventions, ensuring they respond directly to the vulnerabilities identified in the CAAP process.

Output 1.2: Strengthened local awareness and inclusive learning platforms.

72. 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 CC and adaptation literacy, resilience, nutrition, and sanitation campaigns. By working with community radio stations, WhatsApp community groups and farmer networks, community meetings and village assemblies, FCs and CPCs platforms, community dialogue sessions and participatory reflection meetings, among other communication channels, 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 packages.

73. 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, 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.

[118] An extensive capacity assessment exercise will be undertaken as part of the Full Proposal Development

74. 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, youth, PLWD and other vulnerable groups 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.

75. 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). These assessments, which include the capturing of traditional knowledge, will inform the mapping and systematization of adaptation actions, especially the activities falling under Outcome 3.
76. 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.
77. 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 CC 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.

78. CC 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.
79. 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 CC, 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, youth, PWDs, indigenous people, displaced households, implementing adaptive measures for disaster preparedness at both farm and community levels, and climate-proofing water and sanitation facilities, while identifying and implementing small-scale water solutions for agriculture, establishing and promoting small-scale irrigation systems, restoring water source areas and restoration and soil conservation measures. 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. This component is aligned with Outcome 4 and Outcome 5 of the revised AF's Strategic Results Based Framework (SRF).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**.**
80. Key indicators under this component are [119]: (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, PWDs, indigenous people, displaced persons (*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)*, (f) Total hectares of critical water catchments protected, (g) Number of community disaster response services strengthened through resilient shelters, emergency facilities and storage systems, h) Total hectares of critical water catchments protected and restored, i) Total hectares under improved land management.

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

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

81. 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.
82. 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. The specific infrastructure projects mentioned here are indicative and based on preliminary district-level data. The final decision to build or upgrade any specific asset rests solely with the community through the CAAP process, ensuring that local priorities are the primary factor influencing all Output 2.1 activities

A2.1.1 Co-design and upgrade emergency shelters that account for the safety and specific needs of women and children, youth, PWDs, indigenous people, displaced persons.

83. 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 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.

84. 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).
85. 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.

86. 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 youth, PWDs, indigenous people, displaced persons, 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.

Output 2.2: Community water resources and natural systems are strengthened for climate-resilience.

87. 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.

A2.2.1 Identify and implement community-selected small-scale water solutions for improved irrigation.

88. At the inception stage, as a technical component of the CAAP development process (Activity 1.1.3), the project will conduct comprehensive and participatory assessments to identify the most viable and context-relevant small-scale water solutions for each target area. Potential solutions may include rainwater capture systems, boreholes, and small channels from nearby rivers. Once suitable solutions are identified, the project will proceed with the installation and implementation. Training will be provided to farmers and community members on the operation and maintenance (O&M) of these water systems. 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, best practices for irrigating different types of crops and managing irrigation schedules based on crop needs and weather conditions. In addition, the project will work to identify and facilitate access to financial solutions to enable farmers implement irrigation systems (connecting farmers with microfinance institutions, providing information on available grants or subsidies, and supporting the formation of savings groups.

A2.2.2 Implement locally-managed groundwater recharge zones and actions.

89. 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. Once potential recharge sites are identified, the project will implement various groundwater recharge techniques: construction of check dams, and recharge pits/shafts, etc. These structures will be strategically located near water sources, that tend to flood, to maximize the capture and infiltration of water during periods of flood or high flow. Training and capacity-building programs will be conducted on the

O&M of groundwater recharge structures: monitoring water levels, managing recharge rates, and maintaining the structures. At full proposal development stage, further research will be done to analyze the underground water assessments undertaken under the UNESCO-led project (see section F) as a source for informed decision-making in Manicaland province interventions.

A2.2.3 Restore and protect critical water catchments, wetlands, riverbanks and water source areas.

90. The project will support community-led restoration and protection of priority catchments, watersheds and water source areas that are critical for sustaining water availability and ecosystem services. Sub activities may include revegetation, protection of riparian zones, regulation of damaging land-use practices, and rehabilitation of degraded areas contributing to runoff, sedimentation and declining water quality. These measures will strengthen watershed functions, improve water regulation and contribute to long-term climate resilience.

A2.2.4 Implement community-led land restoration and soil and water conservation measures to reduce erosion and strengthen climate resilience.

91. The project will support community-led land restoration and soil and water conservation measures to reduce erosion, restore degraded landscapes and strengthen resilience to droughts, floods and rainfall variability. Based on local priorities and participatory planning processes, activities may include the rehabilitation of degraded gullies, riverbanks and erosion hotspots, the establishment of contour ridges and infiltration structures, revegetation and stabilisation of vulnerable areas, and other locally appropriate soil and water conservation techniques. These interventions will help reduce land degradation and sedimentation, improve soil moisture retention and water infiltration, protect agricultural land and water resources, and enhance the capacity of communities and ecosystems to withstand climate-related stresses.

Component 3 – Improving Climate-Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security

92. Agricultural communities in eastern Manicaland and northeastern Masvingo are heavily reliant on climate-sensitive farming practices, making them particularly vulnerable to the impacts of CC. Droughts, unpredictable rainfall patterns, and extreme weather events threaten food security and livelihoods, exacerbating poverty and instability in these regions.

93. The third component of the project focuses on improving climate-resilient livelihoods and food security through the adoption of CRA practices, sustainable land management (SLM), and diversified income-generating activities (IGAs). This component is aligned with Outcome 6 of the revised AF's SRF. By 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 climate-resilient 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.

94. 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 SHF. 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.

95. 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, fostering local ownership and strengthening decision-making at the grassroots level.
- **Participatory Planning and Action**: Farmers are actively involved in designing and implementing agricultural practices, CRA techniques, and income-generating activities, ensuring 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, youth, PLWD and SHF, 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.

96. Key outcome and output indicators under this component are[120]: Outcome indicators: (a) # of people adopting climate resilient agricultural practices; (*(#of people, disaggregated by sex and by vulnerable group), (b)* # of people that have improved food security at project's end (disaggregated by sex) *(target: 16,000 people, of which 50% women);* Output indicators: (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, 5% PWD, 10% youth, and 5% indigenous and displaced persons in management positions);* (c) total ha of farmland brought under climate-resilient agricultural practices (*target: 4,000 ha);* (d) # 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)*, (e) # of local entities, institutions and communities given direct access to finance and/or decision-making power over how adaptation solutions are defined, prioritized, designed and implemented, disaggregated by type; (f) # or % of new adaptation solutions that have been informed by meaningful participation of target/priority groups defined (and disaggregated by) as women, youth, children, PWD, displaced people, and marginalized ethnic groups.(g)Number of women, men, youth and persons with disabilities receiving targeted support to adopt climate-resilient agricultural

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

practices and integrated farming systems, (h) Number of people receiving targeted support to develop new or improved climate-resilient livelihood enterprises through cooperatives and micro-enterprises, disaggregated by sex and vulnerable groups.

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

Output 3.1: Inclusive and climate-resilient agricultural systems are strengthened and led by local actors.

97. CC 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. The project will adopt a participatory and community-led approach actively involving local communities in the identification, planning, implementation, monitoring, and management of agricultural adaptation interventions. The identification and planning of these agricultural interventions will be directly informed by and nested within the participatory development of the CAAPs (Activity 1.1.3) to ensure they reflect community-wide resilience priorities.Community members will participate through village assemblies, participatory vulnerability assessments, cooperative formation meetings and CCACs. Traditional leaders, local authorities, women's groups, youth associations, PLWD organizations, displaced households, and marginalized ethnic groups will all be engaged to ensure interventions reflect local priorities, indigenous knowledge, and differentiated climate risks. FCs will serve as local platforms for collective action, climate adaptation learning, savings and lending, input access, sustainable natural resource management, aggregation of produce, and market engagement. These structures will also facilitate access to extension services, climate information, drought-tolerant crops, water-efficient technologies, and integrated farming systems combining crop production, livestock, agroforestry, nutrition gardens, and soil and water conservation practices. To ensure equitable participation and benefits, the project will apply inclusion quotas and targeted outreach measures for vulnerable groups among the 4,000 direct SHF beneficiaries. The targeted disaggregated participation is expected to include: 50% women (2,000 farmers); 15% men; 15% women-headed households (600 households); 25% youth aged 18–35 years (1,000 beneficiaries); 5% persons living with disabilities (200 beneficiaries); 15% displaced, migrant-affected, or highly mobile households (600 beneficiaries).FC Committees, elected by their peers, will lead the decision-making process for the agricultural set of interventions, ensuring that technical support from AGRITEX aligns with farmer priorities.

A3.1.1 Establish and operate Climate Change Action Centres (CCACs) to demonstrate CRA and Integrated Farming Systems run by local champions and groups.

98. 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 CCAC will be established in each District. The selection of public facilities will be done in collaboration with FCs' representatives, local leaderships, AGRITEX, and local schools' representatives. The established Centers will be collectively manned by selected FC representatives, AGRITEX, and local schools.
99. These centers will establish extended model fields incorporating a range of integrated climate-resilientfarming 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 CC. 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.
100. 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.

A3.1.2 Support Farmers Clubs in planning and implementing CRA and Integrated Farming Systems through Farmers' Clubs.

101. 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 with 7 members, including women, youth, PWDs, and displaced persons. 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. The project, in collaboration with the AGRITEX, Veterinary Department, and EMA, 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 SHF to proactively protect their crops and livestock from climate-related diseases.

A3.1.3 Promote locally appropriate integrated and climate-resilient livestock and fish farming.

102. 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 and climate-resilient livestock, such as chickens, goats, and rabbits, and facilitate linkages with organizations specialized in small livestock production. 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 and water from fish ponds is used to water vegetables, while livestock can contribute to soil fertility and crop production through manure.

A3.1.4 Co-develop and sustain climate-resilient community gardens to enhance nutrition and inclusion.

103. 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 climate resilient varieties and 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, climate resilient horticulture and harvesting. Farmers will also learn about the nutritional benefits of different crops and how to incorporate them into their diets.

Output 3.2: Increased and diversified income through the development of small-scale, climate-resilient enterprises.

104. 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.

A3.2.1 Support the establishment and operationalization of inclusive Village Cooperatives and Micro-enterprises.

105. 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 already identified local financial institutions (FBC Bank) to provide tailored financial products, such as microloans and savings accounts, that meet the specific needs of rural farmers and entrepreneurs.

A3.2.2 Provide flexible, locally-managed small grants for climate-resilient micro-enterprises and cooperatives.

106. In collaboration with a local bank (to be identified during Full Proposal stage), under direct supervision of the EE, 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.

107. The small grants system will be designed to integrate the Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) principles (see **Error! Reference source not found.Error! Reference source not found.** below) 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. Key components to consider in the grant system design will include a community steering committee for local priorities, a transparent fund disbursement process, and community-based monitoring and evaluation. The final

operational guidelines and governance structure of the small-grants mechanism will be co-designed with local stakeholders during the full proposal stage to ensure the system is responsive to local financial realities and barriers.



Figure 17. Climate-Resilient Small Grants Mechanism (preliminary)

B. Economic, Social and Environmental Benefits

108. The project's design promotes activities that are compatible with the ecological and socio-economic context of communities and SHF 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 responsive grievance redress mechanism.
109. The diverse impacts of CC 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 CC and variability. The methodology to identify and prioritize vulnerable groups in Manicaland and Masvingo will combine quantitative data analysis with participatory community-based approaches to ensure that interventions are equitable, gender-responsive, and targeted to those most at risk. The process will begin with the use of secondary data sources such as ZIMSTAT, ZimVAC, CPU, Ministry of Environment, Climate & Wildlife, EMA, Ministry of Local Government, Local Authorities and the Meteorological Services Department to map districts and wards most exposed to climate hazards like droughts, floods, and land degradation. This will be complemented by participatory rural appraisals, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews to capture local knowledge and validate findings. Preliminary vulnerability criteria will include environmental factors (exposure to recurrent climate hazards and ecosystem degradation), socioeconomic conditions (poverty levels, livelihood diversification, and infrastructure access), gender dimensions (women's access to land, credit, and decision-making), and social characteristics (age, disability, health status, and dependency ratios). A weighted multi-criteria analysis will be used to rank vulnerability levels across groups and locations, integrating both quantitative indicators and community perceptions. The results will be validated through district and provincial stakeholder workshops involving key stakeholders including CPU, Ministry of Local Government, EMA, Meteorological Services Department, DAPP, local authorities, and community representatives.
110. 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, 5% PWDs, 10% displaced persons and indigenous people who are disproportionately affected by CC. Specific benefits are discussed below and include the following.

Economic benefits.

111. Diversifying cropping systems as part of CSA and intercropping reduces the risk of total crop failure from extreme weather events. Similarly, 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.
112. Improved Water Management practices canprovide a reliable water source andreduce water usage, ultimately reducing the risk of crop failure and subsequent economic losses and food insecurity.
113. 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.
114. 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. 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.
115. 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. .

116. 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.
117. Women's economic empowerment and employment generation: The project supports women's economic empowerment and other indirect vulnerable beneficiaries including 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

118. 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 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:
119. 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.
120. Gender-responsive approach: The project will be gender responsive, in compliance with the National[121] 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[122]. 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.
121. 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 projects[123] 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.
122. 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.
123. The project will ensure the equitable distribution of benefits through a structured inclusion framework that will be informed by the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment undertaken at full proposal stage that will systematically identify and address social, economic, and gender-based inequalities across all target groups—women, youth, PLWD, and displaced households. The establishment of inclusive committees, gender-responsive beneficiary selection criteria, and the creation of safe spaces and childcare arrangements to enable women's and youth participation will be assessed at FP stage. The project will partner with relevant government ministries (Min. of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, Gender Commission), traditional leaders, local women's groups and specialized service providers to strengthen referral pathways for GBV survivors and to institutionalize support mechanisms beyond project duration. Inclusion targets will be integrated into the project's MEAL framework, with clear indicators (e.g., disaggregated participation rates, leadership representation, benefit access) and defined accountability roles at both community and implementing partner levels. Regular participatory monitoring sessions and social audits will be conducted to track equitable benefit distribution, while corrective action will be implemented if disparities are identified.
124. 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).
125. 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

[121] 2023-2030 National Strategy To Prevent And Address Gender Based Violence and the National Gender Policy (2013-2017)
[122] Zimbabwe Climate Change Gender Action Plan, 2022.
[123] Data sourced from DAPP experience

nutritious vegetables, climate-resilient grains, and fruit trees, which lead to improved diets and nutrition. Organized community gardens can enhance 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 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.

126. Increased knowledge on CC, climate risks and responses: The CC awareness raising meetings and the training on CC adaptation and food security creates room for a well-informed community-based planning process facilitating concrete resilience and adaptation. Furthermore, the CC awareness meetings increase knowledge and empower women, youths, PWDs, displaced persons and indigenous people 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

127. 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.
128. 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.
129. 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

130. According to the 2022 State and Trends in Adaptation Report (STA22), shifting to a model of adaptation that is locally led, leads to enhanced efficiency "*maximizing the benefits of the intervention and minimizing its costs*."[124] An Africa-focused study that includes social cost in its methodology found that LLA initiatives deliver a high rate of return on investment, amounting to 400 per cent[125]. The reasons for this, include the effective identification and use of existing institutional structures, co-financing from local actors in the form of time, labor and expertise; and the willingness of communities to invest in actions that deliver multiple co-benefits.
131. 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). 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. The alternative to building on existing community structures would be to operate based on centralized systems. Local structures can often act faster and with more flexibility. With a flexible funding mechanism this will allow local structures to adapt interventions to evolving local needs, which is more efficient than rigid application processes that consume valuable time and resources. From a social sustainability perspective, local structures are trusted and recognized, a stronger sense of ownership increases the chances of meaningful engagement of group members. From an economic sustainability perspective, local structures use existing human and institutional resources, avoiding duplication and administrative overhead, they can mobilize community labor, volunteer networks, and local materials.
132. 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. In the absence of the project, SHF will continue relying on monocropping systems, rain-fed farming with limited groundwater access, with minimal investment in water harvesting or climate-smart practices. This approach leads to low yields, high vulnerability to drought, and recurring dependence on emergency aid. While the business as usual (BAU) alternative would be to focus on large-scale irrigation or infrastructure projects (dams, piped systems) or inefficient irrigation (open channels) which require high capital inputs to build and maintain, are slow to implement and create dependency on external funding or government support. These options deliver limited resilience benefits, while small-scale water harvesting and climate-resilient farming, yield measurable improvements in productivity, food security, and water reliability at a fraction of the cost while providing a higher return on the investment.
133. Additionally, the implementation of EWS and community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) strategies builds on existing models that have proven effective in reducing vulnerability and enhancing preparedness. By utilizing these tried-and-tested approaches, the project

[124] Singh et al., 2022 (p. 652)
[125] Vardakoulias, O. and N. Nicholles. 2015. "A Socio-Economic Evaluation of Community- Based Adaptation: A Case Study in Dakoro, Niger."

ensures that resources are directed towards interventions with a high likelihood of success, optimizing the cost-benefit ratio. The alternative to CBDRM would be the traditional, top-down, externally driven disaster management model — where decisions, resources, and actions are controlled primarily by central authorities or external agencies, with little to no direct involvement of local communities. This model entails centralized planning and decision making, a reactive, rather than a proactive response, relying on standardized disaster plans with little adaptation to local contexts or needs. Resulting in a lower community ownership and with higher operational costs due to the centralized logistics, and command systems which tend to be expensive, slow and bureaucratic. Additionally, this alternative doesn't focus on building local capacity, so every new disaster creates a repetition of *the same costs*. In contrast, community-based DRM is more cost-effective and sustainable because it empowers local actors to prevent and manage risks proactively, reduces dependency, and ensures long-term resilience at a comparatively lower cost.

134. 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. From a sustainability perspective, the LLA approach embeds traditional knowledge about hazards and coping mechanisms, ensuring that risk reduction measures align with cultural practices and are thus more likely to be sustained in time.
135. 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. This approach is more cost-efficient than the conventional, fragmented approach to training because it creates economies of scale (shared training materials, peer to peer learning, refinement of solutions by local practitioners) and minimizes duplication. By facilitating continuous exchange among farmers, extension agents, and researchers, best practices are disseminated broadly without repeated expenditures on separate training sessions. This collaboration leverages existing expertise and local knowledge, ensuring that adaptation measures are both effective and widely adopted. From a sustainability perspective, this cost-effectiveness is optimal because it builds enduring local capacity, reduces dependency on external inputs, and establishes self-sustaining learning networks that continue to generate value long after the project ends.
136. The project will be implemented by local organizations (DAPP, AGRITEX, CPCs, ECs ,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 leading to more appropriate and effective solutions with better long-term outcomes. 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. Strengthening local institutions may indeed be more complex and, in certain cases, have higher upfront costs than top-down, technocratic interventions. However, the evidence on returns on investment from adaptation initiatives that focus on the agency of communities suggests that the benefits far outweigh the costs [126.] In terms of sustainability, local institutions accumulate knowledge from past disasters, which compared to centralized interventions that often reset the system with each new project or leadership change. This approach contributes to ensuring that lessons from past disasters inform future preparedness. From a sustainability standpoint, the solutions provided by local actors will be context-specific, therefore avoiding the high costs associated with ineffective, one-size-fits-all interventions that do not work in a specific location. Instead of creating new, costly mechanisms, expanding and strengthening existing local institutions and networks, leverages existing infrastructure, knowledge, and capacity to achieve economies of scale and sustainable results at a lower cost. Additionally, local institutions are more accountable to the communities they serve, fostering greater trust and ownership. This increases the likelihood that actions will be sustained, which is more cost-effective than interventions that fail once external support is removed.
137. 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. The alternative to a locally managed small grants system would be a centralized, top-down funding mechanism administered by national or donor agencies. Such systems are often slow, costly, and inaccessible to rural communities due to bureaucratic procedures and high transaction costs. In contrast, managing small grants through a local financial institution, leverages existing local structures and expertise minimizes administrative overhead, shortens delivery time, and increases reach and impact per dollar spent while ensuring rapid and equitable delivery of resources directly to community groups. From a sustainability perspective, it is optimal because it strengthens local financial capacity and empowers communities to prioritize their own adaptation needs.
138. 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

139. The project in eastern Manicaland and northeastern Masvingo is designed to align closely with international and regional frameworks on CC adaptation and Zimbabwe's national development policies and climate strategies, as follows:

[126] Global Center on Adaptation, 2022. State and trends in adaptation report 2022

Table 4 – Consistency with International, Regional and National Policies, Plans, Strategies and Frameworks.

Policy/Plan/Strategy/ Framework	Objectives Alignment
International Level	
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	Enhances adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change impacts through community-led adaptation, climate-resilient livelihoods, and ecosystem-based approaches. Strengthens EWS and sustainable natural resource management.
UNFCCC Paris Agreement (2015)	Supports implementation of Article 7 on adaptation by reducing climate vulnerability and increasing resilience of communities, livelihoods, and ecosystems. • Promotes locally led, inclusive, and participatory adaptation approaches.
UNFCCC Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA)	Promotes climate-smart and resilient agricultural systems, sustainable water management, diversified livelihoods, and improved food security under changing climatic conditions.
Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)	Contributes to enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience, and reducing vulnerability of vulnerable communities and ecosystems through integrated adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures.
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, 2015)	SDG 1 (No Poverty) through strengthened livelihoods and income diversification. SDG 2 (Zero Hunger),) through CRA and improved food security. SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by ensuring women's participation and addressing gender barriers, SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation): through improved water management and sanitation. SDG 13 (Climate Action): through LLA and resilience-building measures, the project contributes to climate action, and SDG 15 (Life on Land) through the restoration and sustainable management of water catchments, soils and other natural resources that underpin community resilience.
Regional Level	
Africa Agenda 2063	• Supports environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient economies through sustainable natural resource management, resilient livelihoods, and inclusive local development.
AU Kampala CAADP Declaration on Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Africa (2026–2035)	• Promotes resilient agrifood systems through climate-smart agriculture, diversification of livelihoods, water management, and strengthened community capacities for adaptation and food security.
AU Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024)	• Promotes climate information services, knowledge generation, community innovation, and adoption of locally appropriate technologies for adaptation and resilience building.
SADC Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP)	• Supports climate-resilient agricultural transformation, sustainable land and water management, disaster risk reduction, and strengthened food and nutrition security.
National Level	
National Development Strategy 2 (NDS2 2026-2030)	Contributes to vision of a green, climate-resilient economy through strengthened adaptive capacity, sustainable ecosystem management, CRA, improved and strengthened EWS and DRM systems. It operationalises NDS2's commitment to decentralized and inclusive development by empowering communities and local institutions to identify, prioritize, implement, and monitor adaptation investments that respond to locally identified climate risks and vulnerabilities.
Zimbabwe National Climate Policy (2017)	Supports strengthened EWS, drought management, sustainable water resources management, CRA, and institutional capacity for climate adaptation and resilience.
National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS, 2014)	Contributes to mainstreaming climate adaptation into local development planning and promotes resilient livelihoods, ecosystem management, and strengthened local institutions for adaptation.
National Adaptation Plan (NAP, 2024)	Supports adaptation priorities in agriculture, water, DRR, ecosystems, and community resilience through community-led adaptation planning, strengthened FCs and CPCs, CRA and water management, ecosystem restoration, enhanced EWS, and inclusive livelihood diversification for vulnerable groups.
Drought Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2025	Enhances multi-stakeholder coordination, strengthens local capacities for drought mitigation and contingency planning, and improves drought awareness through community outreach and education.
Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0)	Addresses vulnerabilities related to water scarcity, rain-fed agriculture, poverty, gender inequalities, and inadequate EWS through integrated adaptation and resilience-building interventions.
National Agricultural Policy Framework (2019–2030)	Promotes CSA, drought-tolerant crops, increased productivity, diversification, improved financing mechanisms, sustainable land and water management, livelihood diversification, and inclusive participation of smallholder farmers, women, and youth, strengthening agricultural resilience and food security in line with the NAPF's vision.
Zimbabwe Agriculture and Food Systems Transformation Strategy (2026–2030)	Supports transformation towards climate-resilient, diversified food systems through sustainable production systems, value addition, and strengthened resilience of smallholder farmers.

Consistency with Subnational Strategies (provincial and district plans)

140. 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. At the sub-national level, the table below demonstrates that project investments are directly derived from and responsive to locally identified priorities and district planning processes.

Table 5.– Consistency Subnational (district-level) relevant Plans.

Sub-National Plan	Project Alignment
Chimanimani District DRM Plan (2023)	Addresses identified gaps in EWS, emergency preparedness, evacuation infrastructure, water harvesting, micro-irrigation, household resilience, and capacity strengthening of local DRM structures.
Chimanimani Rural District Master Plan	Supports watershed restoration, irrigation rehabilitation, climate-smart agriculture, soil and water conservation, resilient infrastructure, diversified livelihoods, and community-led adaptation planning.
Chipinge District DRM Plan (2023)	Responds to identified needs related to solar-powered boreholes, irrigation rehabilitation, agricultural extension services, evacuation centres, communication systems, and resilient infrastructure.
Bikita District DRM Plan (2025)	Strengthens community preparedness, coordination mechanisms, local response capacity, logistics, and ward-level DRM structures.

Bikita Land Use and Management Plan	Supports women and youth economic empowerment, access to asset finance, savings and lending schemes, and climate-resilient value chains.
Chimanimani Integrated Land Use and Management Plan 2024	Contributes to reducing barriers for women, youth and PLWDs, promoting savings groups, strengthening value chains, and increasing drought-tolerant crop production.
Masvingo Rural District Master Plan (2024–2044)	Supports water security, climate-resilient irrigation, climate-smart agriculture, land restoration, EWS, resilient infrastructure, diversified livelihoods, and strengthened local institutions and extension services.

141. 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 the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife, EMA, CPU and the Ministry of Agriculture, ensures that the project is well-coordinated with national efforts and benefits from technical support and guidance.
142. 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

143. 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. Technical compliance of national technical standards is summarized in the following table.

Table 6. Compliance with relevant national technical standards.

Category	Relevant National Technical Standards	Compliance with Relevant National Technical Standards
Environmental and Social Safeguards	Environmental Management Act – Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) guidelines and standards	A Preliminary Environmental and Social Screening was conducted following AF's ESP (section K). At the Full Proposal stage, a detailed E&S Impact Assessment (following EMA's EIA and Ecosystem Protection Regulations and AF's ESP) will be conducted on those aspects with potential impact. Based on the findings, an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) will be developed to guide implementation. Before implementation, the project will obtain all required permits and clearances from EMA and relevant ministries, ensuring clearance of authorizations from relevant authorities is listed as follows: (1) EIA certificate issued by EMA; (2) Water Abstraction and Effluent Discharge Permits from the Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA); (3)Pesticide Use Authorization from the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, in coordination with Plant Protection Research Institute (PPRI). The specifications under each authorisation will be incorporated into the project's implementation plans, contracts, and reporting schedules. The PMU will maintain ongoing liaison with EMA and sectoral agencies to ensure compliance.
Agricultural Standards	Agricultural and Rural Development Authority Act. Seed act.	Agricultural interventions will comply with national standards on sustainable agricultural development, including the use of certified seeds, integrated pest and disease management practices, and environmentally sustainable production systems.
Building and Infrastructure Standards	Building Standards Act Civil Protection Act	Emergency shelters and community infrastructure will comply with the Building Standards Act and Civil Protection Act, including structural safety requirements, approved construction materials, and disaster-resilient design standards to enhance durability and protection against climate-related hazards.
Water and Sanitation Standards	Water Act Public Health Act	Water infrastructure investments, including boreholes, water harvesting systems, and irrigation facilities, will comply with ZINWA standards and permitting requirements, ensuring sustainable abstraction, water quality, and durability (including protection against extreme weather events)
Health and Safety Standards	Occupational Health and Safety Act	Project activities will adhere to occupational health and safety procedures, risk assessments, safe construction and provision of protective equipment to safeguard project workers, beneficiaries, and communities to minimize risk

144. **Collaboration with Regulatory Authorities.** The project will work closely with relevant regulatory authorities (EMA, MSD, ZIMWA, MoA, MoHCC to obtain the necessary approvals and ensure compliance with all applicable standards and regulations and benefit from expert guidance and oversight. . This includes regular consultations , obtaining necessary permits and approvals, and participating in monitoring and evaluation processes . By engaging with regulatory authorities, the project ensures that it operates within the legal framework.
145. **Unidentified Sub-Projects (USP).** The project adopts the USP approach for activities under Outputs 2.1 and 3.2. This approach is justified by the project's commitment to LLA, ensuring that the final selection and design of concrete interventions are driven by the Community Adaptation Action Plan (CAAP) process rather than being pre-determined. In accordance with Adaptation Fund USP Guidance (AFB/PPRC.30/54), all sub-projects identified during implementation will undergo mandatory technical vetting against national standards and a comprehensive risk screening against the 15 ESP principles. A detailed USP management framework, including roles for EMA as the supervisor and DAPP as the executor, will be provided in the project-wide ESMP at the Full Proposal stage. As sub-projects are identified through the CAAP process, the Implementing Entity (EMA) will ensure that the Executing Entity (DAPP) applies a rigorous safeguard process prior to implementation that will tentatively include: (1) Technical Vetting: Each sub-project will be verified for compliance with national technical standards (e.g., the Water Act, Building Standards Act, and Public Health Act) by relevant district sectoral experts (ZINWA, AGRITEX, etc.). (2) Safeguard Screening: An evidence-based risk identification process will be conducted for each USP against the 15 AF ESP principles and the Gender Policy, ensuring the assessment is commensurate with the involved risks. (3) ESMP Integration: Any identified risks will trigger site-specific impact assessments and mitigation measures, which will be integrated into the project's living Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). This ESMP will be updated continuously to reflect the most recent information on identified USPs. (4) Reporting: The status of all USPs, including their risk screenings and mitigation actions, will be reported annually in the Project Progress Report (PPR) to the Adaptation Fund Secretariat.
146. **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. The project will provide targeted capacity-building support to ensure that local actors are fully equipped to comply with national technical and regulatory standards during implementation. Local institutions (CPCs, FCs and Cooperatives) will receive technical training on relevant standards, including building codes for climate-resilient infrastructure, water quality monitoring protocols, and environmental and social safeguards. Training will be delivered through accredited national agencies and technical departments in coordination with the responsible ministries. For activities of higher technical complexity[127], a qualified expert will be engaged to provide specialised guidance and oversee implementation to ensure adherence to standards. As part of the compliance monitoring mechanisms (e.g. periodic joint inspections, peer reviews, and technical mentoring by district engineers and extension officers), standard operating procedures and simplified compliance checklists will be developed and integrated into local planning processes. This approach ensures that local implementers have both the skills and institutional support to meet required standards, while building the long-term capacity of local authorities and communities to manage and maintain adaptation interventions sustainably.

147. 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. Compliance with national environmental and social standards will be systematically monitored throughout the implementation of the project. The Project Management Unit (PMU), in coordination with EMA and relevant regulatory agencies, will establish a Compliance Monitoring Framework to track adherence to each applicable standard. This framework will include regular site inspections, environmental and social audits, and submission of quarterly compliance reports to EMA. Each executing entity will be responsible for maintaining documentation of compliance, such as permits, clearances, and monitoring data, which will be reviewed periodically by the PMU and EMA to ensure continuous conformity with national requirements.

F. Synergies and Avoided Duplication

148. 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 CC, 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.

149. 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.

150. 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). Matabeleland south	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).* A preliminary analysis of coverage, shows that *Manicaland province has 260 wards spread across 10 local authorities, with only 35 wards covered by FP127. Masvingo has a total of 242 wards spread in 7 district, with 39 covered by FP127. These figures gives an idea of the population that is still uncovered by the GCF intervention and which could benefit from this proposed project.* .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. *Regarding that the proposed project is focused on last-mile connectivity -which refers to the final stage of EWS — the part that ensures timely and effective delivery of alerts to the people who are most at risk, typically at the community or household level. Given that the coverage of GCF FP 127 and the granularity that this project intends to reach, there is room for complementarity to fill the gaps on those populations unreached.*
Manicaland province:Buhera district Matabeland 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 *underground water assessments undertaken under this project which could be an important information source for informed decision-making in Manicaland province interventions.* Interviews with UNESCO project focal points will also be undertaken to inform further the project design. *The proposed solar-powered boreholes are intended to build on and complement the valuable work already being undertaken through the AF-UNESCO groundwater initiative. The project will*

[127] The technical complexity of each of the activities will be fully explored at the full-proposal stage

Province /Districts covered	Project name and main themes	Comment on potential synergies and complementarities
		coordinate closely with UNESCO and relevant national authorities to ensure that borehole siting, design, and abstraction align with ongoing hydrogeological assessments and sustainability frameworks. By leveraging existing data and expertise, the intervention aims to strengthen collective drought resilience efforts, avoid duplication, and promote the sustainable use of groundwater resources across the targeted districts.
Manicaland Province: Chimanimani Masvingo Province: Gutu and Chivi districts Midlands Province: Mberengwa district (formerly Belingwe) Matabeleland South : 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 (2025-2029) 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. The project is promoting adaptive measures that support sustainable climate smart livelihoods, implementing measures that support ecosystem resilience and creating a conducive legal and institutional framework for adaptation. The proposed project could scale out interventions such as community early warning and monitoring systems, climate smart agriculture, ecosystems restoration, land restoration, and diversify community livelihoods,
Manicaland province: Chipinge district Masvingo Province: Bikita, Masvingo rural, Zaka	GEF - A cross-sector approach supporting the mainstream of SFM and SLM 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). The GEF project is building capacity of local level governance structures on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), centred on Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and enhancing livelihoods of rural communities.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 such as the Rural District Development Committee (RDDC) local committees, and the Provincial Development Committees, engaging them as key stakeholders. The project will operationalise the Integrated Land Use Plans (ILUPs) developed under this GEF 7 project, and scale out interventions such as agricultural intensification, land restoration and reforestation.
Manicaland (Chimanimani district)	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 (Climate Risk Informed Decission Analysis) 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.
Multicountry (Zimbabwe, national scope)	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. *Rather than repeating prior feasibility and design studies, the project will draw directly from WFP's validated methodologies and lessons learned to operationalize and scale proven approaches at the community level. Collaboration with WFP and national institutions will ensure alignment of EWS triggers, content, and dissemination mechanisms, thereby strengthening coherence, maximizing impact, and enhancing the reach of anticipatory action frameworks across vulnerable districts.*

151. 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 and implemented from April 2023-October 2024. The project aimed to: 1. Enhance food and nutritious security of 200 SHF through sustainable and climate-smart agriculture techniques; 2. Increase income generation through 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 SHF resilience through climate smart practices and technologies Main theme: CCA	In collaboration with Agri-marine and funded by the GAIA movement, DAPP Zimbabwe isimplementing a project (Sept 2023-Sept 2025) to promote the adoption of climate-smart technologies for resilience building by 750 SHF. The proposed project will build on lessons learned on methodologies and community acceptance and adherence to CRA practices and small livestock production.

152. 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 CIMMYTY, 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. At full proposal stage, detailed consultations with and analysis regarding the mentioned projects will be undertaken to ensure synergies and avoid overlapping.

153. 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 , AGRITEX, Meteorological Services Department, Climate Change Management Department, Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife, MoHCC, Department of Social Development (DSD), Ward protection committees - which are part of the 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 ground[128] , 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

154. 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.

155. **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.

156. **Documentation and Dissemination of Best Practices.** The project will systematically document case studies, good practices, challenges, and lessons learned, including translation into local languages. 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.

157. **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, EWS and CRA. 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 CC impacts and resilience strategies,EWS and CRA, 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.

158. **Utilization of Traditional and Modern Communication Channels.** To maximize reach, the project will leverage both traditional, including village meetings, religious and funeral gatherings, water point meetings, emissaries (designated community messengers), 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 CC.

159. **Community Feedback and Grievance Mechanisms.** The project will develop a communication strategy at project inception, to establish clear and functional mechanisms through which local stakeholders can provide feedback, report challenges, share lessons and inform adaptive management. Feedback will be integrated into existing structures, including Ward Development Committees (WADCOs) and Rural District Councils (RDCs), by integrating representatives of the local structures (CPCs, FCs, Cooperatives) in the periodic meetings hosted by these institutions ensuring that local perspectives are integrated into project implementation and decision making. The project`s Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) will be designed during full proposal development through an extensive consultation exercise. The GRM is expected to include multiple entry points for submitting concerns, including community focal points, local committees, suggestion boxes, telephone and mobile channels, and direct reporting to project staff. It will allow confidential reporting of concerns related to project implementation, environmental and social safeguards, exclusion from benefits, gender-related issues and other project-related grievances. The GRM will establish clear procedures for grievance registration, review, investigation, response, escalation and resolution, with defined timelines and responsibilities. Oversight will be provided jointly by the RDCs and the Project Management Unit, with support from relevant technical agencies where required. AGRITEX, CPU, EMA officers and community focal points will regularly collect feedback during field visits and meetings, while information received through the GRM and other feedback channels will be analysed during periodic project reviews to strengthen accountability, support adaptive management and improve project performance. Embedding these mechanisms within existing local governance systems will help ensure transparency, inclusion and long-term sustainability.

[128] 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.

160. **Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL).** A detailed Knowledge Management Plan will be developed during project inception, integrated into the MEAL framework. In line with Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) principles, the project will promote downward accountability through a Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM), supported by CFPs and existing community structures, to ensure that local stakeholders can influence project implementation and learning processes. The KM plan will define procedures and indicators for knowledge generation, learning, and dissemination. The Plan will establish procedures for the systematic collection, analysis, the systematic collection, analysis, documentation, storage and dissemination of knowledge generated through project implementation. Data will be collected through routine monitoring activities, community feedback mechanisms, Community Focal Persons (CFP)[129], CPCs, Farmers' Clubs, cooperatives, extension services, beneficiary surveys, case studies, field observations, exchange visits and periodic reflection workshops. Local actors will play a central role in identifying successful practices, documenting local innovations and traditional knowledge, and validating lessons learned through participatory review processes. Information generated through the MEAL system will support adaptive management, enabling project activities to be continuously refined in response to emerging lessons, community feedback and evolving climate challenges. Information collected will be consolidated and analysed by the MEAL team in collaboration with local authorities, technical partners and community representatives. Findings will be translated into user-friendly knowledge products tailored to different audiences, and disseminated through community meetings, local radio stations, peer-to-peer exchanges, district and national workshops, digital platforms and networks of practitioners. A centralized digital knowledge repository will be established and maintained by the Implementing Entity, with materials shared with Rural District Councils, AGRITEX, CPU and participating community structures to ensure long-term accessibility, institutional learning and uptake of successful adaptation practices.

161. **Promoting Sustainability and Long-Term Impact.** By building and institutionalizing the capacities of local authorities, CPUs, 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.

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

H. Consultative Process

163. 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.

164. 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.

165. 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 Guidance[130] 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).

166. 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.

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

168. 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 Agency (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 consulted include: Green Institute and Vemuganga FM.

169. 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.

[129] GOAL, 2022. Community Focal Persons for Accountability. Learning Brief.
[130] 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

170. 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 7 – Overview of key recommendations by consulted stakeholders

Topic	Recommendations
Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and emergency preparedness and Response Mechanisms	• 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	• 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.
Land Degradation	• 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	• 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:	• 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. • Human-wildlife conflict should be addressed as it is affecting food security in some areas.
Post-harvest management	• 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	• 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	• 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.

171. 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.

172. Following the outcomes of the preliminary gender assessment exercise[131], gender considerations have been integrated into the project design through a gender-responsive approach that recognizes the different vulnerabilities, needs, and responsibilities of women. For example, the design of emergency shelters (Output 2.1) will incorporate measures to ensure the safety, accessibility, and specific needs of women. To address the underlying barriers that limit women's participation in project activities, targeted actions are planned under Activity 1.2.2. Furthermore, a Gender Assessment and corresponding Gender Action Plan, to be developed during the full proposal stage, will guide the consistent application of gender-responsive measures across all components—particularly under Output 2.2. This will include efforts to balance resilience-building activities with women's existing workloads, as highlighted during stakeholder consultations. Additionally, under Component 1, communication packages promote safe water use and sanitation (A.1.2.1) with gender responsive approaches and locally-tailored messaging. There will be an activity (A.1.2.2) which will have the focus on addressing gender and social barriers that prevent women from participating fully in the project activities. Component 2 targets natural and physical assets by providing small inputs for communities to build/upgrade their own sanitation facilities. Keeping in mind the security challenges faced by women in public spaces, the project will integrate these elements in the design /upgrade of emergency shelters (A.2.1.1.). Climate-proofing WASH facilities (A.2.1.3.) and hygiene promotion activities, support women's health by reducing WASH-related disease risks. Under Output 2.2., the project addresses water for agriculture by prioritizing rehabilitation of existing infrastructure, improving operation and maintenance systems, and introducing groundwater recharge solutions, ensuring reliable water access to reduce women's labour burden and enhance food security. The project intends to adopt an equitable participatory approach to promote shared decision making between men and women by actively promoting women in leadership positions (e.g. in CPCs, FCs) while at the same time enhancing their leadership skills through relevant trainings. This will imply ensuring equal participation of both men and women in emergency preparedness and agriculture economic activities, and in the decision making and resource management bodies related to the activities. It is expected that this approach will allow women to benefit equally as men from the project activities, and thus to contribute to gender equality.

[131] The Preliminary Gender Assessment report can be accessed here

173. District consultations, highlighted the need for stronger inclusion and protection of vulnerable groups, particularly children and persons with disabilities (PLWDs). Across all target districts, stakeholders emphasized that PLWDs are often excluded from development and decision-making processes and called for greater accessibility, inclusive infrastructure, assistive devices, accessible communication tools and targeted capacity building. In response, DAPP will adopt an inclusive and participatory approach throughout project implementation, working closely with specialized organizations, including Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe (LCDZ) and the Christian Blind Mission (CBM), to ensure that the needs of PLWDs are effectively addressed. Emergency shelters and other project interventions will be designed to be accessible and protective, with particular attention to women, children, and persons with disabilities, thereby promoting equal participation, dignity, and resilience among vulnerable populations.

174. Monitoring of DAPP's CISU-funded project in Chimanimani (2024–2026) revealed several barriers to youth participation in CC adaptation, including limited involvement in decision-making, inadequate access to climate information, lack of engagement platforms and resource constraints compounded by poverty and unemployment. To promote youth active participation in governance and adaptation planning, climate information will be disseminated through youth-friendly channels (whatsapp group platforms, interactive local radio shows with and for youth),support youth-led initiatives with training, and small grants to promote youth as agents of change (Community Climate Champions).

I. Full Cost of Adaptation Reasoning

175. Zimbabwe has a climate finance gap of $440–500 million a year, greatly limiting the country's ability to build climate resilience[132]. To address the long-term impacts of CC, 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.

176. 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, CRA 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.

177. The requested funding represents the *full cost of adaptation* by addressing the additional measures required for communities in Manicaland and Masvingo to cope with and adjust to increasing climate hazards—costs that would not be incurred under a development-only or "business-as-usual" scenario. Under the baseline scenario, existing agricultural support and infrastructure programs in Zimbabwe do not incorporate climate risk analysis or resilience features such as drought-tolerant crop varieties, rainwater harvesting systems, or climate-proofed design standards. The proposed activities therefore represent incremental and additional adaptation costs.

178. For instance, CRA packages increase costs by approximately 25–30% compared to conventional input support but are expected to reduce yield losses from droughts by 40–50%, based on field evidence from similar interventions in Manicaland Province[133]. Similarly, climate-proofing rural infrastructure—for example through raised culverts, gabion protection, and the use of flood-tolerant materials—adds about 15–20% to initial construction costs but can reduce repair and replacement needs by around 60% over a 10-year period[134]. Finally, early warning and preparedness measures, including community alert systems and local contingency funds, are projected to reduce average flood-related household asset losses by 20–30%, as demonstrated in regional disaster risk management evaluations[135].[3]

179. Together, these measures are expected to reduce climate-induced livelihood losses by roughly 30–40% across targeted households relative to the baseline, which corresponds to the adaptation "premium" covered by the requested AF grant. To strengthen the quantitative basis, a preliminary results framework with measurable adaptation effectiveness indicators has been developed for each component (see end of Additionality subsections). Additionally, at the full proposal stage a simple cost–benefit or avoided loss analysis summarizing the adaptation cost per beneficiary and expected avoided losses, using available national and regional data, will be undertaken.

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

180. 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.

181. 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.)

182. 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 being lost, which creates cost efficiencies for successor projects. A communication strategy will be designed and implemented to guide transmission of project-related information. The strategy will inform the types of messages to be transmitted, communication channels and the targeting of the audience.

[132] https://www.afdb.org/en/countries/southern-africa/zimbabwe/zimbabwe-economic-outlook
[133] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Climate-Smart Agriculture Country Profile: Zimbabwe. FAO, 2021
[134] World Bank. Climate-Smart Infrastructure: Cost-Benefit Analysis Guidance. World Bank Group, 2020
[135] United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). Africa Regional Assessment on Disaster Risk Reduction: Status Report 2021.

183. 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

184. 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 list[136]. SHF 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, CC or seasonal forecasts (83% in Manicaland and 89% in Masvingo), however only 56% of the population in Manicaland uses the information to plan their response mechanisms[137].

185. 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.

186. 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)

187. 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 economic impact and 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 overall well-being of the community.

188. SHF 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 study[138] on building resilience of the poor in the face of natural disasters, estimates that early warning reduces asset losses by 20%.

189. 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 CC, ensuring community ownership, transparency and 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.

190. 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.

191. A preliminary exercise to define Key Indicators under this component to show direct adaptation results are as follows [139]: (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 people reached with communication package (*target: 50,000 people – 50% women, 25% youth)*

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

192. 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)[140] 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

[136] Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) 2022. Rural Livelihoods Assessment Report.
[137] Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) 2022. Rural Livelihoods Assessment Report.
[138] Hallegatte, Stephane, Adrien Vogt-Schilb, Mook Bangalore, and Julie Rozenberg. 2017.
[139] Indicators and targets are tentative, and will further be developed and validated during the Full Proposal stage.
[140] Government of Zimbabwe, World Bank, GFDRR. 2019. Zimbabwe rapid impact and needs assessment (RINA).

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.

193. Slow-onset changes in climate like droughts are predicted to increase in Zimbabwe by 21% (2040-2059) and by 47% (2080-2099)[141], 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.

194. 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 surface water resources (about 90%) due to limited ground water (about 10%)[142]. The implications of CC on water resources include: increased competition over water amongst sectors, and intensified regional differences in water supply and shortages. Warming temperatures can contribute to increased water loss through evapotranspiration, and lower rainfall will negatively affect groundwater recharge and water runoff. Water availability has a direct impact in agriculture and food and nutrition security, with only 7% of households in Zimbabwe having access to irrigation[143].

195. 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

196. According to Zimbabwe National Climate Change Strategy, 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 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.

197. In terms of disaster preparedness, Civil Protection authorities[144] 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)

198. 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.

199. 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

200. 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.

201. A preliminary exercise to define Key Indicators under this component to show direct adaptation results are as follows [145]: (a) # of emergency shelters that are strengthened and/or rehabilitated and considered disaster-proof (*target: 40 emergency shelters);* (b) 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).*

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 Assessment[146], 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 percent 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.[147] Primary data (field observations and discussions with stakeholders) gathered by the team

[141] https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/14956-WB_Zimbabwe%20Country%20Profile-WEB%20%281%29.pdf
[142] Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate, GoZ (2016). *Zimbabwe's Third National Communication to the UNFCCC*
[143] World Bank Group (2021) (*Ibid.)*
[144] Civil Protection Zimbabwe, 2020. SADC Disaster Risk Reduction Project Inception Workshop. 20-24 January 2020. Country Presentation.
[145] Indicators and targets are tentative, and will further be developed and validated during the Full Proposal stage.
[146] World Bank Group, 2019. Zimbabwe: Agriculture Sector Disaster Risk Assessment
[147] https://www.fao.org/zimbabwe/fao-in-zimbabwe/zimbabwe-at-a-glance/en/

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 spells[148]. 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 report[149].Land degradation is making Zimbabwe less resilient to existing climate variability, as well as to the future impacts of CC. In terms of adaptive capacities (AC), Manicaland is the 5th in the AC ranking (out of 8 rural provinces), with Masvingo on the 6th position.[150]

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 2024[151].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, CC 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 2.2..) and increase resilience through the improvement of organizational structures and demonstration facilities (Climate Change Action Centres) that enable innovation and improvement (output 3.1) , as well as the diversification of income sources to reduce dependence from climate sensitive-activities (Output 3.2.).
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 CC 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.
211. A preliminary exercise to define Key Indicators under this component to show direct adaptation results are as follows [152]: (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).*

J. Sustainability of the Project Outcomes

212. 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

[148] Manatsa, D., et al. (2020). Revision Of Zimbabwe's Agro-Ecological Zones
[149] Land Degradation Report , 2017
[150] Hunter. R., Crespo. O., Coldrey, K, Cronin, K, New, M. 2020. Research Highlights – Climate Change and Future Crop Suitability in Zimbabwe.
[151] FEWSNET, 2023.Zimbabwe Food Security Outlook, October 2023 - May 2024.
[152] Indicators and targets are tentative, and will further be developed and validated during the Full Proposal stage.

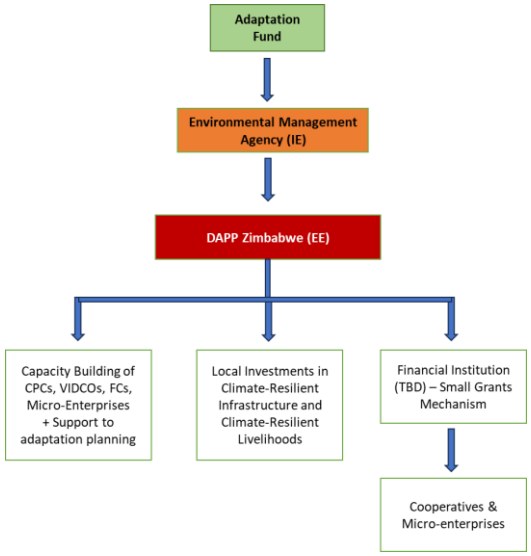
climate risks and building resilience of agricultural systems, enhancing social capital and improving organizational and institutional capacities at community- as well as at government-level.

213. An IDS review[153] 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 across sectors like disaster risk management, agriculture, and water management. By addressing poverty reduction, social equity, and environmental integrity alongside risk reduction[154], the project is well positioned for long-term sustainability.

214. 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.

215. The long-term sustainability of project outcomes will be ensured through the integration of activities within existing institutional frameworks and community structures. Operation and maintenance responsibilities for project-supported infrastructure will be formally transferred to local authorities and community management committees, which will be trained and equipped to manage these assets beyond project's duration. Capacity-building activities will strengthen local institutions in planning, budgeting, and technical oversight, while community structures will receive training in maintenance, governance, and transparent financial management. To sustain funding beyond project closure, the project will facilitate linkages with national adaptation programs, local government development plans, and potential financing mechanisms such as microcredit schemes, climate funds, and public-private partnerships. Additionally, the project will establish and institutionalize linkages between communities, representatives of traditional leadership and local government officials, and the Project Steering Committee[155], which will monitor the continuation of the project's achievements. To illustrate the proposed project governance and to demonstrate the path of funds from the project to the communities, a preliminary diagram has been developed below.

Figure 18. Preliminary flow of funds



216. A detailed exit strategy will be discussed with stakeholders and developed throughout the project but will hinge on basic sustainability principles and will explain in detail the arrangements that would need to take place (MoUs and handover strategies, including maintenance of infrastructure as well as any other policy and governance arrangements). 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 sustainability are described below.

Institutional Sustainability

217. 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 officials in the project's methodologies, technologies and practices. The project will strengthen cohesion and collaboration among stakeholders.

218. 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 , 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 VIDCOs and CPCs, which will be strengthened by the project. The EE (DAPPZ), has been present for over 40 years in rural Zimbabwe, and has permanent presence on the ground[156] , 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

[153] Desk review: Evaluation of adaptation to Climate Change from a development perspective.
Desk review: Evaluation of adaptation to Climate Change from a development perspective, Springer, vol. 26(7), pages 1-18, October.
[155] Structures such as the Project steering committee will be described in detail at full proposal stage,
[156] 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.

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.

219. 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),traditional leadership, religious leadership, councilors, environment committees, environmental monitors as well as through the identification of community-based adaptation initiatives, ownership of local authorities of the project's achievements will be fostered. The extension services of 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.

220. 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 and capacity-building activities, technical support, and logistics support. Through the demonstration of CCA approaches and how these improve farmers' resilience and income levels, the 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 8**).

Table 8. 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. She/He will oversee funding allocations for each of the local level structures that will receive funding for implementation of adaptation and preparedness actions.
District Civil Protection Units	Engage with Ward Protection Committees to plan and consolidate district preparedness and response plans; including traditional knowledge storing. Based on the community-based emergency response and adaptation plans, the CPUs will, in collaboration with the Ward Protection Committees decide on the investments needed in each of the communities. They will centralise the funding dedicated to the Ward Protection Committees, WASH Committees, FC Committees, Env. Committees..
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 CRA 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 Environmental Committee together with the Farmers' Clubs Committees will maintain the Climate Adaptation Action Centre where the community will use it as a learning centre for CC issues.
Local leadership (Village Heads, Traditional Leadership, Religious Leadership and Councilors)	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.

221. 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 benefits[157].

Social Sustainability.

222. Strengthening the agency of women, men and youth affected by CC is a precondition for sustainable resilience building and project owenership. 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-responsive approaches to permeate the existing social norms due to training and awareness-raising activities.

223. This project will implement locally owned climate solutions identified through inclusive participatory processes. 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. 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.

224. 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, ultimately reducing their resilience .

225. Preliminary consultations 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. FCs will also 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, therefore reducing GBV and boosting child protection. FCs will be mentored and coached to maintain the project's activities beyond the project's scope through sustainability and succession plans' design,

[157] More info in Section H of this Concept Note

establish linkages with government extension services and private-sector actors, strengthen internal governance mechanisms to enable the continuation of knowledge-sharing, savings schemes, CRA practices and collective marketing activities.

226. 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 ultimately transforming the agriculture landscape and practices at the local level.
227. 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). 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.
228. Social sustainability will be ensured through the continued operation of community and district-level structures established or strengthened by the project and through the integration of project approaches into existing local governance and development systems. Women, men, youth, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups will be represented in Farmer Clubs, cooperatives, Community Protection Committees (CPCs), and district coordination platforms, ensuring that adaptation knowledge, leadership capacities and decision-making responsibilities remain embedded within the community after project completion. Trained lead farmers, community facilitators, CPC members and local champions will continue disseminating knowledge and supporting the implementation of CRA practices, DRM measures and livelihood diversification activities through peer-to-peer learning mechanisms. Government extension officers, district authorities and local service providers will continue providing technical support to communities through existing institutional mandates, while cooperatives and Farmer Clubs will maintain collective action, savings mechanisms, market linkages and knowledge-sharing processes. By embedding adaptation capacities within local institutions and community organizations rather than creating parallel structures, the project will ensure that benefits continue to reach different segments of the population beyond the project lifespan.
229. 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. 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.
230. 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

231. Interventions being implemented under this project have been screened for environmental risks and most have been found to be contributing to improving environmental services. 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.
232. The project will ensure environmental sustainability through strengthening the resilience of SHF through adoption of CRA and SLM practices (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 NR overexploitation.
233. 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 CC 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 establishment and development of cooperatives and micro-enterprises (A3.3.1 and A3.3.2).
234. 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.
235. 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. 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.
236. The project's investments in early warning systems (EWS), disaster risk reduction (DRR), and community-based emergency preparedness will also contribute to environmental sustainability. Improved access to climate information, early warnings, and community-based emergency response and adaptation plans (A1.1.3.) will enable communities and local authorities to anticipate and prepare for climate-related hazards such as droughts, floods, and tropical cyclones. This will help reduce environmental damage associated with disaster events, including soil erosion, sedimentation, contamination of water resources, loss of vegetation cover, and unsustainable exploitation of natural resources during periods of crisis.
237. 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.

238. Environmental sustainability will be maintained through established institutions for environmental management including the Environmental Management Agency, Agriculture Extension Services, Civil Protection Committees and resource management committees that are nested within existing community and governance structures like VIDCOs.

Economic sustainability

239. 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 SHF 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.

240. 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.

241. 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 IGAs 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.

242. 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

243. 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.

244. 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 asappropriate that communities will constantly refer to even after the project cycle has ended.

245. Technical sustainability will also be ensured through intervention-specific operation, maintenance and management arrangements. For the last-mile EWS, CPCs, district authorities and relevant technical agencies (Dept. of Civil Protection, Meteorological Services Department, AGRITEX, ZINWA) will be trained in the operation, dissemination and updating of climate/disaster risk information, with procedures aligned to existing national and district DRM systems. Emergency shelters will be managed through locally agreed governance arrangements involving responsible local authorities and community structures (CPCs mainly), with maintenance responsibilities clearly assigned. Water infrastructure, including irrigation, rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge systems, will be supported by trained user groups and management committees responsible for routine operation, maintenance and repairs, supported by Agriculture Extension Services and ZINWA where required. Nature-based solutions, wetlands restoration activities and watershed management interventions will be embedded within existing environmental management structures (EMA district representatives) and community resource management committees, ensuring continued monitoring, protection and maintenance. Community adaptation and emergency response plans will be institutionalised within district and community-level planning and disaster risk management structures to ensure that technical knowledge, procedures and preparedness mechanisms remain operational beyond the project lifetime.

K. Environmental and Social Impacts and Risks

246. At the design stage of the proposed project, a preliminary E&S impacts and risks assessment was conducted by EMA and DAPP, 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
Compliance with the Law		*X*
Access and Equity		*X*
Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups		*X*
Human Rights		*X*
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		*X*
Core Labour Rights		*X*
Indigenous Peoples	*X*	
Involuntary Resettlement	*X*	
Protection of Natural Habitats		*X*
Conservation of Biological Diversity		*X*
Climate Change	*X*	
Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		*X*
Public Health		*X*
Physical and Cultural Heritage	*X*	
Lands and Soil Conservation	*X*	

247. **Compliance with the Law.** The national legal framework applicable to the project is identified in section E and covers environmental management, land and water use, construction, agriculture and pesticide use, disaster preparedness, occupational health and safety, and child protection. Potential risks under this principle arise where activities proceed without the permits, authorizations or clearances that this framework requires. The siting and design of the activities under Outputs 2.1 and 3.2 will be determined through the CAAP process, so the specific requirements attaching to each intervention, including environmental impact assessment certificates under the Environmental Management Act [Chapter 20:27], water abstraction permits under the Water Act [Chapter 20:24], and Rural District Council authorization for works on communal land under the Communal Land Act (20:04), cannot be identified at this stage. Further risks arise from the limited familiarity of community structures and local contractors with permitting, reporting and technical standards obligations, from the handling and application of pesticides outside their registered conditions of use, and from the labour, occupational safety and child protection requirements attaching to community-executed works. There are potential impacts and risks associated with this principle within the project proposed; therefore, further assessment and management are required to ensure compliance, and to identify all permits, authorizations, and clearances required for the activities, including an approach for the application of this principle for USPs.
248. **Access and Equity.** 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 entail risks 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.). The selection of participants for the interventions under Component 3 and the allocation of small grants also carry a risk of elite capture and of uneven distribution of benefits within the target communities.
249. **Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups.** The most vulnerable groups in the target areas include female-headed households, the elderly, youth and PLWD The potential risks faced by these groups are those related to accessibility to project activities and communication materials, limitations in participation and potential neglect of specific differentiated needs by the project activities.
250. **Human Rights.** Potential risks under this principle include exclusion from decision-making within the community structures that guide the CAAP process, capture of project benefits by better-positioned households, limited access to a functioning grievance mechanism during implementation, and sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment associated with works, training and shelter activities. There are potential impacts and risks associated with this principle within the project proposed; therefore further assessment and management are required to ensure compliance with Universal Human Rights.
251. **Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment.** Women in the target areas face compounded risks driven by limited water access, gender inequality, and weak institutional support. The destruction of water systems after Cyclone Idai has increased women's exposure to unsafe water, affecting hygiene, reproductive health, and maternity care. Scarce water for farming threatens food security and forces women into more labor-intensive agricultural work. Broader gender disparities further reduce women's economic independence and decision-making power. High rates of sexual harassment and inadequate protection from authorities intensify their vulnerability. Project activities carry a risk of unequal distribution of benefits between women and men, of adding to women's unpaid workload through participation requirements, and of exposure to gender-based violence and harassment around water points, emergency shelters and training venues. There are potential impacts and risks associated with this principle within the project proposed; therefore, further assessment and management are required to ensure compliance. 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 ensured through the development of a Gender Action Plan.
252. **Core Labour Rights.** Zimbabwe has ratified the ILO convention. Core labour rights' risks include: (i) the potential use of child labour. ;(ii) workers, particularly women and youth, may be exposed to exploitation through unpaid or informal labour arrangements, with limited access to fair wages, written contracts, or grievance mechanisms; (iii) gender inequality can lead to wage discrimination and exclusion from skilled roles, while weak occupational safety measures increase risks of injury, heat stress, and exposure to hazardous materials; (iv) economic pressures may also drive child labour and excessive workloads, especially for women who balance project activities with household duties. Inadequate oversight and (v) entrenched power imbalances heighten the risk of GBV and harassment, leaving rural workers—especially women—in precarious and unprotected employment conditions. There are potential impacts and risks associated with this principle within the project proposed; therefore, further assessment and management are required to ensure compliance.

253. **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 country[158]. All are referred to as local communities. No further assessment for compliance required.
254. **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, have expressed their willingness to provide some community lands for demonstration plots.
255. **Protection of Natural Habitats.** The project recognizes potential risks to natural habitats that may arise from intensified agricultural, climate-resilient, and agroforestry activities. Although it will discourage the expansion of farm fields and instead promote sustainable practices such as crop rotation, intercropping, conservation agriculture (CA), agroforestry systems (AFS), and improved soil management, there remains a risk of unintended pressure on surrounding ecosystems. Increased agricultural activity could lead to habitat degradation, soil erosion, or reduced biodiversity . A comprehensive environmental and social (E&S) assessment, will be conducted during full proposal development to identify, monitor, and manage these potential risks, establishing a framework for ongoing evaluation throughout the project's implementation.
256. **Conservation of Biological Diversity.** Zimbabwe, being a signatory to UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), is subject to national and international biodiversity conservation requirements.. Potential risks include unintended impacts on ecologically sensitive areas such as the buffer zones of the Chimanimani National Park, which includes Eland Sanctuary, Chimanimani Mountains, and the Chirinda Forest Botanical Reserve (Key Biodiversity Area in the south of Chipinge) with a unique combination of tropical and subtropical vegetation species. There is also a risk of ecosystem disturbance through the introduction of invasive species, habitat alteration, unsustainable resource use. There are potential impacts and risks associated with this principle within the project proposed; therefore, further assessment and management are required to ensure compliance. To address these risks, a comprehensive Environmental and Social (E&S) assessment will be conducted at the full proposal stage to analyze potential biodiversity impacts and ensure full compliance with conservation laws and CBD principles.
257. **Climate Change.** No project activities will result in net positive emissions of GHG. The project intends to help communities adapt to CC. 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.
258. **Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency.** Some of the identified actions with potential risks include sustainable irrigation that may inadvertently result in salinisation or overexploitation of aquifers, inefficient water use, waste generation and soil and water bodies' pollution resulting from agriculture and sanitation activities. The handling, storage and application of agrochemicals under climate-resilient agriculture activities and the management of sanitation waste are further potential sources of pollution. There are potential impacts and risks associated with this principle within the project proposed; therefore, further assessment and management are required to ensure compliance
259. **Public Health.** The project recognizes several potential public health risks that need to be addressed to safeguard communities. CC, food insecurity, and water scarcity pose significant threats, increasing the likelihood of waterborne diseases, malnutrition, and vector-borne illnesses such as malaria, cholera, and typhoid. Unsafe handling or use of water from rainwater or river sources could exacerbate these risks. Poor nutrition and limited access to safe food and water may also negatively impact maternal, neonatal, and child health and complicate the management of non-communicable diseases. . Water points, rainwater harvesting structures, sanitation facilities and food storage supported by the project may in turn create risks of water contamination, standing water and vector breeding, and unsafe food handling. Given potential impacts and risks associated with this principle, further assessment and management are required to ensure compliance
260. **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.
261. **Lands and Soil Conservation.** While project interventions aim to improve soil management through conservation agriculture (CRA), agroforestry, and rainwater retention techniques, there remains a risk that improper implementation could lead to soil degradation, erosion, or reduced soil fertility. Unsuitable practices or inadequate training could also negatively affect vegetation cover and land resources.
262. Monitoring against all fifteen ESP principles is required for the duration of the project, including those principles for which no further assessment is required at this stage. DAPP will monitor environmental and social performance against each principle as part of routine implementation reporting, and EMA will verify that monitoring and report the results annually in the Project Performance Report. The screening presented above is preliminary and will be repeated whenever new information becomes available, including during full proposal development, as well as each sub-project under Outputs 2.1 and 3.2 is further defined through the CAAP process, following the USP procedures. The project design retains the flexibility to act on what that monitoring finds. Where new impacts or risks are identified, where risks change in scale or likelihood, or where conditions in the target areas change during implementation, the principles concerned will be reassessed, the risk categorization revisited, and the ESMP and its mitigation and monitoring provisions updated and disclosed accordingly.

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

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

A. Project alignment with the Adaptation Fund Strategic Results Framework

Project Outcomes	Project Outcome Indicator(s)	Fund Outcome	Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Outcome 1: Local Actors Lead Climate Resilience, Emergency Preparedness, and Adaptation	People using threat and hazard information from locally strengthened EWS. *(#of people, by sex, by sector and by hazard)* Local institutions (CPCs, VIDCOs and Ward structures) strengthened and trained to better address climate risks. *(#of local institutions, disaggregated by type)* People with strengthened awareness of CC risks and how to better address them *(# of people, disaggregated by sex, by vulnerable groups and by sector)*	**Outcome 1.** Reduced exposure to climate-related hazards and threats. **Outcome 2:** Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate-induced socioeconomic and environmental losses **Outcome 3:** Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes.	**Indicator 1:** People using climate -related threat and hazard information *(#of people, by sex, by sector and by hazard)* **Indicator 2:** Institutions with strengthened capacity to understand and better address climate risks and resilience. *(# of institutions, disaggregated by scale, by sector and by type of institutions)* **Indicator 3A:** People with strengthened awareness of CC risks and how to better address them *(# of people, disaggregated by sex, by vulnerable groups and by sector)*	$795,000
Outcome 2: Communities Strengthen and Sustain Climate-Resilient Infrastructure and Natural Systems	# of emergency shelters, water and sanitation facilities and food storage systems that are strengthened and/or rehabilitated and considered disaster-proof (*disaggregated by #of point infrastructure, and by sector)* Total hectares of critical water catchments protected	**Outcome 4:** Increased adaptive capacity within relevant development sector services and infrastructure assets **Outcome 5**: Increased ecosystem resilience in response to climate change and variability-induced stress	**Indicator 4 (Core Indicator 3):** Physical assets improved or constructed to withstand climate variability and change (disaggregated by km of linear infrastructure and #of point infrastructure, and by sector) **Indicator 5 (Core Indicator 4):** Ecosystems and natural resources brought under protection, restoration, or improved management in response to climate variability and change *[# of hectares, disaggregated by type of ecosystem / natural resource area and by protection, restoration, and management]*	$1,525,000
Outcome 3: Local Livelihoods and Food Systems are more Equitable, and Climate-Resilient	# of people adopting climate resilient agricultural practices; (*(#of people, disaggregated by sex and by vulnerable group)* # of households with increased income *(#of households, disaggregated by female-headed households)*	**Outcome 6:** Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas.	**Indicator 6A:** People adopting improved/new climate-resilient livelihood practices *(#of people, disaggregated by sex and by vulnerable group)* **Indicator 6B (Core Indicator 5):** Households with increased income or avoided decrease in income *(#of households, disaggregated by female-headed households)*	$1,900,000
Total outcome-level grant amount				**$4,220,000**

Project Outputs	Project Output Indicators	Fund Output	Fund Output Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Output 1.1: Strengthened community capacity in DRM, emergency response, and LLA	# Early Warning Systems improved last mile connectivity [*# of systems, disaggregated by hazard and by scale*] People covered by strengthened EWS *[# of people, disaggregated by sex and by hazard)*	**Output 1.2:** Targeted population groups covered by warning and advisory services for climate-related hazards and threats	**Indicator 1.2A (Core Indicator 2**): Early warning systems established or improved [*# of systems, disaggregated by hazard and by scale*] **Indicator 1.2B:** People covered by new or improved early warning systems *#[# of people, disaggregated by sex and by hazard]*	$150,000
	Number of CPCs strengthened	**Output 2.1:** Strengthened capacity of institutions to understand and better address climate risks	**Indicator 2.1:** Institutions supported to strengthen capacity to understand and better address climate risks and resilience *[# of institutions, disaggregated by scale, by sector, and by type of institution]*	$125,000
	Number of local institutions (CPCs, VIDCOs and Ward structures) responsible for defining, prioritizing and implementing Community Adaptation Action Plans (CAAPs).	**Output 3.3**: Increased ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes	**Indicator 3.3:** Number of local institutions and/or communities responsible for decision-making over how adaptation solutions are defined, prioritized, designed, and/or implemented *[# of local institutions and/or communities, disaggregated by institutions and communities]*	$250,000
Output 1.2: Strengthened local awareness and inclusive	# of CPC members trained in DRM (disaggregated by sex) # of people reached through inclusive climate	**Output 3.1:** Targeted population groups participating in adaptation and risk reduction awareness activities	**Indicator 3.1:** People participating in activities to improve awareness of climate risks and how to address them *# of CPC members trained in DRM (disaggregated by*	$270,000

learning platforms	communication package		*sex)*	
Output 2.1: Community-prioritised infrastructure is built or upgraded for climate resilience	Number of community disaster response services strengthened through resilient shelters, emergency facilities and storage systems. Emergency shelters that are strengthened and/or rehabilitated and considered disaster-proof Food storage systems that are strengthened and/or rehabilitated and considered disaster-proof # of public institutions that have flood-proofed sanitation facilities	**Output 4.1:** Vulnerable development sector services and infrastructure assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability.	**Indicator 4.1:** Development sector services strengthened to respond to climate variability and change *[# of sector services, disaggregated by sector and by scale]*	$800,000
Output 2.2: Community water resources strengthened for climate resilience	Total hectares of critical water catchments protected and restored Total hectares under improved land management	**Output 5.1:** Vulnerable ecosystem services and natural resource assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability	**Indicator 5.1:** Ecosystems and natural resources targeted by activities to improve protection, restoration, and/or management [*# of resources, disaggregated by type of ecosystem / natural resource area and by protection, restoration, and management*]	$725,000
Output 3.1: Inclusive and climate-resilient agricultural systems are strengthened and led by local actors	Number of women, men, youth and persons with disabilities receiving targeted support to adopt climate-resilient agricultural practices and integrated farming systems.	**Output 6.1:** Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts, including variability	Indicator 6.1: People receiving targeted support for new and/or improved livelihoods to manage climate risk *[# of people, disaggregated by sex and by vulnerable groups]*	$1,450,000
Output 3.2: Increased and diversified income through the development of small-scale, climate-resilient enterprises	Number of people receiving targeted support to develop new or improved climate-resilient livelihood enterprises through cooperatives and micro-enterprises, disaggregated by sex and vulnerable groups. *[# of people, disaggregated by sex and by vulnerable groups]*	**Output 6.1:** Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts, including variability	Indicator 6.1: People receiving targeted support for new and/or improved livelihoods to manage climate risk *[# of people, disaggregated by sex and by vulnerable groups]*	$450,000
Total output-level grant amount				**$4,220,000**

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

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government[159]

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

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, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and the Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.

Name & Signature CHIGONA AARON Implementing Entity Coordinator	
Date: *(Month, Day, Year)* 05/08/2025	Tel. and email: aaron.chigona@ema.co.zw +263712236834
Project Contact Person: Hlompho Naledi Kulube	
Tel. And Email: naledi.kulube@ema.co.zw	+263775196726

[159] 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:

ZIMBABWE

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,

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

Official Use Only

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

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

Your Ref.:
Our Ref:

ZIMBABWE

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND WILDLIFE

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Sincerely,

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

Revised PFG Submission Form[1]

Project Formulation Grant (PFG)

Submission Date: 05 August *2025*
Adaptation Fund Project ID: AF00000563
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 note[2]
Consultations	Consultation & validation workshops areplanned 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.	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.*

	- On-site verification of proposed project sites and adaptation measures. - 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 anddisaster 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

	- 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 projectproposal	- Drafting of full AF project proposal, integrating findings from assessments. - Preparation of Theory of Change, results framework, and alignment with national adaptation priorities. - Incorporation of technical inputs from consultations, gender and E&S studies. - Internal and external validation of draft proposal prior to submission.	10,000	- DAPP Expert for 2 months @5,000 - Technical Assistance Humana Climate Team[4] @5,000 USD
Others costs	Management fees EMA (8,5%)	9, 350	- Oversight and management of PFG activities – expert time @4,350; - Monitoring & Evaluation of PFG Activities @2,500; - Financial management and reporting of grant @2,500;
Total Project Formulation Grant		**1**19,350	

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-

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.

sensitive monitoring indicators and recommend inclusive grievance mechanisms.

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

Capacity Needs Assessment: A targeted capacity needs assessment will be undertaken to identify institutional and operational gaps that may affect the implementation of 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
CHIGONA AARON Environmental Management Agency (EMA)		05/08/2025	Hlompho Naledi Kulube	+263 775 196 726	naledi.kulube@ema.co.zw

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

Consultation Report

May - June 2024



DAPP and EMA during the Key Stakeholder Consultations, here with Bikita Rural District, Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small & Medium Enterprises Development (MWACSMED)

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1. Background

This report presents the results of initial consultations held in May and June 2024, as part of the development of a Concept Note, which will be submitted to the Adaptation Fund (AF) a first time in July-August 2024.

The proposed project is being developed collaboratively by the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) of Zimbabwe and Development Aid from People to People (DAPP) Zimbabwe. The project is intended to address the pressing climate resilience needs of rural communities in eastern Manicaland and northeastern Masvingo, most specifically extreme weather events and changing precipitation patterns. The project is scheduled to commence in 2026 and will span four years, focusing on empowering local communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change through a comprehensive and inclusive approach, focused on Disaster Risk Management and Adaptation of Rural Livelihoods.

In a first step in the development of the Concept Note, representatives from DAPP Zimbabwe 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*).

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.

2. Summary of the Proposed Project

The proposed project "*Locally-Led Resilience: Enhancing Community-Based Disaster Preparedness and Climate Adaptation in Rural Manicaland and Masvingo"* in eastern Manicaland and northeastern Masvingo aims to enhance the resilience of rural communities to climate change impacts through a comprehensive, community-driven approach. The project focuses on strengthening local capacities for disaster risk management and adaptation, improving the resilience of physical and natural assets, and promoting climate-resilient livelihoods and food security. By leveraging local knowledge and fostering community ownership, the project aims to ensure that interventions are tailored to specific needs and conditions of the target areas

Key activities would include training and equipping Civil Protection Committees (CPCs), supporting local emergency response and adaptation planning, strengthening early warning systems (last mile), establishing and strengthening climate-proof physical and natural infrastructure, and supporting sustainable climate-resilient agricultural practices and livelihoods through a locally-led approach (Farmers' Clubs and Cooperatives).

The table below includes the key information of the project:

Funding entity	Adaptation Fund (AF)
Implementing Entity	Environmental Management Agency (EMA)
Executing Entity	Development Aid People to People (DAPP), part of the Humana People to People Federation.
Estimated timeline (*optimistic scenario*)	Start date: January 2026 End date: January 2030
Project locations	Manicaland (*Chimanimani and Chipinge* districts) and Masvingo (*Bikita and Masvingo* rural), Zimbabwe.
Climate Problems to address	Increase in extreme weather events (*cyclones, floods*), dry spells and droughts, and changing weather patterns, severely affecting the natural environment, livelihoods and food security.
Intended Outcomes	1. To enhance knowledge and capacity for climate resilience and emergency preparedness 2. To increased resilience of physical and natural assets 3. To improve climate-resilient livelihoods and food security
Targeted project participants	16 Ward Civil Protection Committees; 80 Village Civil Protection Committees; 4 Centres of Community Practice; 80 Farmers' Clubs or Organizations; 4,000 Farmers; *Estimated: 40,000 direct beneficiaries*

3. Objective and Structure of Consultations at District Level

Objective

Overall, the objective of the consultations was to gather inputs and information at the District-level regarding the targeted interventions in DRM and Adaptation.

Specifically, the 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.

Dates

Consultations took place on the following dates:

- Chimanimani District: May 20th -21st , 2024;
- Chipinge Districts: June 10-11th 2024
- Bikita District: June 12th 2024
- Masvingo Rural District: June 13th 14th 2024

Structure

The consultations consisted of the following approaches:

- Bi-lateral meetings between the project proponents and District-level entities;
- Group workshops with District Officials;

During the consultations, project officials from DAPP Zimbabwe 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, as targeted to the specific expertise of the officials that participated in the meetings.

Information Presented

The following information was presented to the consulted institutions:

- Project Brief
- Logical Framework Draft
- Draft of the Institutional Arrangements
- Set of Guiding Questions

The information was shared in printed documents, and later shared through email with all people consulted.

4. Main Recommendations and Conclusions

4.1 Chimanimani District

Dates:

May 21-22, 2024

Institutions consulted:

- District Environmental Office (EMA);
- District Council;
- District Development Coordination Office (DDC);
- Civil Protection Unit (CPU);
- District Agricultural Extension Office (AGRITEX);
- District Health Department
  – District Medical Officer (DMO) & Assistant District Health Services Administrator (ADHSA);
- Department of Social Development (DSD);

Key recommendations and project response:

The below table summarizes the main recommendations and inputs received by the stakeholders (grouped by topic), as well as how the project intends to respond and update its design:

Recommendation	**Project Response**[1]
DRM: There are Emergency Preparedness Plans at District- and Ward-level that are currently being finalized. The project shall aim to fund activities in those plans, once they are finalized. Information dissemination systems should be strengthened, especially with early warnings, so they reach everyone. Indigenous knowledge systems could be integrated and systematized into the EWS systems. Village-level CPCs shall be trained and village-level planning for adaptation and emergency response should be facilitated. Emergency shelters shall be strengthened and better equipped, with special focus on: (i) first aid kits; (ii) clothes and blankets; (iii) sanitation facilities.	The interventions proposed are included in the log frame and initial activity design, in Output 1.1 that focuses on disaster risk preparedness and adaptation capacities. The project intends to work with Village CPCs on planning for adaptation and disaster response, in alignment with the ward-level Emergency Preparedness Plans. CPCs will be empowered and included in the last mile of EWS, and in the management and strengthening of Emergency Shelters. The project shall work in close coordination with the Civil Protection Unit at District Level to ensure that all information is shared, and plans can be updated frequently.
WASH: the coverage of access to sanitation and clean water is only about 50% in the District. Further WASH activities are required for more coverage, especially in the light of cholera outbreaks resulting from the floods.	The project includes activities around Water and Sanitation, under Component 1 in terms of communication packages around safe water use and sanitation, and in terms of infrastructure in Component 2, which is targeting natural and physical assets. The project will work with communities and provide small inputs so they can build their own sanitation facilities.
Land Degradation: Cyclones and storms cause a lot of landslides, and natural systems are being affected. There is a high need for active land restoration. A possible activity could be to implement food-for-work schemes, in which the communities can work to restore the affected lands in exchange for food or cash.	The project includes activities centered around resilience of natural systems. The project will work in close collaboration with the district environmental officers in the identification of specific actions to be conducted. Sustainable Land Management and protection of the environment will be included in the Farmers' Clubs training programmes.

[1] The eventual size of the project and its interventions will be subject to budget constraints and more detailed planning in the Full Proposal development stage.

Access to water for agriculture: in the drier areas of the district, access to water for irrigation is a major issue. It is suggested to include technologies/ approaches that can capture some of the rainwater during the rainy season, including rainwater harvesting, weirs and tapping of water from rivers during rainy season. In addition, the project shall also include groundwater recharge activities, so aquifers are not depleted. Existing dams should be rehabilitated and maintained better.	The project includes a set of activities (Output 3.1) that addresses water for agriculture. During full proposal development, the project shall do a more detailed assessment and identification of potential interventions that are feasible and have shown to be effective. Priority will be given to rehabilitate existing infrastructures, and improving Operation &Maintenance systems. An activity will be added to focus on groundwater recharge. DAPP shall consult its partner organizations in the Humana People to People network where groundwater recharge has been successfully applied. Additional collaboration with relevant government departments will be sought to develop a technically sound and feasible set of activities.
Crops and alternative productions: due to the droughts and changing weather patterns, maize production is affected. Successful practices that need scaling up, include: (i) promoting Conservation Agriculture in maize cropping systems (among others); (ii) promoting small grains (pearl millet, sorghum); (iii) fenced horticulture plots; (iv) village greenhouses. In terms of alternative productions, the following show a lot of potential: Fish Farming, Beekeeping, Mushrooms. In addition, the project could explore nature-friendly micro-enterprises, for example focusing on recycling/upcycling.	The project includes a set of activities (Output 3.2) on climate-resilient agricultural practices. Through the Farmers' Clubs and the demonstration plots to be established, the project will demonstrate the suggested practices. The project will establish Centres of Community Practice, in which integrated farming systems will be demonstrated. This will include all of the suggested practices that have shown to be effective in the targeted areas. Micro-grants and business development training will be provided to cooperatives so that alternative productions can be established, such as beekeeping, mushroom farming, and greenhouses. For the fish farming activity, AgriMarine Zimbabwe (private sector) will be engaged.
Post-harvest management: about 30% of harvests are being lost, due to poor post-harvest practices. Especially in years of drought, this causes situations of hunger. The project shall train extension workers as well as communities in good practices for storage, especially at household level. Hermetic bags offer a good solution, but there are equally some good traditional methods that could be scaled up. In terms of food processing, fruit dryers have shown to be successful.	The project includes an activity on post-harvest management with a specific focus on food storage systems. Priority will be given to training extension workers and dissemination of good models and practices at the village level. Farmers' Clubs and cooperatives will be capacitated accordingly, and small inputs will be provided.
Livestock: Drought causes challenges with livestock, especially cattle. As their nutritional status decreases, their fertility rates dramatically decline. It is suggested to work with a holistic approach, addressing nutrition for livestock, and suggested to focus on short-cycle/small livestock such as goats, chicken and rabbits. With goats, special emphasis shall be placed on clean housing.	The project will focus primarily on short-cycle/small livestock production, such as goats, chicken and rabbits. Small demonstrations will be implemented with Farmers' Clubs and cooperatives, so people can learn and adopt at their own homestead or farm. Good practices will be disseminated, in cooperation with AGRITEX. A sub-activity to address nutrition and fodder for livestock will be included.
Vulnerable Groups: The project shall pay attention to vulnerable groups, especially children and people with disabilities. Vision-impaired people shall not be forgotten, and Braille should be included.	DAPP will engage some of its long-term partners that specialize in working with People living with Disabilities to support the detailed design of activities during implementation. The emergency shelters shall be strengthened with a specific focus on women and children and their protection post-disaster.

There is absolutely no doubt that there is strong needs in the 3 district for our Adaptation interventions. This is despite the wide spread thinking that there is over layering of developmental approaches and programming.

4.2 Chipinge District

Dates: June 10-11th 2024

Institutions consulted:

1. District Development Coordinator **(DDC**) & Head of the CPU
2. Chipinge Rural District Council **(RDC)**
3. Environmental Management Authority **(EMA)**
4. Ministry of Agriculture **(AGRITEX)**
5. Meteorological Services Department **(MSD)**
6. Department of Social Development **(DSD)** *(Former Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare)*
7. Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MWACSMED
8. Ministry of Local Government
9. Director of Green Institute (Development Partner)
10. Vemuganga FM

Key recommendations and project response:

The below table summarizes the main recommendations and inputs received by the stakeholders (grouped by topic), as well as how the project intends to respond and update its design, accordingly:

Recommendation	Project Response
1. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Emergence Preparedness and Response Mechanisms: We had long discussion with the Head of The Civil Protection Unit CPU. The issues that came to fore are the following in priority sequence of priority: o Inadequacy of bankable infrastructure: The district has no Emergency shelters during disasters they rely with public shelters like schools and churches building to use them as emergence evacuation sites/centres. This is not feasible because now Government through Ministry of Education have declared the schools as no go areas that must only be used for their original purposes and also some of the buildings were built a long ago and are getting into dilapidation condition. As such there is need work with CPU on strengthening the existing structure through renovations and having emergence tents and equipment available, with special focus on: (i) Medical first aid kits; (ii)Food banks(through the GMB) iii. clothes and blankets; (iii) Ablution and sanitation facilities to avoid risks of Disease outbreaks such as Cholera and Malaria o Non Functionality of Committees: Every Ward makes a Ward Disaster Management Plan that informs and Ward and Village Disaster Committees are in place. They need constant refresher cause and also resources for them to have coordination meetings and motivation to action these plans o Lack of effective early warning systems. There is a need innovation around Early warning systems	The interventions proposed are included in the log frame and initial activity design, in Output 1.1 that focuses on disaster risk preparedness and adaptation capacities. On Disaster Risk Reduction, preparedness and response mechanisms and the interconnected early warning systems, the Project will work on strengthening on the existing infrastructure are existing but not function, Infrastructure is not there so they were taking on procurement of building model emergency shelters. The project intends to work with Village CPCs on planning for adaptation and disaster response, in alignment with the ward-level Emergency Preparedness Plans. CPCs will be empowered and included in the last mile of **EWS,** and in the management and strengthening of Emergency Shelters. The project shall work in close coordination with the Civil Protection Unit at District Level to ensure that all information is shared, and plans can be updated frequently.

in order to reach hard to reach areas. The information dissemination channels systems should be strengthened, and standardized so that at every level there is adequate and correct knowledge. The police who are the most key member of the CPU must be equipped with primary resources for them to be able to discharge their duties with swiftness that meets the turnover standards that are a requirement of an emergency response.	The project will have activities that focusing on promoting, Indigenous Knowledge Systems (**IKS)** enhance the need to formalize through the involvement of Chiefs and document Indigenous Knowledge Systems and to be integrated and systematized into the EWS systems and in local vernacular so that they are understood.
2. <u>(WASH) Water Sanitation and Hygiene</u>: Water is a major challenge in Chipinge just like in the rest of the districts we consulted has challenges with safe drinking water and for other majority of household activities, e.g. cooking, bathing and washing laundry. Cyclone Idai, destroyed the water reticulation system, and those affected were now relying on sources either far away or not suitable for human consumption, according to the Chimanimani District Environmental Officer, results from the water samples from majority of the destroyed sources showed that the water was not satisfactory for human consumption. Water is also critical for women's hygiene SRH, in terms when women go on their cycles and particular during maternity period in local Health facilities.	The project includes activities around Water and Sanitation, under Component 1 in terms of communication packages around safe water use and sanitation, and in terms of infrastructure in Component 2, which is targeting natural and physical assets. The project will work with communities and provide small inputs so they can build their own sanitation facilities. The Project will have activities around hygiene promotion that supported water safety through Point of Use Water Treatment **(PoUWT**), household solid waste management, excreta disposal, and hand washing behaviors, as part of community actions contributing to the reduction of the risk of WASH related communicable diseases, in the light of cholera outbreaks resulting from the floods.
3. <u>Access to water for agriculture</u>: Water for Agricultural production is a big hindrance to agro based productions. About 85% of the population in the rural wards survive on communal farming as their main source of both food and income security. There are 30 Wards in Chipinge district. These wards are divided 2 faces. The upper Chipinge which wards, 9,8,11,15 and 19 this is a very wet area which in dry seasons they receive normal rainfall and in normal seasons they receive above normal rainfall. It is these wards that are prone to climate induced disasters like floods. The geographical lowveld of the district is very dry area. This consists of wards 1,3,4, 5,7, 16 up to 30.People have been producing white maize as their staple food. The past 7 years they have not received normal rainfall. The rivers which are the traditional sources of irrigating the gardens for horticulture crops like, tomatoes, peas etc are have dried up with high siltation levels even for Country's national landmark rivers like **Save** and **Runde.**	The project includes a set of activities (Output 3.1) that addresses water for agriculture. During full proposal development, the project shall do a more detailed assessment and identification of potential interventions that are feasible and have shown to be effective. Priority will be given to rehabilitate existing infrastructures, and improving Operation &Maintenance systems. An activity will be added to focus on groundwater recharge. DAPP shall consult its partner organizations in the Humana People to People network where groundwater recharge has been successfully applied. Additional collaboration with relevant government departments will be sought to develop a technically sound and feasible set of activities.
4. <u>Crops and Livestock alternative productions:</u> Due to the prolonged droughts, the main crops of choice do not survive the extreme heat and weather conditions leading to acute hunger. Climate Smart successful practices that need scaling up, include includes: (i) Agro-Ecology (formerly Conservation Agriculture) in maize cropping systems, like limited tillage, mulching, agroforestry & intercropping (ii) promoting small grains (pearl millet, sorghum); (iii) fenced and greenhouse horticulture plots, among others .	The project includes a set of activities (Output 3.2) on climate-resilient agricultural practices. Through the Farmers' Clubs and the demonstration plots to be established, the project will demonstrate the suggested practices. The project will establish Centres of Community Practice, in which integrated farming systems will be demonstrated. This will include all of the suggested practices that have shown to be effective in the targeted areas.

In terms of alternative productions, Chipinge district is dominates with Macadamia nuts, Avocado production and Beekeeping, however farmers lose a lot of money due to lack of value addition initiates and non-structured resilience markets. The following show a lot of potential in the wet upper Chipinge: Fish Farming, the Government has kick started initiatives that speak to this. There is need to organise farmers build their capacity through promoting value addition training and structure their production in order for them to have regularized markets and involving local Government like Rural District Council to enact By Laws that protects and insulates farmers from unscrupulous offtakers and self-styled middlemen Drought causes challenges with livestock value chain, especially cattle. The main challenges are lack of pastures where they can feed in order to have good weight which determines their dollar value on the markets. Furthermore their nutritional status decreases due to lack of natural grazing hectarage or good fodder, their fertility rates dramatically decline. It is suggested to work with a holistic approach, addressing nutrition for livestock, and suggested to focus on short-cycle/small livestock such as goats, chicken and rabbits. Goats need to be improved breeding due to sharp increase inbreeding that have affected the size of goats that fetches the absolute minimal market prices.	Micro-grants and business development training will be provided to cooperatives so that alternative productions can be established, such as beekeeping, mushroom farming, and greenhouses. For the Fish Farming activity, Agrimarine Zimbabwe (private sector) will be engaged. The project will focus primarily on short-cycle/small livestock production, such as goats, chicken and rabbits. Small demonstrations will be implemented with Farmers' Clubs and cooperatives, so people can learn and adopt at their own homestead or farm. Good practices will be disseminated, in cooperation with AGRITEX. A sub-activity to address nutrition and fodder for livestock will be included.
5. <u>Post-harvest management:</u> About 30% of harvests are being lost, due to poor post-harvest practices. Especially in years of drought, this causes situations of hunger. The project shall train extension workers as well as communities in good practices for storage, especially at household level. Hermetic bags offer a good solution, but there are equally some good traditional methods that could be scaled up. In terms of food processing, fruit dryers have shown to be successful.	The project includes an activity on post-harvest management with a specific focus on food storage systems. Priority will be given to training extension workers and dissemination of good models and practices at the village level. Farmers' Clubs and cooperatives will be capacitated accordingly and techniques on storage facility upgrading and tracking of food loses to be tracked from the field since the surveys prove the stock borer starts in the fields before harvest commences.
6. <u>Land and Environmental Degradation</u> Sustainable Land Management approaches are really needed in the district. Land degradations, formation of gullies that cause massive soil erosion There is rampant charcoal production in Wards that are closer to the urban Chipinge, in particular Ward 5 and that putting in a lot of stress on the already strained natural ecosystems; this is a very lucrative Income generation source due to the Transboundary proximity with Mozambique where trees are facing total extinction. So the recommendation is that there is great need on building biodiversity economy, integrating it to our other interventions.	The project includes activities centered on resilience of natural systems. The project will work in close collaboration with the district environmental officers in the identification of specific actions to be conducted. Sustainable Land Management and protection of the environment will be included in the Farmers' Clubs training programmes.
7. <u>Vulnerable Groups:</u> The other issue that was common is Social Inclusion and basic human rights for people with disability, Child protection and Orphans project shall pay attention to vulnerable groups, especially children and people with disabilities. The District DSD Officer also	DAPP has a good track record of working with and will engage its long-term partners like Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe (LCDZ) and Christian Blind Mission (CBM) that specialize in working with People living with Disabilities to support the detailed design of activities during implementation.

revealed that majority of children in the affected communities were psychologically affected by so many factors around the Cyclone incident and its aftermath. The district has no facilities for those living with disabilities for example, brails and wheelchairs this are coupled with training of facilitators to manage children with disability.	The emergency shelters shall be strengthened with a specific focus on women and children not least orphan with disabilities and their protection post-disasters.

4.3 Bikita District

Dates: June 12th 2024

Institutions consulted:

- District Development Coordinators Office,
- Bikita Rural District Council
- District Development Coordination Office (DDC);
- District Agricultural Extension Office (AGRITEX);
- Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender, Small and Medium Enterprises
- Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture \
- Environmental Management Agency district office
- Rural Infrastructure Development Agency

Key recommendations and project response:

The below table summarizes the main recommendations and inputs received by the stakeholders (grouped by topic), as well as how the project intends to respond and update its design, accordingly:

Recommendation	Project Response
DRM: Floods and drought are the major climate hazards faced in the district which falls under agro- ecological region 3 and 5. The districts have 32 wards and only 5 wards fall under region 3. The project should therefore integrate the provision of emergency community safe shelters with adequate food banks as part of disaster preparedness for extreme weather events such as the cyclone Idai experienced in 2019. Civil protection committees at district, ward and village levels need to be trained on disaster management and drills should be regularly conducted as part of disaster preparedness.	The project will build capacities of ward and village level civil protection committees as well as strengthen local level early warning systems as part of the response measures.
Water Bikita district is traditionally dry, and water is a perennial challenge. The El Nino weather phenomenon, which results in lower rainfall patterns and extreme weather events, has compounded the situation. Many hand pumped boreholes have dried up. This has put added pressure on the few remaining functional bush pump. It was therefore recommended that any climate change adaptation people centred response should address wáter challenges issues. It was highlighted that Ward 24, 25 and 26 in ressetlement áreas are lagging behind in terms of wáter and sanitation issues	The project will support climate proofed water and sanitation infrastructure. Furthermore the project will implement small-scale water solutions for agriculture and establish and promote small scale irrigation systems.
Livestock It was highlighted that in Bikita district livestock is an integral part of the smallholder farming system through the provision of draught power, manure, milk, meat and income but however cattle production is heavily being impacted by climate change. Droughts of increasing frequency and severity are a threat to the sustainability of livestock production in particular cattle in the district. Therefore a recommendation was made that small stock, including goats, sheep and poultry are more resilient to climate change impacts in addition to their complementary role in providing a source of meat, cash income, manure and other household needs and therefore should be promoted as one of the	The project will support integrated livestock production activities

adaptation initiative. Conditions of pastures are very poor and require supplementary feeding. Furthermore, almost a third of livestock in the district died due to January disease in the past 2 years.	
Crop Production Erratic rainfall that leads to poor yields and district stakeholders were recommending that región 5 which constitute the greater part of the district is suitable for small grains production. Furthmore due to shortages of wild food there is increased human-wildlife in áreas bordering Save conservancy and National Park áreas. It was recommended that any Climate Change adaptation intervention should try and address human-wild conflict which is further worsening food shortages. The following are some of the suggested value chains which can be developed within the district: Sorghum, Pearl Millet, Rapoko, Guava, bee keeping, Sesame which is slowly eliminating cotton a once thriving crop in the district.	The project will implement climate smart agriculture interventions and establish and demonstration plots for climate –resilient agriculture and integrated farming systems.

4.4 Masvingo Rural District

Dates: June 13-14th 2024

Institutions consulted:

1. Acting District Development Coordinator (ADDC)
2. Masvingo Rural District Council
3. EMA, Provincial Manager
4. Department of Social Development (DSD), former Ministry of
5. Ministry of Agriculture AGRITEX department
6. Ministry of Women Affairs Community Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MWACSMED)
7. Ministry of Youth
8. Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (RIDA), formerly **DDF**
9. Meteorological Services Department **(MSD)**

Key recommendations and project response:

The below table summarizes the main recommendations and inputs received by the stakeholders (grouped by topic), as well as how the project intends to respond and update its design, accordingly:

Recommendation	Project Response
Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Emergence Preparedness and Response Mechanisms: In Masvingo district they have 33 Wards. Out of these wards 3, 8 and 33 are the most prone to natural disasters because they are exposed to the wet wind belt that interfaces with the Mozambique, Chipinge and Bikita wet corridor which cyclone hit the hardest. They have DRR Plans and Emergency Preparedness Plans at District at Ward-level that are currently being finalized. Their main key challenges are on functionality of the Civil Protection structures at ward level. The lack resources to fully equip the emergency response structures in order to reduce the period of responding to disasters and emergencies. Another issue is on the unavailability of innovative Early warning systems as such information dissemination systems should be strengthened, especially with early warnings, so they reach	The interventions proposed are included in the log frame and initial activity design, in Output 1.1 that focuses on disaster risk preparedness and adaptation capacities. On Disaster Risk Reduction, preparedness and response mechanisms and the interconnected early warning systems, the Project will work on strengthening on the existing infrastructure are existing but not function, Infrastructure is not there so they were taking on procurement of building model emergency shelters. The project intends to work with Village CPCs on planning for adaptation and disaster response, in alignment with the ward-level Emergency Preparedness Plans. CPCs will be empowered and included in the last mile of **EWS,** and in the management and strengthening of Emergency Shelters. The project shall work in close coordination with the Civil Protection Unit at District Level to

everyone. Indigenous knowledge systems could be integrated and systematized into the EWS systems. Village-level CPCs shall be trained and village-level planning for adaptation and emergency response should be facilitated and have designated and equipment in the shelters well before any disaster.	ensure that all information is shared, and plans can be updated frequently. The project will have activities that focusing on promoting, Indigenous Knowledge Systems (**IKS)** enhance the need to formalize through the involvement of Chiefs and document Indigenous Knowledge Systems and to be integrated and systematized into the EWS systems and in local vernacular so that they are understood.
<u>(WASH) Water Sanitation and Hygiene</u>: According to the District Water Technician within the Rural Infrastructure Development Agency **RIDA** water supply and sanitation in Masvingo City is increasingly threatened by institutional weaknesses, unfavorable water governance structures, and financial instability. Safe drinking water continues to be a great challenge. He went on to quote that according to the recent evaluations identified population growth, poor infrastructure, economic challenges and climate change as the major challenges affecting efficient water delivery. They said the observations are that the areas that were affected by cyclones conversely, the **heavy rainfall** and flooding damaged water sources and sanitation facilities, for example the streams carry runoff and waste into streams and lakes, and contaminate Climate triggered disasters by natural hazards have almost doubled compared to these have made Climate-resilient WASH needs investment in Masvingo district almost no untenable. Their recommendation was that any programme design must focus on WASH programmes climate-ready. This means ensuring WASH infrastructure and services are sustainable, safe and resilient, and that WASH systems contribute to community resilience.	The project includes activities around Water and Sanitation, under Component 1 in terms of communication packages around safe water use and sanitation, and in terms of infrastructure in Component 2, which is targeting natural and physical assets. The project will work with communities and provide small inputs so they can build their own sanitation facilities. The Project will have activities around hygiene promotion that supported water safety through Point of Use Water Treatment **(PoUWT**), household solid waste management, excreta disposal, and hand washing behaviors, as part of community actions contributing to the reduction of the risk of WASH related communicable diseases, in the light of cholera outbreaks resulting from the floods.
<u>Access to water for agriculture</u>: Water for Agricultural production is a greatest challenge facing food security in the district. They said about 72 % of the small holder farmers in the district lack adequate a**ccess** to improved **water** for agricultural production. Wards 23- 31 fall under ecological region 5. Wards 22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 34 and 35 receive below 450 mm per annum. Wards 6, 7,8,12, 13 14, 32 receive between 750- 1000 mm per annum. Farmers have now been advised to migrate to small grains but there is major resistance due to various factors. The main one being attitude change people are used to consuming white maize meal (Sadza). Others in particular Women feel the Small Grains are too labour intense this adds burden to their household workload. The other existing programmes in the district are:	The project includes a set of activities (Output 3.1) that addresses water for agriculture. During full proposal development, the project shall do a more detailed assessment and identification of potential interventions that are feasible and have shown to be effective. Priority will be given to rehabilitate existing infrastructures, and improving Operation &Maintenance systems. An activity will be added to focus on groundwater recharge. DAPP shall consult its partner organizations in the Humana People to People network where groundwater recharge has been successfully applied. Additional collaboration with relevant government departments will be sought to develop a technically sound and feasible set of activities.

i. **The R4** done by Zambuko Trust with funding from USAID. The consortium also has CIMMYTY, Aquaculture Zimbabwe. ii. USAID funded **FARM** activity, with SNV, focusing on market development. iii. CTDO, SAT, COSPE (an Italian organisation) WHH and Women and Land Implementing **the Seeds for the Future**	
Crops and Livestock alternative productions: The District AGRITEX Officer said that it is evident that livestock farming in urban and peri-urban areas of Masvingo has been significantly affected by climate change-induced hazards, which include drought, shifts in the rainy season and floods, crop and livestock pests and diseases, and heatwaves. The farmers have ventures at big scale production of Sesame without even limited to no Agritex extension services promoting the value chain. The challenge is on informal markets mainly Mozambique offtakers buying this product. The other common recommendation in the 4 districts consulted is for farmers to do small livestock; in Masvingo in particular they wanted farmers to promote Turkey meat production for it has much more value than chickens.	The project includes a set of activities (Output 3.2) on climate-resilient agricultural practices. Through the Farmers' Clubs and the demonstration plots to be established, the project will demonstrate the suggested practices. The project will establish Centres of Community Practice, in which integrated farming systems will be demonstrated. This will include all of the suggested practices that have shown to be effective in the targeted areas. Micro-grants and business development training will be provided to cooperatives so that alternative productions can be established, such as beekeeping, mushroom farming, and greenhouses. For the Fish Farming activity, Agrimarine Zimbabwe (private sector) will be engaged. The project will focus primarily on short-cycle/small livestock production, such as goats, chicken and rabbits. Small demonstrations will be implemented with Farmers' Clubs and cooperatives, so people can learn and adopt at their own homestead or farm. Good practices will be disseminated, in cooperation with AGRITEX. A sub-activity to address nutrition and fodder for livestock will be included.
<u>Post-harvest management:</u> Post-harvest losses occur due to high moisture, pest and rodent damage, and fungal or bacterial infections present in stored grain. Poor handling techniques during harvesting and transportation of produce to storage facilities also contribute to losses. Further and based on the available statistics, Post- Harvest losses alone, estimated at **20** to **30%** in storage alone, can be as high as 40 percent when including field, transportation, handling and processing	The project includes an activity on post-harvest management with a specific focus on food storage systems. Priority will be given to training extension workers and dissemination of good models and practices at the village level. Farmers' Clubs and cooperatives will be capacitated accordingly and techniques on storage facility upgrading and tracking of food loses to be tracked from the field since the surveys prove the stock borer starts in the fields before harvest commences.
<u>Land and Environmental Degradation</u> The District department of EMA in Masvingo said Climate change is a major contributor to environmental degradation because it can cause soil erosion, which is the process of wearing away the land surface by the action of natural forces such as wind, water, and ice. They went on to say Climate Change can cause an increase in the intensity and frequency of storms, worsening erosion. According to him, scientifically when land is degraded; soil carbon can be released into the	The project includes activities centered on resilience of natural systems. The project will work in close collaboration with the district environmental officers in the identification of specific actions to be conducted. Sustainable Land Management and protection of the environment will be included in the Farmers' Clubs training programmes.

atmosphere, along with nitrous oxide, making land degradation one of the biggest contributors. He said in the district human activities due to lack of sufficient agricultural produce are causing pollution or degrade the quality of soils and land utility. It negatively affects food production, livelihoods, and the production and provision of other ecosystem goods and services. In the most dry areas of Masvingo districts already evidently you can see signs of desertification is a form of land degradation by which fertile land has become desert due to unsustainable agricultural practice like growing crop varieties that consumes firewood at production .	
<u>Vulnerable Groups</u> The Masvingo Department of Social Development said in rural areas, 100 percent of Children Living with Disabilities, especially those using wheelchairs, face significantly reduced access to proper sanitation or are completely excluded from educational facilities. People with disabilities (PWD) in Masvingo like other districts; they are often left out of the conversations relating to climate Change. He said in fact, PWD are often overlooked more than any other demographic when it comes to policy decisions, which worsens their social status and increases their struggles. These obstacles usually involve lack of research material relating to climate policy not being accessible in a way that allows PWD to read or hear about the latest climate policy decisions due to inaccessible websites, inexistent braille flyers, and lack of sign language interpreters	**DAPP** has a good track record of working with and will engage its long-term partners like Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe (LCDZ) and Christian Blind Mission (CBM) that specialize in working with People living with Disabilities to support the detailed design of activities during implementation. The emergency shelters shall be strengthened with a specific focus on women and children not least orphan with disabilities and their protection post-disasters.

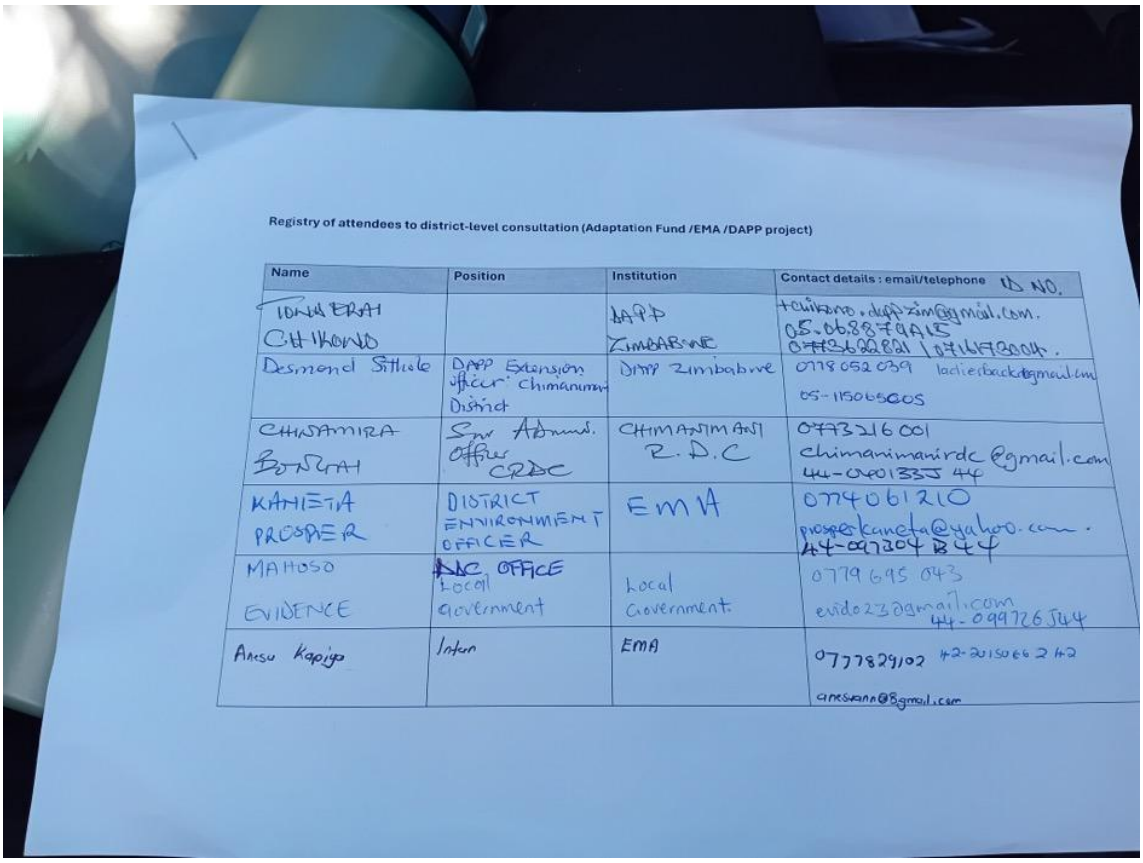
5 Annexes

5.1 Attendance List

Institution/Organization	Representative consulted
Chimanimani	
District Development Coordinator's Office & Coordinator of Civil Protection Unit	Mahoso Evidence, Personal Assistant to the District Development Coordinator
Chimanimani Rural District Council **(RDC)**	Mr. Chinamira Bongai, Senior Admistration Officer
Environmental Management Authority **(EMA)**	Prosper Kaneta, District Environmental Officer
Environmental Management Authority **(EMA)**	Anesu Kapiya, Trainee, Assistant DEO
Ministry of Agriculture **(AGRITEX)**	Mr. Alfred Samutsu, District AGRITEX Officer
Department of Social Development **(DSD)** *(Former Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare)*	Mr. Tatenda Chipfuwa, District DSD Officer
Ministry of Health and Child Care	Dr. Donatas Mugari, District Medical Officer
Ministry of Health and Child Care	Mr. Bonface Chikata, District Environmental & Health Officer (DEHO)
Chipinge	
District Development Coordinator's Office	Mr. Chamunorwa Salani, Administration Officer
Chipinge Rural District Council **(RDC)**	Mr. Rodrick Manhondo, Environmental Management & Adaptation Officer
Environmental Management Authority **(EMA)**	Mr. Llyod Chimuzu, District Assistant Officer
Ministry of Agriculture **(AGRITEX)**	Mr. Rungano Dickson, District Agronomist
Meteorological Services Department **(MSD)**	Mrs. Lydia Masengu, Met Services Dept Technician
Department of Social Development **(DSD)** *(Former Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare)*	Mr. Thembinkosi Gumbo, District Social Development Officer
Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MWACSMED	Mr. Kudzai Chiripashi, District Development Officer
Director of Green Institute (Development Partner)	Mr. Blessing Matasva, Executive Director
Vemuganga FM	Mr. Effort Manono, Executive Production Officer
Bikita	
District Development Coordination Office (DDC);	Mr. Peter Mateu, District Economic Planning Officer
Bikita Rural District Council	Engineer Arnold Mtuke, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Environmental Management Agency **(EMA,**	Ms Vainah Makuyana, Assistant District Officer
District Agricultural Extension Office (AGRITEX);	Mr. Cephas Mugari, District AGRITEX Officer
Ministry of Women Affairs Community Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MWACSMED)	Mr. Victor Mugame, Community Development Officer
Ministry of Women Affairs Community Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MWACSMED)	Mr. Graduate Mudyawabikwa, BCDO
Ministry of Youth Development, Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment	Ms. Belinda Mangwayana, Youth Development Officer
Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (RIDA), ***formerly DDF)***	Ms. Eunica Chiome, District Officer
Masvingo Rural District	
District Development Coordinator's Office	Acting District Development Coordinator (ADDC)
Masvingo Rural District Council	Mr. Luke Dzvairo, Head of Environmental & Agriculture
Environmental Management Agency **(EMA,**	Mr. Muusha Provincial Manager
Department of Social Development (DSD), former Ministry of	Mr. Zhou Maxwel, District DSD Officer
Ministry of Agriculture AGRITEX department	Mugari Eliphas, District AGRITEX Officer
Ministry of Women Affairs Community Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MWACSMED)	Ms. Ziso Piwai K, Community Development Officer
Ministry of Youth Development, Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment	Sifiso Machako, District Youth Officer
	Miss Tavara Mudukuti, Youth Coordinator

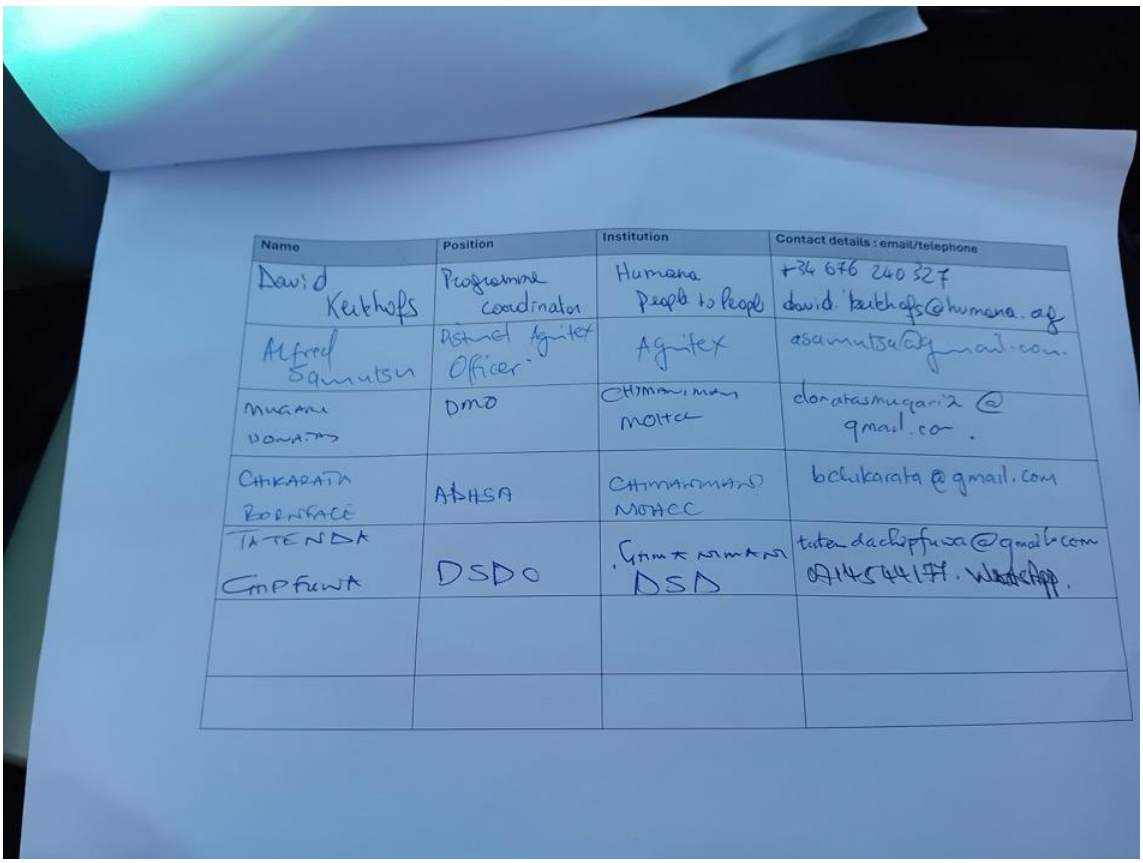
Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (RIDA), ***formerly DDF)***	Mr. Paul Mhondera, District Water Engineer
Meteorological Services Department **(MSD)**	Mr. Benson Mangwiro, District Met Technician

Chimanimani



Registry of attendees to district-level consultation (Adaptation Fund /EMA /DAPP project)

Name	Position	Institution	Contact details : email/telephone ID NO.
TONDERAI CHIKONO		DAPP ZIMBABWE	tchikono.dapp.zim@gmail.com. 05.06.8879A15 0773622821 / 0716173004.
Desmond Sithole	DAPP Extension officer Chimanimani District	DAPP Zimbabwe	0778 052 039 ladierback@gmail.com 05-115065005
CHINAMIRA BONGAI	Snr Admin. Officer CRDC	CHIMANIMANI R.D.C	0773216001 chimanimanirdc@gmail.com 44-040133J44
KANETA PROSPER	DISTRICT ENVIRONMENT OFFICER	EMA	0774061210 prosperkaneta@yahoo.com. 44-097304B44
MAHOSO EVIDENCE	DDC OFFICE Local government	Local Government.	0779 695 043 evido23@gmail.com 44-099726J44
Anesu Kapiya	Intern	EMA	0777829102 42-2015066242 anesvann@gmail.com



Name	Position	Institution	Contact details : email/telephone
David Kerkhofs	Programme coordinator	Humana People to People	+34 676 240 327 david.kerkhofs@humana.org
Alfred Samutsu	District Agritex Officer	Agritex	asamutsu@gmail.com.
MUGARI DONATAS	DMO	CHIMANIMANI MOHCC	donatasmugari2@gmail.com.
CHIKARATA BONIFACE	ADHSA	CHIMANIMANI MOHCC	bchikarata@gmail.com
TATENDA CHIPFUWA	DSDO	CHIMANIMANI DSD	tatendachipfuwa@gmail.com 0714544177. WhatsApp.

Chipinge

DAPP ZIMBABWE

ADAPTATION FUND

Locally-Led Resilience: Enhancing Community-Based Disaster Preparedness and Climate Adaptation in Rural Manicaland and Masvingo
District Consultations Attendance Register: CHIPINGE RURAL DISTRICT

No.	Full Names	Position/Designation	Institution	Contact details: email Mobile number
1				
2				
3				
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Bikita

DAPP ZIMBABWE

ADAPTATION FUND

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

District Consultations Attendance Register: BIKITA DISTRICT

No.	Full Names	Position/Designation	Institution	Contact details: email Mobile number
1				
2				
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12				

Masvingo Rural

Registry of attendees to district-level consultation (Adaptation Fund /EMA /DAPP project)

MASVINGO RURAL DISTRICT.

	Name	Position	Institution	Contact details : email/telephone
1.	Ms. Ndlovu	ASSISTANT DDC	DDC OFFICE	+263 masvingodd@mweb.co.zw
2.	LUKE DZVAIRO	HEAD OF ENVIRO & Agriculture	RDC	0773452848 dzvairo.luke.rdcmasvingo@gmail.com
3.	EMMANUEL MUKARATIRWA	CHIEF ENGINEER.	MASVINGO RDC	00263 39 62431 emukatirwa@gmail.com
4.	Maxwell Zhou	District DSD officer	Masvingo DSD	077199468 Zhoumaxwell.dsdmasvingo@gmail.com
5.	Zephas Mugari	District A Officer	AGRITEX	
6.	Ziso Piwai	Community Development Officer	MWACSMED	0743 226541 Zisopiwai.mwacsmed@gmail.com
7.	MILTON MUUSHA	PROVINCIAL MANAGER	EMA	+263 39226227 / 263392263364 miltonmuusha@ema.co.zw
8.	TAWANDA CHINOGWENYA	ENVIRO & PLANNING MONITORING OFFICER	EMA	0772 956 868 tawanda.chinogwenya@ema.co.zw

	Name	Position	Institution	Contact details : email/telephone
9.	MARTIN Mubuto	C.E.O	Mashungo Rural RAC	+263 772 249 2255
10.	TONDERAI Chikono	Climate Finance	DAPP Zim	+263 773 622 821 tchikono.dapp zim@gmail.com

5.2 Pictures of the Consultations

Chimanimani





Chipinge



Consultations with the Chipinge with multi lateral group of District Officials



A Focus Group consultation session with Small holder farmers in ward 6, of Chipinge district

Bikita Rural District pictures





Masvingo Rural District in Pictures





5.3 Information shared with the stakeholders

Adaptation Fund Project Brief

Project name (TBC): ***Building communities' resilience to climate-induced disasters and climate change through improved disaster preparedness, livelihoods and adaptation practices in rural wards of Manicaland and Masvingo provinces.***

Funding entity:	Adaptation Fund (AF)
Implementing Entity:	Environmental Management Agency (EMA)
Executing Entity:	Development Aid People to People (DAPP), part of the Humana People to People network
Estimated timeline (optimistic scenario):	Start date: January 2026 End date: January 2030
Collaborating entities/consulted:	Africa University in Manicaland and Great Zimbabwe University in Masvingo Provinces; Civil Protection Units **(CPU); ** Environmental Management Agency **(EMA @** district level); District Development Coordinators, Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Ressetlement- AGRITEX department; Meteorological Services Department; The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare – Department of Social Development; Ministry of Women Affairs Community Small and Medium Enterprises Development **(MWACSME**D); The Ministry of Health and Child Care **MoHCC** (District level- DEHO); Development Partner.
Project location (TBC):	Manicaland (*Chimanimani and Chipinge* districts) and Masvingo (*Bikita and Masvingo* rural), Zimbabwe.
Climate Problems to address:	Increase in extreme weather events (cyclones, floods), and dry spells and droughts. Changing weather patterns, affecting food production.
Project Summary:	The Project aims to enhance the adaptive capacity and effectively reduce disaster risk vulnerability of rural agricultural communities in disaster-prone areas of Manicaland and Masvingo Provinces. This will be done through three components/objectives: 1- To enhance Knowledge and Capacity for Climate Resilience and Emergency Preparedness 2- To increased Resilience of physical and natural assets 3- To improve Climate-Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security
Targeted Participants:	16 Ward Civil Protection Committees; 80 Village Civil Protection Committees; 4 Centres of Community Practice; 80 Farmers' Clubs or Organizations; 4,000 Farmers *Estimated: 4,000 direct beneficiaries*

Project Design:

Outcome 1: Enhanced Knowledge and Capacity for Climate Resilience and Emergency Preparedness
Output 1.1: Strengthened community capacity in disaster risk management, emergency response and locally-led adaptation.
Build capacities of ward- and village level Civil Protection Committees.
Strengthen last-mile connectivity of Early Warning Systems.
Formulate and update community-based emergency response plans.
Develop Community Adaptation Action Plans
Output 1.2: Strengthened awareness, knowledge and knowledge management
Implement communication package for climate resilience, disaster preparedness and improved nutrition and health.
Address specific gender barriers hindering meaningful participation of women and vulnerable groups
Knowledge Generation and Exchange
Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, Learning and Dissemination of Results

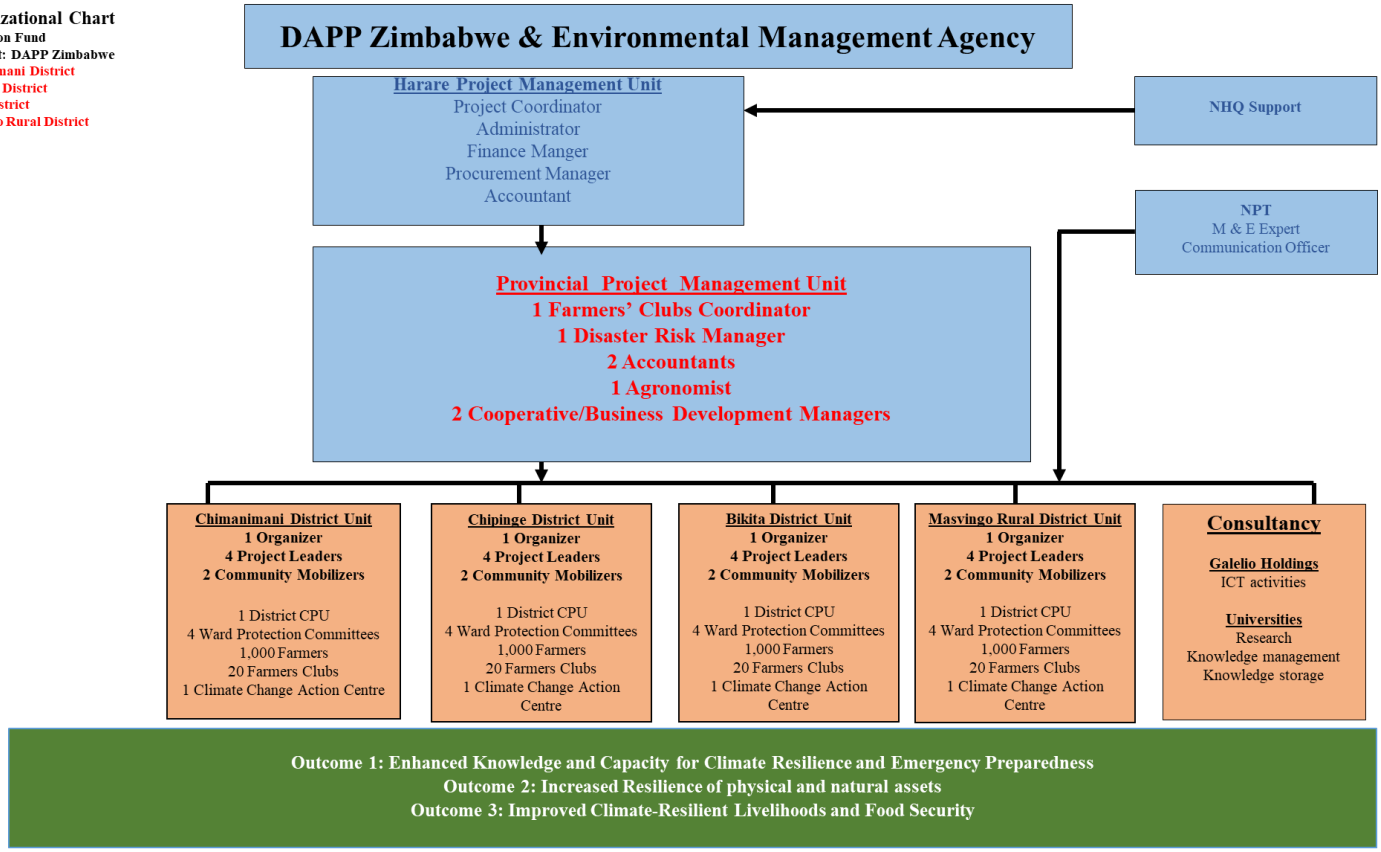
Outcome 2: Increased Resilience of physical and natural assets
Output 2.1: Critical local infrastructure is upgraded to resist climate-induced extreme weather events.
Establish and/or strengthen emergency shelters, that account for the safety and specific needs of women and children.
Implement farm- and community-level adaptive measures for disaster preparedness
Climate-proof of water and sanitation facilities
Establish and/or strengthen disaster-proof Food Storage systems

Outcome 3: Improved Climate-Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security
Output 3.1: Community water resources are more climate-resilient, and are sustainably managed with equitable access
Identify and implement small-scale water solutions for agriculture.
Establish and promote small-scale irrigation systems.
Output 3.2: Gender-responsive, climate-resilient agricultural systems are strengthened.
Support the establishment of Farmers' Organizations and Village Cooperatives.
Establish and operate Centres of Excellence / Communities of Practice for Climate-Resilient Integrated Farming Systems.
Establish and operate Demonstration/Communal Plots for climate-resilient agriculture, and integrated farming systems.
Support implementation of climate-resilient agriculture farms.
Promote integrated livestock/fish farming
Establish community gardens to enhance nutrition security.
Output 3.3: Increased and diversified income through the development of small-scale, climate-resilient enterprises.
Support the establishment and operationalization of Village Cooperatives and Micro-enterprises.
Improve access to markets, value-chain integration, microfinance and business development services.
Provide small grants to micro-enterprises and cooperatives

Rationale for site selection (preliminary data):

Vulnerability	Climate rationale
Low adaptive capacity: Manicaland is 5th and Masvingo is 6th (out of 8) in Adaptive Capacity ranking (IFAD, 2020) Shock Exposure is high: Masvingo is 1st and Manicaland 2nd in SH Index (ZIMVAC 2022) Food security at crisis stage: southern Manicaland and east Masvingo – data 2024-(*pending historical data*) Heavy reliance on rainfed agriculture– (available data on irrigation?) High Land /Water Degradation: East of Manicaland scores high in L/WD Index (LDN, 2017) High population with unimproved water access :31% (Masv.) and 20% (Manic.) of HH Early Warning Systems not fully used: 83% of HH receives info, only 56% uses the info (ZIMVAC 2022) Civil protection committees' operationalization status at the district/village level? – (*to be found out)*	Shrinking of the rainfall season (south Manicaland/east Masvingo up to 20 days) *Longer Dry spells* in Manicaland dry spells (5 to 10 days longer in Northern Manicaland) Predicted decrease of rainfall in southern and eastern Zimbabwe (NDC) High and very-high Drought vulnerability. High exposure to droughts : 78% (Man) /87% (Masv) of HH reporting drought/prolonged mid-season dry spells- ZIMVAC 2022 Tropical storms projected to intensify in target area (Eastern highlands).

Organizational Chart
Adaptation Fund
Applicant: DAPP Zimbabwe
Chimanimani District
Chipinge District
Bikita District
Masvingo Rural District



Questions for District level authorities:

1- Do you think the interventions proposed are filling the needs of vulnerable communities?

2- How do you think we should collaborate /build on existing structures and work with existing institutions?

3- What are the existing structures at community level regarding civil protection, water management, and Seed/food storage? Are they functional? How do they work?

4- What do you think are the main gaps in community/village level disaster preparedness?

5- What do you think are the main issues for farmers in terms of adaptation to climate? Water availability, existence of irrigation structures, need of extension services, need of inputs for adaptation.

6- What are the main issues for farmers to thrive? Bargaining capacity, lack of organization, quality of production, vulnerability to changing weather patterns.

7- What are the main value chains are being developed in the target districts? How are these working? How can we get this information?

8- With the lessons you have learned after Cyclone Idai, what do you think could have been done differently in terms of assets protection? (storage, WASH infrastructure, quality of shelters, Non food items received , etc. What solutions – that are locally available- do you think could have helped to improve the outcomes after the disaster occurred? How do you think people could have been better prepared?

9- What ongoing projects in the target areas we should try to seek synergy, collaboration?

10- What other local organizations /institutions we should consult with?

11- Do you have any specific suggestion on how to engage women and youth in the project?

12- Any other recommendation /suggestion?

Preliminary Gender Assessment for the Adaptation Fund (AF) Concept Note:

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

Executive summary

This rapid gender assessment comprises information from a limited number of sources at the district level. To inform the selection of activities and provide a thorough snapshot of the gender situation on the ground, the 4 districts of Bikita, Chipinge, Chimanimani and Masvingo rural to reveal how climate impacts, project benefits, and decision-making power are experienced differently based on gender, gender-differentiated vulnerabilities, access to resources; the disparities in who controls and accesses critical resources like land, water, credit, and technology. power dynamics; the balance of decision-making power within households and local communities, and ultimately to ensure interventions promote equity rather than unintentionally reinforcing discrimination.

Methodology

DAPP and EMA used structured in-depth interviews with duty bearers mainly from line Ministries such as the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MWACSMED), Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, The Department of Social Development under the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare. The Rural District Council, the CEO of Rural District Councils, and the District Chief Economists under the District Development Coordinators' Offices, and community consultations, where focus group discussions were held targeting farmers, in which at least 70% of the participants were women.

Key findings from the districts

1. Chipinge District

DAPP coordinated a rapid Preliminary Gender assessment in Chipinge district in collaboration with EMA staff in the target districts. We identified key Government departments at district level and spoke to 12 individual farmers, 80% of them being women. From the questions outlined in the Questionnaire that was read to them, their answers gave a picture that there is prevalent male domination in household assets and mainly agro-based incomes. In Chipinge District, women-headed households make up roughly 35% to 40% of all households. This aligns closely with the provincial average for Manicaland, where recent data indicates that about 35% of rural households are headed by women. On climate shocks it was clear that (droughts and cyclones) disproportionately affect women due to heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture, as a result, women are hit hardest.

Key Climate-Gender Vulnerabilities

No.	Assessment topic	Source of information /key informant	Key Findings
1.	**Gender-Differentiated Activities and Division of Labour in Agriculture**	The District Agricultural Extension Officer (DAEO) for Chipinge District Mr. Chitesa. Agricultural Business Advisory Officer (ABAO), Mr. F. Matsiya,*Department of Agricultural Technical and Extension Services (AGRITEX), Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development's*	We learnt that Agriculture in Chipinge District is characterized by distinct gender roles. Women provide the majority of the labour—handling planting, weeding, and harvesting. Men dominate land preparation, livestock management, and the control of income from cash crops. Women provide the bulk of agricultural labour force, supplying roughly 60-70% of total farm labour while putting in 16 to 18-hour workdays across both productive and reproductive tasks.
2.	**Gender-Differentiated Impacts and Risks of Climate Hazards**	Mrs. Lydia Masengu, Meteorological Services Department (MSD) District Focal Person	The Manager of Met department said it is recorded that women in Chipinge constitute a large share of the agricultural workforce a pattern that is consistent with the rest of Manicaland province. During climate-induced droughts, women smallholder farmers experience greater crop failure and income losses and put them at risk of indulging in other alternative means to earn an income. She further said depleted water tables during droughts and damage to infrastructure following events like Cyclone

			Idai drastically increased distances women must travel to secure water. Women shoulder over 90% of household water collection duties, which can consume 4 to 6 hours daily
3	**Social and Cultural Norms gender roles, participation in community Leadership roles**	3 Officials from the Districts Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development	From the discussions with the Ministry of Women affairs there were no ready statistics of the % of women in leadership roles but there was general sentiment that the district just like the rest of the country leadership roles and decision making are predominantly assumes by men. Women face persistent structural, cultural, and personal barriers when attempting to advance to decision-making positions in rural agriculture production.
4	**Time Use and Workload (Time Poverty)**	Ivy Chitambo, Department of Social Development, Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare	The stress of resource scarcity often incites household and community-level tensions. When natural disasters happen, women and girls face severely elevated risks of sexual exploitation, intimate partner violence (IPV), and harassment, particularly in displacement camps around the district when queuing for food relief and scarce water resources. Household are also significantly reduced and some families prefer to pull adolescent girls out of school to help with extended domestic tasks or to cope with economic hardship, amplifying the feminization of poverty in the district.
5	**Access to Productive Resources**	Mr. Gumbo, The **District Social Development Officer** for Chipinge District, operating under the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare Mrs. Alocket Sibanda, Chairlady of Charurwa Agricultural Hub in Chipinge Ward 10.	Women in Chipinge District face significant challenges and disparities in accessing agricultural productive resources. At the same time the local trend is that they (women) provide the bulk of the agricultural labour force, patriarchal norms and customary land tenure severely limit their independent access to land ownership and water infrastructure and assets that they could use as, collateral for loans. However, localized cooperatives initiatives are helping to bridge these gaps. Mr. Gumbo, referred us and connected to the below success case story. From a telephone interview with Group Chairlady Mrs. Sibanda she said they started Charurwa Agricultural Hub which to date, has empowered **57** smallholder farmers, comprising **47** adult females, 8 young

			females, and 2 adult males. These farmers secured five hectares of land for cooperative farming and received critical enabling technologies, including milk tanks, a greenhouse, and oil pressing machines. The site features 5-hectare cooperative farmland equipped with a 1,000 square meter greenhouse, solar-powered boreholes, infield drip irrigation, oil pressing machines, and a 500-litre solar-powered bulk milk tank. This testimony provides an example of the catalytic effect that the provision of access to productive resources can have on women's lives.
6.	**Barriers to Adaptive Capacity to Climate Change**	The District Agricultural Extension Officer (DAEO) for Chipinge District Mr. Chitesa. Agricultural Business Advisory Officer (ABAO), and Mr. F. Matsiya, *Department of Agricultural Technical and Extension Services (AGRITEX), Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development's*	To promote adaptive capacity the women in Chipinge have benefitted from trainings from **Climate Adaptation Water and Energy Programme (CAWEP):** A UNDP-backed initiative in Hakwata village featuring a 200kWp solar mini-grid, water infrastructure for community gardens, and early-warning automated weather systems to protect locals from extreme weather events. Additionally we found out that there are Women's groups and networks in the district that were formed in response to reduced yields from the fields and these groups form the core of promoting climate-smart agriculture (growing small grains and drought-resistant crops) and participate in local conflict resolution in access to natural resources like water from rivers.

2. Masvingo Rural District

Gender context of the district

We did a rapid Climate Gender assessment in Masvingo Rural District. Mainly EMA staff spoke to district government departments and few groups of women farmers. The responses revealed deeply gendered vulnerabilities, driven by decreasing annual rainfall and rising temperatures due to climate change that is causing seasonal shifts and erratic rainfall patterns that are very difficult to predict. According to the respondents, over **70%** of households rely

on rain-fed agriculture, which is increasingly failing. Women perform most of the agricultural labour but hold less land ownership, meaning they bear the brunt of feeding and trying to earn extra income for their families when crops fail because of high prevalence of young adult male migration to neighbouring South Africa in search of better informal job opportunities.

Key Climate-Gender Vulnerabilities

No.	Assessment topic	Source of information /key informant	Findings
1.	Gender-Differentiated Activities and Division of Labour in Agriculture	*Mr. Eliphas Mugari., The District Agricultural Extension Officer for the Masvingo Rural District Department of Agricultural, Technical and Extension Services, operating under ARDAS)*	In Masvingo Rural District, women constitute approximately 56% to 60% of communal smallholder farmers. Furthermore, 40% to 42% of agricultural households in the wider Masvingo Province are classified as female-headed, meaning women serve as the primary farm managers and decision-makers for their families.
2.	Gender-Differentiated Impacts and Risks of Climate Hazards	Ms Rumbidzai Masvingise. Department of ,Masvingo Meteorological Services Department (MSD)	In Masvingo Rural District, climate hazards—primarily severe droughts, erratic rainfall, and rising temperatures—disproportionately impact women. Discriminatory land tenure systems, high rates of male out-migration, and entrenched cultural roles leave women burdened with securing scarce water and food, while lacking decision-making power and control over productive resources
3	Social and Cultural Norms gender roles, participation and Leadership:	4 Representatives from Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development	We had a group discussion with 4 Officers from the District Ministry of Women Affairs in Masvingo District. Based on the responses they provided and backed by other reliable data from their records There is long standing cultural practice that is deeply entrenched on patriarchal norms that leave women facing systemic time poverty. Household chores like fetching water, cooking and more labour intense attending to the fields occupy up to 70% of an average woman in a rural setting of Masvingo rural district. With frequent climate-induced shocks like droughts, which are exacerbated by high rates of male out-migration in Masvingo Rural because of its geographical proximity to South Africa In one of the key responses and official from the Ministry said "The burden of caring for the Children, in any average rural homestead falls on the woman, and under the decreasing rainfall and drying boreholes, traditional gender roles dictate that women and girls are solely responsible for securing household water". Therefore, women in Masvingo rural often travel long distances or wait up to several hours at communal boreholes, significantly increasing

			their time poverty and limiting their ability to engage in other economic activities".
4	**Time Poverty & Labour Burden**	Ms Rumbidzai Masvingise. Department of ,Masvingo Meteorological Services Department (MSD)	Climate shocks have increased the time women spend securing water and fuel wood. Women frequently work up to 20-hour days during peak agricultural seasons, which severely limit their ability to adopt new agricultural technologies or participate in community climate decision-making. Masvingo Province experiences a high rate of male out-migration *(often to South Africa).* This has led to an exceptionally high number of female-headed households (over (40%)), forcing women to take on traditional "male" duties like building repair and cattle management without receiving legal land titles.
5	**Access to Productive Resources & barriers to Adaptive Capacity to Climate Change**	Mrs Dambudzo Marecha, Chief Economic Executive Masvingo Rural District Council (RDC)	Financial constraints is one of the leading barriers for female farmer headed households are generally poorer and face systemic barriers in accessing credit, agricultural inputs, and climate risk insurance. Agricultural extension services, systems and climate committees remain male-dominated. Trainings are frequently scheduled at times and locations that conflict with women's household and caretaking responsibilities.

Ongoing Interventions within Masvingo Rural district

To build resilience, organizations like the World Food Programme (WFP) have been implementing initiatives like the GCF-funded *R4 Rural Resilience Initiative* and SAP007 (*Integrated Climate Risk Management for Food Security and Livelihoods*). These initiatives target the following gender-responsive adaptations:

- **Climate Services:** Tailoring weather and climate forecasts specifically to women's traditional chores and livelihood needs.
- **Childcare Provisions:** Holding trainings in small, localized clusters and providing child-friendly corners to accommodate mothers' caretaking needs.
- **Asset Creation:** Developing small-scale water retention and sanitation structures specifically to reduce the distance women must walk for water.

Strategic Resources & Links

- Gender assessment for SAP007: Integrated climate risk management for food security and livelihoods in Zimbabwe focusing on Masvingo and Rushinga Districts

- Review resilience and adaptation metrics via the WFP R4 Rural Resilience Initiative in Zimbabwe.
- Consult national strategies through the official Zimbabwe Climate Change Gender Action Plan.

3. Bikita district

Gender context of the district

In Bikita district, climate change disproportionately impacts women and girls due to entrenched patriarchal norms and heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture. Recurrent droughts exacerbate gender inequalities, increasing women's unpaid care work, limiting their access to productive resources (like land and finance), and heightening their risk of poverty.

A self-administered structured questionnaire was used to solicit quantitative data from Ministry of Women Affairs, Bikita rural district council (department of environment) and from Ministry of Agriculture Extension department (AGRITEX) and 3 groups of smallholder communal farmers in Bikita district.

No	Assessment topic	Source	Finding
1.	**Agriculture and Food Security**	Elias Mapare: Bikita District AGRITEX Officer: serves as the Agricultural Technical Extension (AGRITEX) Officer	As the district warms and rainfall becomes erratic, women farmers face significant barriers in adopting climate-smart agriculture (CSA) due to a lack of resource availability and limited land ownership rights. Women are traditionally responsible for food production, yet lack control over decision-making regarding which crops to grow or how to invest in farm inputs.
2.	**Water Scarcity and Health**		Prolonged dry spells lead to dried-up boreholes and wells. Women and young girls bear the brunt of this, often walking long distances to fetch safe water. This burden not only consumes time that could be used for education or economic activities, but also exposes them to health risk such as being vulnerable to gender related violence at water points and prone to be lured into "water for sex" by males who often monitor these communal boreholes and water points.
3.	**Intersecting Gender Vulnerabilities:**	Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development.	There is a strong correlation between climate change-induced disasters and an increase in gender-based violence (GBV) against women and young girls in rural Zimbabwean communities. Furthermore, these intersecting vulnerabilities extreme weather and economic instability damage health infrastructure, force displacement, and divert resources away from essential services like maternal care, contraception, and STI treatment; all these factors combined hinder women's access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services.

4.	**Increased Feminization of Poverty**		As climate shocks reduce agricultural yields, traditional livelihood options fail. Many rural women are forced to become the primary breadwinners, taking on highly labour intense yet low-paying informal trading or engaging into transactional relationships to fend for their children and this exposes them to sexual exploitation and STIs.
5.	**Participation of Women in Formal and Informal Economy**	Never Mavhuna: Executive Officer for Finance/Finance Director, Bikita rural district council (department of environment)	**Resource Extraction:** The rapid expansion of lithium mining in areas around Bikita adds further pressure on land. Women in local communities (such as around Hanyanya mountain) often bear the brunt of environmental degradation and displacement, while struggling to have their voices heard in compensation and community decision-making
6.	**Gender-Differentiated Impacts and Risks of Climate Hazards**	Elias Mapare: Bikita District AGRITEX Officer: serves as the Agricultural Technical Extension (AGRITEX) Officer	**How do droughts affect women's daily workload:** In Bikita district, droughts severely intensify women's daily workloads by prolonging traditional domestic duties like fetching water and firewood. As local resources dwindle, women must endure extended, physically taxing work hours, while also taking on new breadwinning and agricultural responsibilities to compensate for household crop failures

Policy and Support Resources

To address these issues, NGOs and government bodies are implementing locally-led adaptation projects. For instance, frameworks like the Zimbabwe National Climate Change Policy guide gender mainstreaming across the region to empower women and minority genders. Localized advocacy and developmental tools provided by organizations like the Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA) are actively working to establish women's voices in climate discourse and resource management

Chimanimani context

Due to administrative limitations, we were unable to obtain data from Chimanimani District. However, consultations with local authorities in the neighboring Chipinge District indicated that the socioeconomic characteristics of the two districts are broadly comparable, and that women in both areas face similar challenges and vulnerabilities. Additional data will be collected during the full proposal development stage, at which point the project proponent will undertake a comprehensive gender analysis to validate these assumptions and inform project design.

Annex 1. Questionnaire used for data collection

❖ Section 1: Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development.

Gender-Differentiated Activities and Division of Labour in Agriculture

Household and farm tasks

1. What agricultural tasks are mainly done by women, men, girls, and boys in this community?
2. Who is responsible for land preparation, planting, weeding, harvesting, storage, and marketing?
3. How are tasks divided during drought years or flood periods—does this change?
4. Which activities are considered "women's work" and which "men's work"? Why?
5. Time Use and Workload (Time Poverty)
6. How many hours per day do women spend on unpaid care work (fetching water, firewood, childcare, cooking)?
7. How does this compare to men's workload?
8. How far do women travel to collect water, fuelwood, or other resources?
9. How does climate change (e.g. drought) affect women's workload?

Sub-group differences

10. Do roles differ for young women/men compared to older women/men?
11. Are there differences based on marital status, disability, ethnicity, or economic status?
12. How do female-headed households manage agricultural labour?

Paid vs unpaid work

13. Which agricultural activities are paid and which are unpaid?
14. Who controls income from crop sales or livestock sales?
15. How much time do women and men spend on domestic and care tasks per day?

Access to Productive Resources

Irrigation and water

16. Do women have access to irrigation schemes?
17. Can women make decisions on water use and schedules?
18. Which water management solutions are available (boreholes, drip kits, dams, sand abstraction)?

Land and inputs

19. Who owns or controls land in households?
20. Can women independently access seeds, fertilizer, tools, and extension services?
21. Who decides what crops to plant?

❖ Section 2: The Meteorological Services Department (MSD) in Zimbabwe operates under the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife

Gender-Differentiated Impacts and Risks of Climate Hazards

Impacts of droughts/floods

22. How do droughts affect women's daily workload?
23. How do floods affect men's income activities?
24. What happens to girls' education during climate shocks?
25. Do boys and men migrate during drought? What are the consequences for women?

Risks

26. What specific safety or protection risks do women and girls face during floods or displacement?
27. Are there health or nutrition impacts that affect women differently from men?
2. Which groups suffer the greatest losses of assets after disasters?

(Prepare participatory list with respondents: impacts on time, income, food security, health, safety, education, mobility.)

Early Warning Systems and Disaster Preparedness

25. Do you receive early warning information on droughts/floods? From where?
26. Who in the household receives the messages (men/women/youth)?
27. Through which channels—radio, phone, meetings?
28. Are messages understandable and timely for women?

Emergency shelters

29. Are there emergency shelters in this area? Where?
30. Do shelters consider women's needs (privacy, lighting, WASH, safety)?
31. What improvements are required?

❖ Section 3: Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development.

Social and Cultural Norms, participation and Leadership

40. What percentage of members in farmers' organisations are women?
41. How many women hold leadership positions?
42. What prevents women from taking leadership roles?

Livestock

43. Do women own livestock? What type (poultry, goats, cattle)?
44. Can women sell livestock without permission?

45. What cultural norms influence who farms which crops?
46. Are women allowed to speak in community meetings?
47.How are decisions made within households?
48.Are there practices that restrict women's mobility or asset ownership?

Adaptive Capacity and Climate Change

51. How might climate change affect livelihoods of women vs men differently?
52. Which groups have the least capacity to adapt? Why?
53. What coping strategies are used by women, men, youth?

Opportunities and Risks

56. What opportunities exist to increase women's participation and benefits?
57. Which project activities would most help women and girls?
58. Do you foresee gender inequalities worsening due to climate change? How

Participation in Formal and Informal Economy

11. What income-generating activities are women involved in? What about men?
12. Do women have access to formal employment or mainly informal work?
13. Who engages in seasonal or casual labour on other farms?
14. Are there barriers for women or youth to enter profitable value chains?