



## PROJECT:

Strengthening local communities' adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change through sustainable groundwater exploitation in Zimbabwe

## Inception Report

Submitted to:

Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat

Prepared and Submitted By:

### Implementing Entity

UNESCO Regional Office of  
Southern Africa

Harare, Zimbabwe

### Executing Entity

Ministry of Lands, Agriculture,  
Fisheries, Water and Rural  
Development

Harare, Zimbabwe



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Erratic rainfall and poor water management practices have a direct negative impact on the water availability in the rural communities of Binga and Buhera districts, located in the Lower Gwayi and Upper Save catchments of Zimbabwe. As a result, water sources often dry up during the September to November dry season, causing the failure of crops and animal productive systems during this period. The largest burden of this water insecurity is put on women and particularly girls, as they are forced to miss out on other crucial opportunities, such as education, when having to walk for more than 10km to fetch water. Even during the rainfall season, the precipitation that is received is very limited (<400 mm) and unreliable, and therefore strategies are required to improve and protect livelihoods in periods with little or no rainfall. Due to limited adaptation options, an increase in unsustainable activities along key value chains is observed, leading to land degradation and deterioration of key water sources. Poor land husbandry practices have degraded crucial water resources systems such as wetlands and natural sand dams, which are incrementally reducing their ability to provide ecosystem services. The other challenge, as in most poor areas in Zimbabwe, is related to poor value chains. Some business ventures such as beekeeping and goat rearing have not been successful because of the limited scale of the projects and disorganized markets. These challenges are happening in a space where there is a weak institutional framework for farmers to participate viably in priority value chains, with weak adaptive capacities among the smallholder communities and low application of climate smart technologies. To address several of these challenges, this Project aims to increase local communities' adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change through sustainable groundwater utilisation for food security and other productive uses in rural areas of Zimbabwe. To achieve this, an array of actions is required starting at national to local levels and involving institutional reforms and modelling, characterisation and quantification of the groundwater resources, knowledge generation and capacity development, and awareness raising through piloting and demonstration. The specific project objectives linked to the above are as follows:

1. To strengthen technical, institutional and human capacity at national and local levels for improved and sustainable utilization of groundwater.
2. To conduct comprehensive assessments of groundwater resources in two poverty stricken and highly vulnerable sub-catchments of Lower Gwayi and Upper Save and develop sample plans for improving climate resilience through sustainable groundwater utilization.
3. To strengthen the capacity of water and land management institutions in Lower Gwayi and Upper Save sub-catchments in developing integrated catchment management plans that promote groundwater use and protection of groundwater sources.
4. To pilot and demonstrate concrete climate change adaptation measures based on sustainable groundwater utilisation by diversifying and strengthening the livelihoods of the most vulnerable population in four wards of Binga and Buhera.
5. To compile and disseminate lessons learnt from the project in order to facilitate future upscaling and replication of good practices in groundwater extraction and management.

The population in the four Project wards is 28,000, with 8,000 households. The project aims to provide access to and use groundwater for food security and increase adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change for 2,000 households in the project areas. This means that by the end of the project cycle, a total of 12,000 people (calculated at an average of 6 people per household) from the four wards will directly benefit from the project. Additionally, 36,000 people will benefit indirectly from the various project interventions



that will be implemented. The target beneficiaries will also have access to a revolving fund to implement food security and livelihood enhancement projects.

In addition, more than 100 professionals will be trained annually further increasing the districts and countries' capacity to sustainable management of groundwater resources. The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development (MoLAFWRD) is the executing entity while United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is the multilateral implementing entity of the project. The four-year project has a total project budget of USD5,000,000.

The project was approved at the thirty-sixth meeting of the Adaptation Fund, in February 2022, a request for Direct Project Services (DSP) was submitted to the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat and approved on exceptional basis in May 2022. The agreement between UNESCO and the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat was subsequently signed in May 2023 to operationalise the project and begin the implementation. To kick start the project, a 10-member National Project Steering Committee to provide overall strategic policy guidance and coordination was established. The first PSC meeting was held on 30 January 2024 back-to-back with the inception meeting (31 January 2024). The PSC at this meeting approved the project governing structures and project implementation modalities in line with the country's Water Supply and Sanitation coordination mechanisms. In addition, a Project Management Team (PMT) has been established and recruitment of the project team who will make up the Project Management Unit (PMU) has been completed. The PMU is housed in UNESCO. The project implementation will use the already existing government water supply and sanitation coordination mechanisms at Provincial, District and Ward levels. The project inception workshop was successfully held on 31 January 2024. The workshop was attended by directors from the line ministries, provincial and district leadership as well as representatives from the civil societies and the UN agencies implementing related projects and initiatives in the country. At the inception meeting, the overall project strategy, interventions, project management structure, the grievance mechanism and the project's implementation plan were presented and discussed.

A baseline assessment to establish detailed baselines for measuring the indicators outlined in the results framework will be conducted as the first step. This assessment will provide a starting point for monitoring and reporting, which will be carried out concurrently with project execution. The PMU working together with the PMT will produce technical reports, bi-annual progress reports, and annual progress review reports. These reports will cover various aspects, including financial, procurement, and physical progress, as well as compliance with environmental and social assessment and management frameworks. UNESCO, in consultation with Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, will provide the key reporting, monitoring, and evaluation products/functions of the project to the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat



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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>AARDS</b>	Agricultural Advisory and Rural Development Services
<b>AFBS</b>	Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
<b>DSP</b>	Direct Project Services
<b>DWSSC</b>	District Water Supply and Sanitation Committee
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agricultural Organization
<b>MoLAFWRD</b>	Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development
<b>MoWACSMED</b>	Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development
<b>NDA</b>	National Designated Authority
<b>PMT</b>	Project Management Team
<b>PMU</b>	Project Management Unit
<b>PSC</b>	Project Steering Committee
<b>PWSSC</b>	Provincial Water Supply and Sanitation Committee
<b>RIDA</b>	Rural Infrastructure Development Agency
<b>SADC GMI</b>	SADC Groundwater Management Institution
<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Education Science and Cultural Organisation
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>ZINWA</b>	Zimbabwe National Water Authority



## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

UNESCO in partnership with the Government of Zimbabwe is implementing an Adaptation Fund (AF) project entitled “Strengthening local communities’ adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change through sustainable groundwater utilisation in Zimbabwe,” (BE RESILIENT Zimbabwe). This important intervention seeks to increase local communities’ adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change through sustainable groundwater utilisation for food security and other productive uses in rural areas of Zimbabwe. To achieve this, the project will implement actions starting at national to local levels. These include: (i) Strengthening technical, institutional and human capacity for improved and sustainable utilization of groundwater at national and local level; (ii) conducting comprehensive assessments of groundwater resources in two poverty-stricken and highly vulnerable sub-catchments of Lower Gwayi and Upper Save and develop sample plans for improving climate resilience through sustainable groundwater utilization; (iii) Strengthening the capacity of water and land management institutions in Lower Gwayi and Upper Save sub-catchments by developing integrated catchment management plans that promote groundwater use whilst protecting groundwater resources; (iv) Piloting and demonstrating concrete climate change adaptation measures based on sustainable groundwater utilisation by diversifying and strengthening the livelihoods of the most vulnerable population in Lower Gwayi and Upper Save sub-catchments; and (v) Compiling and disseminating lessons learnt from the project to facilitate future upscaling and replication of good practices in groundwater extraction and management.

#### 1.1.1 Objectives of the inception report

The main objective of the inception report is to present a summary of the activities carried out during the inception phase including the first Project Steering Committee meeting and the Inception Workshop.

#### 1.1.2 Project objectives and a brief description:

This Project aims to increase local communities’ adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change through sustainable groundwater utilisation for food security and other productive uses in rural areas of Zimbabwe. To achieve this, an array of actions is required starting at national to local levels and involving institutional reforms and modelling, characterisation and quantification of the groundwater resources, knowledge generation and capacity development, and awareness raising through piloting and demonstration.

#### 1.1.3 Project components

The Project’s national component will assess the groundwater resources in selected two sub-catchments and develop/tackle the critical shortage of skilled groundwater technicians, scientists and managers. The Project will establish a National Groundwater Training and Research Centre at the University of Zimbabwe with the primary function of training technicians, undergraduate, postgraduate and postdoctoral scientists in advanced hydrogeological sciences and related technologies, as well as improving knowledge of groundwater connectivity and policy, and management issues confronting water managers. At district and sub-catchment level, the Project will train extension workers, NGO and community leaders on adaptive



groundwater management, in-ground water harvesting, climate resilient and gendered catchment planning and management. At local level, the Project will pilot and demonstrate differentiated solutions and best practices in climate-smart development using groundwater.

Table 1: Project Components

Component	Approved Budget
1. To strengthen technical, institutional and human capacity for improved and sustainable utilization of groundwater at national and local levels	US\$419,689
2. To conduct comprehensive assessments of groundwater resources in two poverty-stricken and highly vulnerable sub-catchments of Lower Gwayi and Upper Save and develop sample plans for improving climate resilience through sustainable groundwater utilization	US\$ 300,000
3. To strengthen the capacity of water and land management institutions in Lower Gwayi and Upper Save sub-catchments by developing integrated catchment management plans that promote groundwater use whilst protecting groundwater resources	US\$ 145,750
4. To pilot and demonstrate concrete climate change adaptation measures based on sustainable groundwater utilisation by diversifying and strengthening the livelihoods of the most vulnerable population in Lower Gwayi and Upper Save sub-catchments	US\$ 3,226,402
5. To compile and disseminate lessons learnt from the project to facilitate future upscaling and replication of good practices in groundwater extraction and management	US\$ 100,000

#### 1.1.4 Project Strategy:

Water scarcity in Zimbabwe particularly in the two targeted districts of Binga and Buhera are cause for concern. The failure of crops and animals during the farming season due to climate change induced droughts calls for diversification of livelihoods options for survival. The burden on women and the girl child is enormous as they are forced to miss other crucial tasks and walking distances of sometimes more than 10 km in some cases to fetch water. The Programme will implement a set of concrete adaptation activities structured to build systemic capacities targeting systems, institutions, commodity value chains and communities.



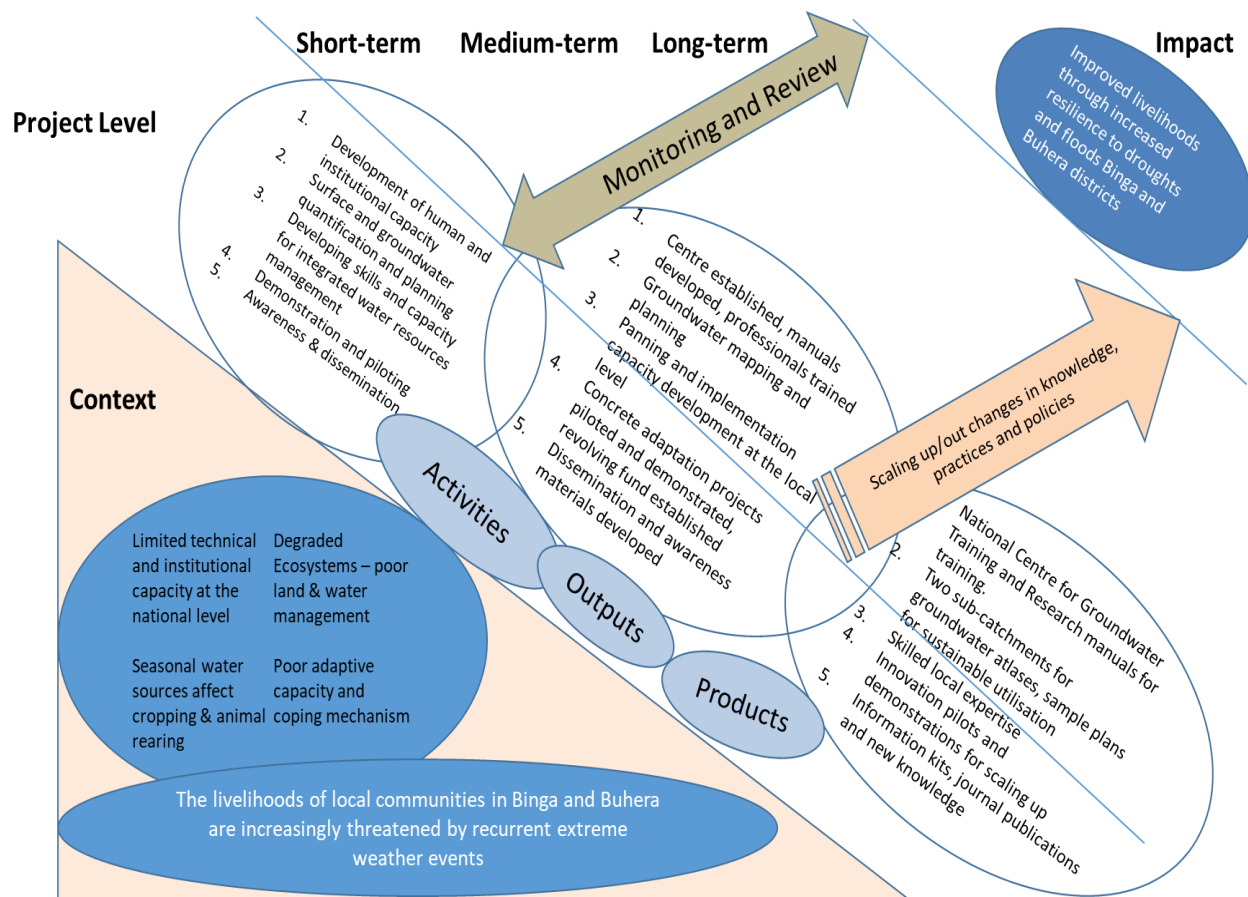


Figure 1: Project Pathway to Impact

#### 1.1.5 Implementation arrangement:

The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development is the executing entity while UNESCO is the multilateral implementing entity of the project.

#### 1.1.6 Budget:

The total project budget is USD5,000,000

#### 1.1.7 Duration:

Milestones	Expected dates
Project inception/start date	31 January 2024
Mid-term Review	December 2025
Project/Programme Closing	January 2028
Terminal Evaluation	October 2027





### 1.1.8 Project Stakeholders and Beneficiaries:

The population in the four Project wards is 28,000, with 8,000 households. The project aims to provide access to and use groundwater for food security and increase adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change for 2,000 households in the project areas. This means that by the end of the project cycle, a total of 12,000 people (calculated at an average of 6 people per household) from the four wards will directly benefit from the project. Additionally, 36,000 people will benefit indirectly from the various project interventions that will be implemented. The target beneficiaries will also have access to a revolving fund to implement food security and livelihood enhancement projects. Below is a list of the targeted beneficiaries and project key stakeholders:

- Local vulnerable community members from the two benefiting districts of Binga and Buhera
- Local traditional leaders from the 4 benefitting wards in Binga and Buhera.
- Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development–(Chair)
- Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA)
- Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife
- Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development
- Ministry of Finance and Investment Promotion
- Ministry of Local Government and Public Works
- Universities in Zimbabwe
- SADC Groundwater Management Institute
- Civil Society

### 1.2 Project location map and detail information of geographic coverage:

The project is being implemented in Binga and Buhera districts Figure 2. Binga district is located in Matabeleland North south of the Lake Kariba bordering with Zambia. The district lies along the Southern Zambezi Escarpment. Most of the areas in Binga falls within the agroecological zone four and five receiving annual rainfall of less than 650mm as shown in Figure 3. The people in Binga who are mainly of the Tonga ethnicity relies on the trading of small livestock and fish. Buhera is one of the driest districts in Zimbabwe falling mainly in agroecological zone four and five receiving annual rainfall of less than 650mm. The district is located in the Manicaland Province East of Zimbabwe. The Buhera local economy depends mainly on farming. Although the district faces low rainfall, the area is fertile with irrigation potential.

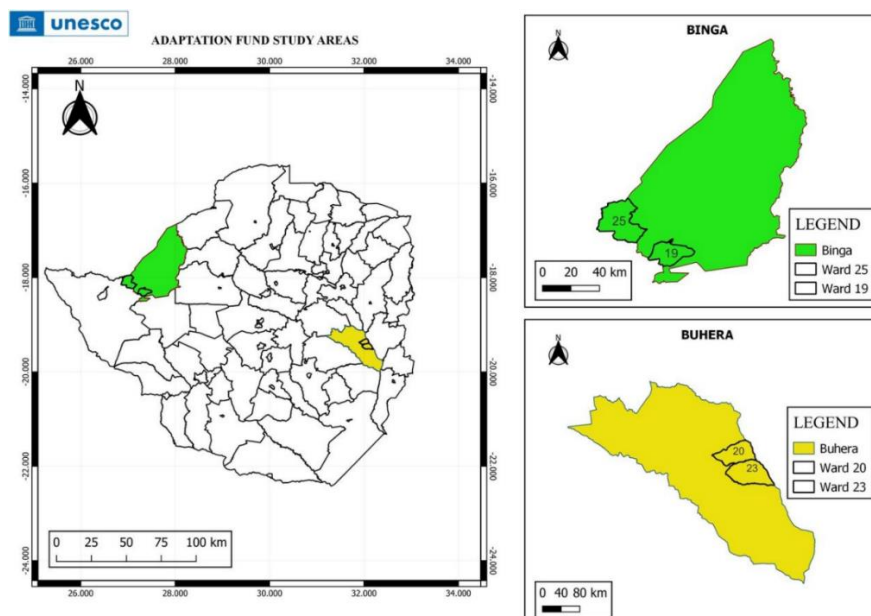


Figure 2: Project location.

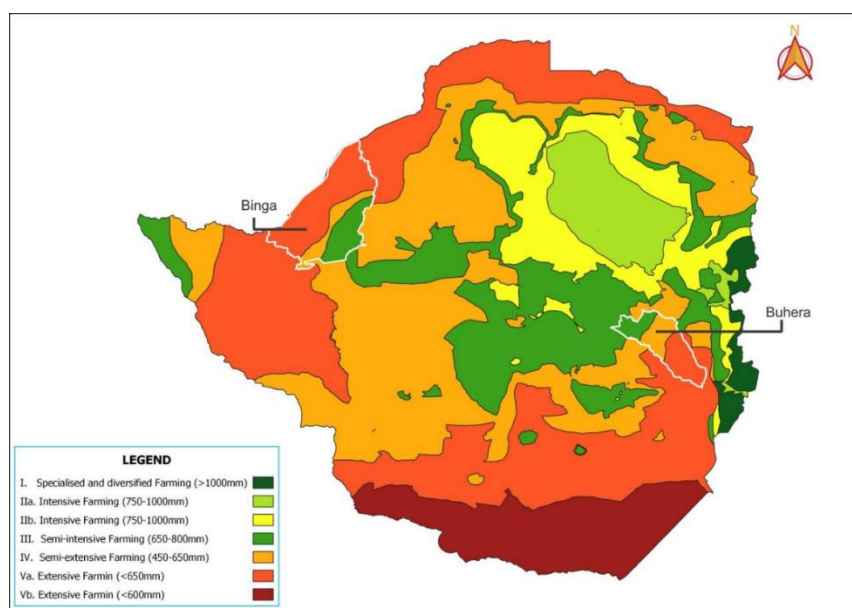


Figure 3: Agroecological map of Zimbabwe

### 1.3 Project key activities:

- Development of human and institutional capacity
- Surface and ground water quantification and planning

- Developing skills and capacity for integrated water resources management
- Demonstration and piloting concrete adaptation options
- Awareness and dissemination

Table 2: Project Activities

Component	Key Activities
1. Strengthen technical, institutional and human capacity for improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of a National Centre for Ground Water</li> <li>• Capacity needs assessments and training</li> <li>• Development of guidelines and manuals for groundwater resources planning and management</li> </ul>
2. Conduct comprehensive assessments of groundwater resources in two poverty-stricken and highly vulnerable sub-catchments of Lower Gwayi and Upper Save and develop sample plans for improving climate resilience through sustainable groundwater utilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of groundwater atlases for Lower Gwayi and Upper Save Sub-catchments.</li> <li>• Development of groundwater action plans for the sub-catchment councils</li> </ul>
3. Strengthen the capacity of water and land management institutions in Lower Gwayi and Upper Save sub-catchments in developing integrated catchment management plans that promote and protect groundwater use whilst protecting groundwater resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity building of the extension services</li> <li>• Training on skills for sustainable technologies and smart agriculture</li> </ul>
4. Pilot and demonstrate concrete climate change adaptation measures based on sustainable groundwater utilisation for diversifying and strengthening livelihoods of the most vulnerable population in Lower Gwayi and Upper Save sub catchments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Piloting and demonstration of community-based ecosystem resilience and mitigation projects in selected four Wards in Binga and Buhera districts.</li> <li>• Establishment of a revolving fund for food security and livelihood enhancement projects</li> </ul>
5. Awareness and dissemination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a data sharing platform to share information generated during the project implementation.</li> </ul>

## 1.4 Project Governing Structure:

### 1.4.1 Role of Implementing and Executing Entities:

*Department of Water Resources Development and Utilisation, Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development*

The government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development is the Executing Entity. The ministry shall provide government oversight and guidance to the implementation. The ministry will retain overall responsibility for project implementation and coordination.

## UNESCO

UNESCO is the implementing entity and will be responsible for the overall management of the project, which includes financial management, reporting, and monitoring. To ensure effective management, UNESCO will establish protocols for mid-term, annual progress, and terminal reporting. These protocols will outline the necessary guidelines and requirements for reporting on the project's progress and achievements. Additionally, UNESCO will be responsible for the identification/recruitments related to project personnel, ensuring that the right individuals are selected to fulfil the project's objectives. Administrative matters, such as procurement of goods, labour, and services, will also be managed by UNESCO. This includes implementing procurement processes, such as vendor selection, contract negotiation, and monitoring supplier performance.

### 1.4.2 Project management /coordination mechanisms:

The project implementation arrangements will follow the already established water supply and sanitation structures from national to local level. The Project Management Unit together with the Project Management Unit shall be lead the prioritization of programme activities. These priorities will then be reflected in the annual work plan which will be approved by the Project Steering Committee. The implementation and monitoring of these activities will be conducted by the PMU in accordance with the Adaptation Fund frameworks and standards. To ensure accountability and progress, PSC meetings shall be conducted biannually. These meeting will bring together members of the steering committee. During this meeting, the progress of the project will be reviewed, and activities for the subsequent year will be presented. The project will have dedicated management, coordination, and oversight mechanisms in place to ensure effective implementation and supervision.

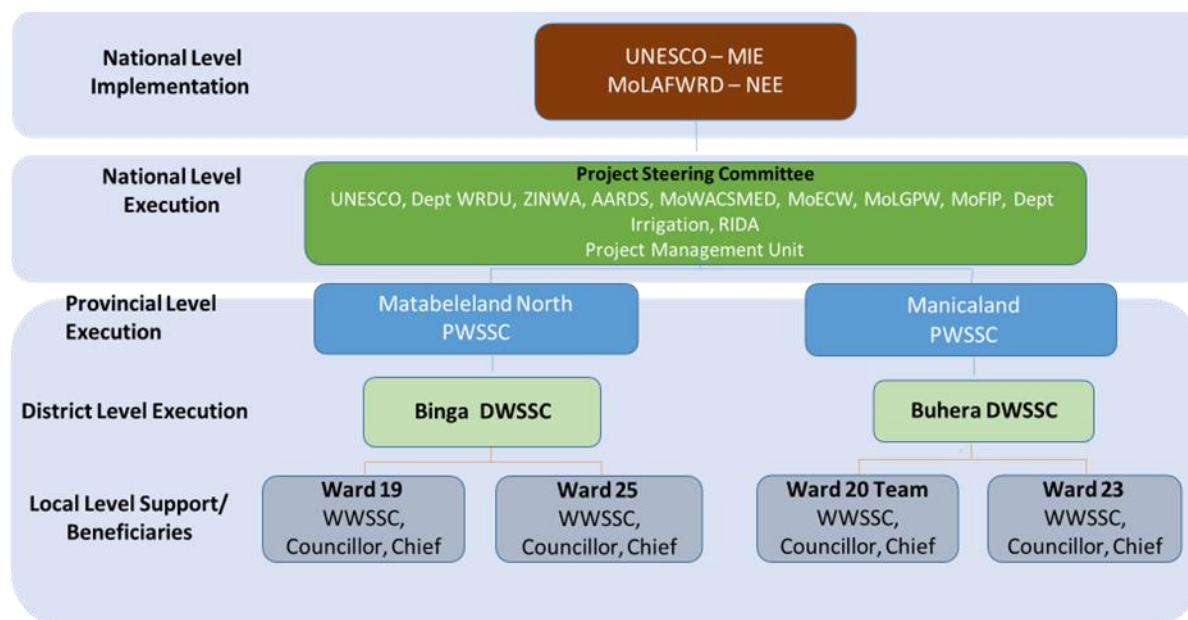


Figure 4: Implementation Arrangements



#### *Project Steering Committee:*

A 10-member project steering committee was established with the overall objective of providing overall strategic policy guidance and coordination. The PSC shall be composed of representatives of the following institutions/organizations:

- i. Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development – Department of Water Resources Development and Utilisation
- ii. Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development – Department of Irrigation
- iii. Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development - Agricultural Advisory and Rural Development Services (AARDS)
- iv. Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA)
- v. Department of Climate Change under the Ministry of Environment and Wildlife as the National Designated Authority (NDA)
- vi. Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development
- vii. Ministry of Finance and Investment Promotion
- viii. Ministry of Local Government and Public Works
- ix. Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (RIDA) formerly known as District Development Fund
- x. UNESCO's Regional Office for Southern Africa (UNESCO-ROSA)

The PSC shall meet at least twice a year and the mandate of the PSC will be:

- i. To provide strategic guidance on project implementation: this can include providing advice on strategic guidance or recommendations on overcoming specific bottlenecks.
- ii. To monitor, support and guide project implementation by taking an accurate account of the implementation of the actions, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results, as prepared by the Project Management Unit (PMU).
- iii. To review and validate annual work plan, procurement plan and budget prepared by the PMU. The annual work plan, procurement plan and budget will include details of resources and activities implemented by partners involved in the implementation of the project.
- iv. To review and validate the annual narrative and financial report for onward submission for approval by the Adaptation Fund secretariat.
- v. To conduct joint monitoring visits to project sites at least once a year.

#### *Project Management Unit:*

The Project Management Unit housed in UNESCO will oversee the day to day running of the project. The PMU consists of a seconded government official, a project coordinator, deputy project coordinator, finance and administration assistant. In addition, the project is in the process of engaging a social and gender expert on a consultancy service contract. The social and gender expert will be an advisor to the PMU. The Project Coordinator, who is a UNESCO staff member will lead the project management.

#### *Project Management Team*

A Project Management Team was established. The PMT shall comprise of named senior officers from the following organisations:

- i. Department of Water Resources Development and Utilisation, Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development–(Chair)



- ii. UNESCO's Regional Office for Southern Africa (UNESCO-ROSA) – (Project Management Unit and Secretariat)
- iii. Department of Irrigation Development, Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development
- iv. Agricultural Advisory and Rural Development Services (AARDS), Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development
- v. Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA), Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development.
- vi. Climate Change Management Department (CCMD), Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife
- vii. Community Development Department, Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development
- viii. Ministry of Finance and Investment Promotion

To facilitate the continued effective implementation of the project, the Project Management Team shall carry out the following responsibilities:

- i. Developing detailed annual project workplans, including tasks, timelines, and budgets
- ii. Assigning roles and responsibilities to the PMT
- iii. Providing technical guidance, monitoring project implementation progress, and ensuring adherence to agreed project plan and budget.
- iv. Reporting to the PSC
- v. Monitoring and managing risks and issues that may arise during the life of the project.
- vi. Guiding procurement processes for both goods and services under the project
- vii. Conducting monitoring visits to projects sites at least twice a year

### 1.5 Monitoring, evaluation and reporting:

UNESCO represented by the PMU shall have the overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation. Detailed baseline assessment will be conducted to measure indicators set out in the results framework. The monitoring will be carried out during the project implementation. In addition, mid-term and end of project evaluation will be conducted. Technical reports and biannual project review reports shall be produced by the PMU with inputs from the PMT and approved by the PSC. The data for monitoring will consist of financial, procurement and physical progress as well as compliance with the requirements of the environmental and social assessment and management frameworks.

UNESCO as the Multilateral Implementing Entity will be responsible for providing the relevant reports to the Adaptation Fund Board. These reports include:

- A project inception report.
- Annual Project Performance Report
- A project completion report
- Mid-term and final evaluation report
- A final audited financial statement

### 1.6 Project milestone time framework

The project milestone time framework was updated to align with the Adaptation Fund disbursement schedule.





Table 3: Project milestone time framework

		Year 1 (2024-25)				Year 2 (2025-26)				Year 3(2026-27)				Year 4 (2027-28)			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Inception Phase</b> Inception Workshop Stakeholder Engagement Field Visits																	
<b>Component 1</b>	To strengthen technical, institutional and human capacity for improved and sustainable utilization of groundwater at national and local levels																
<b>Expected Outcome 1</b>	Improved knowledge and capacity in groundwater science, policy and participatory management at national and local levels																
Activity 1.1	Establish a National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training																
Activity 1.2	Assess the capacity of local and national institutions and identify training needs for managing groundwater in particular, and water resources in general																
Activity 1.3	Develop practical guidelines and manuals for groundwater planning, development and management																
Activity 1.4	Train at least 100 skilled groundwater technicians, scientists and managers at national and local levels in improved and sustainable utilization of groundwater																
<b>Component 2</b>	To conduct comprehensive assessments of groundwater resources in two poverty-stricken and highly vulnerable sub-catchments of Lower Gwayi and Upper Save and develop sample plans for improving climate resilience through sustainable groundwater utilization																



		Year 1 (2024-25)				Year 2 (2025-26)				Year 3(2026-27)				Year 4 (2027-28)			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Expected Outcome 2</b>	Sustainable utilisation of groundwater based on sound scientific inventory of the resource; science-based formulation of groundwater management policy to improve management of the resource and further develop new groundwater-based resilience strategies and practical interventions.																
Activity 2.1	Develop two groundwater atlases for each of the two sub-catchments																
Activity 2.2	Develop two Groundwater Development Action Plans for each sub-catchment																
<b>Component 3</b>	To strengthen the capacity of water and land management institutions in Lower Gwayi and Upper Save sub-catchments in developing integrated catchment management plans that promote and protect groundwater use																
<b>Expected Outcome 3</b>	Increased participation by the wider stakeholder community, who are aware of water resource management issues and have access to tailored information and guidelines that support better catchment planning and sustainable use of groundwater.																
Activity 3.1	Revise existing catchment management planning guidelines to clearly mainstream gender, climate change and groundwater																
Activity 3.2	Revise Sub-Catchment Management Plans of Lower Gwayi and Upper Save sub-catchments through stakeholder participation to address climate change and groundwater issues																
Activity 3.3	Strengthen capacities of extension services and institutions at catchment level to support communities in the two selected sub-catchments to undertake climate change adaptation activities																
Activity 3.4	Sub-catchment and rural district authorities in Binga and Buhera receive equipment for effective groundwater management and have been trained on how to use it																
Activity 3.5	Train at least 2,000 farmers on adoption of climate-smart agriculture techniques and other livelihood activities (poultry, piggery, orchard and horticulture)																

		Year 1 (2024-25)				Year 2 (2025-26)				Year 3(2026-27)				Year 4 (2027-28)			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Component 4</b>	To pilot and demonstrate concrete climate change adaptation measures based on sustainable groundwater utilisation for diversifying and strengthening livelihoods of the most vulnerable population in Lower Gwayi and Upper Save sub-catchments																
<b>Expected Outcome 4</b>	Livelihoods of communities in demonstration wards improved and diversified, reducing vulnerability to impacts of climate change																
Activity 4.1	Look and learn visits to best practice projects in Zimbabwe or regionally																
Activity 4.2	Pilot and demonstrate community-based ecosystem resilience and mitigation projects in four Project wards																
Activity 4.3	Four climate-smart water and food security pilot projects using groundwater and rainwater harvesting at community level implemented.																
Activity 4.4	Pilot and demonstrate household livelihood enhancement, diversification and climate resiliency projects in four Project wards																
Activity 4.5	Establish a food security and livelihood enhancement revolving fund																
<b>Component 5</b>	To compile and disseminate lessons learnt to facilitate future upscaling and replication of good practices in groundwater extraction and management																
<b>Expected Outcome 5</b>	A framework for improved groundwater utilisation to reduce vulnerability to climate change developed and adopted																
Activity 5.1	Establish web-based information sharing and exchange platform for project participants																
Activity 5.2	Document and adopt good practices by key stakeholders																
<b>End of year project evaluation</b>																	
<b>Mid-term project evaluation</b>																	
<b>End of project evaluation</b>																	

## 1.7 Challenges (faced to date as well as foreseen) and mitigation measures.

Challenges	Mitigation Measures
<p>Delay in project implementation due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Cholera outbreak in the country. Buhera district became a cholera hotspot affecting planned field visits.</li> <li>The August 2023 harmonized elections in Zimbabwe affected the planned field visits as well as the inception meeting of the project. Most of the activities including regular project planning meetings with the government partners were stopped prior, during and after the elections. At least 4 months of project time was lost.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field mission to Buhera district was rescheduled to prioritize the safety of project team.</li> <li>Activities that involved gathering of people were rescheduled and new dates set in close consultation with the government.</li> <li>The work plan was updated to reflect the delays caused by the pre-post and post-election activities</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long procurement process likely to delay implementation of activities. To facilitate working with implementation partners, UNESCO rules and regulations require a rigorous process to be followed which include paying due diligence in identification and selection of partners, request for and submission of relevant documents from partners. Delays can be encountered from either party.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Putting in place mechanisms to shorten the procurement process such as developing a procurement plan which is clearly aligned to the work plan.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor road network to the project sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procure an offroad vehicle for the project.</li> </ul>

## 2.0 ACTIONS COMPLETED TO DATE

The following activities have been completed.

- Field visit to Binga and Buhera (see Annex )
- Inception meeting
- Project Steering Committee
- Stakeholder engagement meetings
- Project webpage and visibility material

## 2.1 Project Steering Committee meeting overview

### 2.2.1 Objectives of the meeting

- To introduce the project to the members of the Project Steering Committee
- To present and agree on the terms of reference for the PSC
- Present the project workplan for the first year of the project.
- Discuss and agree on the project implementation structure



### 2.2.2 Description of the PSC meeting process

The first Project Steering Committee was held on 30 January 2024 in Kadoma, Zimbabwe. The meeting was attended by nominated PSC members from the various line ministries and departments. The PSC members in the meeting endorsed the project and committed to ensuring successful implementation of the project by providing policy direction.

### 2.2.3 Meeting proceedings

#### *Opening of the Meeting*

The meeting was officially opened by the chair for the PSC Engineer Gilbert Mawere, a director in the MoLAFWRD, who welcomed all the participants (See Annex B). Eng. Mawere gave a brief background of the project highlighting the process of the project development, project objectives and the alignment of project interventions to the government's rural development programmes. He also stated the objectives of the meeting, underscoring the importance of having a project steering committee. Eng Mawere explained the composition of the PSC, highlighting the need to ensure representation from relevant government departments and institutions. The Chair requested the attendees to introduce themselves.

#### *Adoption of the Agenda*

Eng. Mawere introduced the agenda (See Annex A) and noted that the PSC should adopt its Terms of References (TORs) at the first meeting. The agenda was adopted without modifications.

#### *Presentation of the Project*

The project coordinator Dr Muchaneta Munamati gave an overview of the project, highlighting the progress made in project implementation as well as challenges encountered and the progress made to date.

#### *Discussions*

- Eng. Mugwangwavari emphasized the need to ensure that institutions at the local levels were supported for effective project monitoring. The Secretariat noted the suggestion and promised to look into it but also indicating the institutions will be supported in the best way possible.
- Mr. Dhoba also raised the need to capacitate and resource the Department of Water Resources Development and Utilisation. The support could include assisting the department to host the project website and data sharing portal and procuring laptops and printers.
- Eng. Nhidza requested for any relevant policies by UNESCO particularly those that affect procurement for guidance.
- Mr. Dhoba raised the need to establish a Project Management Team (PMT) to support the Secretariat in project implementation.
- The PMT will assist in the day-to-day implementation of the project including contributing to the development of the Terms of references (TORs) for vendors, development of the yearly procurement plan and workplan.
- A suggestion to add Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (RIDA), and the Department of Irrigation and Agricultural Rural Development and Advisory Services (AARDS) to the PSC was proposed and adopted. The PSC now consists of 10 members.
- Mr. Dhoba's proposal to incorporate the Provincial Water and Sanitation Sub-Committee in the coordination architecture was adopted without opposition considering the role that this sub-national level structure plays in the overall coordination of the WASH sector,



- Further the traditional chiefs were pushed downwards to the ward level. As a result, an improved Implementation Arrangement was adopted incorporating the changes proposed by the PSC.

#### *Adoption of Terms of References for the PSC*

Terms of References were developed by the PMU and shared with the nominated PSC members before the first PSC meeting. Mr Mugwangwavari from MoLAFRD, and a member of the PMU, read out the TORs to the PSC. The members gave their inputs to the TORs and some revisions were made to the satisfaction of the PSC. The revised PSC TORs (See Annex C ) were adopted during the meeting.

#### *Annual Work Plan and Budget for the first year*

The Project Coordinator, Dr Muchaneta Munamati presented the annual work plan that covers the period July 2023-July 2024. The work plan was presented this way to align with the Adaptation Fund disbursement calendar. This did not have much impact since a few activities had been done during the first 6 months of the project. Most activities are yet to start due to contractual arrangements which need to be finalised with implementing partners. The PSC recommended a revision of the work plan to ensure activity details are well captured.

#### **2.2.4 Decisions and Action Points**

- The PSC members adopted the terms of reference for the PSC.
- A recommendation to update the work plan and produce procurement plan was made to the Project Management Unit.
- A decision to establish a Project Management Team was made and adopted. (See Annex C for the minutes)

### **2.3 Inception workshop overview**

#### **2.3.1 Description of the inception workshop process:**

The inception workshop was held on the 31st of January 2024, in Kadoma, Zimbabwe. The meeting was attended by 50 participants representing various government ministerial departments, United Nations Agencies, the academia and research institutions, Project Steering Committee, Project Management Unit (UNESCO and MoLAFWRD) and project beneficiaries from Binga and Buhera districts where the project is being implemented. The objective of the inception meeting was to share information about the project with key stakeholders, creating a common understanding of the project's objectives, components, benefits, and implementation strategy among national institutions. This will build a solid platform for the successful implementation of the project from the national level down to the community level.

#### **2.3.2 Workshop proceedings:**

The meeting was officially opened by Engineer Mawere, Director in the Department of Water Resources Development and Utilisation, Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development. In his address to the Inception Meeting, Eng Gilbert Mawere underscored the importance of the project in addressing the impacts of climate change through sustainable groundwater utilisation. He also said that the project aligned perfectly with the Government of



Zimbabwe's thrust on rural development where water is placed at the centre of various development interventions being implemented in rural areas.

Giving remarks on behalf of UNESCO Regional Director for Southern Africa, Professor Martiale Zebaze Kana, Senior Programme Specialist from UNESCO said that the BE RESILIENT Project holds immense potential in addressing water insecurity and climate change challenges faced by rural communities in Binga and Buhera districts and beyond, and through sustainable groundwater utilization and a comprehensive approach, the project will fortify local communities' adaptive capacity and resilience. "This project will leave a lasting positive impact on the lives of the communities it serves. Let us unite in our efforts to ensure its success, fostering a brighter and more sustainable future for the communities we serve," Prof Zebaze Kana said.

#### *Presentation of Project*

A detailed presentation of the project according to project components was given.

- Component 1: Strengthen technical, institutional and human capacity for improved and sustainable utilization of groundwater at national and local levels.
- Component 2: Conduct comprehensive assessments of groundwater resources in two poverty-stricken and highly vulnerable sub-catchments of Lower Gwayi and Upper Save and develop sample plans for improving climate resilience through sustainable groundwater utilization.
- Component 3: Strengthen the capacity of water and land management institutions in Lower Gwayi and Upper Save sub-catchments in developing integrated catchment management plans that promote and protect groundwater use.
- Component 4: Piloting and demonstration of concrete climate change adaptation measures based on sustainable groundwater utilisation for diversifying and strengthening livelihoods of the most vulnerable population in Lower Gwayi and Upper Save sub-catchments.

The project Grievance Mechanism was also presented stimulating some lively discussions.

#### *Discussions*

- The director indicated that the government was ready to support the implementation of the project as it dovetails well with the government programs particularly the Presidential Rural Borehole Drilling Programme.
- The stakeholders requested information on how the National Groundwater Centre would be established and suggested involving the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science, and Technology Development.
- Clarification was given on the roles of the Executing and Implementing Entities in the project.
- Stakeholders suggested that consideration should be given to projects being implemented in the districts for synergy.
- Clarification was sought on the absence of the Ministry of State in the implementation arrangement. *The Ministry is represented at the provincial level through the Provincial*

*Water Supply and Sanitation Committee which is comprised of departments from different ministries.*

- A question was asked on the criteria used to select the target districts. *The selection was informed by findings from country vulnerability assessment which showed these 2 districts to have high water insecurity, food insecurity and poverty levels compared to other districts.*
- It was suggested that the course on groundwater management to be developed and offered by the National Groundwater Centre should be innovative and consider integrating Indigenous Knowledge Systems considering what has worked well for communities.
- On the issue of the Revolving Fund, the community/beneficiaries should also be consulted on preferred modality rather than relying solely on financial experts.
- Need to consult and involve traditional leadership in project implementation was emphasized.
- The project beneficiaries wanted to know if communities were consulted regarding protection of sacred places like graves. *A comprehensive social assessment and extensive consultations were done with community. The project implementation will be guided by Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy*
- The Centre should develop a robust training component to replenish skills.
- The Centre should collaborate with other universities and research institutions.
- Need to introduce adaptive technologies to manage groundwater.
- Emphasis was placed on the linkages of all the components.
- Knowledge will be synthesised into a policy brief on how this can be managed.
- The outcome of the project, particularly the groundwater atlas, will play a crucial role in informing national-level policies. The groundwater atlas will provide valuable information and insights that can guide policymakers in making informed decisions regarding groundwater management and sustainability.
- There is a need for the project to consider existing government policies and blueprints when implementing the project. By aligning with relevant policies and blueprints, the project can ensure coherence and synergy with the broader goals and objectives set by the government.
- The Grievance Mechanism should ensure confidentiality in handling sensitive issues of sexual exploitation and abuse.
- It was suggested for PMU to come up with safeguarding policies which will be signed by all partners.
- Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse training also suggested for all project partners.

*Feedback from partners and Binga and Buhera District project beneficiaries*

Entry points for FAO

- Rangeland restoration
- Agropastoral field schools
- Value chain development
- Credit scheme
- Gender action and learning system

Entry points for WFP

- Wetland protection
- Weir construction





- Capacity building
- Borehole drilling and water supply schemes
- Value chain development

Project beneficiaries from Binga and Buhera districts welcomed the project emphasizing the need to work with local institutions such as extension services, District Water Supply and Sanitation Committees and the traditional leadership for smooth implementation and monitoring of project activities. “The traditional and political leadership in Buhera is in support of the project as it has potential of addressing the water and food insecurity challenges,” said the representative from Buhera District. The Binga representative said, “The project team should work with traditional leadership in order to be accepted.” He also said that the project will complement existing initiatives in the district.

### 2.3.3 Decisions and Action Points

- Follow-up discussion with different partners i.e FAO, WFP and World Vision to explore modalities of collaboration
- Follow-up discussion with University of Zimbabwe, the host of the National Groundwater Centre to refine implementation and operational modalities of the Centre.
- Provincial and District Inception meetings



## Annex A: Concept note and Agenda for Project Steering Committee Meeting

### *1st Project Steering Committee Meeting*

Strengthening local communities' adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change through sustainable groundwater exploitation in Zimbabwe

### *Draft Concept Note*

30 January 2024, Rainbow Kadoma, 09:00-13:00hrs

### **Background**

UNESCO and the Zimbabwean Government through the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development (MoLAFWRD) are collaborating on an Adaptation Fund (AF) project aimed at strengthening local communities' adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change through sustainable groundwater utilization. The project focusses on improving food security and other productive uses in rural areas of Zimbabwe. It will involve strengthening technical, institutional, and human capacities for improved groundwater utilization, conducting comprehensive assessments of groundwater resources in poverty-stricken sub-catchments of Lower Gwayi and Upper Save, strengthening water and land management institutions' capacity, piloting and demonstrating concrete climate change adaptation measures based on sustainable groundwater utilization, and compiling and disseminating lessons learned to facilitate future upscaling and replication of good practices in groundwater extraction and management.

The project will be executed by MoLAFWRD and implemented by UNESCO for four years (2023-2027) in Binga (Ward 19 and 13(formerly ward 25) and Buhera (Ward 20 and 23). In line with the project plan, a Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting aimed at bringing together all the nominated and endorsed PSC members is being organized.

### **Format and participation**

The meeting will be held physically at Kadoma Conference Hotel. The meeting will be attended by all duly nominated PSC members of their representatives.

### **Draft agenda**

	Agenda Item	Lead
1	Opening Remarks	Chair- MoLAFWRD UNESCO
2	Introductions	All
3	Project overview and status	Project Coordinator
4	Project Work Plan (2024)	Project Coordinator
5	Adoption of the ToR of the PSC	Chair
6	Next meeting	Chair
7	AOB	

## Annex B: List of PSC participants

	Name	Gender	Organisation	Email address
1.	E. Nhidza	M	Zimbabwe National Water Authority	enhidza@zinwa.co.zw
2.	Gilbert Mawere	M	Department of Water Resources Development and Utilisation	maweregilbert@gmail.com
3.	Givemore Kanengoni	M	UNESCO	g.kanengoni@unesco.org
4.	Kundai Makuku	F	Agricultural Rural Development and Advisory Services	kundaimakuku@gmail.com
5.	Leonna Chibundu	F	Department of Water Resources Development and Utilisation	chibundleonna@gmail.com
6.	Lovemore Dhobha	M	Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality represented by Dept of Climate Change	ldhobha@gmail.com
7.	Martiale Zebaze Kana	M	UNESCO	m.zebaze-kana@unesco.org
8.	Michael Sigauke	M	Department of Water Resources Development and Utilisation	tapfumasiga@gmail.com
9.	Muchaneta Munamati	F	UNESCO	m.munamati@unesco.org
10.	Nyasha Matsenyengwa	M	Department of Irrigation Harare	nyashasaba@gmail.com
11.	Olivia Chibgwe	F	Ministry of Local Government and Public Works	chibweolivia@gmail.com
12.	Percy Mugwangwavari	M	Department of Water Resources Development and Utilisation	percymugwa@gmail.com
13.	Sandelleh Pfukwa	F	UNESCO	sn.pfukwa@unesco.org
14.	Tariro Chipepera	F	Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises	tarirochipya@gmail.com
15.	Tawanda Gijima	M	UNESCO	t.gijima@unesco.org



## Annex C: Minutes for the First PSC Meeting

Strengthening local communities' adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change through sustainable groundwater utilisation in Zimbabwe-BeResilient Zimbabwe

### Minutes for the First Project Steering Committee Meeting

Date: 30 January 2024

Time: 09:00 am – 13:00pm

Venue: Kadoma Conference Hotel, Zimbabwe

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#### Attendees:

Kundai Makuku	Agricultural Rural Development and Advisory Services
Lovemore Dhobha	Department of Climate Change
Percy Mugwangwavari	Department of Water Resources Development and Utilisation
Leonna Chibundu	Department of Water Resources Development and Utilisation
Michael Sigauke	Department of Water Resources Development and Utilisation
Gilbert Mawere	Department of Water Resources Development and Utilisation
Tariro Chipepera	Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises
Olivia Chibgwe	Ministry of Local Government and Public Works
Enias Nhidza	Zimbabwe National Water Authority
Muchaneta Munamati	UNESCO
Martiale Zebaze Kana	UNESCO
Tawanda Gijima	UNESCO
Sandelleh Pfukwa	UNESCO

Agenda Item	Discussions	Action Point
<b>1.0 Welcome/Introduction</b>	<b>Welcome Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The chairperson of the meeting Engineer Gilbert Mawere welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order.</li> <li>Eng Mawere highlighted the purpose of the meeting and presented the agenda</li> <li>After adoption of the agenda, the attendees were asked to introduce themselves</li> </ul>	
<b>2.0 Project overview and status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project coordinator Dr Muchaneta Munamati gave an overview of the project and the progress made (<i>see Annex 1</i>).</li> <li>The PSC emphasized the need to ensure the institutions at the local levels were supported for effective project monitoring. The secretariat noted the suggestion and promised to look into it but also indicating the institutions will be supported in the best way possible.</li> <li>A suggestion to also capacitate the Department of Water Resources Development and Utilisation was proposed. The support could include assisting the department to host the project website and data sharing portal and procuring laptops and printers.</li> <li>The PSC requested for any relevant policies by UNESCO particularly those that affect procurement for guidance.</li> <li>It was agreed that there is need to establish a Project Management Team (PMT) to support the secretariat in project implementation</li> <li>The PMT will assist in the implementation of the project including contributing to the development of the Terms of references (TORs) for vendors, development of the yearly procurement plan and workplan . A suggestion to add the Department of Irrigation and Agricultural Rural Development and Advisory Services (AARDS) to the PSC was proposed and adopted. The PSC now consists of 10 members.</li> <li>A suggestion to include the provincial leadership in the Implementation Arrangement was proposed and adopted, further the traditional chiefs were pushed downwards to the ward level. As a result, an improved Implementation Arrangement was adopted incorporating the changes proposed by the PSC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share summary of UNESCO policies of procurement.</li> <li>Nomination of the Members of the PMT</li> <li>Development of TORs for the PMT</li> </ul>
<b>3.0 Adoption of the ToR of the PSC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The terms of reference for the PSC were read out.</li> <li>The PSC gave their inputs to the ToRs and adopted the terms of references (<i>See Annex 2</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of the Procurement Plan and Budget</li> </ul>
<b>4.0 Workplan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project coordinator presented the Workplan for 2024.</li> <li>The PSC members requested for a detailed 2024 workplan budget and procurement plan</li> <li>The Secretariat was advised to only implement activities after the approval of the 2024 procurement plan and budget</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ad hoc meeting to present the procurement plan and budget</li> </ul>
<b>5.0 Schedule of meetings &amp; AOB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As prescribed in the ToRs the PSC will meet at least twice a year or when it is necessary.</li> <li>PSC requested Secretariat for sitting allowance/honorarium</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secretariat indicated that UNESCO did not have such provision in place but will look into it</li> </ul>
<b>6.0 Closing Remarks</b>	The meeting ended at 1500	

#### Action table

Action Point	Responsible Person/Organisation	Deadline	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share summary of UNESCO policies of procurement</li> </ul>	UNESCO	9 February 2024	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nomination of the Members of the PMT</li> </ul>	PSC	31 January 2024	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of the Procurement Plan and Budget and 2024 work plan</li> </ul>	UNESCO	9 February 2024	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting with PMT to discuss the procurement plan and budget and 2024 work plan</li> </ul>	UNESCO	19 February 2024	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting with PSC to present the procurement plan and budget and 2024 work plan</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting with the University of Zimbabwe</li> </ul>	DWRDU	TBC	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharing of draft minutes</li> </ul>	UNESCO	9 February 2024	

**Key**

	Completed Action
	Started
	Behind schedule
	Not yet actioned

The minutes were reviewed and endorsed by PSC members

Name:

Signature

Date

Annexes:



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PSC.pdf



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erence\_v11.pdf



## Annex D: Concept note and Agenda for Inception Meeting

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### Inception Meeting *Strengthening Local Communities' Adaptive Capacity and Resilience to Climate Change through Sustainable Groundwater Utilization in Zimbabwe*

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#### Concept Note

31 January 2024, Kadoma Hotel and Conference Centre

#### Background:

UNESCO in partnership with the Government of Zimbabwe is implementing an Adaptation Fund (AF) project entitled “Strengthening local communities’ adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change through sustainable groundwater utilisation in Zimbabwe.” The objective of the proposed project is to increase local communities’ adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change through sustainable groundwater utilisation for food security and other productive uses in rural areas of Zimbabwe. To achieve this, the project will implement actions starting at national to local levels. These include: (i) Strengthening technical, institutional and human capacity for improved and sustainable utilization of groundwater at national and local level; (ii) conducting comprehensive assessments of groundwater resources in two poverty-stricken and highly vulnerable sub-catchments of Lower Gwayi and Upper Save and develop sample plans for improving climate resilience through sustainable groundwater utilization; (iii) Strengthening the capacity of water and land management institutions in Lower Gwayi and Upper Save sub-catchments by developing integrated catchment management plans that promote groundwater use whilst protecting groundwater resources; (iv) Piloting and demonstrating concrete climate change adaptation measures based on sustainable groundwater utilisation by diversifying and strengthening the livelihoods of the most vulnerable population in Lower Gwayi and Upper Save sub-catchments; and (v) Compiling and disseminating lessons learnt from the project to facilitate future upscaling and replication of good practices in groundwater extraction and management. The project will be executed by the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development (MoLAFWRD) and implemented by UNESCO for 4 years (2023-2027). In line with the project, an inception meeting aimed at bringing together stakeholders related to the object is being organised.

#### Objectives:

The inception workshop is organized to share information about the project with key stakeholders, creating a common understanding of the project's objectives, components, benefits, and implementation strategy among national institutions. This will build a solid platform for the successful implementation of the project from the national level down to the community level. The inception workshop will mark the official start of the project.

Specifically, the inception workshop aims to:

- Bring together relevant stakeholders at all levels to present and discuss the project concepts, objectives, deliverables, and implementation plans, focusing on feasibility, partnership, and sustainability.
- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of different partners engaged in the implementation of the project.
- Clarify the implementation modalities and ensure a clear understanding of how the project will roll-out in targeted districts and wards.
- Solicit input from and facilitate dialogue among stakeholders on the project and opportunities for synergies with ongoing or planned initiatives in the target districts and wards.
- Develop a joint implementation plan with project stakeholders.

#### Format and Participation:

The inception workshop will take place over one day in English. It will be attended by technical representatives at the ward, district, provincial, and national levels. Community representatives from the targeted wards, as well as academia, Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) committee members, NGOs, and groundwater experts from the SADC Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI), will also be represented.

#### Presentation and Discussion:

Each session of the workshop will include presentations followed by interactive discussions. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. Representatives from each province/district will be requested to give a brief presentation on existing issues and other initiatives related to the project's activities in order to develop synergies or complementarities.

#### Outcomes:



The inception workshop is expected to recommend guiding principles for project partners, ensuring their regular participation and coordination support in the planning and implementation of project activities. This will ensure the ownership of the developed knowledge products and services by the participating stakeholders after the project period.

#### DRAFT AGENDA

Session	Time	Activity	Presenter/Facilitator
<b>High Level Session</b>			
<b>Session</b>	08:00 - 08:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrival of the participants</li> <li>Registration</li> </ul>	
<b>Session 1</b>	09:00 -10:00	Remarks	
		o Director-MoLAFWRD	Eng. G Mawere
		o Director-UNESCO-Regional Office for Southern Africa	Ms Nisha
		• Overview of workshop goals and objectives	Mr P Mugwangwavari, MoLAFWRD
		• Brief Presentation of the project	Dr M Munamatl, UNESCO
		• Introduction of the Project Steering committee	Eng G Mawere, MoLAFWRD
		• Photo session, Media and Press briefings	Mr T Makawa, UNESCO
<b>Break</b>	10:00 -10:30	• Tea/Coffee	ALL
<b>Technical Session</b>			
<b>Session 2</b>	10:30-13:00	• <b>Component 1</b> Technical, institutional and human capacity for improved and sustainable utilization of groundwater	Dr M Meck, University of Zimbabwe
		• <b>Component 2</b> Scientific inventory of groundwater resource for improved water management.	Prof I Nhapi
		• <b>Component 3</b> strengthen capacity of sub-catchment councils	Prof I Nhapi
<b>Lunch</b>	13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch</b>	ALL
<b>Session 3</b>	14:00 -15:00	• <b>Component 4</b> Demonstration and Piloting concrete adaptation options	Prof I Nhapi
<b>Session 4</b>	15:00 - 16:30	• Complementarities/Synergies with existing, on-going or pipeline initiatives	FAO World Vision Dabani Trust UNICEF WFP
		• Presentation and discussion on the grievance mechanism	Prof I Nhapi
<b>Closing</b>	16:30-17:00	• Conclusion and Way Forward	

#### Annex E: List of Inception Meeting Participants

	Name	Gender	Organisation	Town	Email address	Comment
1.	Abang, Mathew	M	FAO	Harare	Mathew.Abang@fao.org	
2.	Astro Tshuma	M	WFP	Harare	astro.tshuma@wfp.org	
3.	Batanayi Gwangwawa	F	SADC-GMI	Harare	batanayi@sadc-gmi.org	
4.	Beaula Chipoyera	F	National Commission for UNESCO	Harare	bchipoyera2@gmail.com	
5.	Belladonah Muzavazi	F	IWSD	Harare	Belladonah@iwsd.co.zw	
6.	Charmaine Mawodza	F	Zimbabwe National Water Authority	Harare		
7.	Chidavaenzi Morris	M	World Vision	Harare	morris_chidavaenzi@wvi.org	

	Name	Gender	Organisation	Town	Email address	Comment
8.	E. Nhidza	M	Zimbabwe National Water Authority	Harare	enhidza@zinwa.co.zw	PSC Member
9.	Gerald Mundondwa	M	SADC-GMI	Harare	gerald@sadc-gmi.org	
10.	Gilbert Mawere	M	Department of Water Resources Development and Utilisation	Harare	maweregilbert@gmail.com	Chair PSC
11.	Givemore Kanengoni	M	UNESCO	Harare	g.kanengoni@unesco.org	
12.	Gochayi Lovemore	M	Upper Save Sub Catchment Council	Buhera	uppersave@gmail.com	
13.	Heather Charema	F	Media Representative - ZimPapers	Kadoma		
14.	Innocent Nhapi	M	Academia	Chinhoyi	i_nhapi@yahoo.com	
15.	Kefasi Nyikahadzo	M	University of Zimbabwe	Harare	knyika@gmail.com	
16.	Kundai Makuku	F	Agricultural Rural Development and Advisory Services	Harare	kundaimakuku@gmail.com	PSC Member
17.	Leonna Chibundu	F	Department of Water Resources Development and Utilisation	Harare	chibunduleonna@gmail.com	
18.	Lovemore Dhobha	M	Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality represented by Dept of Climate Change	Harare	ldhobha@gmail.com	PSC Member
19.	Lloyd Mwale	M	Media Representative - The Observer	Kadoma		
20.	Mackson Mudenda	M	Lower Gwayi Sub Catchment Council	Binga	lowergwayiscc@gmail.com	
21.	Macmaster Mtetwa	M	Representative from the office of the Permanent Secretary for Provincial Affairs and Devolution	Bulawayo	macmtetwa@hotmail.com	
22.	Maideyi Lydia Meck	F	University of Zimbabwe	Harare	maideyimeck@yahoo.com	
23.	Margaret Julia Chirapa	F	National Commission for UNESCO	Harare	zimnatcom3@gmail.com	
24.	Marinyame F	M	District Development Coordination	Binga		
25.	Martiale Zebaze Kana	M	UNESCO	Harare	m.zebaze-kana@unesco.org	Co-Chair PSC
26.	Mavhiza F	M	District Development Coordination	Buhera		
27.	Maxwell Maturure	M	EMA	Harare	maxwell.maturure@ema.co.zw	
28.	Michael Sigauke	M	Department of Water Resources Development and Utilisation	Harare	tapfumasiga@gmail.com	
29.	Milton Makumbe	M	Dept of Fisheries	Harare	mtmakumbe@yahoo.com	
30.	Mr Munemo	M	Rural Infrastructure Development Agency	Buhera		
31.	Ms Ngwenya	F	Rural Infrastructure Development Agency	Binga		

	Name	Gender	Organisation	Town	Email address	Comment
32.	Mubonani. R	M	Agricultural and rural Development Advisory Services	Buhera		
33.	Muchaneta Munamati	F	UNESCO	Harare	m.munamati@unesco.org	Secretary of the PSC
34.	Muchanyara Jarawaza	M	UNICEF	Harare	mjarawaza@unicef.org	
35.	Nyasha Matsenyengwa	M	Department of Irrigation Harare	Harare	nyashasaba@gmail.com	
36.	Olivia Chibgwe	F	Ministry of Local Government and Public Works	Harare	chibweolivia@gmail.com	
37.	Pedias Ndlovu	M	Agricultural and rural Development Advisory Services	Binga		
38.	Percy Mugwangwavari	M	Department of Water Resources Development and Utilisation	Harare	percymugwa@gmail.com	PSC member
39.	Sandelleh Pfukwa	F	UNESCO	Harare	sn.pfukwa@unesco.org	PSC Member
40.	Susan Mapindani	F	Department of WASH Coordination	Harare	suemapi@gmail.com	
41.	Tariro Chiopera	F	Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises	Harare	tarirochipya@gmail.com	PSC Member
42.	Tawanda Gijima	M	UNESCO	Harare	t.gijima@unesco.org	PSC Member
43.	Tinashe Shumba	M	National University of Science and Technology	Bulawayo	tinashe.shumba@nust.ac.zw	



Inception meeting Group photo



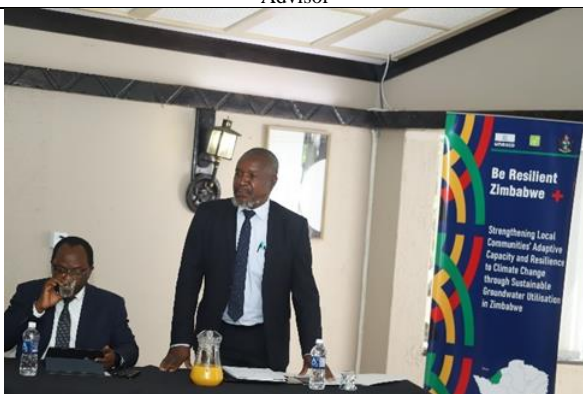
Senior Program Specialist UNESCO addressing participants



Morris Chidavaenzi the Water Sanitation and Hygiene Technical Advisor



Muchaneta Munamati Project coordinator addressing the participants



Gilbert Mawere, Director Department of Water Resources Development and Utilisation



Macmaster Mtetwa Representative from the office of the Permanent Secretary for Provincial Affairs and Devolution

Figure 5 The Inception meeting in pictures



## Annex F: Minutes of the First Project Management Team Meeting

**Strengthening local communities' adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change through sustainable groundwater utilisation in Zimbabwe-BeResilient Zimbabwe**

### Minutes for the First Project Management Team Meeting

Date: 15 February 2024

Time: 09:00 am – 13:00pm

Venue: UNESCO ROSA, Zimbabwe

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#### Attendees:

Percy Mugwangwavari	Department of Water Resources Development and Utilisation
Gwinyai Rondoza	Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises
Abigal Mandizha	Ministry of Local Government and Public Works
Charmaine Mawodza	Zimbabwe National Water Authority
Audrey Zivhave	Rural Infrastructure Development Agency
Nyasha Matsenyengwa	Department of Irrigation
Tsitsi Mafirakureva	AARDS
Muchaneta Munamati	UNESCO
Tawanda Gijima	UNESCO
Sandelleh Pfukwa	UNESCO

#### Apologies:

Emily Matingo	Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife
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Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Point
<b>Welcome/Introduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chairperson of the meeting Mr Percy Mugwangwavari welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order.</li> <li>Mr Mugwangwavari highlighted the purpose of the meeting and presented the agenda which was adopted by the members present.</li> <li>After adoption of the agenda, the attendees were asked to introduce themselves</li> </ul>	
<b>Project overview and status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project coordinator Dr Muchaneta Munamati gave an overview of the project and the progress made (<i>see Annex 1</i>).</li> <li>Mrs Mandizha indicated that the Secretary for Provincial Affairs was now under the Office of the President and Cabinet. It was further highlighted that communications will need to be directed to the director in the Ministry of Local Government at provincial level. The implementing arrangement will be amended taking into consideration the changes.</li> <li>Mr Rondoza informed the PMT members of the different revolving funds being managed by the government through the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises. He gave a short description and outline of the processes involved. He further upon the request of the PMT members gave some of the lessons learnt and challenges faced in managing the revolving fund. A follow-up meeting is to be organized.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The implementation arrangement to be amended.</li> <li>Follow up meeting on the revolving fund</li> </ul>
<b>Adoption of the ToR of the PSC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The terms of reference for the PMT were read out.</li> <li>The PMT gave their inputs to the ToRs and adopted the terms of references (<i>See Annex 2</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section of the final dispositions to be included in the TORs</li> </ul>
<b>Workplan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project coordinator presented the Workplan for 2024. (<i>See Annex 3</i>)</li> <li>The PMT proposed that the stakeholders including community members representatives be included in some of the look and learn visits.</li> <li>The PMT members gave inputs and adopted the Workplan.</li> <li>The Secretariat was requested to share the Workplan so that the PMT can provide further inputs referring to the project document.</li> </ul>	
<b>Procurement Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The procurement plan was presented. (<i>See Annex 4</i>)</li> <li>The PMT proposed that some of the finer details like the number of items be refined with consultation with the structures/stakeholders at community level</li> </ul>	
<b>Schedule of meetings &amp; AOB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As prescribed in the ToRs the PMT will meet at least four times a year or when it is necessary.</li> </ul>	
<b>Closing Remarks</b>	The meeting ended at 1300	



## Annex G: Field Visit Report







Silted Save river

## BACKGROUND

The joint Adaption Fund supported project entitled, 'Strengthening Local Communities' Adaptive Capacity and Resilience to Climate Change through Sustainable Groundwater Exploitation' between the government of Zimbabwe and UNESCO was approved in 2021. The project focuses on empowering the communities to adapt to climate change challenges by sustainably harnessing groundwater resources. The purpose of this report is to document the findings and observations made during the project reconnaissance visit and stakeholder engagement process in the project areas of Binga and Buhera districts. This report will also outline the recommendations based on the visit.

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the visit were to:

- Assess the current state of water resources in Binga and Buhera, focussing on the climate change adaptation interventions being implemented in the areas
- Identify the current specific climate change vulnerabilities and challenges faced by the local communities in these areas;
- Establish the existing adaptive capacity and coping mechanisms of the communities;
- Identify local stakeholders, partners, and key actors who can contribute to project implementation and sustainability.

## OVERVIEW

The two missions provided crucial insights into the current local context, challenges, opportunities, and the potential impact of the project in these areas.

The mission's findings shall guide the strategic planning, implementation, and monitoring of the project, ensuring its effectiveness and long-term impact on the communities and the environment.



Woman fetching water from a silted Binga River

## SUMMARY OF THE BINGA VISIT

Insightful meetings with key stakeholders, highlighting their unanimous support for sustainable development initiatives in Binga, Zimbabwe were held during the Binga Field Visits. The stakeholders, including government officials, local authorities and local leaders, emphasized the importance of addressing water scarcity and promoting agricultural initiatives in Wards 19 and 25.

While stakeholders welcomed the project, differences emerged in preferred water access interventions, with a few advocating for building of small dams and dam desilting while the majority were interested in a multifaceted approach where different interventions are implemented depending on local context. The visit highlighted the need for holistic strategies that not only address immediate water needs but also integrate community perspectives and ensure sustainable, impactful change.

Throughout the engagement process, stakeholders placed strong emphasis on the urgent need for sustainable solutions in Binga, particularly in combating the effects of climate change. Their collective emphasis on water provision as a fundamental solution underscores the significance of addressing this critical issue to uplift the community's livelihoods and resonates well with the main objective of the project.

The mission was a foundation for a comprehensive approach, emphasizing community engagement, multifaceted water access strategies, and the pursuit of sustainable development projects that resonate with the aspirations of the Binga Community.



## PROJECT SITE VISITS BINGA

The project sites are located in Wards 19 and 25 in Binga district of Matabeleland North Province in Zimbabwe. Binga district is in Lower Gwayi sub-catchment and falls under agro-ecological region V which receives the lowest rainfall in the country.

### Nhamo Project Location

Led by the local Agriculture Extension Services Officer, the project team embarked on a comprehensive tour across project wards and specific sites, engaging with traditional leadership and local communities. Chiefs Pashu and Saba, welcomed the project's potential in mitigating poverty exacerbated by climate change in the district. Chief Pashu highlighted the necessity for water harvesting and tapping into the nearby Zambezi River to address water scarcity. He further led the team to a potential site for water harvesting and the establishment of vital irrigation schemes.

Emphasizing collaboration with village heads as pivotal for success, the chiefs underscored their support for the project's endeavors. Visiting sites in Ward 19, namely Zunde Ramambo and Tinde, revealed the stark reality of water scarcity, with the Tinde River dry and villagers resorting to extracting water from sand.



Woman fetching water from a shallow well.

Expressing hope that the project would prevent such hardships, villagers highlighted the urgent need for boreholes, citing long walks for water retrieval, particularly affecting women and children.

Further exploration in Katete village uncovered abundant but unusable hot springs due to their salinity, prompting the necessity for precise borehole siting and potential small treatment plants to resolve the issue and harness the area's water resources for agricultural and domestic purposes.



Degraded area in Buhera

## SUMMARY OF THE BUHERA MISSION

The Manicaland province and the Buhera district stakeholders in particular, welcomed the proposed project with emphasizing on the province and district's susceptibility to climate change effects. It was indicated that the project interventions align well with the government's national priorities particularly the presidential rural development programme. During the initial meetings, the Secretary for Provincial Affairs and Devolution, Mr Abiot Maronge, highlighted the urgent need for sustainable development in the area. He indicated how vulnerable the province was to natural disasters including floods and drought. The disasters have left the communities in the provinces vulnerable and in need of assistance to mitigate and adapt.

The Buhera Senior Administrator, who was representing the District Development Coordinator, drew attention to past projects that had limited impact on poverty alleviation in the targeted local communities due to lack of community engagement in the whole project cycle. He proposed a strategic shift toward capacity building and active involvement of locals, aiming to combat the 'donor syndrome' by encouraging community contributions for a sense of ownership and sustainability.

Additionally, the Senior Administration Officer emphasized the importance of not just visiting successful projects but also failed ones for learning purposes. The community's pressing need for water became apparent during visits, with dry rivers and dried-up boreholes forcing villagers to travel over 5 km to access water. Villagers expressed the dire situation, highlighting the need for boreholes to revive gardens and sustain their livestock. Despite the challenges, the community members eagerly embraced the idea of establishing community gardens and diversifying livelihood options as a solution to their current predicament.



## PROJECT SITE VISITS

The project sites are located in Wards 20 and 23 in Buhera district of Manicaland Province in Zimbabwe.

Buhera district, is located in the Upper Save Catchment area which is an agro-ecological region IV (Ward 20) and V (Ward 23). Ecological regions IV and V in Zimbabwe are the lowest rainfall receiving regions in the country.



Tour of the dry Save River

## Nhamo Project Location

Led by Mr. Mafukidze, the project team conducted a visit to the Nhamo project site. The visit revealed persisting water challenges similar to those identified in the initial assessment during project formulation. Positioned merely 100 meters from the Save River, the area, unfortunately, confronted the stark reality of a dried-up riverbed, impeding villagers from cultivating vegetables in their gardens.

Despite its suitability for horticulture, the area near Nhamo School and Nhamo Shopping Center faced water scarcity issues, relying on only two existing boreholes, prompting the community's plea for an additional one to enhance their livelihood prospects through income-generating activities. Moreover, the potential for wetland restoration surfaced as a viable option in the area, given the notable destruction of wetlands due to the compounding impacts of climate change and human activities, signifying a need for urgent ecological rehabilitation.



## Nyashanu Project Site

During a courtesy call to the chief's homestead, Chief Nyashanu received a briefing on the project, expressing a warm welcome and an eagerness to support endeavors that directly uplift his community.

Drawing from past experiences with development partner and government-led projects, the chief emphasized the need for project continuity and growth from these established initiatives. His keen insight highlighted the importance of inclusivity, particularly stressing the involvement of women and children in the proposed initiatives, notably emphasizing their participation in the revolving fund.

## PROJECT SITE VISIT

During the visit to the proposed project site, the team identified a promising borehole, already in place, with the potential to serve as the primary water source for the proposed piped scheme. Considering the area's low rainfall, an additional borehole was proposed to bolster water availability for irrigation, domestic use, and livestock care. With the delayed onset of farming activities due to regional climatic challenges, exacerbated by the El Niño-induced drought in southern Africa during the 2023/2024 season, the community primarily relies on subsistence farming and livestock rearing.

The introduction of fish farming emerged as a welcomed opportunity by both villagers and the chief, offering not only an improved diet but also a means to bolster household incomes. Amidst these discussions, the distressing prevalence of teenage pregnancies in the area surfaced, highlighting a significant local issue. Villagers expressed hope that the project's focus on establishing nutrition gardens and introducing fish farming could serve as avenues to engage the community, potentially reducing teenage pregnancies by redirecting attention to productive activities. Additionally, the project holds promise for land reclamation and ecosystem restoration, signifying a comprehensive approach towards community development and environmental stewardship in the region.





Man fetching water in a dry silted river in Binga

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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- **Engage Village Heads:** Effectively involve and engage village heads in the Adaptation Fund project to ensure community participation and ownership.
- **Water Harvesting and Dam Maintenance:** Promote water harvesting techniques, such as damming during the rainy season, and prioritize the desilting of small community dams to increase water availability for productive uses.
- **Explore Alternative Water Sources:** Investigate the feasibility of developing a pipeline to draw water from the Zambezi River, considering its proximity to the project areas.
- **Comprehensive Project Evaluation:** Conduct a thorough evaluation of previous projects implemented in the region to identify challenges and lessons learned. This evaluation will inform the strategic planning, implementation, and monitoring of the current project.

## CONCLUSIONS

The field visit provided valuable insights into the current local context, challenges, opportunities, and the potential impact of the project in Binga and Buhera districts. The recommendations and way forward outlined in this report will guide the strategic planning, implementation, and monitoring of the project, ensuring its effectiveness and long-term impact on the communities and the environment.