A cross-sector approach supporting the mainstreaming of sustainable forest and land management to enhance ecosystem resilience for improved livelihoods in the Save and Runde Catchments of Zimbabwe

Part I: Project Information

Name of Parent Program

Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes

GEF ID

10257

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

☐CBIT

☐NGI

Project Title

A cross-sector approach supporting the mainstreaming of sustainable forest and land management to enhance ecosystem resilience for improved livelihoods in the Save and Runde Catchments of Zimbabwe

Countries

Zimbabwe

Agency(ies)

FAO

Other Executing Partner(s)

EMA

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area
Multi Focal Area

Taxonomy
Forest, Focal Areas, Drylands, Biodiversity, Mainstreaming, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Land Degradation, Land Degradation Neutrality, Stakeholders, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, SMEs, Local Communities, Beneficiaries, Consultation, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Participation, Information Dissemination, Communications, Awareness Raising, Behavior change, Community Based Organization, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Gender Equality, Capacity Development, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Integrated Programs, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, South-South, Peer-to-Peer, Learning

Rio Markers
Climate Change Mitigation
Climate Change Mitigation 2

Climate Change Adaptation
Climate Change Adaptation 0

Submission Date
12/4/2020

Expected Implementation Start
5/1/2021

Expected Completion Date
4/30/2026

Duration
60In Months

Agency Fee($)
939,055.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
IP SFM Drylands	Promoting effective coordination for sustainable forest management	GET	10,433,945.00	60,830,179.00
		Total Project Cost($)	**10,433,945.00**	**60,830,179.00**

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To promote the sustainable management of Miombo and Mopane production landscapes in Save and Runde sub-basins following an LDN approach.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing ($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing ($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
1: Strengthening the enabling environment for the integrated management of natural resources at the national and landscape levels	Technical Assistance	**1.1: Strengthened and harmonized intersectoral and multilevel decision-making and planning in the targeted sub-basins to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation** Indicator: (i) # of landscape-level cross-sectoral governance platform for land use planning and management in Save and Runde sub-basins established and operational, with # active members Target: (i) Two landscape-level cross-sectoral governance platform in Save and Runde sub-basins established and operational with # active members (TBD) Indicator: (ii) # of SLM/SFM policy recommendations at national level developed, submitted and adopted	**1.1.1**: National platform for LDN improved, with a particular focus on the national LDN TWG **1.1.2**: Cross-sectoral and gender sensitive governance platforms ? including a landscape-level LDN working group ? established at landscape level in both Save and Runde sub-basins **1.1.3**: Assessments of targeted sub-basins jointly deepened and extended, and current effective practices identified in support of LDN decision making and corresponding capacity development programme designed and delivered for relevant stakeholders from government, private sector, civil society and communities using a training-of-trainers approach **1.1.4**: National policy framework, budgeting and finance mechanisms, and investment programmes, jointly reviewed by relevant government institutions within key sectors such as agriculture, forestry and land tenure sectors, and	GET	1,621,773.00	10,179,306.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing ($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
2: Demonstrating, implementing, and scaling up and out SLM and SFM good practices in Save and Runde basins	Investment	**2.1**: **SLM and SFM interventions demonstrated and implemented in Save and Runde sub-basins** Indicator: (i) # of ha of Miombo and Mopane production landscapes under SLM and/or SFM practices for improved and sustainable production (contributing to GEF Core Indicator 4, Sub-Indicator 4.3) with the following distribution across the targeted LUS: ? # of ha of cropland in Save and Runde sub-basins under sustainable intensification ? # of ha of mixed landscapes with SLM and SFM practices applied for sustainable NTFP and wood harvesting ? # of ha of mixed landscapes under improved fire management ? # of ha of rangeland	**2.1.1**: Capacity development programme delivered in the sub-basins and the targeted Forest, Farm and Rangeland users supported in the implementation of SLM/SFM activities in targeted production landscapes **2.1.2**: CSBs established/strengthened and tree nurseries strengthened in support of SLM and SFM **2.2.1**: Miombo woodlands Value Chains (?basket product approach?) identified, selected and developed along with bankable business plans **2.2.2**: Finance and business incubation mechanisms established in support of Forest Farm Producers and their organizations	GET	7,344,138.00	34,804,688.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing ($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
3. Effective Knowledge Management, Monitoring and Collaboration for addressing SLM/SFM at landscape, national, regional and global levels	Technical Assistance	**3.1. Project implementation supported by an M&E strategy based on measurable and verifiable outcomes and adaptive management principles.** Indicator: (i) # of evaluation reports Target: (i) One Mid-Term Review report and one Final Evaluation report **3.2: Data collection and knowledge sharing approach on SFM/SLM contributing to LDN assessment work improved** Indicator: (i) # of national database strengthened to facilitate access to LD information to all relevant sectors to support LDN in Zimbabwe Target: (i) One intersectoral database gathering information from different sectors on the extend of LD and its trends, LD drivers and	**3.1.1**: M&E strategy developed and implemented with relevant stakeholders, clearly defining the expected outcomes, expected implementation timeframe, and confirmation through objectively verifiable indicators and means of verification. **3.1.2**: Mid Term Review and Final Evaluation carried out **3.2.1**: Knowledge Management strategy developed and implemented with lessons learned and best approaches/practices on addressing LD at landscape-level captured for their dissemination at the landscape and national levels **3.2.2** Knowledge exchanges on Drylands IP results and collaboration between neighboring countries and at national, regional and global levels to support mutual capacity development and learning **3.2.3** Participatory landscape level LDN monitoring, reporting and evaluation system established and	GET	972,034.00	5,261,185.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing ($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
				Sub Total ($)	**9,937,945.00**	**50,245,179.00**
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
	GET		496,000.00		10,585,000.00	
	Sub Total($)		**496,000.00**		**10,585,000.00**	
	Total Project Cost($)		**10,433,945.00**		**60,830,179.00**	

C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	EMA	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	13,785,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Forestry Commission (FC)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	6,900,000.00
Recipient Country Government	ZPWMA	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	750,000.00
Donor Agency	IFAD	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	25,500,000.00
Civil Society Organization	CTDT	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	217,000.00
GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	4,140,306.00
Other	World Vision	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	50,925.00
Recipient Country Government	METCHI	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
Recipient Country Government	EMA	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	4,215,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Forestry Commission	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	3,100,000.00
Recipient Country Government	ZPWMA	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	750,000.00
Civil Society Organization	CTDT	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	283,000.00
Other	World Vision	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	138,948.00

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	METCHI	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	900,000.00
			Total Co-Financing($)	**60,830,179.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Not Applicable

D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)
FAO	GET	Zimbabwe	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	5,350,741	481,567
FAO	GET	Zimbabwe	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	891,790	80,261
FAO	GET	Zimbabwe	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	713,432	64,209
FAO	GET	Zimbabwe	Multi Focal Area	IP SFM Drylands Set-Aside	3,477,982	313,018
				Total Grant Resources($)	**10,433,945.00**	**939,055.00**

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required

☐

PPG Amount ($)

300,000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

27,000

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)
FAO	GET	Zimbabwe	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	153,846	13,846
FAO	GET	Zimbabwe	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	25,641	2,308
FAO	GET	Zimbabwe	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	20,513	1,846
FAO	GET	Zimbabwe	Multi Focal Area	IP SFM Drylands Set-Aside	100,000	9,000
				Total Project Costs($)	**300,000.00**	**27,000.00**

Core Indicators

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	2150.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	2,050.00		

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	100.00		

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (incl. estuaries, mangroves) restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	1046713.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	65,000.00		

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	981,713.00		

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)	0	1257525	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)		1,257,525		

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting		2021		
Duration of accounting		20		

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female		7,800		
Male		7,200		
Total	0	15000	0	0

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1.a. The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description).

1.1 Context for the sustainable use of Miombo & Mopane ecosystems in Zimbabwe

Extending over 2.7 million km2, the Miombo and Mopane woodlands are the largest dryland forest ecosystem in Africa, sustaining the livelihoods of more than 100 million rural and 50 million urban people. These woodlands also provide vital ecosystem services (carbon sequestration, soil fertility, and water cycle and climate regulation). The unique ecosystem is increasingly degraded and threatened mainly by cropland expansion and charcoal production. The rate of degradation of Miombo and Mopane woodlands is around 3.74% per annum ? though much higher in areas close to cropland and settlements. The Southern Miombo woodlands ecoregion covers central Zimbabwe and extends into Mozambique, southern Zambia and Malawi.

Zimbabwe covers a total of 390,745 km2, of which 33.3 million hectares are used for agricultural purposes and 15.6 million hectares are forested. The country has abundant land, a large amount of underground and surface water resources (with over 8,000 dams), and rich flora and fauna. The diverse agro-climatic conditions enable the country to grow a wide range of crops, with over 23 types of food and cash crops and a variety of livestock species. Agricultural activities provide employment and income for 60 to 70% of the population, supply 60% of the raw materials required by the industrial sector, and contribute approximately 17% of Gross Domestic Product and 40% of total export earnings.

Despite the country?s abundant natural resources, Zimbabwe has one of the highest levels of food insecurity in Sub-Saharan Africa. Approximately 70% of the population relies on subsistence and rain-fed agriculture for their livelihood and food and nutrition security[1][1]. Since the 1980s, the sector has been dominated by smallholder farmers, tilling an average of 1 ha per household and producing an average of 0.4-0.6 MT of maize[2][2], of which up to 30% are lost due to poor post-harvest technologies and practices. The high reliance on subsistence rain-fed agriculture renders a large majority of the rural

population vulnerable to climate-related shocks and seasonal stressors. These households have few sources of income other than agriculture[3][3] and spend more than 54% of their budget on food. Low food security causes people to engage in stream bank cultivation, illegal mining, or charcoal production to earn an income, thereby threatening important ecosystems. Combined with additional drivers further described below, this situation had led Zimbabwe to rank third among African countries[4][4] in terms of deforestation rate. The State of the Forests of the World shows that Zimbabwe has had a steady deforestation rate in the last twenty years, with an average rate of 327,000 ha lost annually since 1990 and more that 6 million ha of forests lost in the last two decades.

Economic crises have led to the collapse of rural market economy, leading in turn to the collapse of input and output markets as well as price-setting mechanisms[5][5]. Deteriorating infrastructure for the marketing and transport of agricultural products, such as roads and telecommunications, and lack of production inputs (e.g. fuel, electricity) induce high agricultural production costs[6][6],[7][7].

At the economic level, most of Zimbabwe?s indigenous forests have limited timber production potential. Rural communities are increasingly becoming dependent on a wide range of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) for food, shelter and income[8][8]. However, the contribution of NTFPs from indigenous forests such as the Miombo woodlands to rural income and to the national economy is considered as low because of limited value addition and commercial exploitation[9][9]. It should be noted however that it has not been adequately quantified. As a result, forests are considered to have minimal economic value and deforestation rates are high. Forest degradation leads to the rarefaction of forest resources such as medicinal plants to rural communities[10][10].

Poverty affects over two thirds of rural households with a high prevalence of subsistence livelihoods heavily dependent on natural resources (i.e. fuelwood, NTFP, grazing lands, freshwater). As a result, the Miombo woodlands in the Save and Runde basins suffer high levels of degradation. This reduces the capacity of Miombo woodlands to provide the vital ecosystem services that communities depend on such as water and climate regulation, provision of food and row material, and soil stabilization and conservation. The main direct causes of land degradation in these landscapes are the expansion of agriculture, charcoal production, overgrazing, fires and illegal mining. Increased flooding and droughts are further increasing the negative effects of these practices. Unsustainable practices are resulting in reduced land productivity, biodiversity loss, invasion of alien species, pollution, and an overall decline in ecosystem services.

The Save and Runde basins in Zimbabwe, located in the Miombo woodlands, are home to a rapidly increasing population with growth rate of 2.0 to 2.2% in the three provinces between 2002 and 2012[11][11], and totalling approximately 3,517,000 people. The land degradation dynamics in Zimbabwe?s Miombo and Mopane woodlands are exacerbated by the adverse impacts of climate change. Climate projections up to 2070 for Zimbabwe show a 2.5?C increase in temperature while rainfall will decrease by 4.1% and 5.9% by 2030 and 2070 respectively. The global and local projections suggest changes in rainfall, temperature and the length of growing seasons with an expected impact on agricultural productivity. For Southern Africa, climate-triggered yield reductions have been estimated[12][12] at between 11 and 30% by 2030. The effects of temperature changes on agricultural production will be more pronounced in the south-western parts of Zimbabwe, where temperatures will increase by 2.2?C, while agricultural impacts induced by rainfall reductions will be starkest in Mashonaland central, Mashonaland East, Manicaland, and Masvingo provinces. Reduced agricultural productivity is a driver of land degradation through two main avenues: i) decreased productivity per surface unit constrains farmers to claim additional arable land from natural ecosystems, in particular through forest clearing; and ii) impoverished farmers are enticed to turn to activities with land degradation impacts such as unsustainable charcoal production or illegal mining.

Furthermore, future climate change will affect water availability (e.g. increased evaporation, decreased rainfall expected in the Zambezi Watercourse[13][13]), and thus increase the need for development of water harvesting, water storage and irrigation systems. The El-Ni?o weather phenomenon of 2015/16 highlighted the need to build resilience to weather-related shocks, as agricultural production declined by 5%, leaving 2.8 million people food-insecure. Limited adaptive capacity contributing factors include: i) the low levels of investment in water systems and irrigation; ii) weak early-warning systems that disadvantage timely generation and dissemination of early-warning information; iii) limited funding towards research and development of drought-tolerant varieties; and iv) lack of resources for effective extension service provision, disease control, and livestock development as well as limited adoption of climate smart agricultural practices. In addition, despite agriculture being impacted by climate change, the sector also contributes 43% of Zimbabwe?s annual emissions[14][14].

To counteract land degradation trends, Zimbabwe validated its Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) strategy in 2018 with the aim of aligning national efforts towards LDN targets. This framework provides the foundations for the proposed project, which is part of a joint Expression of Interest submission from a coalition of six southern African[15][15] countries that have prioritised interventions to reverse degradation and maintain the ecological integrity of the extensive and threatened Miombo and Mopane ecosystem. Being part of the Dryland Sustainable Landscapes Impact Programme (DSL IP) programme, tailor-made capacity development events will be available on demand throughout the project?s lifespan for government stakeholders under the Regional knowledge management Exchange Mechanism (REM) to be established by the Global Coordination Project (GCP). Peer-to-peer learning

on evidence-based practices will also be made available to each participation country through the REM. This will enable to fill already identified capacity gaps (e.g. landscape-level land-use planning, sustainable management of wood resources, creating incentives for SLM and SFM) and gaps that would come up during the course of the project towards integrated landscape management in the selected sub-basins of the Miombo and Mopane woodlands. The project intervention therefore offers a strategic opportunity for Zimbabwe to halt and reverse land degradation in Save-Runde basin, building upon and strengthening the country?s LDN and policy alignment efforts ? while fostering cross border collaboration, capacity building and knowledge exchange. Various institutions, policies and legal frameworks support the LDN agenda in Zimbabwe, as discussed in the following sections.

1.2 Land-use planning and enforcement framework for LDN in Zimbabwe

Institutional context

At the national level

Zimbabwe has mandated the **Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry (MECTHI)** to implement and coordinate LDN interventions. The implementation of activities related to the desertification, climate change and biodiversity conventions of the United Nations is ensured by the same ministry, which facilitates effective coordination with national development strategies. LDN activities are mainstreamed into three main organisations under MECTHI, that ensure interventions, awareness and training are conducted at local level: i) the Environmental Management Agency (EMA); ii) the Forestry Commission (FC); and iii) the Parks and Wildlife Management Authority.

? **EMA** has the mandate to implement all LDN-related activities in Zimbabwe. Its four strategic goals are: i) to create an enabling legal framework for improved environmental law enforcement to achieve sustainable environmental management; ii) to establish and maintain a reliable and easily accessible environmental information system for improved decision making; iii) to attain a clean, safe and healthy environment and sustainable use of natural resources; and iv) to foster environmental stewardship at all levels. EMA is supported by a National Taskforce on desertification, which doubles as the National LDN Technical Working Group and works in collaboration with other stakeholders in the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and private sectors. The taskforce is trusted with responsibilities to assess data sources for benchmarking LDN indicators. In alignment with EMA policy, the Environmental Committee at the central level is in charge of developing the National Environmental Action Plans (NEAPs).

? The **FC** is an agency under MECTHI. It contributes to national socio-economic development through regulation and capacity enhancement in the use and management of forest resources. Its mandate is to promote the sustainable management and development of Zimbabwe?s forests.

? The **Zimbabwe Parks & Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA)** operates under the Parks and Wildlife Act of 1975. ZPWMA has a mandate to manage the entire wildlife population of the country, whether on private or communal lands.

? The **Climate Change Management Department (CCMD)** of MECTHI was established in 2013. The mission of CCMD is to facilitate the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation and mitigation into all environmental and socio-economic sectors of Zimbabwe.

- The **Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement (MLAWRR)** is in charge of providing technical, extension, advisory, regulatory and administrative services to the agricultural sector to achieve food security and foster economic development.

? The **Agricultural Technical and Extension Services (Agritex)** ? including its specialised branches, provincial and district offices ? have the mandate to provide technical, advisory and regulatory services (including market orientation), train farmers and disseminate commodity-processing technology (including post-harvesting processing and product development). Extension agriculture support is provided to farmers at ward level through Agritex officers. Agritex is often used as a technical service provider to back-up NGO-funded projects: it mobilises farmers and provides advisory services to both project staff and farmers. Most private sector agro-service companies work with Agritex when extending their commercial services to agricultural producers. Agritex staff organises farming communities to facilitate the commercial activities of private sector companies. The heavy reliance on its extension officers at the local level makes Agritex a key actor for the on-the-ground implementation of LDN activities.

? The **Gene bank of Zimbabwe (GBZ)** is part of the National Plant Genetic Resources Centre (NPGRC) a centre for research and conservation of plant genetic resources in Zimbabwe. The NPGRC is under the auspices of the National Plant Genetic Resources Committee, a board that coordinates and oversees the promotion of activities associated with plant genetic resources in the country. The mandate of the GBZ is to carry out activities aimed at promoting the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Specific missions include: i) undertaking collection missions for indigenous plant genetic resources important for food and agriculture; ii) documenting indigenous knowledge systems on plant genetic resources important for food and agriculture; iii) multiplying and regenerating plant genetic resources; iv) characterising and evaluating plant genetic resources; v) undertaking awareness-raising campaigns and farmer trainings on the value of plant genetic resources conservation and sustainable use; vi) conserving germplasm in the national ex-situ GBZ; and vii) undertaking on-farm/in-situ research and promote on-farm conservation.

? The **Department of Water** of the MLAWRR is tasked with the development of water policies, laws and regulations and general directions to guide the orderly and integrated planning of the nation?s water resources, with a view to ensure their optimum development, use and protection. Specific objectives are: i) ensuring the availability of water to all citizens for the primary purposes with due regard to environmental requirements; ii) giving effect to any international water agreements to which Zimbabwe is party; and iii) fixing the criteria for water allocation and the issue of permits by Catchment Councils.

? The **Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA)** is a public entity under the MLAWRR. Its mandate is to plan, develop and manage the country?s water resources. This includes the construction of water storage and conveyance infrastructure, the management of groundwater resources and the equitable distribution of the country?s surface water held in the various dams around Zimbabwe.

? The **Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing (MLGPWNH)** has the mandate to promote sound local governance, as well as undertake and coordinate rural and urban development to enhance the socio-economic development of Zimbabwe. The MLGPWNH coordinates the devolution process inscribed in the 2013 Constitution. Departments of the MLGPWNH relevant to land-use planning in rural areas and management of natural resources include the Rural Local Authority and the Traditional Leadership Support departments.

? The **Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MFED)** is entrusted with the stewardship of national financial resources, their mobilisation, allocation, management and accounting for economic growth and development through the provision of sound macro-economic policies.

At the local level

Zimbabwe?s territorial and administrative organisation is composed of 10 provinces, 59 districts and 1,200 wards. At the provincial level, the coordination of all development and environmental management initiatives is ensured by the office of the Provincial Coordinator. However, there are no specific requirements for the Provincial Councils to develop environmental management plans, and no specific decisions are taken at the provincial level, which plays a coordination and accountability role.

Each district is administered by a District Administrator and a Rural District Council (RDC). The District Administrator is the chief advisor to the RDC and has a leadership role in all administrative matters. The RDC is the planning authority for each district. The RDC is headed by a Chief Executive Officer and has a full council of elected ward councillors and chiefs (traditional leaders appointed under customary law) in the district. Each council is required to have a minimum of the following committees but may establish others on a need basis: finance, roads, **natural resources conservation**, human resources, and social and health. These committees report to the full council and also present their progress and plans to the Rural District Development Committee (RDDC). The RDDC is a technical planning committee that is set up by the RDC to coordinate district development. The RDDC prepares and implements the annual district development plan, which synthesises submissions from all the foregoing committees and assemblies. The RDDC includes representatives of all stakeholders in the district, including central government officers, NGOs, parastatals and the private sector. It is chaired by the District Administrator. Environmental Committees at the District level are in charge of developing Environmental Action Plans. Other government functions at district level are carried out by district offices of national government departments.

The ward level is managed and coordinated by a combination of formal and traditional actors, including a Ward Development Committee (WADCO) comprising the elected ward councillor and the Village Heads who represent the Village Development Committees (VIDCOs). Environmental Sub-Committees at ward level have a major role in coordinating the management of natural resources and the development and enforcement of by-laws at the ward level. The RDC supports the work of ward-level Environmental Sub-Committees to enforce council by-laws while EMA trains these sub-committees on fire management, SFM and SLM. The Environmental Sub-Committees are in charge of developing the Local Environmental Action Plans (LEAPs). Agritex operates extension offices at the ward level while other department do not have decentralised staff at the ward level.

Wards are subdivided into villages. Each village has an elected VIDCO. Traditional leadership hierarchy in Zimbabwe has three levels: the Chief, the Headman (sub chief) and the Village Head or kraal head. The Chief has jurisdiction over several wards. The Headman has jurisdiction over one or a few wards and the villages within this (these) ward(s). The Village Head is the head of a family (or group of related families) and represents the village. Each village also has a Village Assembly which is composed of all inhabitants of the village over 18 years of age and is chaired by the Village Head. Under the Traditional Leaders Act, the Village Assembly is given broad responsibilities for managing affairs in its area, including natural resources and cultural matters, but little substantive power beyond electing the members of the VIDCO. Like the Village Assembly, the VIDCO is chaired by the village head, and is tasked to prepare and submit development plans to the RDDC[16][16]. Traditional leaders (Chiefs, Headmen, and Village Heads) are responsible for the management of natural resources and the enforcement of the environmental by-laws (those set and approved by the RDC), as well as traditional laws.

Land-use planning processes

Land use planning in Zimbabwe is governed by the Regional, Town and Country Planning Act (RTCPA) of 1976 (revised in 1998). While this core legislation guides land-use planning, several other legislations impinge on land-use planning and control in the country (see section below). In addition, land-use planning responds to the social, economic, and political factors within a given context. The RTCPA specifies that the RDC and local councils are in charge of implementing three types of development plans created by acts of parliament through various agencies:

(i) *Regional plans*: these are not linked to any administrative level but developed at the request of the President for one or more districts or provinces to fulfill specific functions or in alignment with a programme. Regional plans are overseen by the regional planning council established through a statutory instrument. **There are no specific regional plans for the project area**. To date only two regional plans have been commissioned in Zimbabwe and the most popular being the Zambezi Valley Development Masterplan which included more than 6 districts.

(ii) *Master plans*: these are developed to formulate the policies and general proposals for coordinated development and other land use such as construction, conservation, and economic planning. Master plans are developed through consultation with neighbouring districts that can be affected by any planned development. For example, a master plan may require the participation of three or more RDC. Master plans are formulated to guide the planning at the RDC level. However, **most of the RDCs operate without master plan and develop their District Development Plans (DDPs) in the absence of guiding master plans.**

(iii) *Local plans* (at district level): The ideal planning process requires that local or RDC level plans are situated within a specific master plan. As indicated, at present there are no master plans developed in most areas. The RDCs formulate their local plan through each aforementioned committees. Plans for designated areas such as parks, state forests, and national monuments are placed under specific

ministries. For example, the MECTHI can set up such a planning committee to lead a planning process in areas that have wildlife or tourism potential. Once set up, the committee is responsible for leading a multi-stakeholder planning process until the area is designated for a specific land use. Once an area is designated, the management responsibilities are assigned to a government institution such as the Parks and Wildlife Management, EMA or the FC, who is in charge of undertaking extensive consultations up to village level (with the assistance of the village heads) and to place the proceedings at the RDC offices for public exhibition for two months for the public to provide comments.

Figure 1 below shows the national planning framework and how regional, master and local plans link together. Urban and rural councils operationalise the various legal tools into specific plans which are then enforced through by-laws.

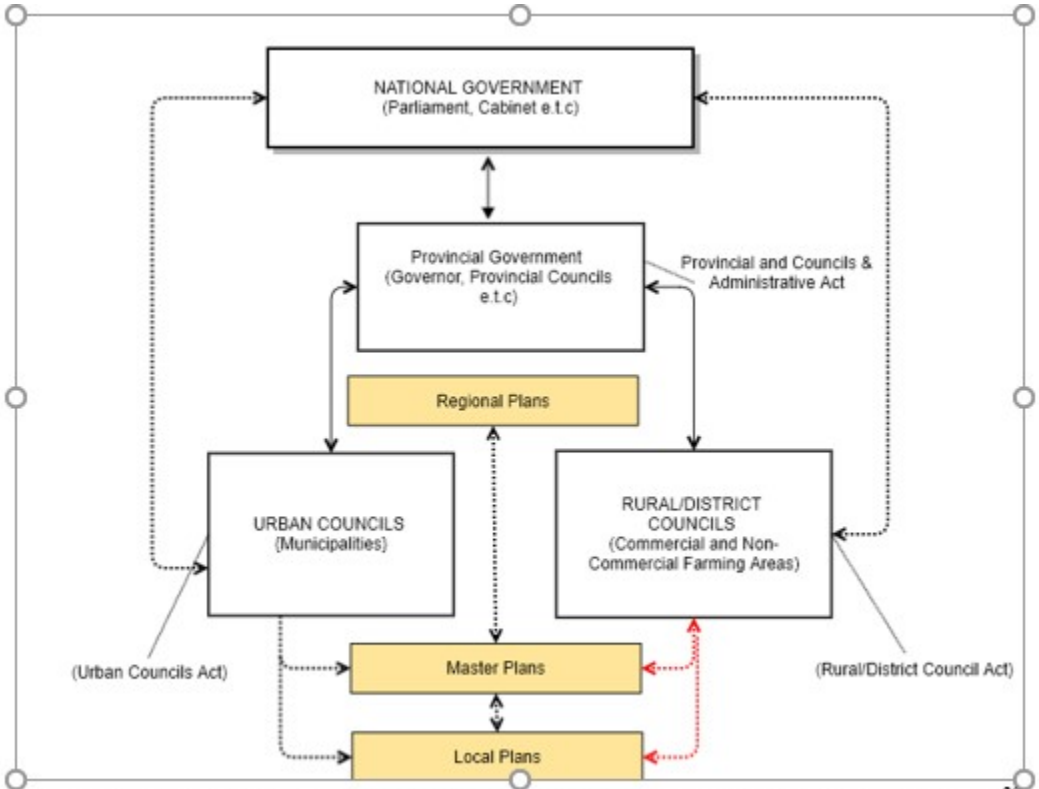

FIGURE 1: NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL PLANNING PROCESSES[22]

[17]

Rural land-use planning is based on the following complementary areas: i) spatial (physical planning); ii) economic and financial (development planning); iii) agricultural land use; and iv) natural resource management (water, environmental, national parks and forestry planning). For the key planning areas, Figure 2 below shows the institutions that support planning and relevant stakeholders. For example, Agritex works closely with RDCs, ward levels and traditional leaders for the formulation of local plans. Districts focus their planning activities on different themes based on their priorities and the resources available in the district.

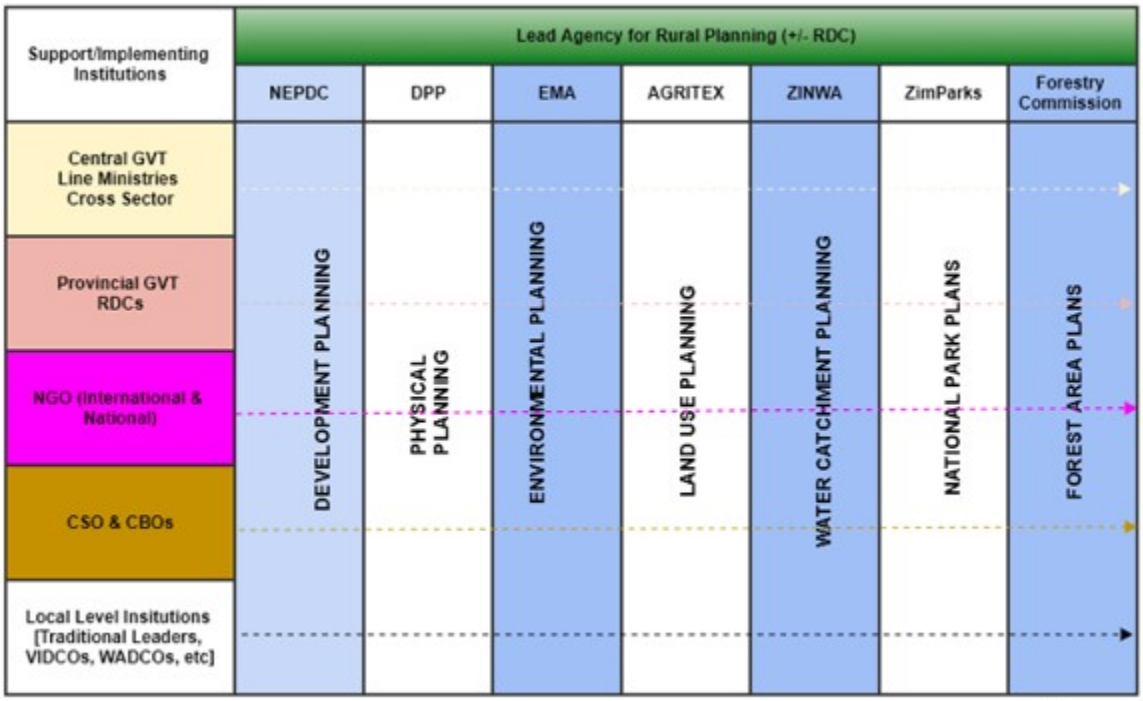

FIGURE 2: LOCAL-LEVEL PLANNING INSTITUTIONS AND PROCESSES[23]

[18]

LDN activities have been mainstreamed into four main organisations to ensure interventions, awareness and training are conducted at the local level: i) EMA; ii) FC; iii) Agritex; and iv) ZPWMA. Through the local staff present at RDC level (and ward level for Agritex), LDN activities are implemented in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders.

At the national level, the overall coordination of environmental matters in done through MECTHI, but the different activities pertaining to land degradation are not systematically coordinated across sectors. The PPG assessment shows that mining, agriculture, urban and rural expansion contribute to land degradation if these are not well planned. Cross-cutting fora for the collective planning of such activities do not exist. However, EMA ACT 20:27 provides for the realisation of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for expansion projects. EIAs are expected to facilitate a process of collective planning around environmental issues to reduce threats and recommend mitigation action. However, most settlement development projects are not preceded by an EIA and these regulations are rarely enforced. Rather, baseline analyses conducted during the PPG phase found an increasing trend of unplanned settlements (driven by several social, economic and political factors).

Land management decisions are taken at the district level. The implementation of environmental programmes at the RDC level is done firstly through EMA and the FC, and secondly through the sub-committee of the RDC on Environment. EMA and the FC are responsible for environmental management and for the enforcement of environmental regulations, and both operate extension offices

at the district level. While EMA focuses on the management of rivers and the protection of trees 30m from the river course, gully rehabilitation, and enforcing compliance in mining areas, FC ensures that forest resources on both state and communal land are managed adequately and that NTFPs are harvested in a sustainable manner. Within a RDC, the Environmental Committee comprises five to six elected councillors to coordinate environmental management and propose by-laws for the management of natural resources in the community. The RDC also supports the work of ward-level Environmental Sub-Committees to enforce by-laws.

In communal land, land-use planning seeks to consolidate land-use arrangements for the effective management of arable land, grazing land and residential land. The establishment of woodlots, gardens and orchards, access to potable water and conservation of resources are examples of land-use planning objectives on communal land. This process tends to be largely technical and led by trained agricultural planners (Agritex staff).

Water-use planning focuses on the allocation of water to end-users. Catchment Councils are tasked with planning and consulting stakeholders in a bottom-up process through the elected water users? boards. The Runde basin comprises five sub-basin councils, namely Mutirikwi, Upper Runde, Lower Runde, Tokwe and Chiredzi. The Save basin is one of Zimbabwe?s main basin areas and is divided into eight sub-basins corresponding to 26 hydrological zones. The eight sub-basins of the Save River Basin are Macheke, Budzi, Devure, Lower Save East, Lower Save West, Odzi, Pungwe and Upper Save[19].

The implementation of LDN is supported by several other policies and legislation. A summary of the key legislations and policy documents to support the successful implementation of the proposed interventions in the Global Environmental Facility-7th replenishment (GEF7) project is presented below.

Land tenure system

Zimbabwe has several tenure systems, including the Large-Scale Commercial Farms (LSCF), Small-Scale Commercial Farms (SSCF), Old Resettlement Areas (ORA), A1 and A2 Farms which are the new models that have emerged from the Fast Track Land Reform implemented in early 2000. LSCFs occupy areas that were formerly under the white commercial farmers. There are approximately 9,655 SCCFs in Zimbabwe with an average size of 148 hectares[20]. These SSCFs occupy 4% of all land. Farmers in this sector have lease with option to purchase- deed of grant. The third category is that of ORAs (from 1982-1998) under which farmers were resettled on an individual family basis or as co-operatives under five models[21] (i.e. A, B, C, D, E).

A1 and A2 Farms were established during the accelerated land reform programme (i.e. the Fast Track Land Reform) in the early 2000s. In A1 Farms, an individual family farm consists of at least six hectares (depending on natural regions) plus a common grazing land for livestock. The homesteads are in villages and farmers have fields at a designated area. Under this model, farm offer letters are issued to farmers. While on the A2 Farms, farmers are resettled in such a way that an individual has a farm where crop and livestock production is carried out within the farm. Farm sizes depend on natural regions. Under this model, farmers are given offer letters and 99 years lease agreements. The lease can be issued to both spouses jointly or to women in their own right. Out of the different land-tenure

categories, the A1 and A2 land-tenure systems in resettled land are the ones presenting most instability and land-tenure issues, and efforts are currently being done by the government to improve land-tenure under this system.

On communal land, farmers live in villages and have areas for cropping and common grazing. Agricultural production is mainly for subsistence, with the surplus being sold to the market. The population in the communal land makes up to about 51% of Zimbabwe?s population. The sector occupies 42% of total land area and this land is owned by the state. Villagers are required to pay unit tax to occupy and use the land. Small-scale farmers occupy communal land through this leasing system. Communal land suffers from severe environmental degradation.

In the targeted area, 39% of the land is communal, 32% of under A1 and A2 models (in which the majority of land tenure issues occur), 22% are under the A and D models, 2.3% are safari areas, 1.5% are gazetted forest managed by ZPWMA, 1.2% is the Sanctuary, 1% is covered by the National Park and 1% are commercial farms. The Self-evaluation and Holistic Assessment of climate Resilience of farmers and Pastoralists (SHARP) survey indicates that the prevalent land tenure system in Runde sub-basin includes small-scale farms allocated to them during the 1985 and 2000 Land Reform Programme and are under a 99-year lease agreement with the government (Annex P1). Similarly, in Save sub-basin, farmers are residing on resettlement land. However, there are other emerging forms of land access whereby some farmers pay fees to the local leadership of the community (chiefs) as these farmers settled after the Land Reform Programme and were allocated this land by their chiefs. The land being distributed by Chiefs was initially reserved as pasturelands and natural forests under both phases of the Land Reform Programme[22].

The landscape presents challenges with regards to collective land management around communal pastures and incentives for farmers to manage the land in the absence of secure land tenure on resettled land under A1 and A2 models. The challenges of lack of tenure can include the inability of communities to convert farmland to other uses and conversion of any land which is collectively utilized without the approval of the local authorities and also community consensus for collectively managed resources.

Constitution, acts and policy framework

Section 73 of the **Constitution of Zimbabwe** (2013) provides rights to every person to an environment that supports their well-being, and is protected for the benefit of the present and future generations through measures that:

? prevent pollution and ecological degradation;

? promote conservation; and

? secure ecologically-sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting economic and social development[5].

The Constitution of Zimbabwe thus provides an overarching framework for the formulation, implementation and enforcement of environmental regulations, that allows for the formulation of effective LDN policies. Given that the Constitution was passed in 2013, several acts are in the process of being aligned to the new Constitution. For example, the Zimbabwe Environmental Lawyers Association (ZELA) noted the need to ensure that local communities are protected from excessive environmental degradation that result from mining activities in their communities. The paragraphs below discuss the various acts that support the implementation of LDN programmes and projects in Zimbabwe.

The **Environmental Management Act** (Chapter 20:27)[23] provides for: i) the sustainable management of natural resources and protection of the environment; ii) the prevention of pollution and environmental degradation; iii) the preparation of a National Environmental Plan and other plans for the management and protection of the environment; iv) the establishment of EMA and an Environment Fund; v) the amendment of references to intensive conservation areas and committees and associated matters in various Acts; vi) the right of access to environmental information, in accordance with Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development which encourages Member States to ensure that individuals have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes[24] .

Specific sections under parts 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 of EMA Act have a bearing on LDN. The EMA Act allows communities to benefit from their local resources through access- and benefit-sharing. This creates incentives for local communities to participate effectively in the management of natural resources. A case in point are the various initiatives across the Save and Runde basins where local communities are harvesting wild fruits and teas, and participating in fair trade initiatives[25].

Some of the limitations of EMA Act include a lack of clear guidelines on how public bodies should provide information access to citizens and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) as cases where such access was denied have been registered. In many cases, access to this information is necessary to plan for and support the socio-economic improvement of community groups, as well as to examine issues of environmental contamination[26]. Another limitation of EMA Act is that is does not provide for gender representation and equality. It is silent on gender equality, people with disabilities, participation of women in natural resources management and non-discrimination in environmental management programmes.

The **Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Act** (Chapter 14:33; 2008) provides for the empowerment of communities to benefit from local resources. Some of the key principles of the Act that will facilitate implement of LDN programmes include advocacy for: i) the development of a highly-competitive, sustainable and industrialised economy benefiting from the country?s endowments including its natural resources; ii) equal opportunities for all, including gender-sensitive ownership and participation in the economy by indigenous Zimbabweans; iii) accelerated rural development; and iv) the sustainable use of natural resource[27].

The **Communal Land Act** (Chapter 20:04; 1983) vests the powers over communal land in the hands of the President, ?who shall permit it to be occupied and used in accordance with this Act.? The lack of tenure over communal land has been identified as one of the major drivers of land degradation in the

country[28]. The absence of officially-recognised tenure rights can lead to poor management decisions on the use of land and natural resources[29].

The **Rural District Councils Act** (Chapter 29:12)[30] provides for the declaration of districts and the establishment of RDCs. It confers and imposes functions upon RDCs and provides for the administration of their areas. Specific sections relevant to the implementation of LDN programmes include Section 61, which specifies that the functions of the Environmental Committees at the RDC level and Sub-Committees at ward level are key in the design and enforcement of SFM an SLM interventions in Zimbabwe. These committees, however, are not cross-sectoral as they focus on the management of natural resources in disconnect with relevant sectors such as agriculture.

The **Mines and Minerals Act** (Chapter 21:05; 1961) regulates mining activities in Zimbabwe including exploration, pegging, drilling and mining. It also specifies the need for proper environmental management and the protection of river systems. The Act mentions the need to report on: i) the anticipated environmental impacts of mining operations; and ii) any measures to be taken to assess, prevent or minimise such impact, including proposals for the protection of rivers and other sources of water, the reclamation and rehabilitation of land disturbed by mining operations as well as the monitoring of potential environmental impacts of mining operations. The main challenges with the Mines and Minerals Act is its interpretation with respect to other acts and land-use plans that it may supersede, as well as insufficient enforcement of mitigation measures.

The **Communal Land Forest Produce Act** [Chapter 19:04][31] seeks to: i) regulate the exploitation of and to protect forest produce within communal land; and ii) regulate and encourage the establishment of plantations within communal land. It specifies that any inhabitant may exploit any forest produce, including reserved trees, on any land which they are permitted to occupy and use in terms of the Communal Land Act [Chapter 20:04] in the course of clearing such land for residential purposes or for the purpose of planting crops.

The **Forest Act** (Chapter 19:05; 1949) establishes the FC for the administration, control and management of State forests. The Act provides for the transfer of certain assets belonging to the government to the FC. It also : i) provides for the setting aside of State forests and for the protection of private forests, trees and forest products; ii) establishes a Mining Timber Permit Board to control the cutting and taking of timber for mining purposes; iii) provides for the conservation of timber resources and the compulsory afforestation of private land; iv) regulates and controls trade in forest products including the use of trade names and marks in connection with forest products; and v) regulates and controls the burning of vegetation. As per the Forest Act, the FC will oversee the management of the proposed project?s interventions where they take place in designated mining areas or State forests.

Traditional Leaders Act (Chapter 29:17; 2001): traditional leaders play an important role in the management of natural resources. The Act bestows local headmen and headwomen with the powers to enforce all environmental conservation and planning laws, including local field boundaries, on behalf of the chief, the RDC and the State[32]. Headmen and headwomen are also mandated to work with the established Ward and VDCs to execute their duties.

The **Agricultural Research Act** (Chapter 18:05; 1970) establishes a council with the mandate to promote all aspects of agricultural research and to ensure maximum coordination between authorities undertaking any form of agricultural research. In addition, the Act regulates research on bee, poultry and plant-based products (except for forest products, governed by the FC). The Agricultural Research Act is thus key in supporting research on Value Chains to ensure that communities are incentivised for the sustainable management of natural resources.

The **Water Act** (Chapter 20:24; 2000) specifies guiding principles for the management of water in Zimbabwe. Two key principles are the following: i) all water users have a responsibility for protecting water sources and for the quality of water they return to the system; and ii) polluters will be required to restore the environment, undertake clean-up operations and pay damages, over and above the real threat of their operating licenses being withdrawn. In addition, the Water Act seeks to reduce the use of mercury in artisanal mining and control the quantity and nature of agrochemicals used in agriculture.

The **National Environmental Policy** (2009) promotes community participation in natural resources management, equitable access to and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources with an emphasis on satisfying basic needs, improving standards of living, enhancing food security, and reducing poverty. The policy also calls for sustainable use of energy and resources, and minimizing irreversible environmental damage, waste production, and pollution. In addition, the policy strategy provides safeguards to ensure that community members are consulted to ensure their needs and concerns are included in development priorities.[33]

Section 8 of the **Environmental Management (Access to Genetic Resources and Indigenous Genetic Resource Based Knowledge) Regulations** (2009) allows communities to harvest, gather, collect, market, beneficiate, or derive economic profit from genetic resources on a large or commercial scale[34][17]. The regulations further stipulate the need for investment in research around genetic material and traditional medicines. In particular, clause (c) of Section 3 seeks to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources in order to maintain and improve their diversity, as a means of sustaining the life-support and health-care systems of the people of Zimbabwe. Clause (d) provides for an appropriate system of access to genetic resources and indigenous genetic resource-based knowledge that is based upon the explicit prior informed consent of the concerned local or indigenous communities and the State. Clause (e) promotes the implementation of appropriate mechanisms for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and indigenous genetic resource-based knowledge. In particular, mechanisms should ensure the participation and agreement of concerned communities in making decisions regarding the distribution of benefits which may be derived from the use of genetic resources and indigenous genetic resource-based knowledge.

Zimbabwe has developed policy frameworks to support the Zimbabwe Fast-Track Land Reform but these policies failed to address comprehensive management of natural resources. The **Fast-Track Land Reform policy** (2001) was produced after the fast-track land reform of 2000. Despite the development of sector-specific land reform policies such as the Wildlife-based and Forest-based land

reform policies, it was noted that the Fast-Track Land Reform policy did not provide the integrated and multifaceted strategy required for sustainable resource utilisation, and that it failed to target natural resource-based production *vis-?-vis* agriculture[18][18] . For example, some natural resources were over-exploited as was the case with wildlife poaching and tree cutting for commercial woodfuel. The process is underway to develop a comprehensive gender-sensitive land policy which is expected to bring about secure land tenure, enhance access to land, land-use planning and management, productivity and sustainable use of land and natural resources including water, wildlife and forestry.

The **National Water Policy** (2012) presents concerted efforts by the government to manage scarce water resources and attain high level of service delivery with respect to rural and urban water supply, sanitation and hygiene. The National Water Policy includes sub-sectoral policies for both urban and rural water supplies and sanitation, and includes policies on water resources management and development, the environment and the agricultural use of water. To facilitate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) related to water and sanitation, and at the same time manage environmental damages emanating from improper water management, the National Water Policy tries to confront a myriad of challenges including the poor maintenance of major dams, an unsustainable water pricing policy, the sharp decline of urban and rural water supply and sanitation services, high unaccounted for water losses through dilapidated infrastructure, the pollution of water from both point and diffuse sources, and the reduction of commercial irrigation exacerbated by power outages that have also impacted negatively on clean water and waste water treatment plants. The National Water Policy is a vehicle for coordinated and collaborative efforts by all stakeholders in order to address these challenges.

The **National Gender Policy** (2013) aims to aid to environmental management by addressing the issue of limited gender considerations in policy frameworks of environment and natural resources. In particular, it pursues this objective by working towards new mechanisms for climate change mitigation and environmental management that incorporate gender-sensitive perspectives. This National Gender Policy commits to spearheading a specific gender-responsive effort in management of the environment, focusing on the effects of climate change that exacerbate pre-existing inequalities between men and women. The National Gender Policy promotes interventions aimed at: i) increasing participation of both women and men in the sustainable use of natural resources to derive economic benefits (including opportunities for carbon trading); and ii) building the capacity of state and non-state development agencies to mainstream gender considerations in environment and climate change policies, programmes and action plans.

The **Climate Policy** (2016) has the vision to climate-proof all the socio-economic development sectors of Zimbabwe to address the national challenge of reducing Zimbabwe?s vulnerability to climate and climate-related disasters, while developing a low carbon pathway. It has eight primary goals which include *inter alia*:

(i) promoting technology transfer, capacity building and information sharing;

(ii) reducing vulnerability to climate variability and climate-related disasters by strengthening adaptive capacity, which includes for example:

- periodically reviewing existing national and sectoral policies, plans and maps (such as water, agriculture, energy, environment) to ensure that they adequately address climate-related challenges,
- promoting sustainable land-use systems in line with principles of climate smart agriculture,

- strengthening capacity to generate new forms of knowledge, technologies and agricultural support services that meet emerging development challenges arising from increased climate change and variability,
- strengthening the capacity to identify and promote adoption of improved seed varieties, crop varieties and livestock breeds that are tolerant to climate related stresses,
- conserving and enhancing forestry resources which act as both sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases,
- strengthening research capacity in forest ecosystem resilience to facilitate adaptation efforts to climate change,
- promoting research to reduce the existing gaps in knowledge on forest ecosystems and climate change, as well as on forest threats such as fires,
- promoting improved understanding of the role played by forests in supporting livelihoods through timber and non-timber products, and of the effects that climate change could have on those livelihoods,
- strengthening the use of Geoinformation Science (GIS) and Earth Observation Technologies in forest and biodiversity assessment; and

(iii) accelerating mitigation measures by adopting and developing low carbon development pathways which includes as an example promoting renewable energy and adoption of energy efficient technologies and practices across all socio-economic sectors of the economy and the built environment.

The **National Climate Change Response Strategy** (NCCRS, 2015) provides the implementation strategy for the Climate Policy. It sets a number of objectives to mainstream climate change through a sectorial approach to ensure that each sector implements adaptation and mitigation actions. In addition, the NCCRS promotes the development of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions as a step towards low-carbon development strategies.

By-laws are passed at RDC level and Ward level, and provide a framework for the day-to-day implementation of all environmental laws and policies. While local authorities are empowered to control the conservation of natural resources using their by-laws, these by-laws are often outdated and do not reflect the scope of environmental problems[35][19],[36][20].

There are several policy reforms that are underway in Zimbabwe?s environmental sector to align them with the constitution. One of the key policies that has been under view is the Draft **Forestry Policy** and it has gone past the Cabinet approvals. In addition, FAO and the government through MLAWRR are currently formulation a **Gender-Sensitive Land Policy** which seeks to improve the land governance

system and enhance equal access to land, productivity and sustainable utilisation of land. This includes supporting land-use planning and sustainable management of land and natural resources including water, wildlife and forestry particularly on land under the A1 and A2 models. This new land policy will address existing land-tenure issues particularly in A1 and A2 models (which cover 32% of the targeted sub-basins) and secure land ownership including for women, youth and disabled people. The policy will also promote improved agricultural practices in agricultural land.

1.3 Project intervention sites

General context: location, land use and status of natural resources

The targeted sub-basins are located within the Save and Runde basins in the midlands and south-eastern parts of the country (Figure 3). These sub-basins cover three provinces, eight districts (Figure 4) and 45 wards. The sub-basins include several protected areas: part of the Save Valley Conservancy, the Mushandikwe Sanctuary, and the Chimanimani National Park. The latter has a surface of 21,200 ha and borders the Chimanimani Nature Reserve (65,500 ha) in Mozambique. Both protected areas are part of Chimanimani Transfrontier Conservation Area. The selected area includes Chivi and Chipinge districts which are identified as land degradation hotspots in Zimbabwe?s LDN report. Key land users in the target sub-basins are farmers (maize, ground nuts, millet, cotton, tobacco, etc.), woodfuel harvesters, pastoralists, and small-scale miners (gold and other minerals), both legal and illegal.

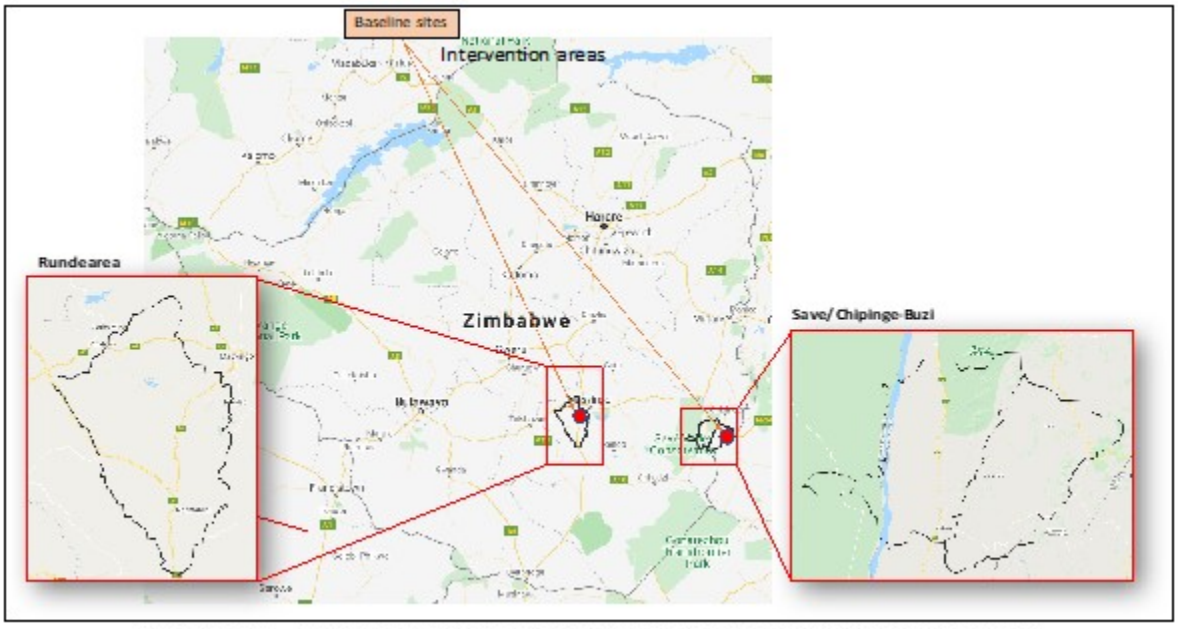

FIGURE 3: LOCATION OF TARGET AREAS (SOURCE: FAO, 2020)

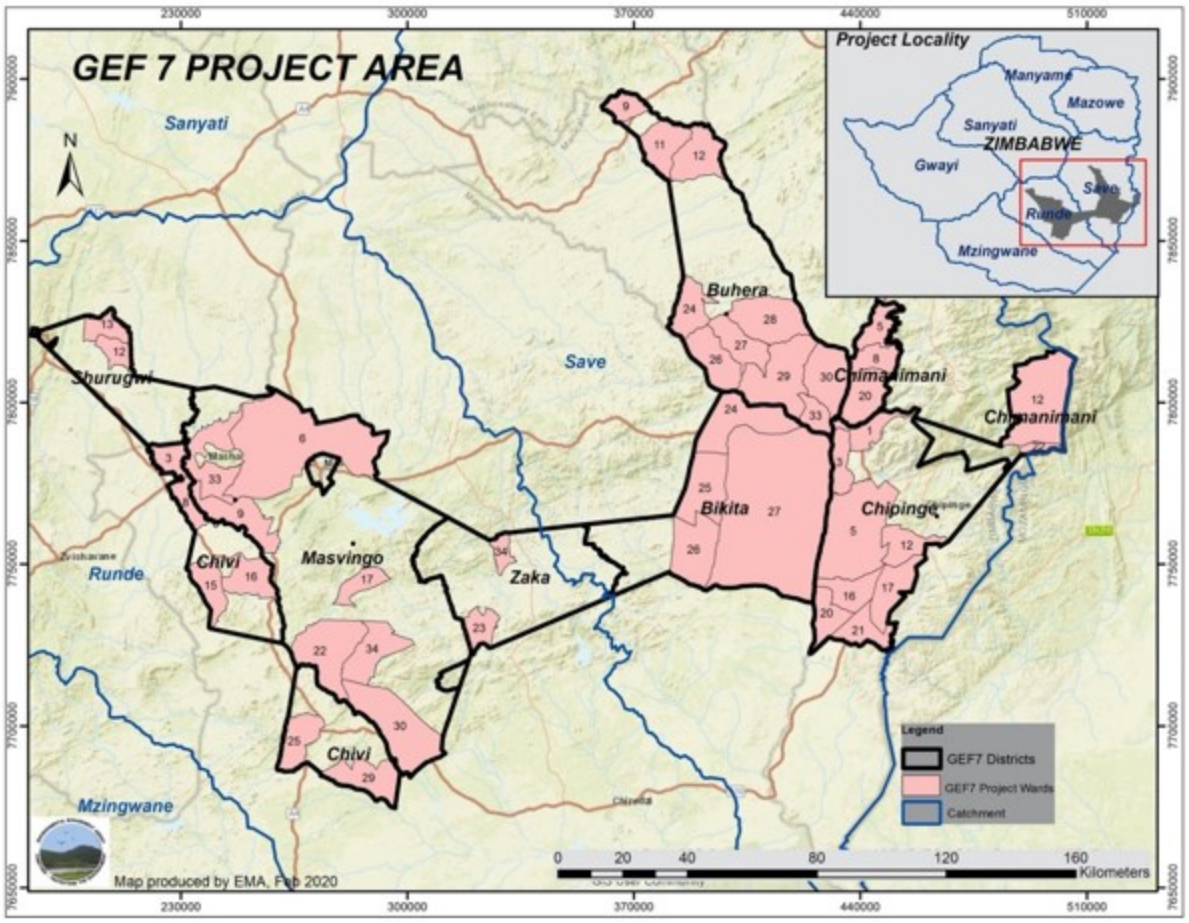

FIGURE 4: MAP OF TARGETED AREA AND WARDS (SOURCE: EMA, 2020)

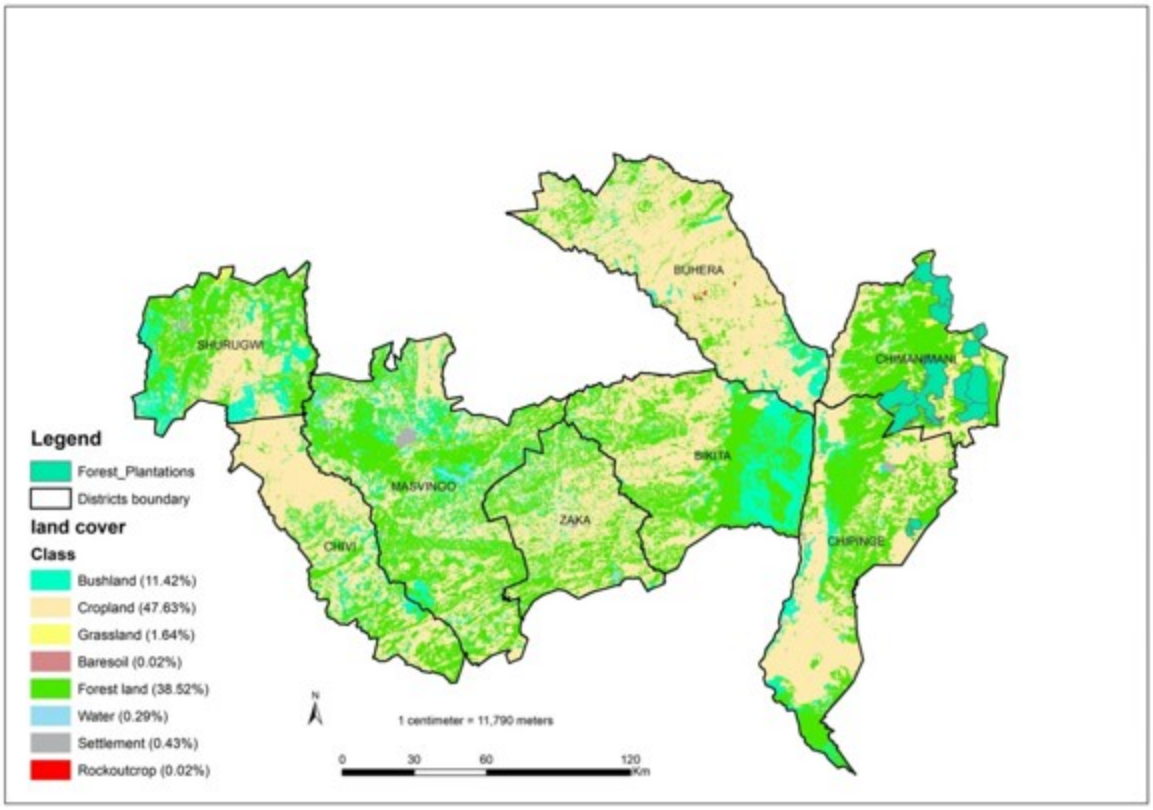

FIGURE 5. LAND COVER MAPS FOR THE TARGETED DISTRICTS (SOURCE: EMA, 2020)

According to the Collect Earth assessment undertaken during the PPG phase, the most significant land-use changes in the targeted sub-basins are: i) a substantial decline in grassland (by 68%, between 1995 and 2015); and ii) tree cover loss (total of 104,108 ha lost between 2000 to 2017). Cropland in turn has expanded by 6% (total of 1,116,726 ha) between 1995 and 2015 (1,115,348 ha rainfed and 1,378 ha irrigated). Nearly half of the sub-basins (1,474,960 ha) is affected by declining productivity. The main direct drivers for land degradation identified in the target areas are the expansion of agriculture, charcoal production, overgrazing and illegal mining. Population growth and the need for more resources (e.g. food, energy/biomass) coupled with unsustainable practices (including illegal mining) is likely to increase degradation levels. The project area supports approximately 356,000 people (81,250 households with approximately 4.5 people per household), of which 52% are female.

During the PPG phase, the SHARP Survey (see Box 1 and Annex P1) was conducted in ten villages of the Masvingo province (target Runde sub-basin) and fourteen villages of the Manicaland province (target Save sub-basin), with 387 households interviewed in total. The SHARP Survey reveals that crop production is the main livelihood activity for 99% of households, followed by animal production (81%), agroforestry (38%) and 6% of households have other off-farm activities such as small-scale mining, beekeeping and crafts. Animal husbandry is practiced by 93% of interviewed households, and only 1% is nomadic. While households in the Runde sub-basin keep cattle, goats, chickens and turkey, cattle is largely absent in the Save sub-basin. Farmers mainly use hoes for tilling, a time-consuming, labour-intensive and relatively inefficient practice for crop production.

Out of 387 surveyed households, 294 (76%) are involved in tree production[1]. Mopane, mango, avocado, lemon, mazhanje (*Uapaca kirkiana*), msasa (*Brachystegia spiciformis*) and mususu (*Terminalia sericea*) trees constitute the main trees planted in all surveyed areas. However, only 27% of the households stated that some of their trees are currently producing. In addition, 51% of respondents indicated that tree diversity has decreased in the last three years, with only 37% of them growing more than six tree species.

Forests are accessed by 68% of producers on average: 72% in the Runde sub-basin and 67% in the Save sub-basin. Most of them have access to forests within a five-kilometre radius. The majority of respondents (74%) acknowledged that they have observed forest degradation in the last three years. By order of importance the causes of degradation have been attributed to land-use change (expansion of agriculture), timber extraction to source woodfuel and building materials, and infrastructure development (e.g. roads). Significantly, on-farm and forest trees are mainly used for charcoal or firewood as reported by surveyed households. Fuelwood represents the main energy source of the surveyed households, for both their household consumption and their agricultural activities (90% and 43%, respectively). Other sources of energy, such as electricity, diesel or solar are barely utilized. While only 63% of households use on-farm trees to produce charcoal and woodfuel, all households use forest trees for this purpose. On-farm trees are also used to supply food and shade (18% and 23% respectively). Forest trees are a source of food like wild fruits (21%), animal feed (17%) and fibre (8%), and provide shade (23%).

Most farmers interviewed in the Save and Runde basins reside and work on small-scale farms allocated to them during the 1985 and 2000 Land Reform Programme, and are under a 99-year tenured lease agreement with the government. Under the Land Reform Programme, land is not owned by the villagers but by the State or local councils; as such, villagers are required to pay a unit tax throughout the duration of their lease. Resettlement land (71%), communal agricultural land (43%) and communal forest land (9%) represent the main modalities of land access. Limited on-farm productivity and the unsustainable management of shared resources on communal land are causing the depletion of natural resources and land degradation.

In the Runde sub-basin, most farmers are satisfied with the size and fertility of their land. This is largely because farmers have broad access to pastures and forests. In the Save sub-basin, however, most farmers are concerned about both the size and fertility of their land. Farmers in this area are limited to five hectares of land or less that they were given, and do not have access to communal pasture lands or forests as these have been degraded. This means that the cropland, grazing land and area for tree pruning for firewood for each farmer is limited to the same five-hectare portion allocated to them by the government. Land-use issues resulting from this situation are exemplified by the case of farmers from the Derwa and Jinga B villages located at the border of the Chipinge Safari Area, and to use the park as grazing land for their livestock, thereby causing damaging pressure on these protected resources.

Access to water is generally limited to one source for both household and productive activities. For household consumption, interviewees rely mostly on boreholes often located at a considerable distance (?5kms). Moreover, some boreholes are no longer functional from lack of servicing. This has led to water rationing from personal sources (at most two buckets per day per household). For agricultural

activities, farmers use water from dams to irrigate their land. Livestock has mainly access to water streams and lakes. Fetched water and mine quarries are other water sources. The vast majority of respondents (92%) stated that the overall availability of water for their crop production activities has been decreasing in the past three years. This is also the case for 52% of livestock producers. Notwithstanding, only about half of respondents (51%) has used at least one practice or technique to preserve the resource in the last year. Among those who use such practices, water retention ditches (79%) and water harvesting (48%) are the main water conservation techniques used. About 73% of producers did not have to pay any fees for the use of water for crop and livestock production, and no water-use conflicts have been reported.

Local economy

Over two thirds of the households within the Save and Runde basins are subsistence smallholder farmers who are heavily dependent on natural resources for fuelwood, NTFPs ? 35% of the target districts are covered with forests ?, grazing lands and freshwater sources. The two basins receive rainfall ranging between 450mm and 750mm/annum. Most cultivated crop varieties include maize, sorghum, pearl millet (mhunga) and finger millet (rapoko) for food security as well as some cash crops such as roundnuts, groundnuts and pumpkins. Besides crops, smallholder farmers mostly keep small livestock such as goats and poultry, with a few having cattle mostly for draught power. There is a heavy reliance on maize production in Save (98%) and Runde (85%), and less than 30% of farmers on average produce legumes. 61% of farmers in Save and 56% in Runde reported to also have perennials in their farmland.

Planting material is sourced from different mechanisms: in Save, the government is a major source of seed for 31% of farmers (mostly maize hybrid seed), while on-farm production and markets constitute the main sources of farmers in Runde (40% and 32% respectively). These results are consistent with the responses given by farmers when asking about whether the household was able to afford enough seeds for each growing season over the past year, 68% declared it was not possible (75% of women and 64% of men), 4% responded that this was possible only rarely, 7% sometimes and only 1% mentioned having saved seeds; 14% said that they could afford to buy seeds always or often. The inadequate diversification of production systems also reflects on food and nutrition. Almost half of the population in the pilot areas have low diversification of diets (48% in Save and 40% in Runde have a Household dietary diversity Score equivalent to 1), being cereals and vegetables, the most common food groups available to households.

Most of the farmers in Save and Runde reported to have below average crop yields, challenging food/seed storage until the next season: 63% households in Save and 74% in Runde declared not to have been able to stock food (e.g. cereal or tubers) in the last 12 months. About 27% (32% in Save and 17% in Runde) of farmers managed to do it only during the harvest time, and only 6% throughout the year. Besides low productivity, this can be also attributed to the absence of cereal banks at the community level (only 6% of households have, 5% in Save and 9% in Runde); or granaries at home (only 32% of households have access to one on average, 20% in Save and 57% in Runde).

Resilience assessment

As part of the SHARP analysis conducted during the PPG phase, resilience at the level of target basins was assessed through three components:

? technical resilience component (factual information on agricultural systems and households);

? self-assessed adequacy or perceived satisfaction of a given resource/practice; and

? self-assessed importance of a given resource/practice.

The average level of climate resilience is moderate across all aspects assessed. These general levels of resilience suggest that small-scale producers in the assessed areas do possess certain capacity and knowledge to cope with unexpected shocks and climate variability, but there is still a strong need to further strengthen their ability to adapt to climate change and disturbances. Agricultural producers? resilience is tightly connected to access to knowledge and resources management as well as to the introduction of practices on how to carry out agricultural activities.

Results from the SHARP resilience analysis are summarised on Figure 6.

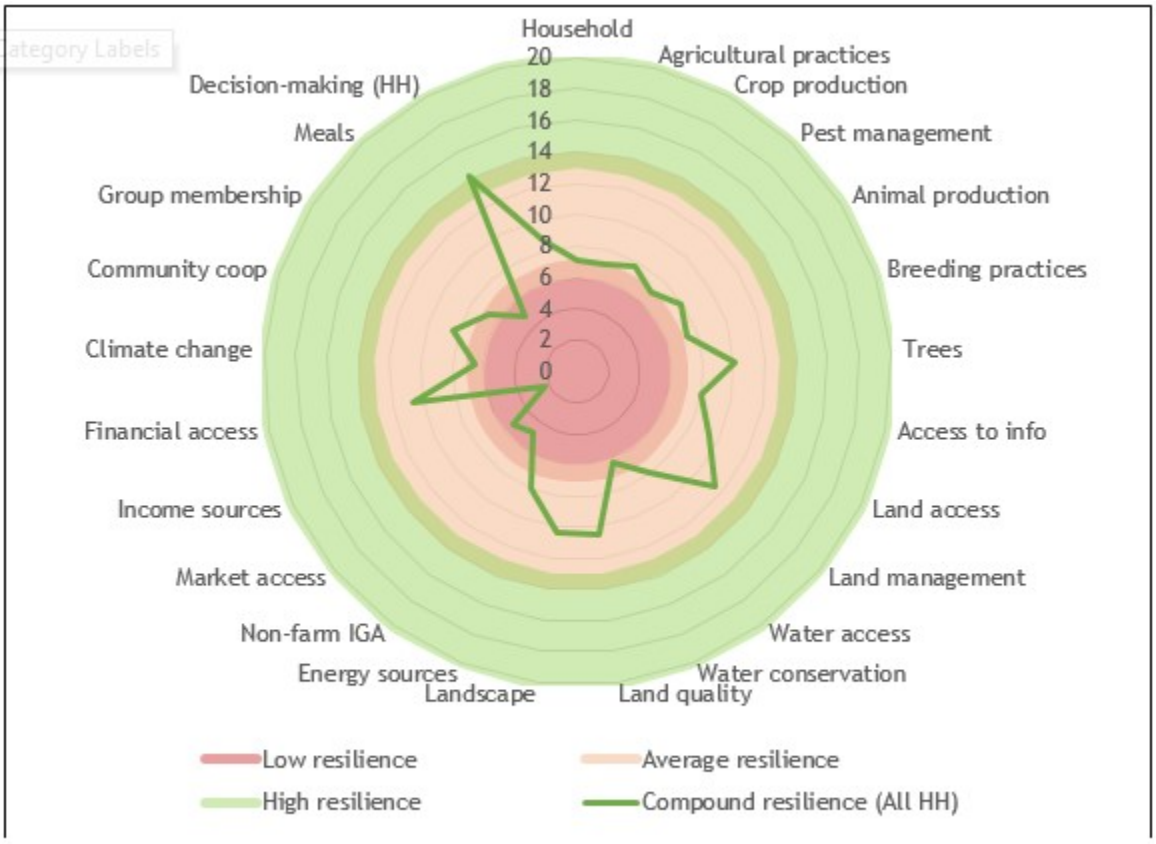

FIGURE 6: COMPOUND RESILIENCE SCORE FROM THE SHARP ANALYSIS.

Economic-related aspects present the lowest levels of resilience (5.75/20 points), and the environmental domain scores highest (9.12 points).

The six most vulnerable aspects for all households assessed are summarised below.

? Income sources (2.24/20 points): the reliance on a limited number of income sources, mostly agriculture, weakens the capacity of households to respond to and cope with shocks.

? Non-farm income-generating activities (4.81/20 points): as above, the absence of income diversification (i.e. outside of agriculture) makes households more vulnerable, particularly when shocks directly affect agricultural livelihoods (e.g. extreme events, market shocks).

? Meals (4.83/20 points): limited dietary diversity, lack of food storage at community and household level deteriorate food security of household members and communities. This has a direct negative impact on human capital formation.

? Disturbances (6.53/ 20 points): farmers acknowledged to have been severely affected by multiple shocks. Many households experienced crop losses and food insecurity as main impacts. The majority of household did not take any action to cope with these events and almost 50% of households would take more than half a year to recover in case these events were to happen again. Half of the producers have no external support in case of need.

? Group membership (6.74/20 points): limited participation to groups is observed among surveyed farmers. Existing groups are more linked to religious activities rather than information exchange (e.g. sustainable agriculture, cropping practices). Women groups seem to be popular among 20% of households[1].

? Pest management practices (6.92/20 points): pests and crop diseases are recurrent problems for the farmers assessed; however, limited knowledge is available on their integrated management and use of sustainable alternatives such as natural pesticides, crop rotation or increased biodiversity. Likewise, scarce use of gear protection and correct waste disposal is observed among those using synthetic pesticides.

At the basin level, the following aspects are the ones with the lowest levels of resilience (below 7 points):

? Save basin: there is a need for income diversification activities, including outside agriculture (4.47 points), improved access to local markets (4.57 points) and better knowledge on pest management (5.6 points). Low resilience is also observed in aspects linked to the use of water conservation practices (6.44 points) and diversification of agricultural activities within the farm system (6.91 points).

? Runde basin: diversification of income sources (2.52 points), including non-farm income-generating activities (5.20 points) is needed to strengthen resilience. Increased nutrition, through more diversified diets (5.56 points) was also identified as a main priority. Access to water sources (6.83 points) and enhanced water management (6.11 points) emerged as key aspect for resilience building.

When disaggregating by type of household head, female-headed households reflect the lowest levels of resilience overall (7.88), while dual-headed households possess the highest levels (8.20 points). It should be noted that the household decision-making category scored highest (14.23/20 points): tasks and decisions are shared equally among household heads or adult decision makers. Despite not always making the decisions, respondents (both male and female) felt they could participate to decision making if they wanted to.

Other assessed aspects have a limited compound resilience score (i.e. between medium and low) and thus need attention to maintain and possibly improve resilience levels:

? Households (7.04/20 points): although there is strong involvement of household members in agriculture activities, the improvement in literacy levels, and access to training for adults (e.g. on agricultural practices) would enhance resilience of the assessed households.

? Agricultural practices (7.07/20 points): from the baseline assessment, it emerged that there is little variation among the agricultural activities carried out at the farm level. Moreover, these are mostly for subsistence and most farmers are not able to produce enough to sell their outputs at local markets.

? Breeding practices (7.29/20 points): limited animal diversity and low number of breed species push resilience scores down. As with crop production, genetic diversity at farm level contributes positively to resilience, particularly in the case of extreme events (e.g. heat waves, droughts) or diseases.

Self-declared priorities reflect households? perception of the most important avenues for the improvement of farm system and household dynamics. Men?s priorities are mainly set on access to land, participation in non-farm income-generating activities, reduction of climate change exposure and improved water access. Women grant more importance to aspects linked to access to information on weather and adaptation, pest management and animal production practices, improved nutrition and reduction in exposure to shocks.

1.b The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects.

Threats, root causes, drivers and barriers

Main environmental threats

Land degradation assessments were conducted in the Save and Runde basins during multi-stakeholder group discussions held in October and November 2019, respectively. In both instances, stakeholders were divided into groups based on the Land-Use Systems (LUSs, namely cropland, grassland and forests) to be assessed. Each group completed assessment matrixes using the simplified methodology provided. Results from these assessments are summarised below.

Runde basin

Based on the land degradation assessment, over 70% of cropland is considered to be affected by soil erosion from water runoff and fertility decline, with reduced organic matter content and acidification being observed. Cropland soil is also physically deteriorated through livestock trampling. Forests are threatened by deforestation[2] (40%) and invasive species, and affected by veldt fires, particularly in the Chipinge (80%), Masvingo (70%) and Bikita (40%) districts. Loss of topsoil and gully erosion were also reported in forested areas. Roughly 40% of grasslands are affected by soil erosion from water runoff and biological degradation. In all LUSs, degradation is considered to be moderate but active and urgent action is needed to mitigate LD processes through appropriate SLM and SFM practices.

Save basin

According to the participatory mapping exercise, over 70% of cropland in the target districts is degraded. Major soil erosion groups in cropland include erosion by water, chemical soil deterioration and water degradation. These forms of degradation constitute 80% of the degradation types in the landscape. Sheet erosion of topsoil is evident in fields with fertile soils being washed away, leading to siltation of water bodies beneath the crop lands, while subsoil with low fertility is left on the fields. Chemical soil deterioration is also evident. Most farmlands are affected by leaching, burning of crop residue and topsoil degradation in the process. Leaching has created salt pans and soil crusting. Furthermore, the pH has been altered by *inter alia* the application of fertilisers. Fluctuations in soil moisture content are also commonly experienced. The high prevalence of drought and high temperatures significantly deplete soil moisture, making the soils prone to water degradation. Overall, land degradation is generally active in cropland. The rate of degradation is moderate for areas affected by soil erosion from water and chemical soil deterioration but high for water degradation.

Forests exist mainly in Chimanimani and Chipinge, while Buhera has patchy forests in the northern part of the district. 30% of forests are affected by soil erosion by water, while 35% of forests undergo biological degradation. Invasive species include *Lantana camara* and *Vernonathura polynathes.* In comparison with Chipinge, Chimanimani has a significant percentage of stable or intact forests with minimal degradation in the central part of the district. Land degradation in forests has generally increased over the years. In some areas, particularly in lowveld, the soils are characteristic of sodic soils and as such are prone to chemical erosion. Land degradation processes in forested areas can be considered active.

In the Save basin, grasslands have shrunk over the years and remaining patches are under threat from overgrazing, veld fires and invasion by alien species such as *Lantana camara*. There are no meaningful grasslands in Buhera. The most common degradation types in grasslands include biological degradation, soil erosion by water, and water degradation in the extent of 40%, 30% and 20%, respectively. Biological degradation is characterised by an increase in bare lands, changes in species richness, decline in biomass, pest increase, bush encroachment and string presence of invasive alien species. This scenario is brought about by veld fires, overgrazing and change of land use to farming. Soil erosion by water is also prevalent and it occurs due to vegetative loss. Rills are evident in grasslands. Some of the grasslands in the basin are wetlands, which suffer water degradation through moisture depletion and pollution. Land degradation in grasslands is generally light to moderate, with a high likelihood to increase.

Root causes and drivers of land degradation at the landscape level

Root causes of land degradation

Unsustainable woodfuel harvesting

At the national level, 96% of rural households depend on fuelwood to meet their energy needs[3]. According to a study on charcoal undertaken by the Forestry Comission in Chipingue, Hwange, Mudzi and Chiredzi, Chipinge had the highest proportion of respondents (88%) involved in the charcoal Value Chain. More than 20% of the respondents revealed that charcoal-making is their major source of livelihood, which is likely to be an underestimation. This study revealed that charcoal is produced in rural and peri-urban areas and transported (mainly at night) to urban markets for use in residential areas. In Chipinge, charcoal is being produced from Zebra Wood (Msasa) *Brachystegia spiciformis*, Mnondo *Julbernardia globiflora* and Umbrella thorn *Acacia karoo* tree species from the lower veldt. This results were confirmed by the SHARP Survey which shows that in the target basins, trees are mainly used for energy and construction (i.e. 63% of households interviewed use on-farm trees to produce charcoal or as fuelwood, while 100% of households interviewed use forest trees for this purpose). All households surveyed use trees to produce fuelwood and charcoal. Fuelwood represents the main energy source, for both household consumption and their agricultural activities (90% and 43% respectively[4]). Other sources of energy, such as electricity, diesel or solar are barely used. Fuelwood is mostly sourced from tree pruning (49%) and collected from forests with unlimited use (33%). Unsustainable fuelwood harvesting is thus a major source of deforestation, and has been identified as a major obstacle to LDN in the national LDN report, which set the objective to ?provide alternatives such as rural electrification, renewable energy sources, expand energy for tobacco programme, provide sustainable fencing materials for fencing arable lands and for brick burning, enforce regulations on tree cutting for enforce regulations on tree cutting for fuel wood sale? to reduce deforestation.

Overgrazing

Grasslands support animal grazing and, as such, their management is critical not only for ecosystem services preservation but also to support community livelihoods. In the Save sub-basin, remaining grassland patches are under threat from overgrazing. Grasslands are communally owned without adequate collective management practices which leaves room for their overexploitation and competition for grazing space without anyone held responsible to undertake corrective measures to rehabilitate and protect grassland. This communal system increases the rate of degradation. Overgrazing also affects protected areas, which, where not properly fenced, and offer ample grazing land for livestock.

Invasive alien species

Invasive alien species also colonise some grazing areas. Plants that were introduced for ornamental purposes and livefencing (e.g. cacti) have reduced the livestock carrying capacity of some communal grazing land, thereby increasing grazing pressure on areas free from such species[5]. Fast-growing exotic tree species, such as pine (*Pinus patula*), wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*), *Lantana camara*, strawberry guava (*Psidium cattleianum*), guava (*Psidium guajava*), gum trees (eucalypts), *Jacaranda mimosifolia*,

white cedar (*Melia azedarach*) and cypress are becoming invasive in some parts of the Miombo woodlands including streambanks[6].

Wildfires

According to studies conducted by EMA between 2011 and 2017, at the national level, an estimated one million hectares of land are affected by fire annually, with a generally upward[7] trend since 2000. In the Save and Runde sub-basins9, fires burnt on average 34,354 ha per year between 2000 and 2020, which corresponds to 1.8% of the targeted area[8]. Uncontrolled fires are more common in resettlement areas due to slash-and-burn land clearance for crop cultivation and lack of firebreaks. Fires are a major cause of land degradation in both basins, particularly for grasslands and forests. In the Chipinge district for example, the primary cause of forest degradation is veldt fires, which mainly affect the high veld areas. Major causes of fires are land preparation, hunting, honey harvesting and arson. An impact of wildfires is that, by removing plants and litter, they leave bare soil prone to erosion.

Deforestation for expansion of agricultural land

In the Save basin, tree cover has declined by 4.9% on average between 1995 and 2015. Some districts such as Chipingue are more affected by deforestation than others. In the Runde basin, average tree cover loss is relatively limited, with a decline of 1.9 % between 1995 and 2015[9].

Besides charcoal and firewood harvesting, conversion to arable land is a primary cause of deforestation. The limited agricultural productivity in the target areas leads farmers to increase their production by expanding arable land at the expense of forests. Inappropriate agricultural practices limit crop yields, leading in turn to a need for additional land to compensate for the lack of productivity. Such inadequate practices include the use of maize species unsuited to dry conditions, the cultivation of groundnuts in unfit dry areas, limited intercropping with nitrogen-fixing legumes (e.g. cowpeas), constrained use of chemical fertilisers and manure, and limited implementation of integrated pest management.

Cultivation on riverbanks

Cultivation on riverbanks ? with 209 km of stream banks concerned in the eight target districts ? leads to tree cutting and erosion of the riverbanks, which, combined with soil erosion from runoff, increases siltation in rivers. A consequence is the further decrease in water quality and water availability for both household consumption and agricultural use.

In the Runde basin, farmers rely on irrigation facilities (e.g. Mushandike Irrigation Scheme) for their cropping because rainfall patterns are usually not adequate. However, in 2019, the canals supplying irrigation water were blocked from siltation, irrigation was insufficient and low agricultural yields were experienced.

Water degradation affects cropland, grassland and forests. In cropland, the strong prevalence of drought and high temperatures significantly deplete soil moisture, making the soils susceptible to water degradation.

Mining

Illegal mining ? e.g. gold, chrome, coal and sand ? is one of the major non-farm income-generating

activities practiced by local communities in the target areas. Unlike legal mines, illegal mines have no environmental management plans. Approximately 9,496 ha are affected by illegal mining country-wide, and the Government of Zimbabwe has set a national objective[10] to ?enforce laws and regulations, embark on awareness programmes targeting illegal miners and rehabilitate approximately 3,800 hectares affected by illegal mining by 2030?. Currently, penalties for illegal mining are so low that offenders often opt to pay the fines and return to illegal mining activities[11].

Among target districts, illegal mining primarily affects Chipinge (108 ha), Masvingo (80 ha), Chivi (70 ha), Shurugwi (35 ha) and Chimanimani (22 ha)[12]. Impacts of mining on land include reduction in tree cover, soil erosion, landslides and siltation of water bodies. Increased use of mercury, iron and cyanide to process ore pollute water courses, disturb aquatic biodiversity and affect communities? sources of livelihoods and health. Open-cast mining (e.g. chrome and coal in the Midlands) has resulted in scarring of the landscapes and changes to habitats.

RDCs issue mining permits for non-minerals[13]. Desilting permits in rivers are currently provided in the target area, generating an activity that creates a lot of damages, including in an Important Bird Area at the Save-Runde Junction. Sand extraction for construction is another factor contributing to land degradation.

Climate variability and vulnerability in the targeted sub-basins

Climate change effects are evident in the targeted sub-basins with increased incidences of crop and livestock pests and diseases, such as the recent outbreaks of fall army worm and *Tuta absoluta* outbreaks. Based on the SHARP surveys undertaken during the PPG phase, in the last 3 years, most of the sampled households in the survey area (363 households) have experienced unexpected climate shocks such as severe droughts, typhoons and extreme heat. In Runde, the population has also experienced extreme heat followed by strong winds. These climate shocks have had several negative impacts: the failure of crops, food insecurity, productivity loss and land erosion.

Drivers of land degradation

Population growth

Rapid population growth puts a strain on natural resources. In the target area, population grew by 39% in the last two decades, reaching an anticipated total of 2,146,192 in 2020. The growing human population leads to a greater demand and pressure on natural resources, which result in land degradation. Additional pressures are put on ecosystems through expansion of arable land, overgrazing, unsustainable harvesting of fuelwood and increased risks of wildfires.

Widespread poverty

Poverty affects over two-thirds of the households in the targeted districts with a high prevalence of subsistence livelihoods heavily dependent on local natural resources ? such as fuelwood, food, non-food and medicinal forest products, grazing lands, and freshwater. Without access to these inputs, exposure to climate-related or economic shocks leads to extreme hardships. In the Manicaland province in particular, target districts of Buhera and Chimanimani have high food insecurity rates[14] estimated[15] between 25 and 28%.

Climate change

Zimbabwe is located in the semi-arid belt of southern Africa, characterised by limited rainfall as well as unreliable rainfall and temperature variations, and its reliance on rain-fed agriculture and other climate-sensitive livelihoods options[16]. Projections anticipate that the climate in Zimbabwe will generally become warmer with more erratic rainfall patterns. By 2050, an increase in mean temperature across all provinces by at least 1.8?C is expected, as well as a reduction of total seasonal rainfall (October?March) by ~14% (from ~572 mm/season to ~494 mm/season)[17].

Rainfall projections exhibit both considerable spatial and temporal variability, with: i) shifts in the onset of rains; ii) increases in the frequency and intensity of heavy rainfall events; iii) an increase in the proportion of low rainfall years: iv) decreases in low intensity rainfall events; and v) increases in the frequency and intensity of mid-season dry spells[18]. Extreme weather events, namely tropical cyclones and droughts are also anticipated to increase in frequency and intensity[19].

According to Zimbabwe Meteorological Service, daily minimum temperatures have risen by approximately 2.6?C over the last century while daily maximum temperatures have risen by 2?C. Changes in climate have already resulted in more arid conditions for agricultural production, which have shifted the spatial boundaries of Zimbabwe?s five main agro-ecological zones. The spatial distribution of average rainfall was the basis of the classification of Zimbabwe into distinct agro-ecological zones; because of the effects of climate change, the current zones defined in the 1960s have become irrelevant and can no longer be used to plan for agricultural investment.

Two studies by the Department of Geography and Environmental Science at the University of Zimbabwe[20],[21][21] developed best and worst-case regional climate change scenarios for the years 2020, 2050 and 2080 using CSIRO and HADLEY Global Climate Models. These studies demonstrate that the projected climate impacts are regionally differentiated and likely to impact several sectors negatively.

Overall, warming trends and water stress caused by rainfall variability are likely to generally increase the vulnerability of communal agricultural land. In Masvingo and other south-eastern and south-western parts of the country, sorghum and maize will become increasingly vulnerable to climate change while cotton will become less vulnerable. Climate projections for Chipinge show that moderate, severe and extreme droughts are highly likely in January to March in 2 out of every 10 years. Droughts extending for 3, 6, 12 and 24 months tend to re-occur at 2 to 4-year intervals, whereas 48 month-long droughts recur in intervals of 8 to 16 years. Downscaled future climate change projections show an increase in surface annual temperatures of 1.5 to 3.5?C by 2046-2065 across the district.

In Manicaland and other eastern and north-eastern parts of the country, maize, sorghum and cotton will become less vulnerable. These parts of the country are predicted to experience excesses in surface water while the western and southern parts of Zimbabwe are projected to experience a drying up. The El-Ni?o weather phenomenon of 2015/16 highlighted the need to build resilience to weather-related shocks, as agricultural production declined by 5%, leaving 2.8 million people food-insecure.

Barriers:

Under the current baseline scenario, land degradation processes in the Miombo and Mopane woodlands of Zimbabwe will continue to be addressed in isolation by different sectors and associated investments, despite a strong commitment from the Government and development partners towards supporting LDN activities. The risk of overlap and use of maladapted practices will remain, with limited opportunities for knowledge sharing, synergy and complementarity. Without a comprehensive approach that involves all sectors that contribute to the degradation of the targeted basins, efforts to reduce degradation will not succeed, food insecurity is likely to increase, and rural livelihoods will be threatened.

Six main barriers stand in the way of realising the development objective of the project, namely to halt and reverse negative trends of land and forest degradation, and enhance climate resilience of degraded areas of Miombo and Mopane woodlands in the Save and Runde basins by applying holistic and integrated land and forest management approaches in support of LDN.

Component 1: Strengthening the enabling environment for the integrated management of natural resources at the national and landscape levels

Barrier 1: Weak governance framework for the integrated cross-sectoral, landscape-level management of land, water, biodiversity and forest resources

Absence of cross-sectoral planning at the landscape level

Cross-sectoral structures are only present at the decentralised level: VIDCOs at village level, RDCs for the districts and Provincial Development committee at provincial level. Key ministries for land-use planning are represented in these structures. However, at the central level, governmental structures are sectoral - the only relevant exception would be the recently established LDN Technical Working Group - and there is no landscape-level, cross-sectoral governance platform in the Save and Runde basins. The LDN Technical Working Group established to set up the LDN targets is still in place and is supposed to oversee LDN achievement. However, it currently functions as a Task Force with representation from different ministries that meets on a need basis. It does not meet regularly. It is supposed to be scale down to RDDCs as they are supposed to mainstream LDN and each sectoral ministry should downscale the LDN approach to their district-level structure.

The lack of cross-sectoral land-use planning has practical implications on coordination at the local level. Project implementation remains largely siloed, even for the two key implementing agencies (namely, EMA and FC), with no joint planning and implementation at district level. Agritex extension officers are often involved in the projects of other agencies because of their ground presence in the wards, but they also implement their own projects independently of other agencies, regardless of landscape-level connectivity and spill-over effects of agricultural practices on other environmental systems. There is no clear coordination between Agritex and the respective offices of the RDC Natural Resources Officers, EMA and the FC at provincial, district or ward level. This hampers the possibility to design and implement cross-sectoral, integrated solutions to land degradation issues. For example, agricultural practices such as stream-bank cultivation were highlighted as major challenges across all RDCs, collective solutions between EMA, the FC, ZINWA and Agritex are needed but there is no

platform to take the lead and coordinate these interventions. The lack of consolidated planning process within and across the districts is thus a key barrier to the achievement of LDN objectives. In Zaka, for example, CARE International has supported the development of consolidated gardens and an inventory of soil loss, but this process has not been supported by public authorities, who have shown limited ownership of these interventions. While the Zaka RDC has the skills to map and plan interventions, it does not have the financial and technical resources to implement recommended activities. Coordination between sectors, and between government and non-government institutions is needed to tackle land degradation issue in an efficient manner. This is further hindered by the fact that RDCs often use outdated land-use plans that, in some cases, have outlived their span by over two decades which prevents local authorities from playing a leading role in the coordination of natural resource management.

Land-Use planning is tied up to district administrative boundaries. Each RDC develops it?s 5-year District Strategic Plan and Action Plans but the documents are not easily shared which reduces the opportunity for experience sharing and cooperation. There is insufficient collaboration and information exchange between districts, this includes neighbouring RDCs. The opportunity to develop trans-district master plans to guide the development of harmonised RDCs under the RTCPA are rarely used. As a result, trans-district planning, monitoring and enforcement for shared resources is difficult. For example, stakeholders in Zaka noted that the northern part of their district was neglected and not properly managed because of a lack of coordinated planning with Bikita and Masvingo districts. Furthermore, national planning targets linked to the management of natural resources (e.g. LDN, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), Transitional Stabilisation Programme, National Climate Change Response Strategy, Intended Nationally Determined Contribution - INDC, National Adaptation Plan - NAP) remain mostly at the national level ? even though some targets are broadly-defined at the sub-national level, such as reaching LDN in the Chivi and Chipinge districts by 2030. The absence of downscaling at the district and provincial levels prevents coherent development planning by decentralised government institutions.

Inadequate policy framework

Based on the rapid assessment undertaken during the PPG phase, the level of mainstreaming of LDN interventions into national sectoral policies is limited and the policy framework contains several gaps that hinder the sustainable management of natural resources under the LDN approach. In addition to the previously discussed overlap between the Communal Land Forest Produce Act and the Communal Land Act, the absence of forest certification standards in Zimbabwe is a significant gap for the implementation of SFM practices. The forest plantations? industry produced a sustainable forest plantation management standard in 2012, which is housed under Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ). The standard is not in use because it is not housed within the FC, the mandated forestry authority in Zimbabwe. A comprehensive national forest standard which includes all forms of forests, from plantation to indigenous forests (including gazetted, state, communal, and private forests) is lacking to guide SFM. Beyond forests, certification standards are also needed for crop and livestock production to support the use of sustainable practices and increase access of farmers to official, high-value markets. Currently, charcoal production is illegal. The absence of statutory instrument to enable sustainable charcoal production prevents the investigation of this opportunity to address deforestation

issues. Another aspect where the policy framework does not fully support SLM is the absence of national policies or provisions in the National Seed Law to guide and regulate local seed production is a major gap for the implementation of SLM. The current National Seed Law and its Distinct, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) seed requirements are not in favour of local seed production by farmers. As a result, farmers rely on government supply, private sector or unregulated low-quality seeds that are often climate sensitive, pest sensitive, illadapted to local conditions and/or unaffordable. Finally, unclear access rights and harvesting regulation for common resources such as NTFPs creates a high risk of overharvesting. This prevents local communities from investing in these livelihoods because of a high level of uncertainty on the future of this source of livelihood. NTFP?s harvesting management plans are lacking as well as adequate allocation and control of permits to transform current NTFP Value Chains into sustainable income opportunities.

Lack of coordination across regulatory frameworks and enforcement authorities

Across the targeted sub-basins, there is a lack of harmonisation of relevant Acts, policies and by-laws to enable the smooth implementation of SFM and SLM activities. For example, an independent assessment of EMA Act showed that the Act does not clearly define the roles and responsibilities of sectorial ministries[22][22]. A significant illustration is that the Act places the ownership of certain resources such as mining rights under separate laws. The review notes that this lack of definition of roles and responsibilities may lead to institutional conflicts and competition in the implementation and enforcement of the rules and regulations to address land degradation issues[23][23]. An example is the grey area in the overlap between the Communal Land Forest Produce Act and the Communal Land Act: while the former allows for the collection of forest products on communal land only as a by-result of land clearing for settlement of cultivation purposes, the latter authorises the collection of forest products as an activity for itself. The existence of multiple frameworks governing land and natural resources often results in duplication of efforts and creates silos, leading agencies to develop their own programme to remain viable. The budgeting processes that are also specific to each sector had to the difficulty to address land degradation issues in a collaborative manner. This generates confusion and, at times, loss of opportunities for the stakeholders[24][24].

While Zimbabwe?s environmental laws are often considered as strict on paper, enforcement is often insufficient. During PPG consultations, stakeholders noted that the fines for environmental offenses are often not deterrent enough and do not disincentivise recidivism. This is particularly the case for illegal wood harvesting or mining[25][25], which EMA and local authorities do not have the capacity to address themselves.

Traditional leaders are key in the governance and the regulation of natural resources and the allocation of land. These leaders have customarily been responsible for the management of sacred sites as well as the use of some specific plant species. Some traditional leaders are concerned that formal institutions

have taken away some of these rights[26][26]. For example, some chiefs feel like they are no longer custodians of the natural resources within their jurisdiction while their preferred mode of governance would be to retain full control and monitoring over natural resources within their jurisdiction, with technical advice and support from relevant institutions[27][27]. During the Multi-Stakeholders Group (MSG) workshop held in the Save basin, traditional leaders also reported that they are limited by the provisions of the Traditional Leaders Act to fine environmental offenders. In the Shurugwi district for example, there are reported cases of lack of coordination and cooperation between elected officials and traditional leaders, where the latter refuse to be fined for alleged environmental offenses by members of the Environmental Sub-Committees. Several traditional leaders in Chipinge also shared that they were no longer enthusiastic about enforcing environmental rules because offenders were not receiving punitive sentences in law courts. The responsibility of traditional leaders in law enforcement and in the protection of natural resources is therefore unclear. Overlapping tiers of power are a barrier to the local enforcement of environmental regulations.

Enforcement of environmental regulations at the local level is another area that is lacking consistency, with regulations sometimes not being implemented systematically, or interpreted differently across local contexts. For example, it was noted that traditional leaders do not apply environmental regulations in a consistent manner, especially in some areas close to urban zones or wetlands, where, under the pressure from urban expansion and sometimes for political motivations, traditional leaders have embarked on illegal land demarcations[28][28]. In addition, the response of traditional leaders to by-laws enforcement is also not consistent across local contexts, suggesting the need for learning across districts and chiefdoms.

Another example of inefficient law enforcement at the local level is the punishment of an offence such as starting a veldt fire, which may be handled by EMA or the FC, according to different fine structures. The lack of clarity on the governance and enforcement of some of the laws sometimes generates conflicting situations between the two institutions[29][29].

Top-down approach for the management of natural resources with limited involvement of local communities

A review of the EMA Act shows that environmental policy formulation does not include the wider participation of the local communities. Traditional leaders reportedly consider that the Act does not provide them with adequate control over traditional sites, technical advice and support from relevant institutions[30][30]. Rural communities generally perceive rules and regulations as imposed from the top[31][31] despite the policy recommendations regarding community consultations (see Section 1.2). Local communities can however participate in the management of the natural resources through

Environmental Sub-Committees, fire committees and Catchment Councils[32][32]. Participation to groups for the management of natural resources is limited in the targeted sub-basins based on the SHARP assessment where only 21% of households take part to crop production groups and less than 2% on forest management, livestock production and water management groups.

While official procedures theoretically make provision for community involvement in environmental management, the current processes do not allow adequate community participation. For example, once environmental action plans are approved by the RDC, the local authority is then required to make them available for public scrutiny. While this procedure provides communities with an opportunity to voice comments on draft environmental plans, it does not provide a broad-based mechanism to allow wider community participation in the formulation of plans, as most community members will not have access to notices unless they visit RDC offices.

Several efforts have been made in Zimbabwe to enable communities to manage communal lands effectively. These include efforts to strengthen existing Forest and Farm Producer Organisations (FFPOs), initiatives to empower less privileged groups (e.g. youth and women)[33][33], and the integration of local communities into Value Chains not only as harvesters but also in value-adding processes. Despite these initiatives, communities do not have adequate technical skills and official rights to manage resources on communal land such as woodlots and grazing lands.

Overall, there is limited involvement of local communities in policy planning process and government programme implementation. Communities are often consulted as part of a compliance mechanism rather than as an empowering and ownership process. The results of the SHARP Survey also show that only 18% of respondents declared being aware of any governmental policies or programmes on climate change or sustainable agriculture. Among these, a marginal share of households (19%, four men and six women) participated in such programmes. The main benefits received by the households who were involved in government programmes included training (60%), information on sustainable practices (20%) and cash transfers (20%).

Barrier 2: Limited capacity of governmental institutions and extension services to prioritise, plan and implement SFM and SLM interventions across relevant sectors and scales

Limited technical capacity and access to information for informed land-use planning

The PPG assessment shows that, across the Save and Runde basins, there is a shortage of technical capacity on SFM and SLM principles and practices within public institutions. A capacity gap that is particularly detrimental to sustainable land management is the capacity to select best agricultural practices adapted to the different agro-ecological zones, and current and future climate conditions at the local level. In light of the shifting of agro-ecological zones[34][34], there is need to train farmers and to inform local planning processes to adapt to these changes. Such shifts in agro-ecological zones are expected to disrupt agricultural production and threaten agricultural livelihoods, unless farmers can be

trained in alternative, climate-smart farming methods. This technical capacity gap hinders the efficiency and sustainability of agricultural development programmes and projects. For example, several input schemes are under implementation such as the Presidential Input and Support Scheme but none of these are tied to sustainable farming methods. In addition, there is limited access to climatic information. In the targeted sub-basin according to the SHARP assessment, only 37% of producers in both Save and Runde have access to weather forecasts. 23% had access to information on adaptation practices (of which 24% are men and 22% are women) and 18% on sustainable resource management (38% are men and 51% are women). For the latter, environmental management agencies, extension workers and traditional leaders constitute the main sources of this information.

The knowledge of the situation on the ground regarding the extent of land degradation and land-use shift remains very limited which hinders the LDN process. The LDN target-setting report was mainly prepared based on global default data and has not been ground truthed. Access to national data and the generation thereof for informed decision making is a limiting factor for EMA to undertake its role under the LDN process, including to address issues related to invasive alien species, erosion, veldt fire, illegal mining, and wetland degradation (e.g. knowledge on soil erosion, on wetlands health). Similarly, Zimbabwe has not yet developed a robust information management system with clear guidelines to monitor its forest and rangeland resources and generate up-to-date and accurate data on these resources. Participatory assessment of drivers of degradation are also lacking to inform the management of forest resources by the FC. Similarly, the absence of species inventory and the limited knowledge on NTFP resources such as the number of wild fruit trees, their productivity and sustainable harvesting rates prevent the development and implementation of sustainable management plan thereby risking the overexploitation of forest resources.

Limited support on the ground from extension services

Technical support for the adoption of alternative livelihoods at the local level is similarly largely insufficient and rely mostly on Agritex, which are the only sectoral government institutions with extension services that reach the local level. Agritex is often used as a technical service provider to back-up NGO-funded projects. All private sector agro-service companies work with Agritex when extending their commercial services to agricultural producers. This heavy reliance on Agritex is both an asset and a weakness, as skills transfer to farmers intrinsically depend on the capacity and availability of Agritex?s extension services. NTFP companies run by NGOs or the private sector would sometimes recruit among Agritex extension workers, thereby creating a competition for scarce human resources with public extension services.

Under its mandate, Agritex is in charge of providing farmers with technical backup and advice on agricultural technologies. Agritex mobilises farmers, helps to organise them so they can receive project support and provides advisory services to both project staff and farmers. To do so, Agritex mainly uses the FFS approach. Several master trainers are present at the central level and several FFSs have been established. However, this approach has been very localised and mainly restricted to the management of irrigation schemes. There are no national guidelines for FFS so most initiatives refer to FAO guidance. The lack of structured programmes for master trainers impedes the implementation of full, coherent training at FFS level. Because of the absence of a national guidelines for FFS, training is not always provided during the full season, nor are agricultural inputs systematically provided to support

demonstrations. Furthermore, there is no FFS network at local or national levels, and Zimbabwean FFS initiatives are usually not connected to the existing regional FFS network. Finally, it should be noted that the FFS model is mostly promoted by Agritex in collaboration with NGOs under local projects, which hampers the dissemination of integrated agro-silvo-pastoral practices. The absence of EMA and FC extension services at the ward level makes the establishment of FFSs/APFSs challenging at the local level.

The monitoring of natural resources is by default mainly restricted to CSOs, NGOs and private companies with the support of local authorities. Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources (SAFIRE) and Bayoba, for example, are more visible actors in the target landscapes than EMA and the FC. In addition, the PPG assessment also show that neither EMA nor the FC have ongoing projects promoting value-addition processes or creating incentives for forest or land conservation.

Component 2: Demonstrating, implementing, and scaling up and out SLM and SFM good practices in Save and Runde basins

Barrier 3: Limited community technical capacity, knowledge, resources and incentives to adopt alternative livelihood opportunities based on the sustainable use of land and forest resources

Limited community awareness on the value of ecosystem services and on the opportunities to adopt improved practices to better their livelihoods

One of the factors responsible for the limited efforts and willingness to protect forest resources is the existing awareness gaps on the good and services provided by natural ecosystems such as forests. Information on the value and roles of forests and rangelands is not readily available to communities. These resources are often considered ?God-given? and, as such, a common good that will be there forever. Education curricula across the board, primary to tertiary level are largely silent on the importance of forestry as a major economic sector which prevents a shift in behaviour from the youth. There is strong need for education, awareness raising and information dissemination in this respect.

Limited awareness and technical knowledge of local communities lead to the low uptake of efficient practices. As previously mentioned, rural communities generally perceive rules and regulations as imposed from the top based on the government?s will rather than as practice to be adopted for their own benefit[35][35]. A common case across Zimbabwe is the refusal by communities to practice conservation works, which are largely perceived as colonial[36][36] (forced labour) and used to be accompanied by compulsory destocking. Another example is that, while contour ridges serve as an effective soil conservation tool in mountainous regions[37][37], their uptake and use are minimal due to the historical imposition of such practices on local communities[38][38] without participatory planning process.

The importance of the information barrier is reflected in the scarce use of sustainable water and land management among surveyed households. Only about half the households reporting water availability decline have used at least one practice or technique to preserve the resource in the last 12 months (55% in Save and 43% in Runde), of which water retention ditches (79%) and water harvesting (48%) are the main water conservation techniques used. Similarly, the uptake of soil improvement practices is insufficient. For example, only 6% of farmers use nitrogen-fixing legumes in Runde and none reported this practice in Save. Monocropping and tillage remain widely used. Limited access to knowledge on best production practices also leads to low production in small livestock such as poultry. Bird management and feeding regimes are not undertaken adequately and free-range indigenous chickens often have a mortality rate of more than 50%.

Limited sustainable livelihoods? options based on sustainable use of natural resources (land and forest) due to the underdevelopment of drylands Value Chains

Based on the PPG assessments, communities within the target landscapes continue to focus mainly on maize and other climate-sensitive crops. Crop diversification and the adoption of more resilient crops is hindered by the limited availability of information on the economic potential of some Value Chains, both agricultural (e.g. sorghum or millets, cowpeas, groundnuts, indigenous poultry) and forest-related (wild fruits such as baobab, marula, wild melon and sour plums; honey etc.). Most households have produced or collected such resources on particular occasions, such as for household food and nutrition security during lean periods, during agricultural off-seasons and for special socio-cultural opportunities ? but without further consideration for their economic potential. A major barrier to the diversification of production system to strengthen the resilience of communities? sources of income is the availability of evidence base on the potential of new products and practices in generated sustainable income and the limited support from extension services and availability of production guidelines. The low diversity of production systems and access to sustainable livelihoods pushes communities to turn to unsustainable and/or illegal sources of income such as fuelwood harvesting and selling, illegal mining, baobab debarking or uncontrolled honey harvesting to generate income in between agricultural seasons.

Several barriers to the development of sustainable Value Chains have been identified during the PPG assessments. These barriers include the limited linkage between processors and distributors (generally from the private sector) and producers.

Limited market skills and entrepreneurship: In the Save and Runde basins, smallholder producers are poorly organised and coordinated, which prevents them from aggregating marketable volumes that would enable them to access formal markets or sell to large resellers. Some producer groups exist, but they are generally mostly focused on production, without taking advantage of economies of scale from group marketing. It was also observed that with producer groups formed on the occasion of development projects often collapse after project termination, since these groups were not linked with national-level producer associations for continued support. There is a lack of training opportunities for producers on entrepreneurship, record keeping and business management. Capacity gaps on these subjects are common among extension officers who can therefore not provide adequate training.

The limited clustering of producers into strong organisation prevents them from attracting private sector partners. Large companies prefer to collect commodities in rural areas if marketable volumes

have been bulked, instead of dealing with small, individual volumes. Poor marketing cooperation leaves producers having to transport their own produce to informal markets, usually located in provincial towns, or to sell their products to *makoronyera* /brokers for a discounted price. The absence of commodity storage facilities where producers can bulk their produce and hold commodities until prices rise after the main season as prices is another marketing barrier.

In addition to not being backed by strong cooperatives, producers at the landscape level have insufficient access to market information, which further weakens their bargaining power when dealing with local buyers. This is further compounded by the disjoint between producer groups or individual producers at the landscape level and national producer organisations, which would be preferred providers of market information.

Limited access to agricultural inputs: The assessment found that most government seed production focused on supplying hybrid maize rather small grain or groundnuts varieties. Local seed production processes were not mentioned and stock is likely very low. Most smallholder farmers in the two basins use retained seeds which leads to low productivity. There are few existing Community Seed Banks (CSBs) and the currently National Seed Law which includes the DUS seed requirements hinders the recognition and registration of farmer varieties.

The PPG assessment indicated that most smallholder farmers have limited access to inputs due to the fact that the local agro-dealers are most of the time poorly stocked with agricultural inputs, especially certified seed and fertilisers. Rural agro-dealers usually have no access to short-term finance that would enable them to buy stock, and agro-input manufacturers do not trust dealers enough to give them goods on consignment. In most cases, agro-dealers stock fast-moving inputs, especially for maize, rather than supplying seeds for small grains and groundnuts. Agro-dealers from the two target basins indicated that such inputs are not fast-moving enough, and since farmers mostly use locally-available resources, they did not see why they should stock them.

Regarding small livestock, limited research has been conducted on indigenous poultry in recent years. To meet an increasing demand for free-range indigenous poultry, smallholders thus have to rely on expensive, imported breeds with limited traceability. This is limiting production, increasing costs and leading to low yields.

Limited access to adequate harvesting equipment, local processing equipment and facilities: The most suitable crops for the semi-arid to arid landscapes of the Save and Runde basins are small grains and groundnuts. However, individual processing of these crops is cumbersome and labour intensive, and access to processing technologies (equipment to thrash small grains, shell groundnuts and crack nuts) is low, which deters farmers and harvesters who would rather invest time and effort in ill-suited maize production. Limited access to appropriate technology and infrastructure constrains the addition of value to raw commodities at local level, and thus provide limited income to producers. Furthermore, poor post-harvest handling and storage practices and conditions affects product quality. Similarly, most beekeepers still use traditional methods for production and harvesting, which leads to low yields. Modern beehives are expensive, and so are beekeeping kits. Companies who buy honey would also supply beekeeping equipment and modern hives, but they are usually located in Harare. Poultry producers also have limited access to hatching technology, as they are often based in remote rural

areas, and services in town are expensive. The inadequate access to quality assurance services for the farming products, and lack of quality standards and certifications also limits access to formal and premium markets.

Limited access to financial opportunities to diversify livelihoods options

There are few opportunities for farmers to apply to financial support to overcome the identified barriers and improve their livelihoods to become more resilient. Existing institutions (e.g. Savings and Credit Cooperative Society ? SACCOS, CBZ Holdings Limited, AgriBank) provide micro-loans without adequate support for the adoption of best farming practices that are climate resilient. This hinders land-users the use financial opportunities to sustainably improve their livelihoods. As a result, farmers have limited alternatives to continuing the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources despite the high level of uncertainty regarding the longevity of their sources of income.

Private finance is not leveraged at scale to support LDN targets and the development of commodity-based Value Chains. The lack of readily-available information to assess the profitability of given Value Chains prevent the government and NGOs from leveraging private sector investments to increase financial opportunities for the adoption of SLM and SFM practices under the LDN approach. Additional barriers to the contribution of the private sector to LDN are: i) a limited understanding and mapping of existing opportunities for private sector involvement in the LDN process in Zimbabwe; ii) the lack of awareness by private financial organisations on the LDN process and benefits; iii) the absence of clear Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) guidelines for the private sector; and iv) the absence of a national forum to discuss private finance for LDN.

No access to sustainable sources of energy, leading to increased demand of unsustainably-harvested fuelwood

The PPG studies found that communities in target basins are heavily dependent on fuelwood harvested in unmanaged forests, both for household use and selling. In addition, power cuts in business centres and urban areas have contributed to increase the demand for fuelwood and charcoal in recent years. A new market has thus emerged, which provides rural communities (esp. youth) with opportunities to earn a quick income by selling fuelwood in urban centres ? despite the responsibility of traditional leaders to control access to communal forests. With poor structuration of communities into FFPOs, local governance for the management of wood resources is challenging across the target basins, and was found to be particularly weak in the districts of Chipinge, Buhera, Chivi and Shurugwi. In the Save and Runde basins, limited efforts have been put towards energy-saving technologies ? such as improved cookstoves ? to limit the volume of fuelwood required per year per household, and decrease pressure on forest ecosystems, because charcoal production remain illegal.

<u>Component 3: Effective knowledge management, monitoring, and linkages with the DSL IP</u>

Barrier 4: Insufficient knowledge availability and knowledge sharing on successful models for SLM and SFM to guide land-use planning, absence of harmonised approach to monitor the effect of improved practices for SLM and SFM, and limited transboundary collaboration

At regional level, few opportunities for knowledge sharing and joint management of transboundary environmental issues are identified or seized by government institutions such as EMA and Forestry Commission. This is in spite of the existence of several relevant knowledge hubs and regional agreements at the regional level, such as Southern African Development Community Great Green Wall Initiative (SADC GGWI), the Miombo Network, ZAMCOM and the Science and Policy Interface established by the GEF-funded Integrated Approach Pilot Food Security Programme.

There currently exist no collaborative platforms to share successful SLM and SFM models in Zimbabwe. There is very limited evidence base on SFM and SLM initiatives adapted to the local context to address the identified land degradation challenges in the targeted sub-basins. This prevents the development of efficient District Strategic Plans and limits the ability of the RDC to support the sustainable management of natural resources within the district. Indeed, without a full picture of the resource availability, degradation issues and solutions for sustainable exploitation, monitoring activities cannot take place. As an example, the management of NTFPs exploitation by local authorities is often limited to the issuance of permits rather than to the implementation of a management plan to enable their sustainable exploitation.

Knowledge sharing at the national level between government institutions involved in natural resources management is not adequate to support the efficient and harmonised management of natural resources. This is firstly because there is no mechanism in place to systematically monitor, evaluate and compile the results and lessons learned from past and on-going projects. This prevents to build an evidence base on the good practices for natural resources management. Secondly, the absence of a centralised, publicly-available information database prevents the efficient and timely sharing of information. This prevents the adoption of best SLM and SFM practices across sectors and scales.

Similarly, there is insufficient knowledge sharing on good practices at local level. Most FFPOs surveyed during the PPG phase were not aware of initiatives implemented in neighbouring districts. The lack of information exchange across projects is notably apparent in Manicaland, for instance when comparing the technologies used by the Gudyanga Baobab and Bayoba projects. The Bayoba project resorts to state-of-the-art but locally developed tools for baobab crushing and pulp extraction, which could have been shared with the Gudyanga project ? especially since both interventions are only 30 km apart. In addition, the Gudyanga project could have benefitted from experience acquired under the Bayoba project on how to process baobab products to facilitate access international markets. The PPG consultations show that there is a strong potential for FFPOs to learn from each other to better inform landscape restoration projects but this potential is unexploited.

There is limited knowledge on the transboundary drivers of land degradation. It is believed that charcoal circulates between Mozambique to Zimbabwe but there is limited knowledge on the quantity, the provenance of the supply and demand, and the impact it has on forest resources. Other transboundary issues include *inter alia* veldt fires, harvesting and selling of veldt products across the borders, and the management of water catchments. Very little is known on these land degradation drivers that affect the Miombo and Mopane woodlands in Save and Runde Catchment.

<u>Basline situation:</u>

Component 1: strengthening the enabling environment for the intergrated management of natural resources at the national and landscape levels

Progress regarding the LDN process in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe completed the LDN target setting programme in 2018 and established the national LDN Technical Working Group (TWG). However, the mainstreaming of LDN into sectoral strategies has been limited so far, and cross-sectoral coordination of LDN actions is still minimal. At the national level, the only relevant cross-sectoral institution is the national LDN TWG established in 2018 with 26 members from various governmental and non-governmental sectors. The national LDN TWG is mandated to monitor progress towards the LDN targets and provide guidance on this process. Yet, the national LDN TWG currently only meets on an *ad hoc* basis, without a clear agenda or workplan across sessions. In addition, as highlighted in the barrier section, the knowledge available is insufficient to guide efficient LDN processes as the assessment was limited to spatial data that was not yet ground truthed(validated). Existing data is not centralised and therefore difficult to share and make readily accessible across sectors and scales.

Institutional structures, current planning processes and previous experience in cross-sectoral planning
While institutional structures at the national level are largely sector-specific, institutions from the provincial level and below have cross-sectoral mandates. This is notably the case of Provincial Development Committees, RDCs and VDCs. However, these are limited to administrative boundaries, there is currently no landscape-level, cross-sectoral governance platform in the Save or Runde basins. RDCs are the main local-level authorities suitable for joint planning and overall accountability for the implementation and monitoring of on-the-ground LDN interventions aiming at avoiding, reducing and reversing land degradation. However, RDCs do not have specific funding allocated for natural resource management, and, as of yet, they are not able to fulfil their role of facilitating cross-sectoral coordination between sector-specific institutions. Rather, they most often serve as a reporting platform for activities conducted in the jurisdiction. In addition, RDCs are not structured based on district priorities, and their team tends to fluctuate based on the number of projects active at a given time. Lastly, as identified under the barrier analysis, community involvement by local authorities in decision-making, land-use planning, policy planning processes, and in the design and implementation of government programmes is generally insufficient. This prevent community ownership of the government investments and presents a risk for their sustainability.

There is currently no Integrated Land-Use Plan (ILUP) in the targeted area. The only existing landscape-level management plan are the catchment management plans that focus on water resources. There is no development plan for any of the three targeted provinces. Except for a Management Plan for the Save Valley Conservancy that was developed in 2006, existing cross-sectoral plans are limited to 5-year District Strategic Plan and Action Plan developed by each of the 8 districts. There are no development plans at the provincial level. At the ward level, LEAPs are expected to be developed with support from EMA for the cross-sectoral management of environmental matters at the local level. However, these plans have not yet been developed in the targeted sub-basins. Training would be needed at ward level to support the development of these plans but EMA currently lacks capacity to do

so. Previous efforts in establishing cross-sectoral and/or cross-level coordination for natural resources management, and in implementing participatory process with local communities have however previously been undertaken and will be built on under the GEF7 project:

? EMA?s experience with the establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform including ward, district and provincial institutions from all sectors in the Chireya micro-basin under the GEF-funded project Hwange Sanyati Biological Corridor (HSBC) will be built on; and

? the cross-sectoral platform set up by the FC for the development of a Management Plan for the buffer zone of the Tugwi-Mukosi dam, in the Masvingo and Chivi districts. This buffer zone includes Wards 22, 30 and 34 in the Masvingo district, which are in common with the area targeted under GEF-7 project.

Relevant policy documents and opportunities for improvement

There are several gaps in the policy framework that must be filled to make it more conducive for SLM and SFM. For example, as indicated under major drivers for land degradation, wood extraction for charcoal production was identified as a major source of deforestation in the targeted sub-basins. The absence of statutory instrument on charcoal prevents provincial, district and ward authorities from controlling and managing the extraction of wood resources to prevent deforestation for charcoal production for which demand from urban centres is increasing, and hinders the possibility to adopt more sustainable charcoal production practices. In addition, despite the existence of a policy on bioprospecting since 2009, the sustainable management of genetic resources at the district level and the opportunities to support sustainable sources of income thereto for local communities is also pre-empted by the absence of district-level inventories to inform by-laws for the management of these resources. Furthermore, there is currently no policy framework for the establishment of PES schemes with private sector companies that depend or affect natural ecosystems. Another sector where policy strengthening is required to achieve SFM is mining. The main regulation in this sector is the Minerals Act. RDCs are mandated to issue permits for the extraction of non-minerals. However, by-laws to guide RDCs in the monitoring and control of mining activities are missing. RDCs interviewed during the PPG phase could not provide a clear list of issued permits in their jurisdiction. This is problematic as sand mining and desilting activities in rivers in the target areas create severe environmental damages in the targeted sub-basins. Identified gaps related to the certification standards for forest, farm and livestock products represent a missed opportunity to incentivise the sustainable management of forest, farm and rangeland resources. Furthermore, good practices for the mainstreaming of SLM and SFM ? e.g. Farmer Field Schools (FFS) approach/Agropastoral Field Schools (APFS) approach and FFPOs ? are not adequately integrated into the policy framework to enable a harmonised approach to the management of natural resources and make significant progress toward achieving the national LDN targets. To complete the list of aforementioned gaps, a thorough identification of policy gaps and weaknesses remains to be conducted following a participatory approach.

Existing government funding mechanisms in the environmental sector

There is generally a lack of information on the baseline situation of finances dedicated to LDN-relevant interventions across public institutions in Zimbabwe. The cross-sectoral nature of LDN makes it difficult to integrate efficiently in the sectoral budget. Each sector is expected to earmark part of their

budget to support LDN-relevant interventions. EMA is in charge of advocating for the mainstreaming of LDN into sectoral budgets. Since 2018 and in alignment with the decentralisation process, 5% of the funds received by Provincial Development Committees contribute towards a devolution fund dedicated to address environmental matters.

Several government funding mechanisms earmarked to address environmental matters exists. For example, a national Environment Fund was created but is not yet operational. The main sources of funding for the Environmental Fund should theoretically be carbon taxes and permits issued by EMA. In addition, since last year, EMA receives a portion of the carbon taxes. In 2019, EMA received USD 1,227,000 through the carbon tax and used this sum to conduct restoration work and provide grants to local authorities for the implementation of LEAPs. The FC does not currently receive funds from the carbon tax. Lastly, EMA receives funding from 21 licenses (e.g. extraction, air pollution) issued in accordance with EMA Act. This money is used for restoration interventions and to provide grants to local authorities (i.e. USD 120,000 million received for 2020). However, the current amount of money perceived annually by EMA under these funds is very low.

The Presidential Input Programme run by the Government of Zimbabwe supports agricultural production across Zimbabwe. Currently, 1,800,000 households are benefitting from the programme. Each household receives 50 kg of base fertilisers and 50 kg of top-dressing fertilisers, as well as maize and small grain. Discussions are ongoing to make conservation agriculture mandatory under this scheme (with potential surfaces under cereals from 0.12 to 1 ha, and under legumes from 0.06 to 1 ha). In addition, farmers are supported to get loans from banks (e.g. CBZ Holdings Limited, AgriBank) for the purchase of seed, fertilisers and pesticides.

Component 2: Demonstrating, implementing, and scaling up and out SLM and SFM good practices in Save and Runde basins

Current agricultural practice in the targeted sub-basins
Ill-adapted agricultural practices are widespread in the targeted sub-basins and lead to low productivity, high prevalence of poverty, climate vulnerability, and severe ecosystem degradation. In cropland, there is a strong dependence on rainfed maize (which is the main crop for 90% of households in the target area) ? which is particularly vulnerable to climate change and pest such as the fall army worm ? often through monocropping. Production has been declining in recent years. Agroforestry seems to be rare in Runde but more common in Save. Based on the SHARP Survey, 80% of agricultural activities are rainfed in the targeted basins. Water management practices (e.g. water retention ditches, water harvesting, localised irrigation) are used by half of the respondents. As a result, agricultural production is low which is leading to agricultural expansion including in forests and on riverbanks. As mentioned above, 210 km of riverbanks ? including 164km in Buhera ? are under cultivation across the eight target districts, leading to siltation and erosion.

Existing farmers? support systems and previous/ongoing investments in the agricultural sector
As mentioned in the Barrier section, the extension system in Zimbabwe suffers from several limitations and Agritex has implemented several localised initiative to establish FFSs in an attempt to address this gap. Three trained master trainers are based at the Agritex national office, with additional trainers based at the ward level. Successful examples of FFS initiatives in Zimbabwe include: i) projects under

the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme namely the Small Grains Integrated Soil Water Nutrient Management Phase 1 and 2 (2000 to 2004) and the Integrated Small Grains Project (2019/2020); and ii) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)-supported FFS network in Chipinge, Chiredzi and Kwekwe. These FFSs focus specifically on irrigation schemes.

Multiple NGOs are working at the local level on improving agricultural practices and food security including CARE International, SAFIRE, World Vision, SNV, US Aid and the European Union[1]. Conservation agriculture is currently being promoted by Agritex and some national associations such as Zimbabwe Organic Producers Association (ZOPA). A national conservation agriculture network was created. It groups research institutions, agro-equipment producers and stakeholders involved in agro-technology development from the University of Zimbabwe. The network is currently mainly project based. FAO was previously involved (between 2010 and 2012) in the development of conservation agriculture in collaboration with CARE and Caritas in several wards in the Bikita, Chivi and Shurugwi districts. The recent Enhancing Nutrition, Stepping Up Resiliency and Enterprise (ENSURE) project (see Table 8) supported food insecure households in 66 wards in six districts of Manicaland and Masvingo provinces. The interventions included as examples: the production of dryland crops such as sorghum, millet, cowpea, and groundnuts; conservation agriculture; supplementary feeding for livestock; and post-harvest handling and storage of agricultural products.

Several projects are working towards addressing the issue of water availability. Under the HSBC project, the construction of dead level contours with grass infiltration pits proved to be beneficial for both agriculture production and gully control, this method might therefore be selected under the GEF7 project. Several research projects are ongoing to improve water management in agricultural systems. For example, the Harare Institute of Technology (HIT) is currently conducting two research projects on water for agriculture: i) Scientific Conservation Irrigation Technology: this involves the use of zero tillage, vermi-ferts, thermal compost, mulch and conservation pots; and ii) Diaper Waste Moisture Conservation Farming Technology that involves the use of diaper wastewater as a water storage medium from rain water harvesting. Ongoing investments are being made with funding from IFAD in the targeted sub-basins under the Smallholder Irrigation Revitalisation Programme in Masvingo, Manicaland, Midlands and Matebeleland provinces which is running until 2024 (Table 1 or 7). This project focuses on: i) the rehabilitation and development of irrigation schemes; ii) climate-smart agriculture and market access; and iii) management of the irrigation scheme basin area.

Environmental impact of inadequate soil and forest management practices, and previous/ongoing efforts to address these issues

Inadequate soil conservation practices and the loss of tree cover are leading to gully formation in the targeted sub-basins which ? according to EMA ? are affecting 2,220 ha across the eight targeted districts. Some of the most affected wards include Buhera Ward 11, Chivi Ward 23, Bikita Ward 24, Shurugwi Ward 10, and Chipinge Wards 1 and 3. Under the HSBC project, EMA developed an SLM toolkit to guide interventions for gully rehabilitation. The outputs of the HSBC project that the GEF7 project will build on including the development of a methodology for gully rehabilitation which includes the fencing of degraded area to prevent access from people and animals and enable natural regeneration, the establishment of a network of 64 roof rainwater harvesting tanks in schools and at a

local hospital to reduce erosion and provide a water source for gardens, and the construction of gabion walls, silt traps and other structures to slow down runoff and retain soil.

Invasive species is a major cause of degradation in communal land and forests which is affecting approximately 3,044 ha across the targeted districts. The invasive species of main concern is *Lantana camara* which is particularly common in Zaka Wards 23 and 34, Masvingo Ward 33, Chipinge Wards 20 and 21, Buhera Ward 11, Shurugwi Ward 10, and Chivi Ward 25). *Vernonanthura Polyanthes* is the second most prevalent invasive species in the targeted basin. It is mainly affecting Chipinge Ward 12. The main mitigation practices currently used by EMA to control invasive species are cutting and chemical control.

As previously mentioned, charcoal is a major source of deforestation in the selected sub-basins. The study undertaken by the Forestry Commission on the extent of charcoal production, the contribution of charcoal Value Chain to livelihoods and the resultant impact on forest cover focused on the Chipinge, Chiredzi, Mudzi, Gokwe and Hwange districts. This study has not yet been undertaken in Buhera, Chivi and Shurugwi.

Several national institutions are working on developing alternatives energy sources to replace charcoal. The HIT is currently undertaking research on landfill gas, which could be a sustainable alternative to charcoal. This technology involves the capture of landfill gas from engineered sanitary landfills. The gas is purified for domestic use and generation of electricity. At a more local level, the FC partnered with BioInnovation (private company) to pilot the production of brickets from bamboo. Several NGOs in the landscape have worked with Agritex and the Department of Energy in the development of biogas for domestic use (e.g. Oxfam, Tsuro). Suitable alternatives to charcoal are however not yet being mainstreamed.

In addition to wood cutting, the majority of forest and grassland in target areas, particularly in Masvingo, Shurugwi and Chimanimani districts, are affected by Veldt fires. To address this issue, the FC established fire brigades in Manicaland in 2009, and EMA trains and operates fire-fighting teams across the country in accordance with the Forestry Act. Intersectoral collaboration occurs between FC and EMA-supported fire brigades. However, these teams are resource-constrained, information on fire starts is often received late and the equipment available to create fire breaks is insufficient. In 2015, the Midlands lost 95,600 ha to wildfires[2], while Manicaland and Masvingo lost 74,463 ha and 75,846 ha respectively.

As discussed under the policy section, mining is not adequately managed in the targeted landscapes. 366 ha are affected by illegal mining across the eight districts. Two types of mining lead to land degradation, namely mineral mining (mainly gold) and non-mineral mining (mainly sand). Mineral mining is undertaken across the target landscapes but to a lesser extent in Bikita, Chivi and Zaka. Non-mineral mining is undertaken in the eight districts mostly around urban expansion areas, where sand is used to make bricks and other building materials. In addition, there is limited awareness from the district policymakers on the negative impacts of some mining permits, especially desilting ones.

Current local availability of adapted seeds, seedlings and breeds in the targeted sub-basins

Existing constraints to local seed provision are described above as a key barrier to the development of SLM. At the national level, the promotion of research and conservation related to genetic resources is coordinated by the GBZ, also known as the NPGRC. The establishment of CSBs promoting Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUSs) was initiated by Community Technology Development Trust (CTDT) through collaboration with International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) and the Crop Breeding Institute under the Agricultural Biodiversity Programme. CSBs are structures built by communities for purposes of conservation and sustainable use of local seeds and crop varieties. Farmers can deposit their seeds either as families or as communities, and can withdraw their seeds from the CSBs when needed. CTDT?s experience with CSBs includes the construction of 16 community seed banks in eleven districts which include: Mudzi, Rushinga, Mt Darwin, Murehwa, Tsholotsho, Umzigwane, Bubi, Umguza, Nkayi, Chiredzi and Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe. Within the targeted sub-basins, they established a CSB in Chiredzi district just across the Save river. These seed banks currently hold over 1,200 accessions of different crops each. Since their establishment between 2000 up to 2017, the CSBs ? combined with training through the FFS approach ? have helped farmers increase crop diversity from an average of 4 to 7 crops per household and a reduction of the hunger months from 4 to 2.5 months per year among households in the target districts. In addition, CTDT has organised seed and food fairs in Chipinge, and has been conducting research to determine the evolution and factors influencing crop diversity. CTDT is currently collaborating with the National Seed Services, National Gene Bank and the Southern African Development Community (SADC)-Plant Genetic Resources Centre to address the challenge of the poor recognition and registration of farmer varieties and seed systems. To date, there is no national CSB network.

Trees production is currently limited at the local level. FC is receiving support from some private sector partners to establish nurseries. For example, fuel companies such as Glo fuels and Zuva provide funds for the establishment of woodlots and tree nurseries across the country. Friends of the Environment (FOTE) has also supported FC in the establishment of a total of 30 nurseries countrywide by the end of 2019. These include one nursery in Chivi and one in Bikita. The nurseries have each an annual production capacity ranging from around 100,000 to 500,000 tree seedlings. FC has also focused on establishing ex-situ field gene banks around Banga Irrigation scheme in Chivi for the conservation of a Near Threatened tree species *Bivinia jalbertii* in collaboration with local farmers. The community through the intervention of the headman in the area has also attempted passive (in-situ) restoration of B. jalbertii through enacting institutional arrangements (provisions for protecting over exploitation of *Bivinia jalbertii* in the area of its natural occurrence (Nyuni Hill near the Tokwe Mukosi dam). Villagers have made the cutting of *Bivinia jalbertii* illegal in this zone. Ironwood *Androstachys johnsonii* is another declining tree species in the area, but there are not yet benefitting from local conservation initiatives.

The production and use of trees on farmland and grazing areas play an important role in local production systems and are directly linked to agricultural production through: i) the transfer of leaf litter and plant nutrients; ii) the provision of fodder; and iii) the supply of construction poles and timber. Household food security also benefits from the direct provision of products such as fruits, honey, roots and insects (e.g. mopane worms). Employment and income also used to be generated from

the woodcraft industry. However, and even though this sub-sector is likely to pick up in the future, associated benefits have been minimised from the current slump in the tourism industry.

Local availability of indigenous breeds for poultry is currently low. Farmers rely on expensive, imported breeds. Similarly, local availability of commercial organic feed and ethno-veterinary products is insufficient. The increasing demand for organic, free-range, indigenous poultry is therefore unmet.

Current livelihoods in the targeted sub-basins and current investments to improve income sources

The development of sustainable livelihoods and the diversification of the sources of income are strongly needed in both landscapes to address the high prevalence of poverty and to increase the economic value of natural resources to support their protection. As previously mentioned, several barriers to the development of resilient sources of income based on the sustainable management of natural resources were identified in the targeted sub-basins during the PPG assessments including the absence of strong FFPOs that have the capacity to rally producers and harvested, negotiate agreements with private sectors, access required equipment and infrastructure for value adding, and enable bulk transportation to markets. As discussed previously, other major barriers include: i) low access to quality and locally adapted inputs including seeds; ii) insufficient quality assurance systems, standards and certification system to access official and high value markets for crop, forest and rangeland products; and iii) unclear exploitation rights and inefficient control and permit monitoring systems to support sustainable exploitation of forest products.

A diversity of NGOs are working with local communities on the ground to develop sustainable livelihoods (e.g. World Vision, CTDT, CARE, SNV, Oxfam, Environment Africa, Christian Care, Plan International, Action Aid). Larger projects have also focused on livelihood strengthening. The Forest ForCES project (2013-2018) focused for example on increasing food security of vulnerable rural communities (including in Chimanimani) through participatory sustainable forest management and valorisation of forest products. It supported the development of six Value Chains: Baobab, Honey, Jatropha, Manketti, Marula and the Timber Out-grower schemes. The GEF-5 project ?Scaling up Adaptation for improved rural livelihoods? strengthened the livelihoods of women and youth headed households through Value Chain strengthening (e.g. bee keeping, goats, poultry, sorghum, pea), as well as through the establishment a climate Early Warning System.

Existing financial opportunities for forest, farm and rangeland users

There are limited opportunities for small-scale farmers to apply for financial support to adopt resilient livelihoods based on the sustainable use of natural resources. Several financial institutions offer loans to smallholder farmers to develop their activities (e.g. SACCOS, CBZ Holdings Limited, AgriBank). However, these opportunities can only be accessed by few farmers (with a higher prevalence of men) and these institutions provide limited support to take climate change into account and adopt an integrated approach to support the beneficiaries in adopting sustainable sources of income.

The channelling of funding from the private sector to local community development is limited in Zimbabwe by the absence of CSR policy. Some CSR support is currently being provided to EMA and FC by private sector companies. For example, the aforementioned FOTE is led by a funeral company

and brings together multiple private businesses (e.g. OK Zim, Standard Chartered, Old Mutual, Mimosa Mining Co, Zimplats, Iveco, Nyaradzo Funeral, Fossil Contracting). These companies provide financial contribution to support reforestation through tree planting and the establishment of tree nurseries in partnership with the FC. Other private companies provide support to the FC on a case-by-case basis. EMA also get support from some private companies for fire management. Environmental awards events for the media are also generally supported by corporates. While the telecommunication sector supports advocacy and awareness on environmental matters, the mining sector helps with awareness-raising on fire risk and management.

There are several private plantations in the target area, particularly in Chimanimani and Chipinge. These companies include Cashel Valley, Silver Streams and Gwigwi Estate. There is currently no financial support from these companies to support SLM and/or SFM.

Component 3: Effective knowledge management, monitoring and linkages with the DSL IP.

Knowledge-sharing platforms currently used at the national and regional levels

At the national level, the different sectors only meet and work together for the development of cross-sectoral plans, such as the NBSAP. A Biodiversity forum was created under the NBSAP to discuss issues related to the Convention on Biological Diversity. This forum is still in place but is currently not functional. Because of a lack of resources, the forum only gets revived on an *ad hoc* basis, i.e. when support for the development of a Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) report is provided. Other online knowledge exchange platforms include the Green Line, a platform run by EMA that provides access to newspaper articles. In addition, the development of a national repository on LDN are recently been initiated by EMA.

At the regional level, EMA uses the knowledge-sharing platform on LDN established under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Existing regional and global knowledge-sharing networks on FFS are also insufficient used considering the breadth of experience in SLM and SFM held across southern Africa. This includes knowledge sharing on and harmonisation of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) tools, systems and impact assessment methodologies[3].

Common drivers of land degradation and transboundary collaboration

There are multiple land degradation drivers that are shared and interlinked between Zimbabwe and Mozambique which are affecting the Save and Runde sub-basins. These include wood harvesting and charcoal production which transit between the two countries. Other main challenges are veldt fires, invasive alien species (mainly bush species), illegal mining, and the watershed of water resources and sedimentation and erosion issues thereto. Transboundary collaboration between the two countries to tackle these issues is very limited and there are no official knowledge-sharing and cooperation platforms between the two countries. Challenges regarding bioprospecting at the border with South Africa were also raised during the PPG consultations (e.g. harvesting of tea bush in Zimbabwe which is then sold in South Africa without control on either side). Opportunities to collaborate with ZAMCOM to improve the management of transboundary resources will be investigated at project inception.

Proposed baseline projects that contribute to co-financing:

Table 1: Baseline projects, Activities and timeline

Project	Partners	Interventions	Budget
In-kind and cash co-financing from MECTHI	MECTHI	Cofinancing from MECTHI for the period 2021 to 2025 will mostly be in-kind and include staff time, office space and office running costs from the Climate Change Department mainly but also cash costs dedicated to the operation of the existent LDN TWG structure.	USD 1,000,000 (900,000 in-kind and 100,000 cash)

In-kind and cash co-financing from EMA	EMA	EMA?s cofinancing interventions for the period 2021 to 2025 in the three provinces include: For Component 1 of the GEF project: ? Strengthening of local level institutions in the two sub-basins (Environmental Committees, Environmental Sub-Committees, Environmental monitors and Fire fighting committees). ? Awareness raising campaign: i) in schools through talk shows, building of environmental school clubs, field visits and small environmental projects; ii) mobile awareness; and iii) community meetings. ? Leading the development of the LEAPs, WEAPs and VEAPs, and supporting their implementation and monitoring. ? Participating actively in by-law formulation, policy review and consultations. For Component 2 of the GEF project: ? Undertaking State of the Environment Baseline studies. ? Implementing the Veld fire Management Programme (including the following interventions: bee-keeping, grass combing, hay baling, awareness raising, fireguard construction, veld fire risk monitoring and mitigation) in Shurugwi, Zaka, Masvingo, Chimanimani, Chipingue and Chivi. ? Catchment management interventions in Gowaguru (Chivi), Marongere (Masvingo) and Magwidi (Bikita) including awareness raising, training and restoration interventions. ? Catchment management interventions in Machongwe and Nenhowe (Chimanimani). ? Wetland restoration interventions in Maturure and Matungamire (Bikita). ? Gully restoration interventions in Nenhowe (Chimanimani) and Chikuku (Bikita). ? Implementing *Lantana camara* eradication interventions in Zaka and Shurugwi. ? Developing small grain production for climate change adaptation in Buhera and Shurugwi. For Component 2 of the GEF project: ? Supporting the establishment of a data	USD 18,000,000 (4,215,000 as cash and 13,785,000 in-kind)

In-kind and cash co-financing from the FC	FC	Interventions planned in the three provinces for the period 2021 to 2025 including: ? tree planting and woodland management for soil protection and ecosystem enhancement in degraded forest land; ? enrichment planting for dam catchment protection; ? establishment of tree nurseries in communities and schools; ? propagation of *Bivinia jalbertii* in the Nyuni hills of Chivi district; ? restoration of degraded mining sites in Shurugwi ? capacity building for communities on forest management; ? bee keeping development; ? establishment of fruit tree orchards; ? establishment and operationalization of community-based Forest Management Committees ? agroforestry development for soil improvement, fodder and fruit production to improve food security and nutrition The investments made by Forestry Commission are currently piece meal and localised. There is no harmonised approach to the management of forest resources. In addition, exotic species such as *Eucalyptus* are often used in planting interventions rather than water-efficient, indigenous species. The GEF7 project will support integrated planning at the landscape level to enable the sustainable management of forest resources. In addition, the identification and publication of evidence-based, climate-resilient good practices for land use planning and forest management will provide guidance for SFM across the targeted basins and beyond. This will enable the harmonization of the approaches and techniques used by government and non-government partners thereby increasing synergy and efficiency in forest management in Zimbabwe?s Miombo and Mopane woodlands.	USD 10,000,000 (3,100,000 in kind and 6,900,000 in cash)

In-kind and cash co-financing from the ZPWMA	ZPWMA	The cofinancing provided by ZPWMA for the GEF7 project for the period 2021-2025 will focus on addressing Human-Wildlife Conflicts management, protected areas and buffer zones? management, conservancies management, and wildlife populations management and protection in Save and Runde basins. More specifically the following interventions will be undertaken in the targeted sites: ? In Chimanimani district, the cofinancing from ZPWMA includes the staff that manages the national park and interventions for wildlife conservation, HWC management, wildlife conservation education and awareness and interventions to address illegal mining issues will be implemented. ? In Masvingo and Bikita districts, the cofinancing from ZPWMA includes the staff that manages Tokwe Mukosi, Mushandike Sanctuary and Kyle Recreational Park. Awareness-raising and education interventions will also be undertaken, as well as aquatic research and monitoring. ? Cofinancing from PWMA will also include human resources that will allocated to the development and implementation of the ILUPs, and to development of the management plan, vehicle maintenance, and staff equipment and uniforms.	USD 1,500,000 (1,000,000 as cash and 500,000 in-kind)

Transforming Zimbabwe?s Animal Health and Food Safety Delivery Systems for the Future? - SAFE project (GCP/030/EC)	World Bank/FAO	SAFE project is ending in June 2021 and includes policy strengthening interventions for improved livestock management and food security ? Co-financing budget: USD 631,306.	USD 4,140,306 in cash
Zimbabwe Livelihoods and Food Security Programme ? LFSP (GCP/ZIM/025/UK)		LFSP supports the development in Climate Smart Agriculture for improved productivity, nutrition and income security for smallholder farmers in 8 districts including Shurugwi. It is finishing in June 2021 ? Co-financing budget: USD159,000.	
Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project (ZIRP) ? World Bank funded		ZIRP focuses on supporting response to emergency such as droughts and cyclones. For the period August 2019 - 31 July 2021, ZIRP will invest USD 3,000,000 in the Chipinge, Chimanimani, Buhera, Zaka and Bikita to support resilient recovery of Cyclone Idai affected populations through the provision of livelihood opportunites and the restoration of agricultural production (Crop & Livestock).	
Hand in Hand initiative TCP		Hand in Hand initiative TCP focuses on contributing to the Zimbabwe Agriculture and Food Systems Transformation Strategy. The initiative stimulates data-driven agricultural transformation through the use of sophisticated geo-spatial and analytical tools in the sector and will end in August 2022. Hand-in-Hand is an FAO initiative, championed by the FAO Director General, to reduce extreme poverty, eliminate hunger, improve nutrition, increase agricultural productivity and rural living standards, and contribute to global economic growth and the attainment of sustainable development goals. The initiative promotes the use of new forms of analytics and partnerships with different stakeholders to accelerate agriculture transformation and growth in food systems with the objective or eradicating poverty (SDG1) and ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition (SDG2). Zimbabwe is one of the initial countries for the implementation of the Hand-in Hand Initiative. Within countries the initiative provides data and tools to identify where investments could have the most impact. Using a multi-dimensional Geographic Information System (GIS) data platform that visualizes economic statistical and geospatial analysis, it enables a better?targeted and more effective programming for rural transformation. GIS technology can substantially accelerate the agricultural transformation process, providing more accurate and reliable agricultural information.	

Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme	IFAD	The Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme started in 2016 and will end in 2023 with a total budget of USD 52,000,000. This programme focuses on improving productivity and climate resilient crop production under both rainfed and irrigated conditions, through diversification of crops and increased adoption of improved varieties, combined with climate-smart agricultural practices and most importantly, enhanced access to markets. The integrated approach of the GEF-funded project on SLM and SFM, and IFAD-funded irrigation interventions will work concomitantly towards the sustainable increase of agricultural productivity and diversification of agricultural products.	USD 25,500,000
CTDT		CTDT will provide co-finance for Components 1 and 2 through the project ?Building Resilience through improving the Absorptive and Adaptative Capacity for Transformation (BRACT) under the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF) which started in October 2018 and will end in June 2022. BRACT and the GEF7 project interventions will complement each other for the establishment of FFSs and APFSs, and for the development of agricultural activities (provision of small equipment and inputs).	USD 500,000 (283,000 as cash and 217,000 in-kind)
World Vision		Private fundraising from individual and corporate donors. Fundraising activities in Australia and activities in Zimbabwe for the period 2021- 2025.	USD 189,873 (USD 50,925 as cash and USD 138,948 in-kind)
TOTAL			**USD 60,881,104**

1. c. The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project and the project?s Theory of Change.

Project Strategy and Theory of Change

Context

Miombo/Mopane cluster ? a harmonized approach

The Zimbabwe child project is part of *a joint submission* of six Southern African countries[1] under the GEF SFM DSL IP pursuing the same overall goal: *to support a transformational shift towards a sustainable and integrated management of multi-use dryland landscapes of the Miombo and Mopane ecoregion*s.

Project Theory of Change:

This section presents the project?s Theory of Change (ToC), which sets out the project?s causal logic and relationships between the project?s outputs (goods and services delivered by the project) and immediate project outcomes (changes resulting from the use of project outputs by key stakeholders), medium and longer-term changes and states, and the project?s ultimate desired impact (fundamental, durable changes in environmental and social benefits). The project was designed in alignment with the Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality[2].

As described above, the central problem the project seeks to address is the increasing land degradation and ecosystem services in the productive Miombo and Mopane landscapes of Save and Runde sub-basins in Zimbabwe. The loss of dryland ecosystems? goods and services undermines livelihoods, food security and potential for sustainable economic development for farm, forest and rangeland users, leads to biodiversity loss, and further increases vulnerability to climate change. The main causes and drivers of this degradation are detailed in the section above but include: unsustainable woodfuel harvesting, overgrazing, invasive alien species, wildfires, agricultural expansion and cultivation on riverbanks, driven by population growth and poverty, and threats exacerbated by climate change impacts.

The project seeks to promote the sustainable management of Miombo and Mopane production landscapes in Save and Runde sub-basins following an LDN approach (project objective). Specifically, the project aims to overcome the four barriers acting against the achievement of LDN identified above (i.e. weaknesses in the governance framework, institutional capacity gaps, insufficient technical capacity of local communities, and limited knowledge availability), and thereby address the threats to the Miombo/Mopane woodlands in the targeted sub-basins. It aims to achieve this through three interlinked approaches/strategies. Each of these is reflected in a specific project Component (?areas of action?) comprising sets of project activities and outputs that will deliver the following immediate project outcomes, and which mirror the main components of the overall DSL IP. The project also will contribute to wider development objectives and socio-economic and cultural co-benefits (e.g. support to diversified and resilient livelihoods; empowerment and sustainable access to farm, forest and rangeland resources by dryland communities; reduced vulnerability to economic and environmental shocks, with improved food and income security for dryland communities, especially women; capitalisation on traditional knowledge; and contribution to SDGs[3]).

Component 1 will address Barrier 1 and 2 by enhancing the enabling environment for LDN at the national and sub-national levels. It will achieve this through establishing landscape-level cross-sectoral

governance structure for the sustainable management of Save and Runde sub-basins, strengthening the knowledge available in land degradation to support informed decision-making and planning, creating a more conducive policy and regulatory framework at national, district and ward levels, supporting the participatory development of integrated land-use plans for the targeted sub-basins, and making existing government planning, financing and investments mechanism more conducive to integrated land management practices. Component 1 has two immediate project outcomes:

? Outcome 1.1: Strengthened and harmonized intersectoral and multilevel decision-making and planning in the targeted basins to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation

? Outcome 1.2: Landscape-specific development plans in place and under implementation

Component 2 will address Barrier 3 by putting in place extension structures to provide training and support the adoption of SLM and SFM practices for increased resilience (in alignment with UNCCD?s Drought Smart Land Management guidance) and to achieve LDN. It will support the strengthening/establishment of CSBs and tree nurseries to increase access to adapted and diversified seeds/seedlings. Climate-resilient Value Chains based on SLM and SFM will thereafter be strengthened to provide sustainable and diversified sources of income for farm, forest and rangeland users. It will also support the identification and leveraging of additional sources of funding to further support the development and strengthening of sustainable NUS, NTFP and small livestock Value Chains. Component 2 has two immediate project outcomes:

? Outcome 2.1: SLM and SFM interventions implemented in Save and Runde sub-basins, and scaled up and out

? Outcome 2.2: Key dryland commodity Value Chains established and/or strengthened

Component 3 will address Barrier 4 through creating a supportive environment for LDN monitoring at national and landscape levels, supporting transboundary collaboration to address common land degradation drivers, and increasing knowledge and experience sharing on SLM, SFM and LDN at national, regional and global levels for an holistic approach to combating land degradation in Miombo and Mopane ecoregion. Component 3 has two immediate project outcome:

? Outcome 3.1: Project implementation supported by an M&E strategy based on measurable and verifiable outcomes and adaptive management principles

? Outcome 3.2: Data collection and knowledge sharing approach on SFM/SLM contributing to LDN assessment work improved

Several of these Outcomes interlink and work together or are dependent on the progress and results of others (the key relationships between the main elements in the Theory of Change are indicated by arrows in Figure 7). For instance, Component 1 Outcome 1.1 will strengthen cross-sectoral and multi-level LDN policies, regulations and incentives that will support the development of the ILUPs under Outcome 1.2. The implementation of the ILUPs under Outcome 2.1 depends on the success of participatory planning process under Outcome 1.2 (Output 1.2.1) and the integration of SLM and SFM

practices in government mechanisms under Outcome 1.2 (Output 1.2.2) depends on the success of the on-the-ground interventions under Outcome 2.1. The selection of the sustainable s to be strengthened under Outcome 2.2 will depend on the SLM and SFM practices implemented under Outcome 2.1. In return, the financial benefits raised under Outcome 2.2 will have a significant impact on the outscaling of SLM and SFM interventions under Outcome 2.1. Similarly, there is a strong mutual connection between Components 1 and 2 and Component 3 (indicated by hatched boxes and two-way arrow in Figure 7), where results and experiences from the first two Components contribute to building the national knowledge base on LDN under Component 3, while guidance on improved practices and lessons learned identified by the project and gathered from the wider Drylands IP community under Component 3 are fed back into improving policies, regulations, financing and practices to address SLM/SFM and LDN under Components 1 and 2. Together the six Outcomes will contribute to the project objective to promote the sustainable management of Miombo and Mopane production landscapes in Save and Runde sub-basins following an LDN approach. Apart from national gains, delivery of project outcomes would also improve regional decision-making, collaboration and partnerships across the Miombo and Mopane ecoregion (represented by the separate right-hand causal pathway in Figure 7).

However, the project?s approaches to securing widespread adoption of SLM/SFM practices in the target landscapes rest on a number of premises: that strengthened communities structures (FFSs/APFSs, CSBs and FFPOs) can effectively compensate for the limited support provided by government extension services at ward and village levels; that the SLM and SFM practices promoted by the project are cost-effective and lead to measurable results on ecosystems productivity, biodiversity, and income generation in a timely manner to facilitate upscaling and outscaling; and that the new land-tenure policy adequately addresses land-tenure issues and provides the required security for the adoption of improved practices and sustainable Value Chains by farm, forest and rangeland users.

Also, the achievement of the project outcomes and progress towards the project objective and longer-term impacts depends on a number of wider assumptions[4] (depicted by an ?A? in Figure 7), operating over different scales and at different points along the causal chains, being met. Assumptions that directly relate to achievement of the project?s immediate outcomes are that:

A1. National government institutions involved in natural resources? management continue to acknowledge the necessity to increase cross-sectoral and regional collaboration and participate actively in creating an enabling environment for LDN

A2. Decentralised government institutions, community leaders, community groups, NGOs and private sector institutions are willing to engage in participatory landscape-level cross-sectoral governance for LDN

A3. Cultural barriers do not prevent women from effectively participating in the sustainable governance of natural resources and SLM, SFM and LDN implementation

A4. Local communities and FFPOs grasp the opportunities offered by SLM and SFM, and are willing to invest the required time and energy to make their livelihoods more resilient

A5. FFPO members are able to find consensus regarding the sustainable Value Chain (or set of sustainable Value Chains) to be jointly developed

A6. Private sector is willing (or can be encouraged) to invest in activities to address LDN and has a supporting regulatory and financial environment

In addition, operation of the project itself rests on the assumptions that: (i) it can secure the external expertise and technical assistance required for a full and timely implementation of project activities (needed for delivery of all three Components); (ii) there is continued commitment of participating institutions and actors from national to community level during the project lifetime, and (iii) there is no major political changes in Zimbabwe which ensure that the project?s institutional framework can continue to operate and deliver project results. In addition, it is assumed that the six countries in the Miombo-Mopane region are willing to cooperate on and participate in the proposed GCP regional-level activities (under Component 3), and that unexpected events, such as Covid-19 pandemic, do not significantly adversely impact institutional and governance arrangements that prevent the project from proceeding.

There are also a number of impact drivers[5] (depicted by a ?D? in Figure 7), that may make progress along the causal chain more likely, and over which the project or its partners could exert some influence:

D1. Increased awareness among decision and policy makers at central and decentralised levels about the value of natural ecosystems and their role in climate change adaption and sustainable development

D2. Increasing global demand for sustainable, natural and fair-trade products, and diversified markets for SLM/SFM products

D3. Regional initiatives and forums, such as the Great Green Wall, Miombo Network and SADC, promoting regional visions for sustainable land and natural resource use, facilitating increased inward investment, and building capacity for sustainable management of land and natural resources

If the project outcome-level assumptions and impact drivers (A1-6 and D1-3) are met, then delivery of the three project Components will result in further gains along the pathway to sustainable management of the Miombo-Mopane drylands, represented by four Medium term Outcomes (MTO). These are: a strengthened enabling environment supporting up-scaling and out-scaling of SLM/SFM and achievement of LDN across Zimbabwe (MTO1); wider and increased application of climate-smart, gender-sensitive SLM/SFM practices across targeted basins and beyond (MTO2); Increased long-term investment from public and private sectors to support sustainable dryland-based Value Chains and land restoration in targeted basins and across Zimbabwe (MTO3); and improved (more evidenced-based)

decision-making, partnerships and collaboration for addressing LDN both in Zimbabwe and across the Miombo-Mopane region (MTO4).

Achievement of these longer-term outcomes, which is beyond the immediate influence and accountability of the project (shown as dotted line in Figure 7), is subject to further assumptions (A6-A10) and an additional driver (D4), namely that:

A7. There is sufficient and continued commitment (political support, staff, resources, etc) by central and decentralised government authorities to address LD and achieve LDN

A8. Domestic and international markets for green Value Chains products can be sufficiently developed and strengthen to provide secured sources of income for local producer organizations and buyer companies adopting sustainable practices over the long term

A9. Future climate change impacts do not irreversibly affect the structure and function of ecosystem services in production landscapes

A10. Countries continue to see the value of, and commit resources for, regional cooperation and collaboration to address LDN across the Miombo and Mopane ecoregion, and

D4. International legal obligations, such as national commitments to the Bonn Convention/AFR100, SDGs, UNCCD, UNFCCC and CBD.

Together with additional external inputs, these would be expected to lead to the long-term ?**situation sought?** of ?*threats to drylands removed, ecosystem conditions and services ? on which sustainable cropland, forests and rangeland productivity depends ? restored and maintained, and socio-economic and cultural sustainability and climate change resilience improved in the targeted Miombo and Mopane woodlands in Zimbabwe?*, as well as contributing to the goal of the SFM Drylands Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program, which is ?*to avoid, reduce, and reverse further degradation, desertification, and deforestation of land and ecosystems in drylands through the sustainable management of production landscapes*?.

Further details of the project Components, outcomes, outputs and associated activities are presented in the following section.

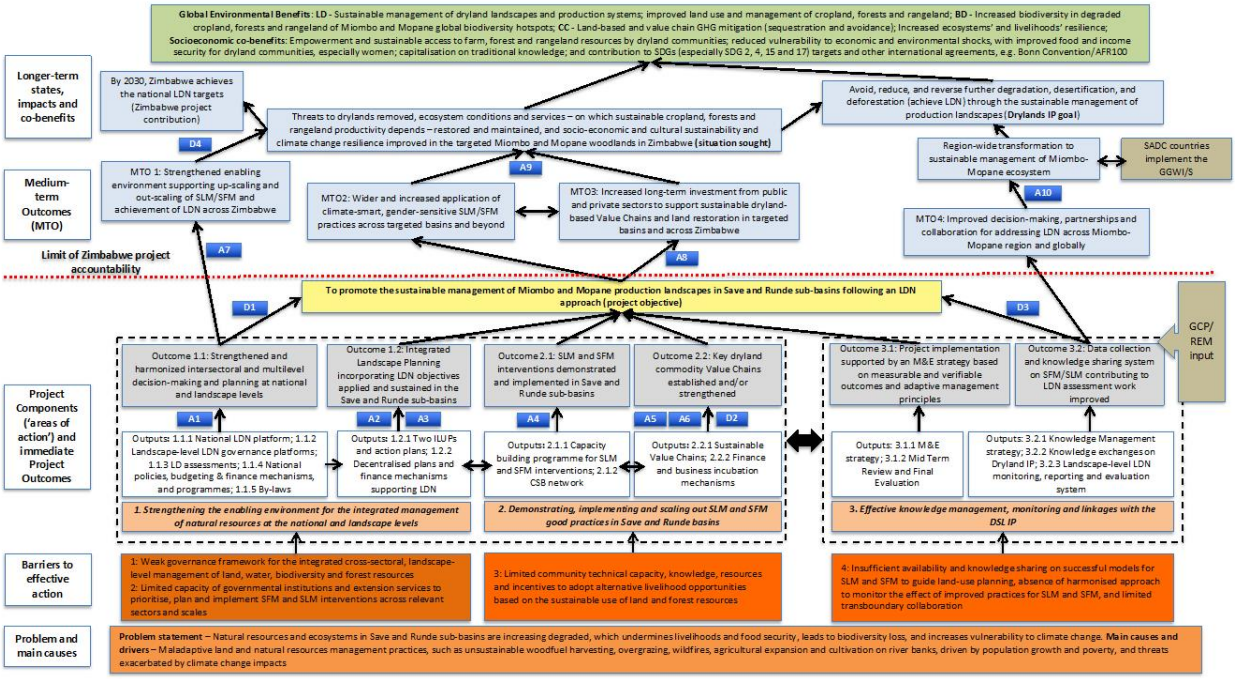

Figure 7: Theory of CHange for the Zimbabwe DSL IP project

Programmatic approach

The project is embedded within the wider DSL IP. The overall programmatic approach will facilitate the project in effectively addressing the barriers to the sustainable management of Miombo and Mopane woodland landscapes (outlined in Part II 1 a) 2) Barriers sub-section), and to delivering global environmental benefits, by:

(i) Strengthening multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination and collaboration at all levels, e.g. LDN platforms at national and landscape levels;

(ii) Supporting the harmonized improvement of regulatory frameworks in support of sustainable landscape management;

(iii) Taking advantage of regional opportunities and resources to contribute to developing the capacities of stakeholders for the sustainable management of dryland landscapes, and for more informed decision making on SLM/SFM and reporting (LDN targets);

(iv) Strengthening cross-sectoral rural advisory services to capacitate land users for integrated SLM/SFM interventions;

(v) Taking advantage of opportunities for harmonized cross-sector and regional leverage of incentives for land users to engage in SLM/SFM, e.g. through sustainable Value Chains and securing their rights; and

(vi) Sharing knowledge between the cluster (Miombo/Mopane) countries on evidence good approaches and practices, reflective learning through effective transboundary coordination.

Close collaboration between participating countries will be supported to address common management challenges within the targeted ecosystem in a cost-efficient and harmonized manner. For that purpose, the GCP will support a REM under which targeted system-wide capacity development, knowledge management (South South Cooperation) and investment support tailored to the Miombo/Mopane context can take place. Demand-driven capacity development and peer-to-peer learning events will be made available for each participating country under the REM in collaboration with existing regional platforms such as SADC (GGWI) and the Miombo network.

Zimbabwe child project?s objective and components

The project objective is ?to promote the sustainable management of Miombo and Mopane production landscapes in Save and Runde sub-basins following an LDN approach? will be achieved through the following interlinked components and outcomes:

Project components:

Component 1: Strengthening the enabling environment for the integrated management of natural resources at the national and landscape levels

The first Component will provide the necessary structure, processes and targeted training (enabling environment) for the envisaged integrated and participatory landscape assessment and planning at national and landscape level. Activities under this component will directly address the identified barriers of: i) the absence of cross sectoral decision-making structure and inadequate policy framework for the integrated management of land, water, biodiversity and forest resources (Barrier 1); ii) the limited knowledge, tools and capacity for governmental institutions and extension services to prioritise, plan and implement SFM and SLM interventions across relevant sectors and scales; and iii) the inadequate involvement of local communities in decision-making for the management of natural resources (Barrier 3; see Part II 1 a. 2. Barriers sub-section). Intersectoral and harmonised decision-making and planning systems will first be improved through strengthening the existing national LDN TWG. Cross-sectoral and gender sensitive governance platforms ? including a landscape-level TWGs ? will then be established based on previous experience from EMA, ZINWA and the FC to enable effective collaboration across sectors and scales for joint decision making and planning in Save and Runde sub-basins. The capacity of these platforms in conflict management and community mobilisation will be strengthened to enable inclusive and efficient community engagement. Building

upon key results of the PPG phase, particularly those generated through the application of the Integrated Landscape Assessment Methodology toolbox (ILAM ? see Box 1 and Annex P) that was developed and tested through the national partners, targeted sub-basins will be jointly assessed and effective current practices will be identified in support of informed decisions on SLM/SFM in the targeted landscapes using training-of-trainers and participatory approaches. The training and assessments will enable the national stakeholders to use innovative monitoring tools such as System for earth observation, data access, processing, analysis for land monitoring (SEPAL) and the Dryland Resilience Initiative Platform (DRIP). The policy framework at the central and district levels will also be strengthened under Component 1 to make it more conducive of cross-sectoral coordination and planning, thereby further supporting the implementation of SLM and SFM interventions following an LDN approach under Component 2.

Box 1. Integrated Landscape Assessment Methodology (ILAM) toolbox

An Integrated Landscape Assessment Methodology (ILAM) toolbox was developed to ensure that the six Southern African countries follow a harmonized, systematic approach to baseline assessments and subsequent project development which is linked to the LDN Conceptual Framework (LDN CF) and associated guidelines for application. The aims of the ILAM toolbox were twofold: i) to enable the systematic assessment of essential baseline information from national to regional/district level, initial site level and household level using an integrated strategic approach; and ii) to provide countries with a toolbox that is replicable to support the future baseline assessment and integrated land use planning, SLM/SFM decision making and monitoring at sub-national level in contribution to national priorities, processes and targets, including LDN.

The essential components of the toolbox consisted of a combination of bottom-up and top-down approaches that support various Modules in the LDN CF as follows:

LDN CF Module	**Toolbox components**
Module A: To enable integrated landscape-level system description (e.g., biophysical, socio-economic, land degradation processes and drivers, existing SLM/SFM, value chains, resilience, etc.).	? Rapid participatory land degradation assessment per land type ? Participatory stakeholder analysis ? Climate-risk assessment ? Policy, institutional and capacity needs analysis ? Indigenous Peoples and the Free, Prior and Informed Consent assessment (FPIC) assessments ? Household surveys using the Self-evaluation and Holistic Assessment of climate Resilience for farmers and Pastoralists (SHARP) ? Value chain analysis and selection
Module B: To determine the frame of reference or baseline values for the three indicators of land cover, land productivity and soil organic carbon*	? Remote sensing (Collect Earth, Trends Earth)
Module D: ? Determine existing policies for land governance, land use planning and natural resource conservation and management. ? Preparatory assessments of land degradation status, resilience of current land uses, socio-economic context (including gender equality)	? Policy, institutional and capacity needs analysis ? Rapid participatory land degradation assessment per land type ? Household surveys using the Self-evaluation and Holistic Assessment of climate Resilience for farmers and Pastoralists (SHARP)
Module E: Determine baseline values for LDN metrics	? Remote sensing (Collect Earth, Trends Earth)

* The soil organic carbon indicator, due to its complexity, is derived from the land cover change (traditional

Under Component 1, the following core steps will be carried out as a foundation for the subsequent implementation of SLM/SFM interventions at targeted landscape level (Component 2):

Outcome 1.1: Strengthened and harmonized intersectoral and multilevel decision-making and planning in the targeted sub-basins to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation

Strengthening of the LDN working group at national level with vertical integration to landscape level cross-sectoral working groups in the sub-basins

The role of each institution in the LDN process will be clarified with support from the UNCCD?s Global Mechanism for this role repartition to enable maximum efficiency in implementing the national LDN process in Zimbabwe. The national LDN TWG will be strengthened by providing tailored training on Land Degradation Assessment Tools (in alignment with the LDN methodology applied during the PPG phase). In addition, cross-sectoral and gender sensitive governance platforms will be established based on previous experience from EMA, ZINWA and the FC to enable effective collaboration across sectors and scales for joint decision making and planning in Save and Runde sub-basins. A landscape-level LDN TWG will be established under each of these governance platforms to

support the technical oversight of landscape level SLM/SFM interventions and the vertical integration with the national LDN TWG for LDN mainstreaming. Furthermore, the government will be supported in the institutionalisation of the national LDN TWG ? as well as the landscape-level LDN TWG to be established under Output 1.1.2 ? to ensure that adequate budget is allocated in the long term to enable regular meetings beyond the project implementation period.

Specific sources of conflict occurring within and between community groups in each sub-basin will be identified and mapped, and the capacity gaps of the members of the governance platforms in conflict management on environmental issues will be addressed. Similarly, a community mobilisation strategy and training will be provided to the members of the governance platforms to support the inclusive planning processes during and beyond the project lifespan.

Confirmation of final intervention sites within the sub-basin and ?on-the-job training? on land degradation assessment tools and approaches in alignment with LDN conceptual framework

The confirmation of project intervention sites (baseline sites including wider area) was foreseen after completion of all PPG assessment but had to be postponed to the inception phase due to travel restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. This exercise will be undertaken during the inception workshop based on a clear set of criteria and available baseline data, and further refined during the ILAM assessments that will inform the ILUPs.

The project will further contextualize and refine the Integrated Landscape Assessment Methodology**[1]** (ILAM) toolbox. Stakeholders will be trained (on-the-job training) in the implementation of this toolbox (Box 1) in the targeted sub-basins. This will build on the assessment undertaken to set up the national LDN targeted which will be refined and ground truthed in the targeted sub-basins through participatory assessments at the local level. Training will also be provided to key government stakeholders such as the Forestry Commission on the use of the SEPAL platform for the monitoring of land degradation, land cover/use, land productivity, ecological zones, ecosystem restoration, among others. This will be built on the experience generated in Tanzania on the use of this tool. The combined use of remote sensing, climate and agro-meteorological data, and on-the-ground data collection will enable to build a robust baseline of information to support the design of the ILUPs and Action Plans, and for efficient monitoring of the GEF7 project investments under Component 2 as well as other on-going investments during the project implementation period and beyond. Furthermore, capacity of the member of the LDN TWG will be built on the use of DRIP to document and monitor the progress ? of the GEF7 project and other investments ? toward achieving the LDN targets. Existing experience on SLM and SFM in Zimbabwe will be compiled and analysed to identify good practices. As an example, the lessons learned from World Vision?s Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration approach (e.g. in Zimbabwe and Ethiopia) which have had positive results on water quality and availability as well as on temperature and rainfall will be built on for the identification of good practices for the GEF7 project. SLM and SFM practices under implementation in the targeted sub-basins by local communities, civil society, private sector and/or government will also be identified and assessed. Experience in SLM from other countries will also be built on through the use of WOCAT platform. Good practices will thereafter be integrated in the FFSs/APFSs curricula under Outcome 2.1. The collected information will then be made available on a national database (Outcome 3.2) as well as the Knowledge Management database of the Global Project accessible to all sectors.

Review of regulatory framework conditions for effectively upscaling SLM/SFM interventions

The interventions under the GEF7 project in Zimbabwe will directly support the implementation of the SLM/SFM activities at the targeted landscape and provide concrete examples on how the relevant national policies and laws and regulations can be applied in an adapted manner at the community level. The policy review process will be applied throughout the implementation of the project, benefiting the targeted land users by linking them directly to policy processes at local, district, and national levels through the established governance platforms. Moreover, the project will review the different options to clarify and secure community access right to land and forest resources (e.g. community-based management[2]).

Opportunities for improvement will be jointly identified and prioritised by government and non-government stakeholders ? including for example ZELA ?building on the policy weaknesses already identified under the Forest ForCES project regarding SFM[3]. Potential policy documents to be developed or policy revisions to be proposed include: i) a Statutory Instrument to regulate wood extraction for Charcoal production to support improved management of wood harvesting for charcoal production and support the shift to sustainable charcoal production practices where no green alternatives can be found; ii) national forest certification standards to improve NTFP Value Chains; iii) a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) policy; iv) policy recommendations to update the National Environmental Policy 2009 and its strategies; v) a certification standards for crop and small livestock to increase producers access to formal and premium markets; vi) policy recommendations and/or national guidelines to support the establishment of a sustainable CSBs network to support local seeds production; vii) policy recommendations to mainstream and/or institutionalise the FFS/Forest Farm Facility (FFF) approach for farmers empowerment; and viii) policy recommendations to promote agroforestry in agricultural land. The policy strengthening activities will be supported under the REM which will provide guidance for the policies related to charcoal regulation, crop and forest products certification, PES scheme, CSB network and the FFS/APFS approach.

By-laws will also be developed in the targeted districts/wards to support the implementation of key policies to address land degradation drivers at the district level with support from ZELA. The formulation of by-laws will be done following the step-by-step bottom-up approach developed under the Forest ForCES project to ensure adequate participation of communities and other stakeholders as well as local leadership. Based on the PPG assessments, it is foreseen that the implementation of the ILUPs might require by-laws for: i) the monitoring and control of the extraction of identified genetic resources to prevent overexploitation; ii) the monitoring, permit allocation systems and control of sand mining and other similar extractive activities; iii) the establishment of CSBs and community nurseries; iv) higher involvement and authority of traditional leaders for policy enforcement to address land degradation issues; v) the sustainable management of rangeland and forest resources in communal land in the targeted districts (e.g. to facilitate the establishment of community-based management organisations); vi) the implementation of the new Forestry Policy (if validated); and vii) by-laws to support the implementation of the new Gender-Sensitive Land Policy[4]. Awareness-raising interventions will thereafter be implemented to ensure that local authorities and local communities have a good understanding of the existing and new by-laws in the eight targeted districts.

Review of government programmes and financing schemes to increase the resources allocated to SLM and SFM interventions identified under the ILUPs in the targeted basins and beyond

Opportunities to increase the channeling of funds for SLM and SFM interventions under the ILUPs through government finance mechanism will be identified. An analysis of the proportion of the sectoral budget that is allocated to interventions contributing to LDN will first be undertaken and recommendations for improvement will be proposed if deemed necessary. High-level discussions on government budget repartition will follow to identify opportunities to transition from exclusively sectoral-based budgeting towards a more cross-sectoral approach. Existing public funding sources (e.g. carbon tax, environment fees) for environmental purposes will be analysed to identify opportunities to increase the flow of funds into these schemes and direct them towards SLM and SFM interventions. Advocacy for these funds to be allocated to SLM and SFM interventions identified under the ILUPs in support of LDN will also be undertaken. Furthermore, the barriers to the operationalisation of the Environmental Fund and to its allocation to SLM and SFM interventions will be identified. If feasible under the project, support to address the identified barriers will also be provided. Finally, ongoing government programmes ? such as the Presidential Input Scheme Programme, land restoration programme and tree planting programme ? will be reviewed and recommendations will be proposed to increase their alignment with the integrated management approach demonstrated under the GEF7 project and make these programmes more effective, resilient and sustainable.

Indicators of success:

(i) # of landscape-level cross-sectoral governance platform for land use planning and management in Save and Runde sub-basins established and operational, with # active members
(ii) # of SLM/SFM policy recommendations at national level developed, submitted and adopted
(iii) Increased support for SLM and/or SFM through # government finance mechanisms and programmes as a result of the project
(iv) # of by-laws developed/updated in the targeted districts/wards in support of the implementation of the ILUPs (e.g. to address the issue of sand mining, clarify access to forests, improve monitoring of natural resources extraction)

Assumptions:

(i) The sectoral institutions involved in natural resources? management acknowledge the necessity to increase cross-sectoral and regional collaboration and participate (lead) accordingly.
(ii) The government in place supports the decentralization process throughout and beyond the project implementation phase.

Lead Executing Entity: Outcome 1.1 will be implemented under the lead of EMA with support from MECTHI and other relevant institutions for each of the corresponding output.

The draft comprehensive, gender-sensitive land policy is currently being finalised. The GEF7 project will not have influence of the Land Policy document. However, it will contribute to the implementation of relevant recommendations of the new land policy in the targeted sub-basins through the creation of by-laws to support the implementation of the ILUPs.

Corresponding outputs (to be adjusted/expanded as necessary) with summary of key activities:

Further details on the proposed project outputs and activities is given in Annex I.

Output 1.1.1: National platform for LDN improved, with a particular focus on the national LDN TWG

Key activities:
(i) Clarify the role of each central government institution in the management of natural resources and in achieving the LDN targets.
(ii) Review the effectiveness of the national LDN Technical Working Group, propose revisions to its composition and functioning if required, and support its institutionalisation.

Output 1.1.2: Cross-sectoral and gender sensitive governance platforms ? including a landscape-level LDN working group ? established at landscape level in both Save and Runde sub-basins

Key activities:
(i) Stocktake lessons learned from previous cross-sectoral coordination undertaken by EMA, ZINWA, the FC and other relevant institutions.
(ii) Convene consultative meetings within the targeted sub-basins to discuss joint and intersectoral land-use planning and management.
(iii) Structure and establish two landscape-level cross-sectoral governance platforms to coordinate the integrated land-use planning processes.
(iv) Provide training to government and non-government staff at catchment, provincial, district, ward and village levels on integrated landscape management planning, assessment and monitoring.
(v) Establish a landscape-level LDN TWG under each platform.
(vi) Develop a community mobilisation strategy and provide training to decentralised authorities on the inclusion of minority groups in projects interventions.
(vii) Develop a conflict management strategy covering all potential areas of conflicts from the villages to the landscape level using a participatory approach (e.g. fires issues, water management issues, land administration, overgrazing issues, mining issues), and provide training on conflict management.

Output.1.1.3: Assessments of targeted sub-basins jointly deepened and extended, and effective current practices identified in support of LDN decision making and corresponding capacity development programme designed and delivered for relevant stakeholders from government, private sector, civil society and communities using a training-of-trainers approach

Key activities:
(i) Provide tailored on-the-job trainings for the members of the national LDN TWG, landscape-level LDN TWG, other relevant government technical staff, CTDT and World Vision, and community leaders to undertake the relevant assessments in the targeted sub-basins to support the design of SLM and SFM interventions and the monitoring of LDN.
(ii) Refine and ground truth the existing LDN data in the targeted basins using a participatory approach.
(iii) Jointly identify evidence-based and gender-sensitive good practices on SLM and SFM under use in the targeted basins.
(iv) Support District authorities in undertaking the inventory of genetic resources.

Output.1.1.4: National policy framework, budgeting and finance mechanisms, and investment programmes, jointly reviewed by relevant government institutions within key sectors such as agriculture, forestry and land tenure sectors, and recommendations developed to integrate SLM, SFM and LDN

Key activities:

(i) Support the national LDN TWG in engaging policy dialogues to identify the policy documents that do not fully support integrated land use planning and LDN, and in developing an action plan to address main issues in the policy framework using a participatory approach with central government stakeholders.
(ii) Develop policy recommendations to address priority gaps to support the integrated management of natural resources.
(iii) Raise awareness on existing and new policies.
(iv) Engage high-level discussions on government budget repartition between sectors to facilitate cross-sectoral collaboration for natural resources management in collaboration with the MFED.
(v) Investigate the barriers to the operationalisation of the Environmental Fund and to its allocation to SLM and SFM interventions, propose solutions and present them to the MFED.
(vi) Identify opportunities to increase the funds received by the carbon tax fund through improved policy enforcement, and to direct these funds towards SLM and SFM interventions under an LDN approach.
(vii) Review ongoing government programmes ? such as the Presidential Input Scheme Programme, land restoration programme and tree planting programme ? to propose recommendations to increase their alignment with the integrated management approach demonstrated under the GEF7 project and to make these programmes more effective, resilient and sustainable.

Output.1.1.5: By-laws to support the implementation of the ILUPs in the targeted districts developed and validated (Output 1.2.1)

Key activities:
(i) Identify the by-laws needed as a priority to support the implementation of the ILUP at the district, ward and village levels.
(ii) Develop the new by-laws following the step-by-step bottom-up approach developed under the Forest ForCES project.
(iii) Raise awareness on existing and new by-laws within the 8 targeted districts.

Outcome 1.2: Integrated Landscape Planning incorporating LDN objectives applied and sustained in the Save and Runde sub-basins

Participatory development of two ILUPs and their Action Plans

Two ILUPs and Action Plans ? one for Runde sub-basin and one for Save sub-basin ? will be designed based on the experience with the Lowveld management plan, the Tugwi-Mukosi dam buffer zone management plan, lessons learned from the management of the Save Valley Conservancy, and on existing District Strategic Plans. These ILUPs will be developed at the sub-basin level (beyond administrative boundaries) ? based on environmental, social, economic (including impact of COVID-19) and climatic data collected under Output 1.1.3 ? to enable the integrated management of natural resources in the targeted sub-basins with a view to avoid, reduce or reverse land degradation. The SLM and SFM interventions selected under the ILUPs will be aligned with UNCCD?s Drought Smart Land Management guidance. https://knowledge.unccd.int/knowledge-products-and-pillars/access-capacity-policy-support-technology-tools/drought-smart-land

This planning process will be undertaken by the cross-sectoral and gender-sensitive governance platforms established under Outcome 1.1 under close supervision from EMA and with support from the international LDN expert and the CTA. These ILUPs will aim to address land degradation drivers, sustainably increase the production of ecosystem goods and services under a changing climate, support the development of sustainable livelihoods, mitigate human-wildlife conflicts, and clarify access and tenure systems (in close alignment with Outcome 2.2) following an LDN approach. The ILUPs will be fully aligned with the new Land Policy. Following an adaptive approach, if deemed necessary based on the new land policy and the first stages of the participatory planning process, specific engagement interventions will be implemented to ensure efficient participatory processes across the land use categories of the sub-basins. Indeed, key success factors of the project are strong community engagement, and clarifying and securing land ownership and access rights. The participatory development of the ILUPs will thereafter enable to identify any additional issues around land ownership and access rights in the sub-basins and design the required interventions to address them. Furthermore, The experience and lessons learned from World Visions? Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration initiatives (e.g. in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe) will be built on for the design of the ILUPs.

Alignment of existing provincial-level, district-level and ward-level plans and finance mechanisms with the ILUPs

Existing development plans in the targeted sub-basins will be revised/updated ? based on their respective revision cycles ? in the targeted sub-basins to maximise their alignment with ILUPs. At the national level, the NEAP will be developed in alignment with the ILUP to promote LDN at national level. At the district level, relevant existing development plans to be aligned to the ILUPs include as examples: District Strategic Plans, District Adaptation Plans, District Disaster Risk Reduction Plans and other relevant plans. During the next review process of these development plans, the interventions of the ILUPs in the districts will be integrated in these documents. This approach will also promote the outscaling of the interventions to the entire districts.

The development of the ILUPs will enable to cascade down the National Environmental Planning targets to district and provincial levels. The capacity of EMA?s decentralised staff at district level, and of their focal points at ward and village levels (i.e. Environment Committees, Environment Sub-committees and their Local Environment Monitors at ward level, and NRM committees at village level) will be strengthened through technical training on SLM and SFM, improving communication equipment, and increasing their mobility (e.g. bicycles, motorbikes) and their visibility on the ground. This will enable them to assist the implementation of the interventions planned under the ILUP at the ward and village levels, and improve policy enforcement. In addition, EMA will be supported in assisting ward and village officers to produce ward-level neutrality-focused and gender-sensitive LEAPs taking climate change into consideration following an adequate community involvement process and in alignment with the ILUPs. The LEAPs will be developed using a participatory and cross-sectoral approach. These plans will guide cross-sectoral collaboration for the implementation of SLM and SFM at the local level. Lastly, in order to further support the implementation of the ILUPs in the targeted sub-basins, advocacy to the Provincial District Councils for the Devolution Fund to be allocated to SLM and SFM interventions following an LDN approach will be undertaken.

Indicators of success:

(i) # of ILUPs for integrated land-use management planning developed and under implementation in the Save and Runde sub-basins
(ii) # of existing development plans from the Provincial to the Village level across the targeted sub-basins integrating the ILUPs and LDN aims

Assumptions:
(i) The sectoral institutions involved in natural resources? management acknowledge the necessity to increase cross-sectoral and regional collaboration and participate (lead) accordingly.
(ii) The government in place supports the decentralization process throughout and beyond the project implementation phase.

Lead Executing Entity: Outcome 1.2 will be implemented under the lead of EMA in collaboration with the cross-sectoral governance platform established under Outcome 1.1 and relevant central government institutions (e.g. MFED).

Corresponding outputs (to be adjusted/expanded as necessary) with summary of key activities:
Further details on the proposed project outputs and activities is given in Annex I.

Output 1.2.1: Two integrated landscape management and corresponding action plans developed for Save and Runde sub-basins

Key activities:
(i) Design and implement awareness-raising campaigns on the multiple benefits of integrated land-use planning and management for local government, CSOs and communities.
(ii) Prepare technical guidelines on land restoration, provide training and required equipment for the application of these guidelines.
(iii) Support the development of an ILUP and its action plan for the Runde sub-basin.
(iv) Support the development of an ILUP and its action plan for the Save sub-basin.
(v) Adoption and dissemination of development plans.

Output 1.2.2: Provincial-level, district-level, ward-level and site-specific plans and finance mechanisms developed and reviewed to align with the ILUPs and to support SLM, SFM and LDN

Key activities:
(i) Support the development of the NEAP and the update of the district-level plans ? i.e. District Strategic Plans, District Adaptation Plans, District Disaster Risk Reduction Plans and other relevant plans ? to align these plans with the ILUPs and promote LDN.
(ii) Support EMA in providing training to ward and village officers to produce LEAPs taking climate change into consideration in a participatory and cross-sectoral manner with adequate community involvement process and in alignment with the ILUPs and district-level plans.
(iii) Strengthen the capacity of EMA decentralised staff at the district and ward levels through training, improving communication equipment, increasing their mobility and their visibility of the ground for the implementation of the ILUPs and LEAPs.
(iv) Develop the management plan for the Chimanimani National Park in collaboration with GEF7 project in Mozambique and support the process of finalisation of the Trans-frontier Conservation Area (TFCA) agreement between Zimbabwe and Mozambique for the Chimanimani TFCA.
(v) Support Provincial Development Councils in identifying and prioritising SLM and SFM interventions to address environmental degradation drivers to be funded with the Devolution Fund, in alignment with the ILUPs.

The anticipated support from the REM to Component 1 of the project is as follows:

- linking countries to share experience on LDN processes to inform the strengthening of the national LDN TWG and create the landscape-level LDN TWG;

- support to ILAM training and assessments to facilitate knowledge sharing;

- support with integrated and LDN-centred land use planning for the design of the ILUPs;

- strengthening of the regulatory frameworks, in particular for the certification of forest products, addressing the issue of charcoal, establishing seed banks and strengthening the FFS/APFS network; and

- support transboundary collaboration with Mozambique for the design of the management plan for Chimanimani National Park.

Component 2: Demonstrating, implementing, and scaling up and out SLM and SFM good practices in Save and Runde basins

The project?s second component will support the implementation, and scaling up and out of selected SLM and SFM interventions ? based on the ILUPs and Action Plans developed under Output 1.2 ? in the targeted landscapes, in close alignment with the country?s LDN targets and as a key contribution to these targets (refer to Part II Section 7). This will address the identified barrier of limited community awareness, technical support, access to market and financial opportunities to adopt alternative livelihood opportunities based on the sustainable use of land and forest resources (Barrier 4 - see Part II 1 a. 2. Barriers sub-section) and build on the experience and interventions of Agritex, NGOs operating in the sub-basins (e.g. CTDT, Word Vision, SNV), EMA and FC with previous and ongoing projects and programmes (i.e. HSBC project, Forest ForCES project, Presidential Input Programme) in the

establishment of FFSs/APFSs, the implementation of SLM (e.g. conservation agriculture, gully rehabilitation) and SFM (e.g. forest restoration, nurseries establishment, bee keeping), the establishment of CSBs, and Value Chains strengthening. The application and scaling out of integrated landscape management will be achieved through the following main strategies:

(i) Promoting participatory and cross-sectoral rural advisory services in order to capacitate and empower community groups, forest farm producers and extension workers on integrated interventions for SLM/SFM that take the complex drivers of land degradation in the targeted landscapes into account;
(ii) Supporting forest and farm producers in diversifying their production to promote resilience and increase livelihoods in the targeted landscapes;
(iii) Providing land users with incentives for the sustainable management of the landscape (e.g. via Value Chain and finance);
(iv) Mainstream sustainable management approaches into the agendas of farmer support programmes and institutions beyond the specific geographical range of the project, in order to achieve broader scaling out; and
(v) Strategic co-financing partnerships to leverage broad and durable scaling out.

The focus will be on supporting rural communities and the individual farmers/herders ? including men, women and youth ? to make choices in their land use and natural resource management systems to improve their socio-economic well-being (addressing food security, poverty and labour). The empowerment of forest, farm and rangeland users and clarified ownership and responsibilities regarding natural resources management will support communities? long-term engagement in sustainable practices. Furthermore, the evidence-based knowledge generated on the benefits of land and forest management practices will support their adoption as common practice through the FFS/APFS approach, thereby enabling the scaling deep[5] of SLM and SFM in the targeted sub-basins.

Beyond close collaboration with EMA, Agritex and the FC for the implementation of the interventions in the targeted sub-basins, these institutions will be supported in mainstreaming SLM and SFM in their ongoing programmes and recurrent interventions for land restoration, sustainable agricultural productivity, and forest restoration and management. This will support the outscaling of SLM and SFM at the district, provincial and national levels. The FFS/APFS and CSB networks? approach will significantly facilitate the mainstreaming of SLM and SFM by these institutions through providing a model that can be systematically plugged in and expanded by government investments.

Outcome 2.1: SLM and SFM interventions demonstrated and implemented in Save and Runde sub-basins.

Under Outcome 2.1, awareness-raising campaigns on the benefits of improved management practices for production landscape and natural resources will be undertaken to ensure buy-in of the project interventions by local communities across the landscape[6]. Communities will be supported in adopting SLM and SFM practices identified under the ILUPs (see Output 1.2.1) to address land degradation issues and support increased agricultural, pastoral and forest productivity. This will be done through strengthening community governance structures and cross-sectoral participatory rural advisory services

(i.e. establishment of an FFS/APFS network) in order to improve decision making over the targeted forest and farm landscapes and to achieve sustainable livelihoods, poverty reduction and climate change resilience. At least 174,650 ha of Miombo and Mopane production landscapes will be under SLM and/or SFM by the end of the project including sustainable agriculture intensification over 30,000 ha of cropland in Save and Runde sub-basins, the establishment of 500 ha of woodlots for sustainable NTFP and wood harvesting in communal land, 100 ha of degraded land rehabilitated (e.g. gullies, land degraded by invasive species), 7,000 ha under improved fire management of forest and communal areas, assisted natural regeneration undertaken over 2,000 ha of forest land, community-based forest management over 130,000 ha, for the protection and sustainable exploitation of forest resources, 50 ha of mining sites under the process of being restored, and 5,000 ha under improved rangeland management. In addition, FC will be supported in the development of the Management Plan for the Chimanimani National Park (21,200 ha). SLM Small scale miners and mining offenders will be involved as much as possible in the restoration activities.. The Forestry Commission will also be supported in undertaking a research study on environmentally friendly and cost-effective methods to prevent invasion and control invasive bush and tree species (e.g. *Vernonanthura polyanthes*) in the targeted sub-basins. SLM and SFM practices on-farm will be supported by a more self-reliant input supply structure with focus on diversified and resilient seed and seedling supply in support of the envisaged sustainable agricultural intensification (i.e. strengthening of the CSB network) and indigenous breeds (e.g. poultry), by clarifying the management and utilisation of forest resources, and by supporting improved control of resources extraction to support sustainable exploitation. The CSB interventions will be implemented under the leadership of the CTDT who already has valuable experience working with ICRISAT, CIMMYT and the Crop Breeding Institute on the establishment of CSBs. The network of tree nurseries of the FC will also be strengthened to increase local availability of adapted tree species ? including *inter alia* species providing NTFPs and declining Miombo species such as *Bivinia jalbertii, Androstachys johnsonii* and/or *Warbugia salutaris* ? in support of the SFM interventions.

Indicators of success:

(i) # of ha of Miombo and Mopane production landscapes under SLM and/or SFM practices for improved and sustainable production (contributing to GEF Core Indicator 4, Sub-Indicator 4.3) with the following distribution across the targeted LUS:

- # of ha of cropland in Save and Runde sub-basins under sustainable intensification

- # of ha of mixed landscapes with SLM and SFM practices applied for sustainable NTFP and wood harvesting

- # of ha of mixed landscapes under improved fire management

- # of ha of rangeland under improved management

(ii) # of ha of forests and mixed landscapes under regeneration (contributing to GEF Core Indicator 3, Sub-Indicator 3.1)

- # of ha of forests under assisted natural regeneration

- # of ha of degraded forests (mining sites) under rehabilitation

- # of ha of mixed landscape (gullies, land degraded by invasive species) under rehabilitation

(iii) # of ha of terrestrial protected areas under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

(iv) Increase in the # of ha of forests sustainably managed by community-based forest management committees

Assumptions:

(i) Local communities and FFPOs grasp the opportunities offered by SLM and SFM, and are willing to invest the required time and energy to make their livelihoods more resilient.
(ii) Community empowerment and rural advisory services through the FFSs/APFSs, CSBs and FFPOs approach enables to compensate for the limited ground presence of government institutions such as EMA and FC, and to enable efficient transfer of the guidance provided by these institutions at district and ward levels to the village level.
(iii) The SLM and SFM practices promoted by the project lead to measurable and sustainable results on ecosystems productivity, biodiversity, and income generation.

Lead Executing Entity: Overall coordination for Outcome 2.1 will be undertaken by EMA. CTDT will take the lead for the establishment of the CSB, tree nurseries, and FFS networks in close collaboration with Agritex. World Vision will provide technical input for the tree nurseries and SFM interventions in close collaboration with FC.

Corresponding outputs (to be adjusted/expanded as necessary) with summary of key activities:

Further details on the proposed project outputs and activities is given in Annex I.

Output 2.1.1: Capacity building programme delivered in the sub-basins and the targeted Forest, Farm and Rangeland users supported in the implementation of SLM/SFM activities in targeted production landscapes

Key activities:

(i) Undertake landscape-level awareness raising in the local language with a view to enhancing project buy-in by the wider stakeholders.
(ii) Identify forest, farm and rangeland users who are interested in joining the project in support of outscaling SLM/SFM (building upon PPG participatory stakeholder assessment).
(iii) Undertake capacity assessment of farmers organisations.
(iv) Develop a strategy and action for the strengthening of the FFS/APFS network in collaboration with extension and technical services of Agritex, EMA and FC to harmonize and integrate the FFS approach into the strategies of these departments and develop mechanism to sustain the FFS schools.
(v) Integrate identified SLM, SFM, Integrated Water Management (IWM) and LDN good practices into FFS and APFS?s Training curricula and update them regularly based on field situation and community requests.
(vi) Develop and publish user-friendly technical, business and organisational development training manuals incorporating SLM, SFM, IWM and LDN good practices, as well as FFS booklet adapted to Zimbabwe context.
(vii) Select and train 100 FFS/APFS master trainers.
(viii) Train 600 FFS/APFS facilitators from agriculture, livestock and environment services, and selected farmer organizations in integrated crop/livestock/forest user systems.
(ix) Establish 600 FFSs/APFSs to train 15,000 farmers.

Mixed land use/communal land
(x) Undertake sustainable agriculture intensification over 30,000 ha of communal land.
(xi) Establish woodlots by using fast-growing multipurpose indigenous species for firewood, timber, fodder and food (e.g. fruit trees) over at least 500 ha of communal land.
(xii) Improve rangeland management to address overgrazing and erosion issues through the participatory planning of grazing area over 5,000 ha.
(xiii) Undertake land and gully restoration interventions (including removal of invasive species if required) over 100 ha.

Forest land
(xiv) Implement land rehabilitation measures to enable natural regeneration for soil stabilisation and biodiversity and construction of water retention structures over at least 2,000 ha.
(xv) Establish community-based forest management committees for the protection and sustainable management of 130,000 ha of woodlands around riverine areas and conservation areas.
(xvi) Restore abandoned small-scale mining sites over 50 ha in Shurugwi, Masvingo and/or Chimanimani districts with species useful to local communities to support livelihoods.
(xvii) Reduce the risk of veldt fires through awareness raising, training and providing equipment over at least 7,000 ha.

Output 2.1.2: CSBs established/strengthened and tree nurseries strengthened in support of SLM and SFM

Key activities:
(i) Review the functioning of existing CSBs and identify the gaps for the creation of a robust CSB network in the targeted sub-basins.
(ii) Conduct participatory mapping and collection of propagation and multiplication materials and breeds, for the available climate-resilient and suitable indigenous crop varieties/cultivars, poultry breeds and NTFP tree species.
(iii) Strengthen/establish CSBs and tree nurseries (for crops, grass, shrubs, herbs and trees) jointly managed by a community group, association or cooperative.

Outcome 2.2: Key sustainable dryland commodity Value Chains established and/or strengthened.

The sustainability of the SLM and SFM interventions to be implemented under Outcome 2.1 will be secured by supporting the targeted FFPOs in the development of viable business plans that are targeting ?baskets? of diverse crop and forest products and corresponding business incubation services. The selection criteria for the Value Chains to be selected by the project will include for example: climate resilience, national market demand/profitability, potential for regional and international export, potential for value addition, availability of inputs/raw materials, availability of Value Chain Support Services (e.g. extension, transport, finance mechanisms), organizational capacity of farmers and actors in the chain, private sector support/investment, inclusiveness (youth and women), environmental considerations, employment creation, potential for rapid implementation, exisiting donors and partner support, existing government support, and consumer benefits. A set of Value Chains presenting good opportunities to provide a sustainable source of income to forest and farm land-users were identified during the PPG phase using these selection criteria (see Box 2). Markets analysis will be undertaken to have a better understanding of existing market actors, stakeholders? relationships and roles (e.g. farmers, traders, processors, service providers), trade flows, bottlenecks and opportunities for support within the market-operating environment. The Value Chains prioritised under the selected business plans will be strengthened to make them more sustainable and profitable. To further maintain and develop these Value Chains, additional sources of funding will be identified and leveraged (e.g. Public Private Partnerships, CSR, PES scheme) from the private sector and a Donor/Finance RoundTable will be established to attract more funding beyond the project lifespan. This will result in increased economic value of land and forest ecosystems, thereby promoting their conservation by local communities and government authorities. The institutionalisation of the Donor/Finance Round Table will be supported under the project.

Box 2: Examples of Value Chains? development opportunities identified during the PPG phase

Several opportunities for the development of sustainable Value Chains have been identified for each land-use type in Save and Runde sub-basins during the rapid Value Chain analysis that was conducted during the PPG phase (see Box 1) and involved local communities, local economic agents, lead private entities in Zimbabwe, Government of Zimbabwe, CSOs and NGOs.

According to the results, in forest land, baobab and honey and their by-products Value Chains are showing major potential for inclusive growth and its strengthening could provide direct positive impact on sustainable income for the local communities and local business development. Baobabs are found in abundance in Chimanimani Wards 5, 8 and 20, Chipinge Wards 21, 1 and 3, and Bikita Ward 20. The key elements of this Value Chain are in place from research (e.g. Bio Innovation Zimbabwe), to regional and national associations (e.g. African Baobab Alliance, Southern Africa Essential Oil Producers Association, PhytoTrade Africa) and private sector actors in country and at SADC Region level (e.g. Bayoba Pvt Ltd, Boamix Processing Centre, Kaza Natural Oils, Four Seasons, AfriDeli, Divine Pro Beauty Skin Carem Pharmpack). Meanwhile at local level, very few harvester?s associations have good capacities to organize the producers, aggregate the product in quality and quantity required by market and negotiate good value for the product. The African baobab export grew from 50MT in 2013 to 450MT in 2017. Yet in Zimbabwe, harvesters and local businesses have limited access to technology and facilities for value addition and storage which prevent them from meeting the market requirements and basic food safety standards. The current benefits from this Value Chain to local communities is therefore still limited. Besides the work that is required at the local level, the baobab Value Chain still needs coordination and investment in southern Africa and Zimbabwe to assure baobab products are certified and the sector is growing sustainably.

Similarly, opportunities for the development of honey and wax products? Value Chain have been identified, as well as opportunities to produce natural oils based on a diversity of NTFPs such as Marula, Sour Plums and Wild Melons. Supporting this Value Chains would build upon the investments of the FAO Forest ForCES project, Livelihoods and Food Security Programme (LFSP), International Labour Organization Micro Small Medium Enterprises support and Government of Zimbabwe development initiatives that supported the development of baobab, honey and marula Value Chains in eight districts including Chimanimani and at national level. For example, a Baobab processing centre and honey processing centre were established in Chimanimani district. Beekeeping equipment, training in basic and advanced bee-keeping, community structuration into bee keepers? associations and improved linkages to market were also supported in Chimanimani which enabled significant increase in bee keepers? income. ZimTrade, recognize honey as an important export commodity, but ? together with other exporters like Winward? they are still waiting for honey producers in Zimbabwe to organise themselves to meet demand needs. Similarly, other Value Chains require coordinated effort and investment to meet requirements of the market demand quality and quantity. Outside the NTFP several dryland Value Chains were identified, including sorghum and millet, and groundnut.

Another potential Value Chain development opportunity to be explored if of interest to FFPOs is Aloe farming. ICRISAT and the University of Harare have undertaken research and field trials which showed good potential for development. Experience in South Africa could be built on for this Value Chain.

Indicators of success:

(i) # of business plans for the development of sustainable NUSs, NTFPs and small livestock Value Chains under implementation

(ii) # of loans and other financial contribution for post-harvest processing of agricultural and forest

products attributed by microfinance schemes and other private sector organisations in the targeted areas, particularly to women.

Assumptions:

(i) Local communities and FFPOs grasp the opportunities offered by SLM and SFM, and are willing to invest the required time and energy to make their livelihoods more resilient.
(ii) Community empowerment and rural advisory services through the FFSs/APFSs, CSBs and FFPOs approach enables to compensate for the limited ground presence of government institutions such as EMA and FC, and to enable efficient transfer of the guidance provided by these institutions at district and ward levels to the village level.
(iii) The sectoral institutions involved in natural resources? management acknowledge the necessity to increase cross-sectoral and regional collaboration and participate (lead) accordingly.
(iv) The SLM and SFM practices promoted by the project lead to measurable and sustainable results on ecosystems productivity, biodiversity, and income generation.

Lead Executing entity:

World Vision will lead the implementation of Output 2.2.1. EMA will lead Output 2.2.2.

Corresponding outputs (to be adjusted/expanded as necessary) with summary of key activities:

Further details on the proposed project outputs and activities is given in Annex I.

Output 2.2.1: Miombo woodlands Value Chains (?basket product approach?) identified, selected and developed along with bankable business plans

Key activities:
(i) Develop the Value Chains? selection criteria ? and corresponding selection criteria for the business plans ? to refine the Value Chains? assessment undertaken during the PPG phase and establish a cross-sectoral selection committee.
(ii) Map eligible producers? organisations in the targeted landscapes as well as at national level (building upon Value Chains and participatory stakeholder mapping results) in collaboration with the Operational Partners (OPs).
(iii) Support identified producer organisations in the development of a business plan and sustainability strategy, and prepare a business plan development manual.
(iv) Support the FFPOs in presenting the business plans to the selection committee and provide support for the implementation of the selected business plans and their sustainability strategy.
(v) Provide required training to strengthen community organisations such as training on post-harvest practices, financial management and administrative management.
(vi) Support the development or strengthening of business incubation services within FFPOs.
(vii) Build the capacity and engagement of FFPOs in innovative funding mechanisms to access and channel resources to their members, and strengthen savings and credit groups.
(viii) Complement the data collection and analysis previously undertaken by FC on charcoal in Chipinge to increase understanding of firewood harvesting, charcoal production and consumption patterns previously undertaken by the FC in Chipinge, Buhera, Chivi and Shurugwi.
(ix) Raise awareness on fuelwood and charcoal issues and opportunities for improvement.

Output 2.2.2: Finance and business incubation mechanisms established in support of Forest Farm Producers and their organizations

Key activities:
(i) Approach microfinance institutions to discuss opportunities to increase access to financial support for smallholder farmers/groups/associations interested in adopting or developing SLM and SFM practices.
(ii) Assess the current contribution of the private sector to environmental protection.
(iii) Engage and get commitment or pledges by private sector partners for green financing.
(iv) Advocate for Friend of the Environment FOTE to fund SFM (and SLM) interventions.
(v) Establish an LDN Donor/Finance RoundTable with government and non-government partners, and relevant private sector actors.
(vi) Identify and engage with suitable business incubators identified under the LDN Donor/Finance RoundTable.

The anticipated support from the REM to Component 2 of the project is as follows:
- support in linking the countries to the regional networks (FFS/APFS and CSBs);
- identification and sharing of evidence-based (good) SLM/SFM practices;
- support in joint forest/Farm training/curricula development based identified good practices; and
_development of regional market opportunities (and certification).

Component 3: Effective Knowledge Management, Monitoring and Collaboration for addressing SLM/SFM at landscape, national, regional and global levels

The absence of mechanism to systematically monitor, evaluate and compile the results and lessons learned from past and on-going projects prevents the production of evidence-base information on good practices for natural resources management. In addition, the absence of a centralised, publicly-available information database at the national level prevents the efficient and timely sharing of information between sectors and countries. This prevent the adoption of best SLM and SFM practices across sectors and scales to efficiently address degradation drivers in the Miombo and Mopane woodlands and enable transformational change towards the sustainable management of the landscape.

To address these barriers, a detailed M&E plan will be developed and implemented, and the knowledge and experience generated under the GEF7 project on SLM and SFM practices as well as on the implementation of an LDN approach in Zimbabwe will be shared as widely as possible with all relevant stakeholders under Component 3. A knowledge-sharing strategy and a financing plan ? including a national knowledge sharing platform ? will be developed and implemented to strengthen cross-sectoral knowledge sharing in Zimbabwe in support of integrated land-use planning, as well as knowledge sharing at the regional and global levels. The REM to be supported by the GCP will enable targeted system-wide capacity development, knowledge management (through South-South Cooperation) and investment support tailored to the Miombo and Mopane context. Close collaboration between the REM and the existing regional knowledge platforms (e.g. SADC GGWI, Miombo Network) will be established and these platforms will be capitalised on to share and disseminate the good practices identified under the GEF7 project in Zimbabwe. The uptake of this information and the effective use of an holistic approach to combating land degradation in Miombo and Mopane ecoregion will be further facilitated by the use of analytical tools and methodologies on SLM and SFM developed

by FAO, IUCN and other international organizations (see Output 1.1.3) and the application of a monitoring system for landscape-level impacts harmonized at the regional scale (see Output 3.2.1).

Outcome 3.1: Project implementation supported by an M&E strategy based on measurable and verifiable outcomes and adaptive management principles.

A detailed M&E Plan using a results-based management approach will be developed. To do so, an M&E specialist will be hired in PY1 to design and establish an M&E system to obtain information on progress in meeting targets, evaluating results and facilitating the systematization of experiences. To enable the comparison between different practices and approaches, and the identification of good practices as well as their success factors, the M&E approaches (e.g. use of the ILAM toolbox) used in the different DSL IP projects will be harmonised. The M&E tools will also be harmonised as much as possible (e.g. use of SEPAL and WOCAT platforms) to facilitate knowledge sharing under Outcome 3.2. Throughout the duration of the project, monitoring reports will be prepared by the PMU according to the M&E system. The results matrix (Annex 1) presents the expected results from the project, related indicators and measurement methods and tools that will be used. Throughout the project duration, annual financial audits will be conducted to ensure that resources are appropriately used as planned. An independent Mid-Term Review will be conducted in PY3 by experts selected by FAO with the approval of the Project Steering Committee (PSC). The technical Mid-Term Review will be important to assess the project progress towards achieving its targets and objectives and also to assess the project management effectiveness. Recommendations to eventually adjust and update some of the outputs and activities will also be made if necessary. During PY5, an independent Final Evaluation will be conducted. Lessons learnt and recommendations produced by the final evaluation will be fundamental for future replication and scaling up of restoration initiatives.

Indicators of success:
(i) # of functioning monitoring, evaluation and reporting system for LDN targets, Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs), SDGs, NBSAP and other national targets institutionalised

Assumptions:
(i) Sectoral institutions involved in natural resources? management acknowledge the necessity to increase cross-sectoral and regional collaboration and participate(lead) accordingly
(ii) SLM and SFM practices promoted by the project lead to measurable and sustainable results on ecosystems productivity, biodiversity, and income generation

Lead Executing entity:
This outcome will be lead by FAO and EMA.

Corresponding outputs (to be adjusted/expanded as necessary) with summary of key activities:

Further details on the proposed project outputs and activities is given in Annex I.

Output 3.1.1: M & E strategy developed with relevant stakeholders, clearly defining the expected outcomes, expected implementation timeframe, and confirmation through objectively verifiable indicators and means of verification. Key activities: (i) Define in a participatory manner the role of each government institutions in monitoring, evaluation and reporting of SLM, SFM, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem functioning and LDN, and develop corresponding M&E strategy and guidelines in alignment with regional LDN assessment work. (ii) Provide training for the implementation of the monitoring, evaluation and reporting strategy.
Output 3.1.2: Mid Term Review and Final Evaluation carried out Key activities: (i) Undertake the Mid-Term Review. (ii) Undertake the Final Evaluation.

Outcome 3.2: Data collection and knowledge sharing approach on SFM/SLM contributing to LDN assessment work improved.

A gender-sensitive/responsive knowledge management and communication strategy and a financing plan will be developed to increase knowledge sharing at the central, district, ward and village levels, as well as at the regional level under the REM to be established under the GCP (see Box 3). This will be based on the usage and functioning of existing platforms such as the Biodiversity forum and Green Line, on the functioning of the national repository on LDN which is currently being establishment, and on the priority information needs of key departments (e.g. EMA, FC, Agritex, ZINWA, PWMA, CCMD). The national LDN repository will be strengthened where necessary in alignment with UNCCD reporting requirement (i.e. Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System ? PRAIS). The working groups on drylands and related platforms (e.g. Committee on Forestry Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosylvopastoral Systems, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Global Landscapes Forum, the Global Soils Partnership, and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies) and the regional-level platforms (e.g. SADC GGWI, the Miombo Network, the GEF-6 IAP Policy and Science Interface, ZAMCOM, World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies - WOCAT) will also be strengthened in coordination with the REM. Awareness-raising interventions on new and existing knowledge-sharing platforms and training on how to use them efficiently will be implemented. Specific training will also be provided on a demand basis to relevant departments of the use of existing sources of information (e.g. WOCAT, TerrAfrica) and user-friendly guides will be developed/strengthened where necessary.

The knowledge and experience generated on integrated development planning and on the design and implementation of SLM and SFM practices under Components 1 and 2 through the M&E system (Output 3.1.1) ? as well as other baseline interventions from EMA, FC and Agritex supporting the LDN approach ? will be collected and compiled on a continuous basis through the project implementation phase. The knowledge generated will then be packaged into a diversity of communication material adapted to different governmental and non-governmental audiences from different sectors at the sub-national, national, regional and global levels.

The communication material to be developed under Output 3.2.1 will be published on the national LDN repository and through other existing national communication streams and knowledge platforms (Output 3.2.1), as well as on regional and global platforms (Output 3.2.2). As an example, discussions and knowledge sharing on sustainable charcoal Value Chains in the Miombo region will be supported in alignment with Output 3.2.2. This knowledge exchange will build upon the recently conducted regional woodfuel workshop ? hosted by FAO and Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in February 2020 ? were eight countries in Southern and Central Africa discussed and shared lessons on regional charcoal trade and movements, tenure and institutional arrangements for charcoal sourcing/production systems, options for sustainable wood sources and the promotion of efficient charcoal production practices. Similar regional workshops and global workshops will be organised by the GCP through the REM to discuss land degradation issues, and experiences in implementing SLM, SFM and LDN between and beyond DSL IP countries. These workshops will enable the joint identification of solutions to common land degradation issues, and promote outscaling of successful approaches. The REM will further support the cooperation between neighbouring countries through shared Technical Advisory needs.

To further strengthen the national FFS/APFS network, the exchange of knowledge and experience with other FFSs at the regional and global scales will be promoted under the REM. Firstly, regional exchange workshops with the project team and FFS experts from other countries that are part of the DSL IP programme will be organized. Secondly, two regional training workshops will be organized for FFS/APFS and M&E experts from Zimbabwe and neighbouring countries on M&E tools, systems and impact assessment methodologies for FFS/APFS activities. This will facilitate the production of evidence-based information on the implementation of the FFS/APFS approach in each country. Cross-country interactions between FFS/APFS Master Trainers and national country team FFS/APFS experts will be further strengthened during regional refresher training courses. Lastly, FFS/APFS experts from Zimbabwe and other DSL IP countries will be invited to participate to international exchange meetings organised by the global FFS platform on different topics.

Under Outcome 3.2, the knowledge of transboundary issues concerning the resources of Save and Runde sub-basins will be strengthened to support decision-making and management planning to address identified land-degradation drivers in Miombo and Mopane woodlands through intergovernmental collaboration. Priority issues will be identified in a collaborative manner as well as opportunities to address them with support from the REM. Opportunities for collaboration to strengthen the development of nature-based, sustainable sources of income, and for knowledge sharing between neighbouring countries will also be identified. For example, Runde basin stretch to neighbouring country Mozambique, therefore Zimbabwe and Mozambique will be supported in identifying interventions to address priority transboundary issues linked to land degradation (e.g. charcoal production and trade) and in strengthening opportunities for sustainable development offered by transboundary collaboration (e.g. shared private sector engagement efforts to expand NUS and NTFP markets beyond the national level to be supported under the REM). Transboundary collaboration between Mozambique and Zimbabwe for sustainable wildlife management in Chimanimani TFCA will be supported through joint species monitoring and joint law enforcement programs. This will be done through coordinated support by the GEF7 project in Mozambique, the GEF7 project in Zimbabwe and the GCP project. The Forestry Commission will also be supported in building on the experience of

other countries of the region (e.g. Namibia, Botswana) in invasive species management to identify environmentally friendly and cost-effective methods to prevent invasion and control invasive bush and tree species (e.g. *Lantana camara*, *Vernonanthura polyanthes*) including opportunities to derive income from the removal of invasive species in the targeted sub-basins. A management strategy will thereafter be developed for improved management of invasive species in the targeted landscape. Finally, a participatory landscape-level LDN monitoring, reporting and evaluation system will be established to enable continuous monitoring of the LDN interventions in the targeted landscapes and their contribution to the national LDN targets.

Box 3. Miombo/Mopane Regional Exchange Mechanism (REM) ? please see Annex J for more details

The objective of the Miombo/Mopane REM is to increase the magnitude, durability and scope of impacts of GEF-7 investments in sustainable drylands management in DSL IP countries (Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe ? financed through GCP and child project contributions) and non-DSL IP countries in the ecoregion (Burundi, DRC, Eswatini, South Africa, Zambia - through co-financing and zero cost to DSL IP). The shared land degradation and associated management challenges, along with the high density of child projects in one ecoregion, provide a unique opportunity to find common solutions through regionally harmonized approaches, knowledge and experience/lesson sharing, and taking full advantage of economies of scale in the delivery of technical assistance.

The REM is expected to yield the following outcomes:

? Increased collaboration and coordination among Miombo/Mopane child projects resulting in new or strengthened synergies, enhanced impacts and efficiencies, and avoidance of duplication.

? Improved availability and delivery of demand-driven technical, methodological, financial and other capacity development support to child projects, leading to greater impact at country level (through a regional capacity development program).

? The program and its child projects contribute to knowledge access and knowledge exchange on DSL options.

? Impacts scaled out in and beyond IP countries in the Miombo/Mopane region.

? Regional level M&E allows adaptive response to regional impacts and trends.

Indicators of success:

(i) # of national database strengthened to facilitate access to required data (extend of LD and its trends, LD drivers and ecosystem health) to guide the implementation of the LDN approach created and made easily accessible to all relevant sectors

(ii) # of regional and global knowledge platforms where the lessons learned, good practices and achievements supportive of LDN of the DSL IP are accessible

(iii) # of lessons learned/good practices documents from the implementation of Component 1 and 2 of the GEF7 project published on regional and global platform

(iv) # of regional and global workshops held sharing information/ lessons learned/ best practice on SLM, SFM and LDN

Assumptions:
Sectoral institutions involved in natural resources? management within Zimbabwe as well as in neighbouring countries acknowledge the necessity to increase cross-sectoral and regional collaboration and participate accordingly.

Lead Executing entity:
This outcome will be led by FAO and EMA.

Corresponding outputs (to be adjusted/expanded as necessary) with summary of key activities:

Further details on the proposed project outputs and activities is given in Annex I.

Output 3.2.1 Knowledge Management strategy developed and implemented with lessons learned and best approaches/practices on addressing LD at landscape-level captured for their dissemination at the landscape and national levels

Key activities:

(i) Develop gender-sensitive/responsive knowledge management and communication strategy (and their financial plans) to support implementation and replication of project activities to make information related to LDN accessible at the national level (from the central to the village levels) building on the LDN repository under development, and at the regional level beyond the project lifespan.

(ii) Compile and package the knowledge and experience generated by the project interventions under Components 1 and 2 on a continuous basis.

(iii) Support the establishment of the LDN repository for LDN information ? including the information collected under Output 1.1.3 ? to be accessible to all relevant national stakeholders to support LDN in Zimbabwe.

(iv) Depending on its utility and effectiveness during project implementation, develop an action plan for mainstreaming the ILAM as part of the national LDN Decision Support System.

Output 3.2.2 Knowledge exchanges on Drylands IP results and collaboration between neighboring countries and at regional and global levels to support mutual capacity development and learning

Key activities:

(i) Disseminate knowledge and experience generated by the project interventions on regional and global platforms.

(ii) Undertake a diagnostic of transboundary issues between Zimbabwe and Mozambique linked to land degradation in the Save and Runde basins, and between Zimbabwe and South Africa.

(iii) Identify the priority challenges to be addressed (e.g. veldt fires, invasive alien species, illegal mining, charcoal, extraction of indigenous plant resources, watershed management) and identify means to address them in a collaborative manner between the two countries involved.

(iv) Support the Forestry Commission in identifying environmentally-friendly and cost-effective methods to prevent and control invasive bush and tree species such as *Lantana camara* and *Vernonanthura Polyanthes* based on the lessons learned and experience from other countries in the region, and developing corresponding management strategy for invasive species in the targeted sub-basins

(v) Participate to learning visits (South-South Cooperation), regional (REM) and global learning platforms events.

Output 3.2.3 Participatory landscape level LDN monitoring, reporting and evaluation system established and operational

Key activities:

(i) Prepare and validate the participatory methodological approach with local communities

(ii) Develop a web-platform for transparent LDN monitoring, reporting and evaluation based on DRIP

(iii) Develop recommendations for sustainable and institutionalized process for participatory landscape LDN monitoring

The anticipated support from the REM to Component 3 of the project is as follows:

- Facilitation of child projects and countries collaboration to jointly address transboundary land-degradation issues; and
- Joint learning and adaptive management by capturing and sharing evidence-based good practices;

- Support in the development of LDN monitoring tools and approaches.

1.d. Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies

As a child project for the SFM Impact Program on Drylands, the GEF 7 project will directly contributes to the three program?s objectives: i) integrated landscape management with particular focus

on sustainable forest management and restoration, rangelands, and livestock production; ii) the promotion of diversified agro-ecological food production systems in drylands; and iii) the creation of an enabling environment to support the two objectives above. More specifically, the interventions under the GEF 7 project will contribute to four out of the seven GEF Focal Areas of the Impact Program.

The three integrated components of the GEF 7 project will contribute to the following Focal Areas Objectives:

Land Degradation (LD) Objective 1 ?Support on the ground implementation of SLM to achieve LDN? which will be addressed mainly under Component 2 Outcome 2.1; and Objective 2 ?Creating an enabling environment to support voluntary LDN target implementation? to be addressed under Component 1 Outcome 1.1.

Biodiversity (BD) Objective 1 ?Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes? particularly Outcome 4 ?Loss, fragmentation, and degradation of significant natural habitats, and associated extinction debt, is reduced, halted or reversed, and conservation status of known threatened species is improved and sustained, including through monitoring, spatial planning, incentives, restoration, and strategic establishment of protected areas and other measures? through ?mainstreaming biodiversity in Priority Sectors?. Each GEF7 project?s components will contribute to achieving this objective: through policy strengthening, decision making and land-use planning under Component 1, through the implementation of SLM and SFM interventions that support biodiversity in production systems under Component 2, and through increasing knowledge sharing at national, regional and global levels under Component 3.

Component 2 Outcome 2.1 and 2.2 will contribute to achieving Climate Change Mitigation (CCM) Objective 2 ?Demonstrate mitigation options with systemic impacts? by supporting low carbon strategies. Firstly, carbon stocks will be enhanced through promoting tree planting in agricultural land, restoring gullies and mining sites, and supporting ANR in degraded forest. Secondly, the project will contribute to addressing the issue of deforestation through i) supporting the development of a Statutory Instrument to regulate wood extraction for Charcoal production and support the shift to sustainable charcoal production practices where adequate; ii) complementing the knowledge base on firewood harvesting, charcoal production and consumption patterns; iii) raising awareness on fuelwood and charcoal issues and opportunities for improvement, and supporting the adoption of greener sources of energy; iv) establishing on-farm woodlots to increase the supply of sustainably harvested wood; v) establishing community-based forest management committee for the sustainable management of forest resources; and vi) increasing the economic value of forest ecosystems through the development of climate-resilient NTFP Value Chains.

1.e. Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing.

Table 2: Incremental cost reasoning

Current Baseline (B)	Alternative (A)	Global environmental benefits (A ? B)

The deforestation rates are high and increasing with population growth. Over 70% of cropland is considered to be affected by soil erosion from water runoff in the targeted sub-basins. Soil fertility is declining, with reduced organic matter content and acidification being observed. Cropland soil is also physically deteriorated through livestock trampling. Forests are being lost because of deforestation[1] (mainly for energy), invasive species (e.g. *Lantana camara*), and veldt fires. Grasslands have shrunk over the years and remaining patches are under threat from overgrazing, as well as veld fires and invasion by alien species.

Weaknesses in the policy framework including overlap, contradictions and gaps

The current policy framework focuses on natural resources management within administrative boundaries (mainly districts) with limited room for landscape-level decision making, planning and management. The lack of cross-sectoral land-use planning has practical implications on coordination at the local level. Project implementation remains largely siloed, with limited consideration of the multidimensional and cross-sectoral aspects of land degradation issues. There is no joint planning and implementation platform (including for EMA, FC, Agritex and ZINWA).

The low integration of LDN in the policy framework hinders the timely implementation of LDN towards achieving the national targets.

Opportunities for knowledge sharing between sectors and stakeholder groups (e.g. between government sectors, between local authorities and land users) takes place an ad-hoc basis and with inadequate information on how best to create synergies and to achieve a win-win scenario that increases livelihoods while safeguarding ecosystem

The alternative scenario ? including GEF investments ? will add value to baseline initiatives by supporting a cross-sectoral, landscape-level, and harmonised approach to addressing the issues of land degradation, increased demand for food and climate change. The project will demonstrate the integrated management of agricultural, forest and rangeland resources through SLM and SFM following an LDN approach (Annex O). It will build on existing local structures (e.g. NGOs, CSBs, nurseries, FFSs/APFSs) and regional structures (e.g. SADC?s GGWI, Miombo Network). The project has three key components:

i) **Component 1** will add value to baseline investments by supporting an effective collaboration across sectors and scales for joint decision making and planning, and strengthening the policy framework, thereby creating enabling conditions for effective and sustainable management of natural resources following an LDN approach. This will promote the efficiency and sustainability of baseline investments. The project will further add value to the baseline investments by incorporating measures to adapt and respond to climate shocks in landscape-level planning.

ii) **Component 2** will pilot and scale out SLM and SFM good practices at landscape level. This will be achieved by building upon local structures and infrastructures provided by baseline investments (e.g. Agritex FFSs, CTDT CSBs, Presidential Input Programme?) and the introduction of effective, bottom-up rural advisory services taking local knowledge and practices into account. The development of improved livelihoods ? with focus on gender and youth inclusion ? and sustainable Value Chains based on SLM and SFM systems will increase the economic value of agricultural and forest resources which will contribute to the success and maintenance of baseline initiatives? outputs. The project will build on existing localized CSR experiences (e.g. FOTE) to develop CSR and/or PES activities in other sectors (i.e. mining, large plantations, large corporates). This will assist the

The GEF 7 project will directly contribute to alleviating the land degradation causes in agricultural land, forests and rangelands, while sustainably increasing their productivity to support communities? livelihoods. Increased economic benefits to local communities from natural ecosystems will support the maintenance of the project outputs in the long term.

The project interventions will result in:

i) -1,257,525 tCO2eq over the entire 20-years-period of analysis as direct result of project interventions through Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR), increased tree cover in farm systems, and avoidance of tree cutting for fuelwood and charcoal through improved forest management, woodlots establishment and increased access to more sustainable sources of energy;

iii) ILUPs promoting SLM, SFM and LDN developed, validated and under implementation over 1,048,863 ha in the Save and Runde sub-basins; and

iv) At least 174,650 of ha of Miombo and Mopane production landscapes under SLM and/or SFM practices.

SLM and SFM interventions will promote diversity as a major component of resilience. By demonstration and promoting the

1.f. Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

Biodiversity and endangered species:

The implementation of SFM interventions in the targeted sub-basins will significantly contribute to the conservation of natural habitat particularly forests and biodiversity conservation (NBSAP target 3). Together with Mopane, Miombo is one of five key ecosystems among global biodiversity hotspots requiring conservation or restoration due to their irreplaceable endemism. The southern Miombo Woodlands (whose largest contiguous section of the ecoregion is in Zimbabwe) has high faunal diversity. Several threatened large animals occur in this ecoregion, including the Black Rhino (*Diceros bicornis ?* Critically Endangered) and the African Elephant (*Loxodonta Africana ?* Vulnerable). The ecoregion ? particularly the Zimbabwe section ? is important habitat to both species particularly. Threatened large carnivores characteristic of the region include lion (*Panthera leo ?* Vulnerable), leopard (*P. pardus ?* Vulnerable), cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus ?* Vulnerable), and the African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus ?* Endangered). Smaller predators such as the Selous?s mongoose (*Paracynictis selousi*) have a fairly restricted range and therefore depend on the woodlands. Several bird species found in the ecoregion are either largely confined to the ecoregion or have extremely small distribution ranges (e.g. Lilian?s lovebird *Agapornis lilianae*, boulder chat *Pinarornis plumosus*, Stierling?s woodpecker *Dendropicos stierlingi*). Three globally threatened species are also found in this ecoregion, including two threatened species, the Cape vulture *Gyps coprotheres* (Endangered) and the Taita falcon *Falco fasciinucha* (Vulnerable). Reptiles have a high levels of endemism in this ecoregion, with 30 species of snakes and lizards predominantly or exclusively found in southern Miombo Woodlands. The efforts of the FC in conserving local, threatened tree species such as *Bivinia jalbertii* and *Androstachys johnsonii* will be supported by the project by promoting the plantation of these species under the SFM interventions.

Several protected areas are included in the selected sub-basins: Mushandikwe Sanctuary,Save Valley Conservancy, Chipingue Safari Area and Kyle Recreational Park. Mushandike and Kyle are managed by ZPWMA. Wildlife corridors present in the targeted sub-basins will be mapped under the ILUPs and managed accordingly to support wildlife conservation and mitigate human-wildlife conflicts. Buffer zones of these protected areas will benefit from SLM and SFM thereby increasing tree cover and habitat for biodiversity. Indeed, SLM include practices such as crop diversification, crop rotation, crop association and agroforestry as principles of resilience and sustainable productivity. Above and below ground biodiversity will therefore also be increased in agricultural land in the targeted sub-basins. Furthermore, the development of the management plan for the Chimanimani National Park and collaboration with Mozambique will contribute to the sustainable management of the Chimanimani TFCA which encompasses an endemic ecosystem with areas of high scientific value, as well as high concentrations of new and/or poorly known species.

Ecosystem goods and services

The Miombo woodlands provide a number of vital ecosystem services (carbon sequestration, soil productivity, and water cycle and climate regulation). The GEF 7 project?s interventions will support the provision of these ecosystem services in the targeted Miombo and Mopane woodlands, including in two of the identified LD hotspots (i.e. Chivi and Chipinge). Through the project interventions, land cover and biodiversity will be directly improved over 44,650 ha of degraded land. This includes 30,000 ha with improved agricultural practices, 5,000 ha with improved rangeland management, 7,000 ha of improved fire management, 500 ha of mixed woodlots, as well as 2,050 of forest land (including 50 ha of abandoned mining sites) and 100 ha of gullies under regeneration. These interventions will lead to increased biodiversity (NBSAP Target 5). SFM will further be supported across 130,000 ha of forests. Overall, the LDN approach will be supported through the development of integrated management plans across 1,048,863 ha of the Miombo woodlands ecoregion. The use of resilient crops, grass, shrub and tree species, and breeds across the GEF7 project interventions will enhance ecosystems? and communities? resilience to climate change (NBSAP Target 13).

Through implementing interventions that increase tree cover, it is expected that the project will enable the storage of 1,267,525 tCO2 eq. Carbon emission will be avoided through addressing deforestation issues (such as unregulated tree cutting for charcoal production) and promoting sustainable agricultural practices including agroforestry. Increased tree cover will also enable soil stabilisation and fertility, buffering against climate change and water regulation. The SLM and SFM interventions will also result in an increased provision of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem goods. Multiple socio-economic benefits will be generated including increased resilience of communities living in drylands.

The project interventions ? including SLM, SFM and the development of sustainable Value Chains ? will increase the economic value of natural ecosystems for communities and their contribution to the national economy. This will increase the willingness of government, communities and private sector actors to preserve natural resources and ecosystems in the long term.

1.g. Innovativeness, sustainability, potential for scaling up and capacity development[1] . ?

Innovativeness

Land-use planning is currently restricted to administrative boundaries in Zimbabwe and does not go beyond the district level. The GEF7 project will build on previous attempts to undertake cross-sectoral decision making and planning processes (e.g. the Lowveld management plan, the Tugwi-Mukosi dam buffer zone management plan, lessons learned from the management of the Save Valley Conservancy) and demonstrate cross sectoral land-use planning at the landscape level within the two targeted basins (including the establishment of adequate governance platforms). Both aspects of cross-sectorality and using the landscape as a planning unit are innovative in Zimbabwe.

The project will be the first demonstration of the LDN approach in Zimbabwe. It will provide a practical examples of how LDN informed decision making ? based on integrated assessment tools and approaches, and following a LDN response hierarchy ? can be included in national integrated landscape planning efforts and how the impact can be monitored (with support from the GCP).

The project will put several innovative assessment, monitoring, management and knowledge-sharing tools into application in the targeted sub-basins. Under Component 1, the application of SHARP and Open Foris Tools/Collect Earth/Trends Earth will bridge local knowledge and cloud computing for effective land monitoring and planning. Under Component 2, the CSB approach piloted by CTDT will be used at a larger scale to create a robust network. In addition, the FFF approach will enable communities to build sustainable businesses based on forest and farm products in an integrated manner. The FAO as GEF agency will increase access to evidence-based good practices (e.g. SFM Toolbox, Agro-ecology, and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security - VGGT). Under Component 3, the regional approach with the support of the GCP which will establish the REM will enable a true regional collaboration.

The business incubation approach to local development is another innovative aspect of the project which will promote community empowerment, decreased reliance of external support, as well as private sector involvement. This approach will enable to attract investments from private sector companies therefore increasing the availability of sustainable funding sources to strengthen the GEF 7 project investments, and upscaling SLM and SFM towards achieving national LDN targets. Private sector involvement will further be supported through CSR schemes. CSR is currently ad-hoc in the country with no clear guidelines to developing this approach. It is therefore a missed opportunity to increase funding to address land degradation issues. The CSR interventions under the project including the development of a CSR scheme to harmonize and mainstream CSR across nature-based businesses in Zimbabwe which will be a significant innovation for the country. Similarly, PES is not yet developed in the country and will be supported by the development of a specific policy and the creation of first PES agreements (if adequate opportunities are identified in the targeted sub-basins and depending on the PES policy development process). New opportunities to develop sustainable sources of income will be explored such as aloe farming as a new source of income in the country. Finally, the DSL IP offers a unique opportunity for regional collaboration for the certification and commercialization of sustainable crop and forest products.

Sustainability

The project will be implemented in two sub-basins where natural resources are severely degraded. All the interventions of the project will work towards creating an enabling environment to maintain healthy ecosystems, promoting socio-economic development through the sustainable use of natural resources thereby reducing the pressure on natural ecosystems, and protecting areas of high conservation value. The majority of the financial mechanisms to be strengthened under the project (i.e. devolution fund, carbon tax fund, Environmental Fund) are already institutionalised and should therefore be maintained beyond the project lifespan. Furthermore, as attracting more funds from the private sector for provincial development is a clear target of the government as stated under the National Development Strategy 2021-2025 which was finalised in November 2020. Hence, it is expected that the

LDN RoundTable will be maintained to further identify funding opportunities. Raising additional funds will indeed be necessary to be able to achieve the National LDN targets. The project will also support the institutionalization of the LDN working group which will have received training to support LDN monitoring using a training-of-trainers approach and will therefore be able to provide further training where required. Members of the Environmental Committees and Environmental Sub-Committees will receive training from the trainers through the training-of-trainers approach which will strengthen the sustainability of the project. The institutionalization of knowledge exchange mechanisms through existing regional and global platforms such as SADC, Miombo network and WOCAT will enable continued access to the latest information on good practices to inform training activities beyond the project lifespan.

Overall, the project approach and interventions have been designed based on the environmental, economic, and social pillars of sustainability and the SDGs. Environmental benefits will include increased carbon storage, reduced erosion, increased soil fertility, decreased pressure on forest resources, and increased biodiversity. The participatory approach to be implementation across the project interventions will ensure ownership of the project by local communities and local authorities. This is the primary element to promote the maintenance of the project outputs in the long term. Institutional and technical capacity building of community structures ? including women and youth groups, producers associations at landscape and national levels, FFSs/APFSs, community-managed CSBs, cooperatives and community-based management organisations ? will further increase communities? ability to benefit sustainably from the interventions. In addition, the FFSs/APFSs network will be expanded and strengthened in collaboration with extension services to develop them into sustainable structures and provide continuous support to forest, farm and rangeland users. This network will enable continued access to training on SLM and SFM practices for farm, forest and rangeland users beyond the project implementation phase. This will support the maintenance of improved management practices and sustainable value chains that provide a steady source of income. This will create incentive for the maintenance of the FFS network. The CSB and nurseries? networks will also enable to decrease the dependence of local communities on external support and sustainably increase local access to affordable and adapted agricultural inputs. The required frameworks, safeguards and processes to maintain each project output beyond the project lifespan will be established to enable the socio-economic and environment benefits generated by the project to be sustained.

Potential for scaling out and up

In line with GEF STAP recommended guidance on scaling out, up and deep[2], the project is designed to generate models combined with system-wide capacity development that can be upscaled and amplified to increase impact. The ILUPs developed under Output 1.2.1 will cover the entire Save sub-basin and Runde sub-basin respectively (1,048,863 ha in total). Under Output 2.1.1, the GEF7 project will support the implementation of the SLM and SFM practices identified under the ILUPs over 174,650 ha and support the development of the Chimanimani National Park Management Plan (21,200 ha). Through the establishment of the inter-provincial cross-sectoral coordination platforms and the landscape-level LDN TWG under Output 1.1.2 which will be in charge of overseeing the implementation of the ILUPs during and beyond the project implementation phase, the interventions

not covered under the project will be supported by raising government funding (Output 1.1.4) and private sector funding (Output 2.2.2).

The implementation of the LDN approach demonstrated in the targeted sub-basins as a result of the GEF7 project interventions will inform the replication of the approach in other sub-basins and basins in alignment with the national LDN targets to be achieved by 2030. The institutionalization of the national LDN TWG under Output 1.1.1 ? and the landscape-level LDN TWG under Output 1.1.2 ? will further support the application of the LDN approach beyond the targeted sub-basins. The policy strengthening interventions at the national level under Output 1.1.4 will create the required enabling environment to support LDN across the country.

The required evidence base to motivate the replication of the LDN approach demonstrated by the project will be compiled and disseminated in a systematic manner through the project implementation period (Outputs 3.1.1, 3.2.1 and 3.2.2.). The knowledge generated regarding benefits of the integrated approach and of enhanced collaboration across sectors and levels regarding improved productivity and reduced degradation will support advocacy for and uptake of the approach. The economic benefits generated through strengthened Value Chains and corresponding businesses will further encourage and incentivize the outscaling of the approach by government, civil society and private sector. Knowledge management and knowledge sharing at the regional level under Component 3 ? through SADC GGWI, Miombo Network and WOCAT, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Global Landscapes Forum and TerrAfrica, among other platforms ? and with support from the REM will ensure timely and efficient transfer of information on LDN interventions and good practices between sectors, scales and countries. Knowledge sharing and other opportunities for collaboration under the GCP will support transboundary and concerted actions towards achieving large-scale impact at a regional level across the Miombo and Mopane ecoregion.

System-wide Capacity development

This Project will incorporate a system-wide capacity development approach to maximize country ownership, sustainability and scale of intended results[3].Capacity development will take place at a diversity of levels to enable the entire land management system to be efficient and sustainable. Based on the capacity shortages identified during the PPG phase, capacity development interventions will focus on: i) empowering people and FFPOs to participate more actively in decision making and have a good negotiation power in the economic sector; ii) strengthening capacity of forest, farm and rangeland users as well as government staff on SLM, SFM and LDN for the adoption of improved practices; and iii) training and supporting governmental institutions in implementing participatory and inclusive approach to decision-making, planning and implementation for the sustainable management of natural resources at the landscape level. At the beginning of project implementation, the assessment of the capacity gaps and needs of government, private, civil society, and community stakeholders will be fine-tuned to complement these initial findings and tailor training interventions accordingly. The FAO Capacity Needs Assessment Tool will be used to assess the three capacity development dimensions - individual, organizational and enabling environment. The assessment will inform and guide the fine tuning of the capacity development actions throughout the three project components.

Capacity development interventions under Component 1 will focus on strengthening the theoretical and applied knowledge of relevant sector on land degradation assessments and LDN. This will support enhanced understanding of the role of each institution in the LDN process and increased knowledge available on land degradation to support efficient management planning. In addition, to address the identified weaknesses in the current planning process, decentralized authorities will be trained on conflict management and on the application of inclusive consultation processes (including gender integration) applied to decision making and planning with local communities.

Under Component 2, capacity development will target sectoral government institutions involved in natural resources management and decentralized government institutions (provincial, district, ward and village levels) and provide extensive on-the-job training on cross-sectoral land-use planning processes that look beyond administrative boundaries to enhance the capacity to coordinate natural resources? management at the landscape level. Technical training on SLM and SFM will be undertaken from the provincial to the local levels to enable the adoption and outscaling of the improved practices for forests, farms and rangeland management. The tools to be used to achieve this under Components 2 include training of trainers under an FFS/APFS approach; the establishment and maintenance of CSBs; and training on administrative and financial management for the strengthening and maintenance of community organisations. In addition, to enable the sustainable development of Value Chains, training on business plans development and business management will be required both for local communities and for extension services. This training interventions will significantly increase opportunities for collaboration with private sector actor under and beyond the GEF 7 project.

The capacity of government and non-government institutions to share their experience in SLM, SMF and LDN in a timely and systematic manner on national, regional and global platforms will be strengthened under Component 3. To do so, knowledge sharing platforms will be strengthened, and made more easily accessible and more visible. The capacity of these institutions to benefit from the experience of other countries facing similar challenges will also be increased through increasing access to information and linkages with other countries. Global and regional knowledge exchange platforms will be strengthened, virtual/in-person workshops will be organised and guiding documents will be widely shared. In-country visits will also be considered where necessary.

Methodologically, all envisioned training activities will apply effective learning practices including pre-event learning needs assessments, post-event follow-up support to facilitate the transfer of knowledge into practice as well as institutionalization of curricula through partnering with and enhancing the capacities of local universities and research centres. This will contribute to achieving sustainable results. Efforts will also include organizational and institutional capacity strengthening efforts such as to strengthen multi-sectoral and multi-coordination and collaboration mechanisms such as the LDN platforms at national and landscape levels. Finally, all capacity enhancement activities will be aligned with a harmonized approach across the GEF IP Programme including the capacity enhancement strategy of the global coordination project and individual child project capacity enhancement strategies.

The PMU will include a dedicated expert to follow the systemic capacity development components together with knowledge management and stakeholder engagement (See TORS in ANNEX). FAO will provide overall quality assurance through a dedicated member on the internal Project Task Force (PTF)

who will be task with the knowledge management, stakeholder engagement and system-wide capacity development components.

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[1] System-wide capacity development (CD) is essential to achieve more sustainable, country-driven and transformational results at scale as deepening country ownership, commitment and mutually accountability. Incorporating system-wide CD means empowering people, strengthening organizations and institutions as well as enhancing the enabling policy environment interdependently and based on inclusive assessment of country needs and priorities.

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[2] See https://mcconnellfoundation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/ScalingOut_Nov27A_AV_BrandedBleed.pdf

[3] See ?System-wide capacity development for country-driven transformations?, page 38 in ?Feeding People Protecting the Planet ? FAO-GEF Partners in Action http://www.fao.org/3/CA0130EN/ca0130en.pdf

[1] In the SHARP Survey, 75% of respondents acknowledged the degradation of forests in the last three years.

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[1] The following gaps identified during the application of the ILAM methodology in the PPG phase will be addressed through selected additional baseline assessments and use the collective results for LDN decision making at sub-basin level: i) Improved, more detailed LD assessment methodology to enable refined data analysis and results to enable counterbalancing of future LD losses and gains for LDN at sub-basin level; ii) Identification of complementarity indicators to assess LD and SLM/SFM to enable LDN monitoring; and iii) Categorizing and accounting for land use decisions and the impacts of land use, land use change, and management with respect to a ?no net loss? target (done at land-use type level)

[2] The CBNRM approach is used in Zimbabwe but formalized. To avoid confusing, the terms community-based management will therefore be used.

[3] These gaps identified under the Forest ForCES Project are supposed to be integrated in the draft Forestry Policy.

[4] If the Gender-Sensitive land Policy is not finalised by the start of the project, the GEF7 project interventions will support the finalisation process.

[5] ?Scaling deep? ? to impact cultural roots a. Changing culture: Using science-based narratives to shift norms and beliefs in support of positive innovations. b. Supporting capacity: Investing in transformative learning and communities of practice.

[6] The awareness-raising activities will likely also include raising awareness on threatened species such as to raise awareness on threatened species such as Murangazvose or pepper bark tree *Warbugia salutaris* to support the conservation interventions of the project partners ongoing in the landscape.

[7] Small scale miners and mining offenders will be involved as much as possible in the restoration activities.

[1] Angola, Namibia, Tanzania, Malawi and Botswana

[2] https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/documents/2019-06/LDN_CF_report_web-english.pdf

[3] Please see Section 7 for more information.

[4] *Assumptions* are external factors or conditions that need to be present for change to happen, but are beyond the power of the project to influence or address, e.g. turnover of government officials, global financial situation.

[5] *Impact drivers* are significant external factors that can positively influence the direction of change along the project?s causal pathways from outputs to outcomes to impacts, and over which the project, or its stakeholders/partners has some degree of control or influence, e.g. public pressure on decision-makers.

[1] METHI. 2018. Tugwi-Mukosi Baseline Report

[2] EMA. 2015. Fire Report.

[3] FAO. 2016. Farmer Field School Guidance Document. Planning For Quality Programmes.

[1] Women groups are diverse in purposes; they include savings groups for women, groups for women with children under two years old and religious groups.

[2] In the SHARP Survey, 75% of respondents acknowledged the degradation of forests in the last three years.

[3] Government of Zimbabwe, 2018. Final Country Report of the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme

[4] No response from 54% of the farmers.

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1b. Project Map and Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.

The project intervention area was further defined using a participatory approach during a workshop with EMA, the FC, MECTHI/SHARP research associate, Value chain and Institutional Assessment consultants in February 2020. The **criteria used for selection of the wards to be targeted by the interventions are:**

(i) Land Degradation level according to the following indicators: land vegetation cover, erosion, invasive alien species, land productivity, soil organic carbon, illegal mining;
(ii) communities? vulnerability according to the following indicators: poverty levels, food and nutrition security
(iii) Arid regions: wards located in the Agroecological regions NR 3, 4, 5; and

(iv) Potential for the success of the interventions specifically for the Value Chains component (identification of good Value Chains opportunities particularly for NTFPs).

Based on these criteria and in alignment with the area initially identified in the Expression of Interest (EOI), the wards where the SHARP baseline was conducted and the intervention areas were selected (see Figures 3, 4 and 5).

Table 4: Targeted provinces, districts and wards

Province	**District**	**Ward**
Manicaland	Chipingue	1, 3, 5, 12, 16, 17, 20, 21
	Chimanimani	5, 8, 20, 12, 22
	Buhera	24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33 (and 9, 11, 12)
Masvingo	Chivi	3, 8, 15, 16, 23, 25, 29
	Zaka	23, 34
	Bikita	24, 25, 26, 27
	Masvingo	6, 9, 17, 22, 30, 33, 34
Midlands	Shurugwi	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 12, 13, 17, 18, 21, 23
	Total wards surface	**260, 992 ha (Figure 7)**
	TOTAL sub-basins	**1,048,863 ha (Figure 4)**

1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

The Child Project in Zimbabwe, together with the other Miombo & Mopane Child Project countries of the SFM-DSL IP, will respond to the Drylands IP novelty objective to maintain the ecological integrity of the entire unique and globally important ecoregion, through comprehensive and large-scale set of investments and efforts over large landscape units, in some cases cutting across important transboundary areas of regional watersheds.

The Child Project in Zimbabwe responds to the LND goal of the GEF Dryland Sustainable Landscapes Impact Programme to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation and deforestation through the

sustainable management of production landscapes. The Child project is structured around three components that are aligned with the DSL IP objectives:

Alignment with IP objectives

SFM-DSL Impact Program Objectives	**Zimbabwe Child Project Alignment**
1) Integrated landscape management with particular focus on sustainable forest management and restoration, rangelands, and livestock production	? Under Component 1, harmonized, integrated land-use plans (ILUPs) for two sub-basins in the Miombo-Mopane Woodland landscapes will be developed through a participatory multi-sector engagement process. ? Under Component 2, the implementation of the ILUPs will be supported. The interventions will include strengthening capacity, consolidating the Farmer Field Schools network, restoring forest ecosystems directly (through ANR and planting interventions) and indirectly (through the creation of Community-based Forest Management Committees), improving agricultural practices, improving rangeland management practices, and establishing Community Seed Banks to support the maintenance and outscaling of SFM and SLM interventions. These interventions will result in increased land productivity and biodiversity in farm, forest and rangeland, and will provide a model to be replicated in other production landscapes.
2) The promotion of diversified agro-ecological food production systems in drylands.	? The SLM and SFM interventions to be implemented under Component 2 will promote the diversification of production systems to support biodiversity, the resilience of these landscapes to climate change and diversified diet. The project interventions will promote the cultivation of a diversity of climate-resilient, multi-purpose species (crop, grass, shrub and tree species) in agricultural, rangeland and forest systems. This will result in improved and sustained food security. Furthermore, a diversity of climate-resilient, green value chains will be supported based on the production systems under SLM and SFM. This will enable increased resilience of households? income to climate or economic shocks. Furthermore, robust stakeholder engagement processes (including with women and youth groups) will ensure ownership of the interventions be local communities. Awareness-raising interventions and local and national capacity building interventions on climate-adaptive and gender-sensitive SLM/SFM/LDN approaches and techniques will support upscaling of the approaches and interventions in other sub-basins of the Miombo-Mopane Woodlands.

SFM-DSL Impact Program Objectives	Zimbabwe Child Project Alignment
3) The creation of an enabling environment to support the two objectives above.	? The interventions under Component 1 will improve the enabling environment for SLM/SFM and LDN through the introduction and strengthening of policies and regulations, as well as developing institutional capacities, multi-sector coordination and collaboration. The implementation of capacity-building and stakeholder engagement activities under all three components will further strengthen the enabling environment support the above objectives, as well as future sustainability of the ?integrated landscape approach? initiated by this project to address land degradation across Zimbabwe's dryland forests, croplands and rangelands in partnerships with land-owners, land users and communities with a common goal of achieving LDN. ? Component 3 will create an enabling environment for knowledge sharing on LDN at the national level, regional and global levels. Knowledge sharing between countries of the Miombo and Mopane woodlands will support the adoption of harmonised practices and approaches to addressing land degradation issues and managing natural resources sustainability across this ecoregion. The monitoring framework for LDN will be institutionalised to continuously strengthen the evidence base available on SLM, SFM and LDN.
Private Sector: promote innovative and sustainable financing mechanisms for conservation, development, peace-building, and benefits for local communities	? The involvement of the Private sector is critical for the success and sustainability of several project outputs particularly under Component 2. The inclusive stakeholders? involvement approach will include private sector actors, which will be expected to participate actively in the development of the ILUPs and Action Plans, and diagnostic of the Value Chains to be targeted by the project. Thereafter, partnership between private sector companies and forest, farm and rangeland users will be established. To further increase financial opportunities for farmers to adopt and maintain improved livelihoods, private sector contribution through CSR and/or PES schemes will also be investigated and supported.

Zimbabwe and the other Child Project countries of the SFM-DSL IP will build on the global initiatives that provide a basis for collaboration under the GEF Dryland Sustainable Landscapes Impact Programme, such WOCAT, the FAO Drylands & Forest and Landscape Restoration, and the Great Green Wall Initiative.

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Meaningful and continuous stakeholder engagement during the project design and implementation is key to maximize country ownership and contribute to more enduring results at scale. Moreover, the project intends to strengthen polycentric, multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms within the identified landscapes building on beyond integrated spatial planning and management to result in positive impacts within the productive landscapes and contribute to preserving the natural capital.

A participatory Stakeholder Analysis Exercise was undertaken during the PPG phase, based on FAO?s methodology, to identify key, primary and secondary stakeholders in respect of Zimbabwe?s national LDN agenda across national and sub-national (i.e. landscape) levels. The method is described in Figure 9 and has been applied to existing and potential stakeholders listed in Table 7.

Who are the main stakeholders?

At the centre is the LDN agenda, which concerns the planning and management of land use and related topics.

See results below on stakeholder analysis (Figure 10)

Category	Description
Veto Player	*Have power to stop project implementation*
Key Stakeholder	*Have skills, knowledge and/ or position of power to significantly influence project*
Primary Stakeholder	*Directly affected by the project*
Secondary Stakeholder	*Only indirectly or temporarily involved*

From FAO's Stakeholder Analysis Methodology

FIGURE 9: FAO STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

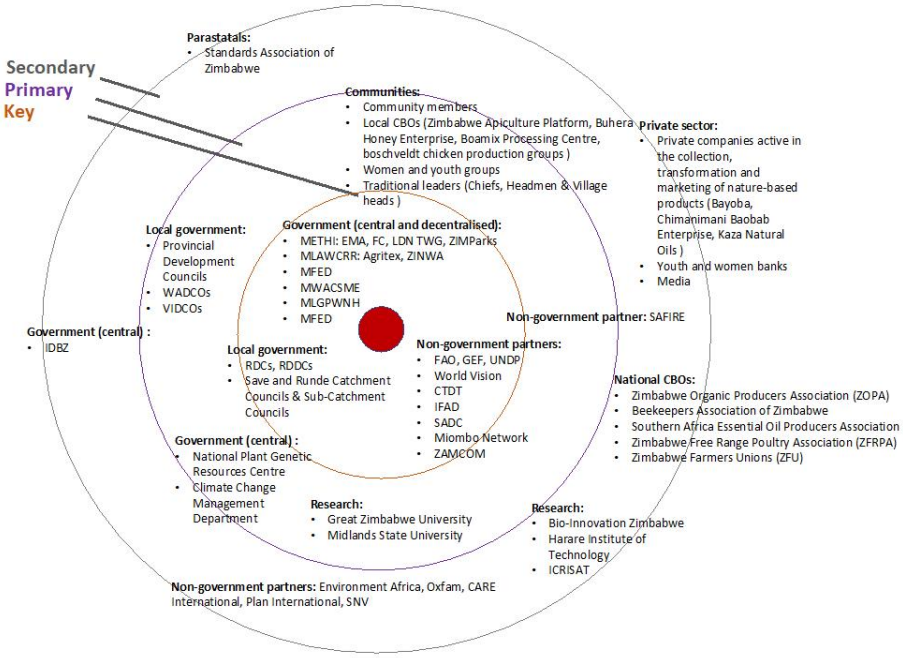

Figure 9: STAKEHOLDER MAP

Participatory stakeholder consultations were conducted during the PPG activities at three levels in Zimbabwe: national, provincial, district and ward/site level. A national workshop was held in Harare and drew wider participation from the government departments, CSO, provincial level officers, private sector and the media. The next set of consultations were conducted in the Save and Runde Catchment areas. These regional workshops were attended by technical and field level staff implementing various land and natural resources? management projects and Value Chain actors working with local communities. The regional workshops were highly participatory and provided the key stakeholders the opportunity to contribute towards defining the baseline context and priority needs. The regional workshop for the Save Catchment was attended by CSO, FFPOs, and traditional leaders, who represented the interest of local community members.

Following the regional meetings, the PPG Consultants also conducted meetings with the members of the RDDC and visits at ward level. Eight RDDC meetings were conducted across the Save and Runde Catchment with local communities, authorities and government officials responsible for the management of natural resources. The field observation included visits to various Value Chain initiatives for targeted NTFPs and Crops (albeit a few such projects were active). The stakeholder consultation schedule summarizes the extent of consultations conducted and shows that in most cases, few youth and women representatives participated at regional workshops, the RDDC and ward level meetings. Intensive consultations with a specific focus on these groups will therefore be conducted at

Project Inception. In the Runde Catchment, the PPG consultants visited the four districts namely Shurugwi, Masvingo, Chivi, and Bikita. The three districts in Save Catchment (Chipinge, Chimaninimani, and Buhera) were also consulted. Fewer stakeholders were able to attend the RDDC meeting in the Chimanimani due to other relief efforts that were taking place when the PPG consultants visited. Further consultations of the RDDCs will be conducted at project inception. A full list of consultations conducted during the project design phase is presented in Annex I2. A participatory stakeholder mapping exercise was conducted during the PPG Inception Workshop in September 2019 (see Figure 9 below). The analysis was further refined during the project preparation phase based on stakeholders? consultations. Focus groups were conducted with local communities (women and men) to gain an in-depth understanding of the social, economic and environmental dynamics in the target landscape. The Stakeholder Engagement Matrix in Annex I2 includes information on how stakeholders will be involved and consulted in the project execution, including any disadvantaged or vulnerable groups/individuals.

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

The table below summarizes the main stakeholders that were consulted during project preparation (PPG) and/or who will play a role in the project implementation. It also indicates the methodology for consultation or engagement.

Types of stakeholders

? Key Stakeholders: Have skills, knowledge or position of power to significantly influence the project

? Primary Stakeholders: Directly affected by the project / direct beneficiaries

? Secondary Stakeholders: Only indirectly or temporarily involved / indirect beneficiaries

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
a) National and local government					

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry (MECTHI)	Key Chair of the PSC Hosts EMA, the Lead Execution Agency	The MECTHI is a ministry that strives to manage, conserve and promote the sustainable use of natural resources and facilitate the delivery of high-quality tourism products that contribute to the economic development of Zimbabwe.	? Inception, regional workshops (17 September & 4-5 November 2019) ? Pre-validation meeting on 25 Feb 2020 ? Validation meeting held on 15 October 2020 ? MECTHI was represented throughout the process by EMA and the FC.	The MECTHI is the lead agency in the formulation and implementation of the project. The MECTHI will chair PSC meetings.	The involvement of MECTHI (e.g. the permanent secretary) will be particularly important to support EMA with cross-sectoral coordination, and for the discussion on capacity building of decentralised authorities and budgetary process under Output 1.2.2.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Environmental Management Agency (EMA)	Key Direct beneficiary and Lead Executing Agency	EMA is a statutory agency responsible for ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources and the protection of the environment, the prevention of pollution and environmental degradation, the preparation of Environmental Plans for the management and protection of the environment. It was established under the Environmental Management Act [Chapter 20:27] and enacted in 2002. The UNCCD Focal Point is also under EMA who is in charge of leading the LDN process.	? Inception, regional workshops, RDC meetings, field visits (17 September, 10-11 October & 4-5 November 2019) ? Participation to the DSL IP workshop in Rome on 29&30 January 2020. ? Pre-Validation Meeting held on 25th February 2020 ? Validation meeting held on 15 October 2020 ? A bilateral meeting was organised by the PPG team with EMA on 03 March 2020 to discuss the Results Framework and collect complementary information for the project design. ? The project Focal Point at EMA was closely involved in every stage of	EMA will lead the project execution (as per agreed implementation modality). It will support the implementation of the project components. As the executing agency, EMA will host the Project Management Unit. In addition, EMA will be tasked with overall project management, overview of LDN and land-use planning processes, ecosystem assessments and interventions related to invasive species control and gully rehabilitation. EMA will act as secretariat of the PSC meetings.	EMA has very valuable experience in cross-sectoral coordination (e.g. HSBC project) and at the technical level on land rehabilitation.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Land Degradation Neutrality Technical Working Group (LDN TWG)	Key	The LDN TWG under EMA is responsible for supporting and promoting for the mainstreaming of the LDN approach across sectors and scales.	? Various members of the LDN TWG participated to the PPG workshops and consultations. ? The LDN TWG currently meets on an ad hoc basis, without a set workplan across sessions.	The LDN TWG will have a key role in advocating for the integration of LDN into development planning beyond the targeted sub-basins based on the knowledge and experience in cross-sectoral coordination, SLM and SFM generated through the GEF7 project.	The project interventions will provide a good case study on the implementation of LDN on the ground to be used as examples for the LDN TWG to support the mainstreaming of LDN into development planning. In addition, the role of each institution in the LDN process will be clarified under Component 1, and the LDN TWG will be strengthened. The creation of landscape-level LDN TWG in the target basins will also facilitate the mandate of the national TWG.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Forestry Commission (FC)	Key Member of the PSC and Operational Partner	The FC is a parastatal under the MECTHI. It contributes to national socio-economic development through regulation and capacity enhancement in the use and management of forest resources. Its mandate is derived from the Forest Act (Chapter 19.05 as amended in 1999) and the Communal Lands Forest Produce Act (Chapter 20 of 1987). The mission of the FC is to promote the sustainable management and development of the nation?s forest through research training, tree planting, extension, conservation and investment in forestry and commerce.	? Inception, regional workshops, RDC meetings, field visits (17 September, 10-11 October, 4-5 November 2019) ? Pre-Validation Meeting held on 25th February 2020 ? Validation meeting held on 15 October 2020 ? A bilateral meeting was organised by the PPG team with FC on 02 March 2020 to discuss the Results Framework and collect complementary information for the project design, and communication was maintained throughout the PPG phase via emailing.	The FC will lead the interventions related to SFM, including charcoal production, management of woodlots, strengthening of the local network of tree nurseries in support of SLM and SFM, ANR and fire management. In addition, FC will support the strengthening of resilient NTFP Value Chains in collaboration with World Vision. FC will also contribute to Components 1 and 3 on all forestry-related matters. FC will be represented at PSC meetings.	

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Zimbabwe Parks & Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA)	Key Member of the PSC and Operational Partner	ZPWMA operates under an Act of Parliament, the Parks and Wildlife Act of 1975. The Authority manages one of the largest estates in the country, about 5 million hectares of land or 13% of Zimbabwe?s total land area. ZPWMA has a mandate to manage the entire wildlife population of Zimbabwe, whether on private or communal lands. Their interventions focus mainly on National Parks and their buffer zones. Where they support *inter alia* anti-poaching and the control of problem animals in collaboration with the RDCs.	? Inception workshops, interviews (17 September & 10-11 October 2019) ? Pre-Validation Meeting held on 25th February, 2020 ? Validation meeting held on 15 October 2020	ZPWMA will support the design and implementation of the interventions under the ILUP in and around areas with a high density of wildlife (e.g. sanctuaries, conservancies, national parks). PWMA will lead the interventions linked the Chimanimani National Park and corresponding collaboration with Mozambique. ZPWMA will be represented at PSC meetings.	

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement (MLAWRR)	Key Member of the PSC	The MLAWRR has a mandate to provide technical, extension, advisory, regulatory and administrative services to the agricultural sector to achieve food security and economic development.	? Inception workshop (17 September 2019)	The MLAWRR will contribute towards all three components of the project. In particular, it will support on-the-ground interventions related to SLM and climate-resilient Value Chain development through Agritex. The MLAWRR will be represented at PSC meetings.	

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Agritex	Key	Through its specialist branches, provincial and district offices, Agritex?s mandate is to provide technical and advisory services, regulatory services, farmer training, food technology (including post harvesting processing and product development), dissemination of technologies and provide market oriented extension for sustainable farming.	? Regional workshop, RDC Focus Group Discussion (17 September, 10-11 October 2019, 4-5 November 2019) ? A bilateral meeting was organised by the PPG team with Agritex on 9 March 2020.	Through its network of extension services, Agritex is best positioned to support SLM under Component 2. Agritex will be involved in the development of the FFS strategy from the onset. Specific themes where Agritex? support will be sought include conservation agriculture, small livestock management, pest management and climate-resilient NUS Value Chains. In addition, Agritex will benefit from and participate in the development of the knowledge-sharing strategy under Output 3.3.1, that will be tailored to specific needs of relevant institutions. Agritex will be represented at PSC meetings.	Agritex has the most developed extension service and is therefore involved in the implementation of most of the government and non-government project related to agriculture. They are therefore a particularly important partner for the GEF7 project.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
National Plant Genetic Resources Centre (NPGRC)	Primary	The NPGRC is a centre for research and conservation of plant genetic resources in Zimbabwe. They manage the Gene Bank of Zimbabwe.	? Consulted via email to identify the baseline situation regarding local seed production and gaps.	Several of the NPGRC?s missions are relevant to the proposed project. The NPGRC will work closely with CTDT on the establishment of CSBs. The NPGRC will also support the dissemination of indigenous knowledge, awareness-raising on the value of genetic diversity for agricultural species (through the FFS network) and the promotion of on-farm genetic conservation.	

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) Save and Runde Catchment Councils & Sub-Catchment Councils	Key Member of the PSC	ZINWA is was formed in 2000 following the promulgation of the ZINWA Act (Chapter 20:25). ZINWA falls under the MLAWRR. ZINWA has the mandate to sustainably and efficiently plan, develop and manage the country?s water resources. ZINWA is also tasked with the development of water policies, laws (including by-laws) and regulations and general directions to guide the orderly and integrated planning of the nation?s water resources to ensure their optimum development, use and protection. It also ensures the availability of water to all citizens; the equitable and efficient allocation of available water to all users; gives effect to any international water agreements to which Zimbabwe is party; and sets the criteria for water allocation and the issue of permits	? MSG workshop (17 September 2019) ? Interviews (10-11 October 2019) ? Communication via email in March 2020 to collect complementary information for the design of the GEF7 project. ? Communication via email and phone with the catchment Manager for Runde.	ZINWA will support RDCs, Catchment Councils and SCCs in the design of land-use plans that incorporate good practices in terms of watershed management (Output 1.2). It will also coordinate knowledge exchange on transboundary catchment management with Mozambique under Component 3. ZINWA will be represented at PSC meetings. The experience of the Catchment and Sub-Catchment Councils in landscape-level management planning will be built upon for the design of the ILUPs under Output 1.2.1. They will in turn benefit from the establishment of the cross-sectoral governance platforms to be established under Output 1.1.2 that will support the integrated management of water resources in the targeted sub-basins. These institutions will also	ZINWA will be approached during the inception phase to determine the optimal approach to collaborate with and strengthen the catchment councils, and to harmonise the design of the ILUPs with the integrated water management plans of the Catchment and Sub-Catchment Councils.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Climate Change Management Department (CCMD)	Primary	The CCMD was established in 2013 with the mission to climate-proof all socio-economic sectors of Zimbabwe through effective climate change management. The CCMD has an establishment of 10 officers including the Director, the Deputy Director and the Executive Assistant.	? Inception meeting (17 September 2019) ? Pre-Validation Meeting held on 25th February, 2020	The CCMD will support the interventions linked to improved farmers? access to accurate weather-related information. It will collaborate with Agritex, EMA and RDCs to develop local-level climate models. These models will be used to inform FFS training programmes as well as land-use plans to be developed under Outcome 1.2.	CCMD will be consulted at inception phase to further define its planned engagement in the elaboration of FFS training programmes, as well as the compilation and dissemination of weather-related information for the implementation of resilient land restoration interventions.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing (MLGPWNH)	Key	The MLGPWNH has a mandate to promote sound local governance, undertake and coordinate rural and urban development through the PDCs and RDCs to enhance the socio-economic development of Zimbabwe.	? Inception workshop (17 September 2019) ? Pre-Validation Meeting held on 25th February, 2020	The MLGPWNH will support the PDCs and RDCs throughout the project and enforce a comprehensive policy framework to ensure effective local level development and management of natural resources. The central Ministry will be strongly involved in the policy strengthening and capacity building interventions as well as the establishment of the cross-sectoral coordination structure and the design of the ILUPs under Component 1. Under Component 2, the project will mostly work with the PDCs, RDCs, WADCOs and VIDCOs. MLGPWNH will be represented at PSC meetings.	

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Provincial Development Councils in the three target provinces	Primary	Provincial Development Councils have a cross-sectoral mandate. They play a coordination and accountability role in the elaboration and implementation of development plans in their jurisdiction. The implementation role is held at RDCs? level.	? Participation of most key members of PDC to Provincial and District level Workshops held in Masvingo and Mutare	The three Provincial Development Councils (Manicaland, Masvingo and Midlands) will have a very important position for the establishment of the cross-sectoral governance platform at the sub-basin level as they are cross-sectoral and link the RDCs. Strong collaboration will be supported between these three provinces under the governance platform to support the integrated management of the targeted sub-basins during and beyond the project implementation phase. They will participate actively in the establishment of the landscape-level cross-sectoral governance platforms under Output 1.1.4 and be supported in the outscaling of the approach to other districts within their respective provinces.	At inception, the Provincial Development Councils will be consulted to establish an efficient engagement strategy with RDCs, WADCOs and VIDCOs for cross-sectoral planning and for the implementation of the ILUPs.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Rural District Councils (RDC) Rural District Development Council (RDDC)	Key	RDCs are composed of elected ward councillors, a District Administrator and a representative of the chiefs (traditional leaders appointed under customary law) in the district. Natural resources management under the RDC is coordinated through the various committees (including RDDCs and Environment Committees) of the RDCs which formulate local by-laws, issue permits for extracting resources and implement LEAPS. The function of the RDDC is to prepare and implement the annual district development plan (after validation by the RDC), which synthesises submissions from WADCOs and VIDCOs.	? A meeting at each RDDC was organised by the PPG team on the following dates: - Chivi RDDC: 15 October 2019 - Bikita RDDC: 16 October 2019 - Zaka RDDC: 16 October 2019 - Masvingo RDDC: 17 October 2019 - Chimanimani RDDC: 6 November 2019 - Chipinge RDDC: 18 November 2019 - Buhera RDDC: 20 November 2019 - Shurugwi RDDC: 28 November 2019	The eight RDCs and their RDDCs in the target districts will have a central role in the project implementation at the decentralised level. Specific role in the project will include their active participation in the development of the ILUPs and the development of by-laws necessary to support the implementation of these plans. They will also undertake a coordination role for the interventions under the government programmes, partners projects of other agencies and NGOs, to achieve a harmonised and efficient approach to NRM across the district. RDDCs will also play a leading role in supporting the wards in developing the LEAPs under Output 1.2.1 and ensuring the alignment of the LEAPs with the ILUPs.	RDCs will be closely engaged in every stage of the project implementation phase to ensure their ownership of the ILUPs together WADCOs, VIDCOs, traditional authorities and local communities.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Ward Development Committees (WADCO) in the target areas, including Environmental Sub-committees	Primary	WDCs (comprising the elected ward councillor, the kraalheads ? traditional leaders subordinate to chiefs ? and representatives of VDCs) and their sectoral sub-committees are responsible for overseeing and coordinating the implementation of the district-level and sectoral plans at the ward level and for the development and enforcement of the LEAPs.	? Consultation with some WADCO representative members during the landscape-level meetings	The 45 WADCOs in the targeted wards will participate to the elaboration of the two ILUPs and associated development plans to be designed under Output 1.2.1. In addition, WDCs will receive support to develop the LEAPs taking climate change into consideration, following an inclusive community involvement process and in alignment with the ILUPs and district-level plans. Under Component 2, WADCOs will have a major role in coordinating and ensure adequate involvement of VIDCOs and traditional chiefs at village level throughout the decision-making and planning processes. They will coordinate the identification of the most appropriate Value Chains to be strengthened given local contexts and priorities using a participatory approach with Village authorities and leaders. Contributions from WADCOs will be compiled and	At project inception, WADCOs in selected project areas will be involved in the project planning process.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Village Development Committees (VIDCO)	Primary	Elected by the Village Assembly, the VIDCO is chaired by the Village Head. The VIDCO submits annual development plans to the WADCO, which then passes them on to the RDDC.	The VIDCO were not yet consulted during the PPG phase.	VIDCOs are the most local government institutions and are the first fora for communities to discuss development plans. They will have a major role in: i) enabling an efficient bottom-up approach through ensuring inclusive community consultations for the development of the ILUPs and LEAPs; ii) ensuring that communities? voices are adequately carried through to the ward level in a transparent manner; and iii) keeping communities continuously informed on the project progress to maintain strong involvement and ownership.	The VIDCOs in the targeted sub-basins will be consulted at project inception to ensure their full understanding and support of the project.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MFED)	Key Member of the PSC	The MFED is entrusted with the stewardship of national resources, their mobilisation, allocation, management and accounting for economic growth and development through the provision of sound macro-economic policies. It manages and oversees public expenditure programmes and projects in liaison with Accounting Officers to ensure timeous and cost-effective delivery of public services.	? Inception workshop and MSG workshops (17 September & 4-5 November 2019)	The MFED will play a key role in maximising the synergy between all government investments made within the targeted sub-basin and prevent any overlap or duplication of efforts. Strong involvement of the MFED will be ensured throughout the process of establishment of the cross-sectoral governance platforms and integrated planning processes, as they will be the base to trigger discussion on the budgeting processes and identify opportunities to address the barrier of budget silos and facilitate the integrated management of natural resources. The Ministry will be represented at PSC meetings.	The MFED will be consulted at project inception to fine-tune the timing for discussion on the budgeting and policy processes as well as the preferred method of involvement of and communication with the MFED.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises (MWACSMEs)	Key Member of the PSC	The Ministry has the mandate to create a conducive and enabling environment that promotes the development and growth of micro, small and medium enterprises and cooperatives with a strong focus on women. The MWACSMEs supports local business initiatives and enhances access to financial and technical services.	? Inception workshop (17 September 2019)	The MWACSMEs will participate to the planning processes for the development of the ILUPs and to defining the eligibility criteria for FFPOs and community groups to be supported by the project to maximise women involvement. In addition, they will participate in the selection of the business plans to be promoted under Output 2.2.1 to ensure that women benefit adequately from the development of climate-resilient Value Chains. District officers of the MWACSMEs will be part of the landscape-level cross-sectoral governance platforms to be set up under Output 1.1.2. The MWACSMEs will be represented at PSC meetings.	The MWACSMEs will be engaged with at project inception to check if there are any further opportunities to maximise the gender-sensitivity of the project structure and interventions.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Infrastructure Development Bank of Zimbabwe (IDBZ)	Secondary	The IDBZ was formed on 31 August 2005, taking over the assets and liabilities of the former Zimbabwe Development Bank. It was primarily set up as a vehicle for the promotion of economic development and growth, and improvement of the living standards of Zimbabweans through the development of infrastructure, including energy, transport, water and sanitation, information communication technology and housing.	? Workshop (17 September 2019)	The IDBZ will provide support in identifying financial opportunities from the private sector under Output 2.2.1. In addition, it will participate to the LDN Finance RoundTable to be established under Output 2.3.1 to develop financing opportunities and establish new partnerships to support LDN.	
b) Local communities and community groups					

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Local communities including women and youth groups	Primary	Forest, farm and rangeland users within the targeted sub-basins.	? Field visits, focus groups (October & November 2019)	Local communities will be the main actor and beneficiaries of the project?s decision-making and planning processes under Component 1 as well as on-the-ground interventions under Component 2.	Extensive consultations with local communities including women and youth will be undertaken at project inception to ensure the full support of the community groups on each aspect of the project.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Local FFPOs and groups (e.g. Zimbabwe Apiculture Platform, Buhera Honey Enterprise, Boamix Processing Centre, boschveldt chicken production groups, women groups and youth groups)	Primary	FFPOs and community groups active in the targeted sub-basins and focusing on improving the livelihoods of their members.	? Field visits, focus groups (October & November 2019) ?	FFPOs and community groups will be primary partners for and beneficiaries from the livelihood support interventions. Their role will include: ? the participatory identification of their capacity and interests, and related training needs; ? active participation and ownership of the capacity building interventions to strengthen them and make them more sustainable, and in the processes to formalise their structures; ? the development of the business plans with support from the project; and ? the implementation of the business plans for the selected FFPOs.	The project approach under Component 2 is strongly based on community groups, associations and cooperatives. The project will build as much as possible on existing groups and FFPOs and focus on their strengthening. The involvement of existing FFPOs in the project implementation phase will be central as their ownership of the SLM, SFM interventions and climate-resilient Value Chain development interventions will be crucial for the sustainable of the project outputs and the sustainable management of natural resources. FFPOs will apply for support, and will eventually be selected based on criteria to be collectively established under Output 2.2.1, in partnership with the MWACSME.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Traditional leaders (Chiefs, Headman, and Village heads)	Primary	Traditional leaders are responsible for the management of natural resources and the enforcement of the environmental by-laws (those set and approved by the RDC), as well as customary laws.	? One traditional leader attended the MSG consultations in Mutare (4-5 November 2019) and four traditional leaders were consulted during the field visits in Tongogara RDC (27-29 November 2019)	Traditional leaders will be the voice of the communities during landscape-level and district-level consultation processes. They will participate actively to the elaboration of ILUPs and LEAPs, and to the identification of policy gaps and the development of the required by-laws to support the implementation of the ILUPs.	Some traditional leaders are concerned that formal institutions have usurped some of their rights in terms of enforcement of environmental rules. Their preferred mode of governance would be to retain full control and monitoring over natural resources within their jurisdiction, with technical advice and support from relevant institutions. Traditional leaders have expressed a strong interest during the PPG phase. Their support to the project will be maintained through very close involvement of the community leaders at every stage of the decision-making, planning and implementation processes.
c) Civil society					

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Community Technology Development Trust (CTDT)	Key	Founded 25 years ago, CTDT was established with a vision to address food insecurity, malnutrition, poverty and injustice in Zimbabwe, SADC and Africa. To do so, they are promoting participatory research, technology innovation, technology packaging and dissemination, policy advocacy and lobbying, and knowledge management using gender-sensitive and people-centred approaches. CTDT has established itself as the leading organisation in the promotion and conservation of plant genetic resources in Zimbabwe through the establishment of CSBs across the country. A total of 16 CSBs have been established by CTDT in 11 districts of Zimbabwe including one in Chiredzi (please see baseline section). CSBs play a crucial role	? Consulted several times via phone and email. ? Validation meeting held on 15 October 2020	CTDT is one of the two OPs for the project. They will leading the implementation of the following activities under Component 2: i) capacity assessment and training of FFPOs; ii) establishment of the FFS network in close partnership with Agritex; and iii) establishment of the CSBs? network. They will also provide technical insight for the development of climate-resilient NUSs? Value Chains. A Letter of Agreement will be signed with CTDT to formalise its role in the execution of the project.	CTDT will be approached at the inception phase to fine-tune partnership modalities in conjunction with World Vision, the main executing partner for Component 2.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Local Initiatives and Development (LID) Agency	Secondary	LID has worked on multiple projects and programmes (e.g. ZRBF, UNDP GEF SGP, World Food Programme) on livelihoods? development and natural resources management, particularly in Shurugwi district.	? Participation to the Validation Workshop on 15 October 2020	Visits to LID?s interventions sites will be undertaken at the beginning of the project implementation phase to further identify the successes, lessons learned and infrastructures to be built on in Shurugwi.	
Media outlets (including online and print newspapers, radio and TV)	Secondary	Production and broadcasting of communication products using various communication channels to reach the general public.	? Inception workshop, regional workshops (17 September & 4-5 November 2019) Media that reported on project preparation during the PPG phase included Diplomat Online, Herald, Hevoi FM, Patriot and Spiked Media.	The project will work with the media on an *ad-hoc* basis to publish project stories, share lessons learned and generally reach out to external stakeholders.	Media will be informed about the project activities, process and results. Opportunities to communicate on project results will be systematically seized.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Zimbabwe	Secondary	PELUM Zimbabwe is a network that aims to link the work of local CSOs in the broader areas of agro-ecology and community development. PELUM Zimbabwe is part of PELUM Association, a network founded in 1995 to promote participatory ecological land-use management practices for improved livelihoods in East, Central and Southern Africa. PELUM Zimbabwe has more than 25 members advocating, promoting and provoking debate, sharing information, and lobbying around issues relating to the way forward for sustainable agriculture and land use practices in Zimbabwe.	? Inception workshop (17 September 2019) ?	PELUM Zimbabwe will support the diffusion of and advocacy for best SLM practices. In addition, PELUM Zimbabwe will facilitate market linkages and thus contribute to the development of climate-resilient Value Chains under Component 2.	

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ)	Secondary	The SAZ is the national standards body for Zimbabwe. Formed in 1957 and incorporated in 1960, the Association is a non-governmental and a non-profit organisation. SAZ's mission is to facilitate the development and use of national standards in order to enhance Zimbabwe's competitiveness and safeguard the welfare of communities.	? Workshop (4-5 November 2019)	Under Component 2, SAZ will support product testing and certification to ensure that products meet market standards. This will contribute to the strengthening of Value Chains under Output 2.2.1.	SAZ will be approached at inception to clarify the time necessary for the development of certification and standards, so that these constraints can be factored in detailed workplans for Component 2.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
National FFPOs (e.g. Zimbabwe Organic Producers Association - ZOPA, Beekeepers Association of Zimbabwe, Southern Africa Essential Oil Producers Association, Zimbabwe Free Range Poultry Association - ZFRPA, Zimbabwe Farmers Unions - ZFU)	Secondary	National associations that are specialised on the crop, small livestock and NTFP Value Chains (the list of partner associations will be refined according to the Value Chain to be selected under the business plans - Output 2.2.1). For example, ZFRPA is a national, membership-based organisation that brings together free-range poultry producers (rural & commercial) and Value Chain actors for the development of sub-sector. ZFRPA seeks to promote, advance and develop the production and marketing of free-range poultry in Zimbabwe as well as advance and protect the interests of all free-range poultry Value Chain actors. Finally, ZFRPA provides technical training and support, as well as facilitates the aggregation of producers for group marketing and market	? Consultation with ZFRPA, Zimbabwe Apiculture Platform, Zimbabwe Apiculture Trust. ZFRPA participated to the MSG workshop in Masvingo and Mutare.	National FFPOs will be involved in Value Chain strengthening, particularly for the development of national standards, member mobilization and training, aggregation and quality control, access to local and international markets and certifications ? depending on the Value Chain to be selected under Output 2.2.1. Generally, national FFPOs will facilitate the outscaling and sustainability of the Value Chain interventions. For example, ZFRPA is currently developing free-range poultry and products standards for certification and quality control. ZFRPA is also working closely with the University of Zimbabwe in the standards development process. In this capacity, ZFRPA could support the implementation of selected poultry-related Value Chains, including by negotiating with agro-dealers to	Relevant national FFPOs will be approached once climate-resilient Value Chains to be strengthened will have been selected under Output 2.2.1.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
d) Regional and international organisations, development partners					

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)	Key GEF Lead IA Member of the PSC	FAO is a specialised agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.	? Inception, MSG workshops, RDC meetings, field visits (17 September, 10-11 October 2019)	FAO is the GEF agency in charge of project design and implementation. Specific areas in which FAO?s expertise will be capitalised upon include the implementation of the FFS approach under Component 2, capacity-building and knowledge-sharing (e.g. on sustainable charcoal production *via* the Forest Farm Facility approach) through the regional hub and the CSB Global Network. In addition, FAO has extensive experience with monitoring and evaluation (and will disseminate the FAO Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Toolbox under Output 3.2.1) and the implementation of multi-stakeholder dialogue mechanisms, which will be particularly relevant for Component 1. The specific role of the FAO in project implementation is further described in Annexes K and L. The FAO will be represented at PSC meetings.	

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SADC	Key	SADC focuses on achieving development and economic growth in Southern Africa	? SADC representative participated to the Inception Workshop and to the DSL IP Global Workshop in January 2020.	Close collaboration on increased knowledge sharing and the establishment of a harmonised M&E system across southern African countries involved in the GEF7 programme, and on mapping and addressing transboundary issues involving the Save and Runde basins.	
ZAMCOM Secretariat	Key	The role of ZAMCOM is to promote and support the sustainable development and efficient management of the Zambezi Watercourse for the equitable benefit of all the inhabitants, in terms of the ZAMCOM Agreement.	N/A	The commission will be engaged with for the development of the ILUPs in order to maximise alignment between these plans and the Strategic Plan for the Zambezi Watercourse 2018-2040.	A consultation meeting will be undertaken with the Secretariat of ZAMCOM at project inception.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
World Vision	Key	In Zimbabwe, World Vision focuses on partnering with communities to increase their crop and livestock production. This is done by equipping communities with skills and resources to participate in and/or start their own income-generating activities to increase and diversify their income streams. In particular, World Vision has been implementing the US Aid-funded project ENSURE (2013 ?2020) in Manicaland and Masvingo provinces. ENSURE has been led by World Vision in collaboration with three implementing partners ? CARE, Foundation of Netherlands Volunteers (SNV), SAFIRE ? and one service provider, ICRISAT. The ENSURE project has been targeting chronically food-insecure rural households in 66	? Consulted several times via phone and email. ? Validation meeting held on 15 October 2020	World Vision will be a main executing partner for Component 2 Output 2.2.1. World Vision will execute activities pertaining to: i) business plan development and implementation by FFPOs; ii) Value Chains development; and iii) private sector engagement to strengthen the Value Chains. A Letter of Agreement has been signed with World Vision to formalise these modalities.	World Vision has been implemented the ENSURE project in six districts that will also be targeted by the proposed project, namely Bikita, Chivi, Zaka, Buhera, Chipinge and Chimanimani. World Vision therefore has a strong familiarity with the local context as well as existing relationships with district-level authorities, which will be very valuable for the implementation of the interventions under Component 2.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Environment Africa	Secondary	Environment Africa is a non-profit organisation focused on responding to the needs of communities and environment in southern Africa. The organisation works with various sectors of society to protect and manage natural resources and to promote sustainable development. Environment Africa works as a community organiser and helps raise awareness on environmental issues while empowering people to protect and restore their environment. Environment Africa takes a holistic approach to environmental management and engages in cross-cutting issues including poverty alleviation, gender equality, youth, social justice, and HIV/AIDS. The organization?s work is focused on four key areas: sustainable livelihoods, climate change, environmental governance and biodiversity.	? Inception workshop (17 September 2019) ? MSG Workshops in Mutare and Masvingo	? Environment Africa has worked in the target areas, in particular on forestry management projects including feedlots, honey production and environmental education. Environment Africa will be consulted for the design of the ILUPs under Component 1, as well as SFM interventions under Component 2, to benefit from their experience in the targeted sub-basins.	Environment Africa will be consulted at project inception to identify opportunities for complementarity.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Oxfam	Secondary	Oxfam is implementing the second phase of the Climate Adaptation for Rural Livelihoods (CARL) project in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The CARL project aims to tackle the impacts of climate change on rural communities, by supporting inclusive and climate-adaptive agriculture (diversified breeds, seeds and crops; access to risk insurance and loans; small-scale irrigation; soil management and land-use planning). In addition, interventions include the development of early warning and early action systems and the strengthening of sustainable on- and off-farm livelihood options for women and youth.	N/A	Oxfam will participate to the elaboration of FFS training programmes and contribute to the pre-identification of Value Chains to be strengthened under Component 2.	Through the implementation of the CARL project in the Buhera district, Oxfam has acquired a strong understanding of the development context in this district as well as in the Manicaland province, that is of value for the GEF7 project.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
CARE International	Secondary	The Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE) International has been active in Zimbabwe since 1992. CARE has been working on longer-term developmental programmes with local partners focused on building small dams, strengthening local microfinance institutions, and assisting small businesses in rural areas. CARE Zimbabwe?s overall goal is to empower disadvantaged and poor households to meet their basic needs. In the Zaka district for example, CARE International has supported the development of consolidated gardens and an inventory of soil loss. CARE is currently working on community resilience in the Chiredzi and Mwenezi districts of the Masvingo province, under the Enhancing Community Resilience and	N/A	CARE International will contribute to the proposed project through knowledge and experience sharing, as well as continuous communication to identify synergies with existing interventions under its leadership.	CARE will be approached at inception to make sure that opportunities for synergies have been identified, and to further develop potential complementarities with CARE-implemented initiatives in the target sub-basins.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Plan International	Secondary	Founded in 1937, Plan International is a development and humanitarian organisation that advances children?s rights and equality for girls. In Zimbabwe, Plan International has been part of the consortium of organisations leading the ZRBF, a long-term development initiative with an overall objective of contributing to increased capacity of communities to protect development gains in the face of recurrent shocks and stresses enabling them to contribute to the economic development of Zimbabwe. This objective is pursued through multi-stakeholder implementation of three multi-sectorial outputs, namely: i) application of evidence in policy making for increased resilience; ii) absorptive, adaptive and transformative capacities of at-risk communities increased; and iii) timely and cost-effective response to emergencies	MSG workshop (10-11 October 2019)	Thanks to its experience acquired through the ZRBF, Plan International will be best placed to support capacity-building activities under Component 2 of the proposed project. In particular, Plan International will contribute to facilitate the involvement of young people in the development of ILUPs.	Plan International will be approached at project inception to refine the strategy for the inclusion of young people interests under Components 1 and 2.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Stichting Nederlandse Vrijwilligers (SNV)	Secondary	SNV is a not-for-profit international development organisation that makes a lasting difference in the lives of people living in poverty by helping them raise incomes and access basic services. SNV is present in over 25 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. In Zimbabwe, SNV was part of the ENSURE project. It is currently implementing the Rural Resilience Initiative in Masvingo RDC and will be expanding this initiative to eight other wards. It is also working in partnership with the World Food Programme to support resilience and promote savings and weather-based insurance. The partnership with WFP seeks to connect relief and transition towards development through Value Chain and market development. SNV is also in the process of bidding for the second	? Inception workshop, interview (17 September 2019, 24 January 2020) ? MSG workshops (10-11 October & 4-5 November 2019) ? Virtual and face-to face meetings with PPG consultants	? SNV has ample experience organising farming groups to facilitate the dissemination of best agricultural practices. SNV will contribute to Component 2 of the proposed project, in particular for the development of climate-resilient Value Chains and market linkages.	SNV will be approached at project inception to identify opportunities for complementarity between their ongoing initiatives and the GEF7 project.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources (SAFIRE)	Primary	Established in 1994, SAFIRE is a regional NGO whose main focus is to improve rural livelihoods and resilience through the sustainable use, commercialisation and management of natural resources, with a particular focus on women. SAFIRE has been supporting livelihoods and environmental projects in Masvingo and Manicaland provinces especially in six of the eight districts. It has been part of the consortium led by World Vision to implement the US Aid-funded project ENSURE (2013 ?2020) in Manicaland and Masvingo provinces.	? Inception Workshop-17 September, 2019 ? MSG workshops, (10-11 October & 4-5 November 2019) ? Virtual and face-to face meetings with PPG consultants	SAFIRE?s experience will be capitalised upon for the implementation of Components 1 and 2, to: i) support the design of interventions under the ILUPs; ii) make sure that lessons learned from livelihood-supporting initiatives in the target district are taken into account in the choice of Value Chains to be developed and the process to do so; and iii) maximise synergies with ongoing initiatives in the target sub-basins.	SAFIRE will be approached at project inception to identify opportunities for complementarity between their ongoing initiatives and the GEF7 project.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Primary	UNDP is supporting the ZRBF initiative through a financial contribution (USD 2 million) as well as technical assistance. In addition to raising funding for the implementation of resilience interventions across 16 districts of Zimbabwe, the ZRBF provides a coordination platform at the national level for donors and development partners to generate synergies between resilience efforts. UNDP is implementing the GEF6 project ?Strengthening Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management and Climate-Smart Landscapes in the Mid to Lower Zambezi Region of Zimbabwe?. While the interventions are outside the target areas of the proposed project, the approach of the two projects is strongly aligned. Furthermore,	? Inception Workshop held on 17 September 2019 ? Validation meeting held on 15 October 2020	Close collaboration with UNDP will be maintained through the project to benefit from UNDP?s experience in Integrated Landscape Management Plans, woodland restoration and CSR development among others from the GEF6 project. Their experience with the ZRBF will be inform the establishment of the LDN Donor/Finance RoundTable under Output 2.3.1.	UNDP will be regularly consulted from the start of the implementation phase to benefit from their experience with the GEF5 and GEF6 projects. This will notably be the case for the involvement of women and youth in Value Chain strengthening, which was a focus of the GEF5 project. UNDP will also be consulted for the selection of Value Chains to be supported, as the GEF5 project already achieved results in this domain in two of the targeted districts (namely Buhera and Chimanimani).

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
e) Academia/research institutions					
International Crops Research Institutes for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)	Secondary	ICRISAT is a non-profit organisation that conducts agricultural research for development in the drylands of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Through its national office in Zimbabwe, ICRISAT has notably been involved in the implementation of the ECRAS project, together with CARE International. Research conducted by ICRISAT that is important for the proposed project includes crop-livestock integration in semi-arid areas and the development of climate-smart practices.	N/A	ICRISAT will be approached to contribute to the elaboration of FFS training programmes by sharing knowledge on best climate-smart practices.	ICRISAT has not been consulted during the PPG phase, but will be approach at inception to further identify opportunities for collaboration.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Harare Institute of Technology (HIT)	Secondary	The HIT is currently conducting two research projects on water for agriculture: Scientific Conservation Irrigation Technology: this involves the use of zero tillage, vermi-ferts, thermal compost, mulch and conservation pots; Diaper Waste Moisture Conservation Farming Technology: the involves the use of diaper wastewater as a water storage medium from rain-water harvesting. This technology is designed to periodically release water as per plant requirements. It also serves to manage the hygienic and sanitation problems of diaper waste through incentivisation.	N/A	The results of their research projects will inform the agricultural interventions under Component 2.	

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Bio-Innovation Zimbabwe	Secondary	Bio-Innovation Zimbabwe is a non-profit innovation hub combining research on commodity transformation and support to communities to facilitate market linkages. Species currently researched by Bio-Innovation Zimbabwe and potentially interesting for the development of Value Chains in the target areas of the proposed project include baobab, mopane worms, cassava and marula.	? Inception Workshop (17 September 2019) represented by KAZA Natural Oils and Bayoba ? MSG workshops (17 September & 4-5 November 2019) ? Emailing and phone calls with KAZA Natural Oils and Bayoba	Based on their research, Bio-Innovation Zimbabwe will be an important partner for the selection and strengthening of Value Chains under Component 2, and accompany the development of these Value Chains from both technical (transformation processes) and market aspects (identification of markets, certification opportunities).	

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
University of Zimbabwe	Primary	The research projects undertaken by the University include agro-processing and other improved agricultural technologies. Work on the Standard development processes is also being undertaken by the University.	N/A	The results of University?s research projects will be built on to design SLM practices under the GEF7 project and to support the development of national standards for the selected Value Chains. Opportunities to establish partnerships with the University of Zimbabwe to conduct field research in the targeted sub-basins will be identified during PY1.	
Great Zimbabwe University (GZU)	Primary Member of the PSC	Through the Departments of Livestock, Wildlife and Fisheries, and Soil and Plant Science, GZU is a leading research institution in Zimbabwe on agricultural matters.	N/A	The results of GZU?s research projects will be built on to design SLM practices under the GEF7 project. Opportunities to established partnerships with GZU to conduct field research in the targeted sub-basins will be identified during PY1.	

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Midlands State University (MSU)	Primary Member of the PSC	Based in Gweru (Midlands province), MSU conducts research on land and water management through the Land and Water Resources Management department.	N/A	The results of MSU?s research projects will be built on for the development of the ILUPs and Action Plans under Output 1.2.1 of the GEF7 project. Opportunities to established partnerships with MSU to couple research experiments with the interventions of the GEF7 project will be identified during PY1.	
f) Private sector					

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Private companies active in the collection, transformation and marketing of nature-based products in the target sub-basins (e.g. Bayoba, Reapers, Sweet Maungwe, Ingwebu, Kaza Natural Oils)	Secondary	Private, commodity-based companies operational in the target sub-basins, working as processors, distributors or retailers of crop, NTFPs and/or livestock products.	? Field visit and site visit to two Bayoba processing centres in Chipinge and Chimanimani (4-5 November 2019) ? MSG Workshops (17 September & 4-5 November 2019) ? Virtual and face-to-face meetings with Sweet Maungwe, Bayoba, Kaza Natural Oils	Private, commodity-based companies will provide a key source of information on the market opportunities for the development and selection of the business plans, and will be strongly involved in the strengthening of the Value Chains particularly for the creation of partnerships with producers.	Depending on the Value Chains to be selected, relevant companies will be approached to identify partnership opportunities and support needs.
Youth and women banks E.g. Metbank (Women & Youth Desk), Zimbabwe Women's Microfinance Bank	Secondary	Youth and women banks have been developing under the leadership of the MWACSMEs. Their objective is to facilitate the empowerment of women and youth through entrepreneurship, by providing loans and other financial products.	N/A	Youth and women banks will be involved in Component 2 to leverage funding for LDN-compatible livelihood support activities. They will also be part of the LDN financial roundtable to be established under Output 2.3.1.	NGOs and other development partners that have partnered with youth and women banks in past and ongoing initiatives (e.g. CARE International, Plan International) will be consulted during the inception to share their experience working with the various banks.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation (Implementation)	Comments
Private sector companies such as corporates (e.g. Delta Corporation, Econet Wireless and Zimoco), large plantations owners in Chimanimani and Chipinge (e.g. Cashel Valley, Gwigwi Estate, Silver Streams), fuel companies (e.g. Glo fuels, Zuva), and medium to large mining companies	Secondary	Private sector companies with potential interest in CSR and PES schemes to support SLM and SFM.	N/A	Extensive consultations with private sector actors will be conducted for the implementation of Output 2.2.2. Delta corporation with represent the private sector and FOTE at the PSC meeting.	

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

Different budget lines have been allocated to ensure the identified stakeholder are meaningfully involved throughout decision making process. This includes several capacity development workshops at local, and regional levels, regular consultation meetings and surveys, knowledge and communications strategy, among others. For instance, under Output 3.3.1, the project will develop a knowledge management strategy to ensure information dissemination and sharing of knowledge with project stakeholders and interested parties beyond project partners.

The engagement of the stakeholders related to lessons learned of other participant countries in the program will be made through regional exchange mechanism (REM).

The results framework has been structured to include indicators that ensure stakeholder participation in all components of the project. The engagement of national and local institutions is also reflected in the results of institutional capacity development, strengthening of policy, regulatory and planning frameworks. At local level, the communities, farmers, entrepreneurs will be engaged through FFS, FFF as main actors in sustainable land management of drylands. At landscape level, the development and implementation of integrated land use plans will involve extensive consultation of local stakeholders. At the regional level, the engagement of stakeholders will be through transboundary approaches as LDN dialogue platforms, intergovernmental agreements and sharing of lessons learned.

The PMU, under the overall supervision of FAO will be responsible for implementing the stakeholder engagement activities as outlined in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Matrix. It will also be responsible for monitoring and reporting on stakeholder engagement through the annual project implementation reports (PIRs). Relevant tasks have been incorporated into the Terms of Reference of the project staff and budgeted for accordingly.

In the annual PIRs, the PMU will report on the following indicators:
- Number of government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, vulnerable groups and other stakeholder groups that have been involved in the project implementation phase.
- Number of engagements (such as meetings, workshops, official communications) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase.
- Number of grievances received and responded to/resolved.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier;

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body; Yes

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

Gender equality is a core value embedded within the Constitution of Zimbabwe. The Government has committed to the realisation of gender empowerment through the adoption of the National Gender Policy (2013). This policy seeks to promote gender equality through a number of initiatives including promoting women participation in decision-making structures and the creation of an enabling environment where men and women, boys and girls have equal access to opportunities and resources. To prepare for a project design fully compliant with the National Gender Policy, gender aspects were included across studies conducted during the PPG phase. In particular, the SHARP Survey undertaken in the target areas placed a focus on gender-disaggregated analyses to understand the extent of potential gender disparities in domains relevant to SLM, SFM and climate resilience. Key results from these analyses are summarised below, and a Gender Action Plan for the proposed project is then presented.

In Zimbabwe, the distribution of household roles is traditionally based on cultural and religious beliefs and practices. The majority of households (approximately 60%) in the targeted provinces are man-headed, with the Midlands having the highest percentage difference. To perform a relevant gender analysis however, the SHARP Survey selected a balanced sample with dual-headed, men-headed and women-headed households. Although it is commonly accepted in the target areas that men should have a final say on major decisions that affect the household, decision-making processes in dual-headed households are reportedly jointly conducted. Despite not always making the decisions, respondents (both male and female) felt they could participate if they wanted to.

On average, women-headed households benefit more than men-headed households from the following income sources: i) market retailing; ii) handcrafting; iii) remittances; and iv) off-farm employment. Conversely, man-headed households derive comparatively more income from crop and livestock production, and mining. Dual-headed households retrieve their income from crop production, labour in agriculture (e.g. employed in other farms) and employment outside agriculture (e.g. temporary jobs, artisanship). Household income is mostly spent on food, education and agricultural inputs particularly seeds. Women and men have similar expenditure patterns, both priming food purchases (93% and 81%, respectively). Nonetheless, women tend to invest more in education than men (66% against 39%). Although the difference is small, more men tend to spend resources on productive activities than women (e.g. more men spend their revenues on fertilisers, irrigation, livestock, pesticides and farm equipment). While both men and women prefer to keep their savings at home, women rely more on savings groups (23%) than banks (3%) or micro-finance institutions (5%).

Women have generally less land ownership rights than men in the targeted areas. They are over-represented among respondents who do not own land (e.g. 42% against 29% for men) and 18% of single women own land, as compared to 28% of single men.

In terms of social cohesion, women reported a polarised attitude towards family and community members: women are over-represented among respondents fully (30%) or never (32%) trusting family and community members on collective matters. This is all the more significant in Runde, where a larger lack of trust was acknowledged between various villages within the wards because of frequent conflicts between village traditional leaders. Approximately 20% of surveyed women are part of a women?s group. Groups include savings groups for women, groups for women with children under two years old and religious groups.

When asked about self-assessed priorities, women primarily evoke access to information on weather and adaptation practices, pest management practices, improved nutrition, reduced exposure to shocks and animal production practices. These aspects are largely linked to knowledge sharing and circulation of information. In the target areas, women reportedly have lower access to weather information than men (31% against 47%). However, based on the results, women appear to have similar access to information pertaining to adaptation and more access than men to information on sustainable resource management (51% against 38%). Women are also less aware of ongoing forestry projects than men (36% against 44%).

Overall, the compound resilience score of women-headed households (7.49) is slightly lower than that of man-headed households (7.88), and lower than that of dual-headed households (8.20). While women?s resilience stems comparatively more than men from social aspects (e.g. group ownership), their economic resilience appears lower (e.g. income sources, market access). Differences in overall resilience between households based on the gender of the head are not highly significant.

Women can play a crucial role in supporting specific domains of resilience, namely knowledge-sharing, social cohesion, nutrition and income diversification. Their role is also hampered by several constraints, including access to weather information, capital, higher education and diversified off-farm jobs. Improving women?s livelihood under the project is therefore crucial to achieve the expected transformational shift towards SFM, SLM and LDN in the targeted areas.

Gender marking

The current project has been tagged as G2A ? i.e. it ?[...] *addresses gender equality in a systematic way, but this is not one of its main objectives*?.

TABLE 5. GENDER ENTRY POINTS FOR MONITORING DURING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

#	Question	Answer	Comment
1	*Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women?s empowerment?*	Yes	Following a gender-sensitive analysis during the PPG process, gender-responsive measures were designed to increase women?s participation and leadership role in the management of farm and forest resources, and promote women?s empowerment through the project?s activities.
2	*Which area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:*	*[as below:]*	The project will contribute to all three areas by creating specific opportunities for women to be part of the project?s activities and benefit from the project?s outcome. Women access to natural resources will be supported through the FFPO approach that will include women

#	Question	Answer	Comment
2a)	*Closing gender gaps in access and control over natural resources*	Yes	groups and associations and the community-based management approach. Women groups and mixed groups will be strengthened which will result in increased capacity of women (and men) to participate to decision making and negotiations. Livelihood development interventions will support 52% of women through the FFS/APFS approach. Women involvement will also be maximised in the development of the CSB network.
2b)	*Improving women?s participation and decision-making*	Yes	
2c)	*Generating socioeconomic benefits or services for women*	Yes	
3	*Does the project?s results framework include gender-sensitive indicators?*	Yes	Gender-sensitive indicators were included in the project?s Logical Framework in order to assess the project?s progress on promoting gender equality and improvements in women?s participation in decision-making processes.
	Source: GEF Guidance to Advance Gender Equality 2018.		

Gender Action Plan

The Gender Action Plan (GAP) is a cross-sector approach supporting the mainstreaming of sustainable forest and land management to enhance ecosystem resilience for improved livelihoods in the Save and Runde sub-basins. Based on the current gender situation, the GAP was designed to ensure that sources of gender inequality are address, that the project interventions contribute to closing the gap, and that women are empowered under the SLM and SFM interventions in the Save and Runde sub-basins.

Table 6 below set out the GAP provisions per project components, outputs and activities, as well as draft responsibilities and budgets. As the project is implemented, it will draw on the guidelines for gender-responsive LDN Transformative Projects and Programmes that were recently released[1].

Table 6: GENDER ACTION PLAN PER PROJECT ACTIVITY

OVERARCHING HUMAN RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL COMMITTMENTS	National Project Coordinator (NPC), supported by M&E Officer, Gender Officer (national consultant) and Gender Focal Point at FAO Zimbabwe	**Gender milestone actions by Project Activity** ? Ensure that the gender metrics are effectively monitored o The NPC will be responsible for this activity with the support of an M&E expert and a Gender Officer who will monitor and provide operational support for the implementation of the GAP and the gender-sensitive results-based framework. ? Insert gender/social inclusion standards in all project staff/ consultants TOR: o The NPC will have overall responsibility for GAP implementation and gender-related results including mobilising relevant human and financial resources and taking timely remedial action as needed. o All staff/consultants will be responsible for identifying and integrating practical actions to respond to gender-differentiated issues and their implications for women and men. ? Carry out briefing on project GAP for all staff and require that all consultants familiarise themselves with the GAP. o The NPC will be responsible for this activity with the support with the support of an M&E expert and a Gender Officer who will monitor and provide operational support for the implementation of the GAP and the gender-sensitive results-based framework. ? The Gender Officer will review all inputs and ensure that the NPC will ensure that the Gender Officer input/recommendations/findings are addressed.

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Component 1: developing gender-responsive national policies Component 2: engaging women and men in: i) gender-responsive strategic and operational land management plans; and ii) gender-responsive business models and incentives for LDN and SLM, including alternative livelihoods	? % of women among the producers/farmers who accessed ? as a result of the project ? improved seeds/saplings/fertilisers through the project o End-of-project target: 15,000 people including at least 52% women. Women-headed households to comprise at least 35% of beneficiaries of seeds, tree species and poultry breeds. ? % of women among producers/farmers who received agricultural extension services/technology o End-of-project target: at least 52% women, including at least 35% of women from women-headed households. ? Share of women who are actively involved in community associations for natural resources management o Targeted land-users including at least 52% of women

Improving women?s participation and decision-making	Component 1: engaging women as well as men in developing national and sub-national policy, legislation and programming for LDN and SLM Component 2: i) engaging women and men in the implementation of gender-responsive strategic and operational SLM management plans; and ii) gender-responsive business models and incentives for LDN and SLM, including alternative livelihoods Component 3: increasing women?s participation in capacity development and knowledge exchange	? % of women participating actively in decision making and land-use planning o End-of-project target: at 52% of women among the members of the landscape-level cross-sectoral governance platforms ? Number and percentage of women and men serving in leadership position (e.g. entrepreneur) in business development and establishment o End-of-project target: at least 15 businesses developed with at least 52% women in leadership positions ? Number of women and men benefiting from marketing, business literacy and value-chain development training, due to project interventions, disaggregated o End-of-project target: 1050 community members, at least 52% women
Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Component 2: i) engaging women and men in gender-responsive strategic management plans; and ii) gender-responsive business models in Value Chains and incentives for LDN and SLM, including alternative livelihoods.	? Number of farmers engaged in associations (e.g. market cooperatives, producer associations) as a result of project support to Value Chain development, disaggregated o End-of-project target: among 1050 community members engaged in Value Chain activities, at least 80% participating in market cooperatives or producer associations, including at least 52% women ? Number of women and men benefiting from financial investments for Value Chain development due to project interventions, disaggregated o End-of-project target: 1,050 people, at least 52% women

Outputs	Responsibility	Core activities
1.1.1	Project NPC, supported by M&E Officer, Gender Officer, EMA and FAO	(i) Clarify the role of each government institutions from the national to the village level in the management of natural resources and in achieving the LDN targets ? Gender-disaggregated data on women participation in natural resources management from national to village levels will be collected to define the baseline level. (ii) Review the effectiveness of the national LDN Technical Working Group, propose revisions to its composition and functioning if required, and support its institutionalisation. ? If gender balance is not achieved among the national LDN TWG members, revisions will be proposed to achieve gender balance. (iii) Provide training to national LDN TWG members ? Familiarise members of national LDN TWG with this project?s GAP and guidelines for gender inclusion in LDN[2]. ? Familiarise members of national LDN TWG with the importance of/ opportunities to mainstream gender in LDN as part of the training.

1.1.2	NPC, supported by field assistants, Gender Officer, EMA, FAO and OPs	(i) Stocktake lessons learned from ZINWA coordination structure on the integrated management of water resources at the landscape level ? The role of women in decision making for catchment management will particularly be investigated. (ii) Convene consultative meetings within the targeted sub-basins to discuss joint and intersectoral land-use planning and management. ? Equal participation of men and women to these meetings will be ensured. Throughout the project, concrete actions will be implemented to achieve participation targets in consultative meetings and trainings, including: o taking gender considerations into account in the design of consultations and capacity-building delivery modes, so that they are accessible to targeted women as well as men e.g. at times and venues easily accessible for women as well as men; o monitoring participation of women/men and taking immediate corrective measures if gender indicators/targets are not met (postponing consultations and trainings will be considered if participation targets cannot be met, or have consistently not been met in a certain context); and o integrating gender dimensions into consultations and capacity-building content. (iii) Structure and establish two landscape-level cross-sectoral governance platforms and corresponding TORs to coordinate the integrated land-use planning processes. ? Ensure that an adequate proportion (approximately 52%) of women who are engaged formally/informally in land management are included as full members in the governance platforms. ? Ensure gender aspects are fully included in the ToRs of the governance platforms, which will provide a basis for the systematics mainstreaming of gender aspects into the agenda of the platforms. (iv) Provide training to government and non-government staff at catchment, provincial, district, ward and village levels on integrated land management planning, assessment and monitoring ? Ensure equal participation of women and men at training sessions. ? The Gender Officer will review training curricula to make sure that gender aspects are fully taken into consideration at all levels. (v) Establish a landscape-level LDN TWG under each platform ? Ensure representatives of rural women who are engaged formally/informally in land management are included as full members in

1.1.3	NPC, supported by M&E Officer, EMA, Gender Officer, FAO, and OPs	(i) Provide tailored on-the-job trainings for the members of the national LDN TWG, landscape-level LDN TWG, other relevant government technical staff, CTDT and World Vision, and community leaders to undertake the relevant assessments in the targeted sub-basins to support the design of SLM and SFM interventions and the monitoring of LDN ? Equal participation to trainings will be sought for both women and men. (ii) Refine and ground truth the existing LDN data in the targeted basins using a participatory approach ? Equal participation to data collection interventions will be sought for both women and men. (iii) Jointly identify evidence-based and gender-sensitive good practices on SLM and SFM under use in the targeted basins. ? This will be done through a consultative process of local community members (including 52% of women) and FFPOs (including women groups), a literature review as well as interviews with relevant projects active in the target provinces. Practices held traditionally by men and by women will be integrated in the analysis. (iv) Support the target districts in undertaking the inventory of genetic resources. ? Specific indigenous knowledge from women on the property of certain genetic resources (e.g. nutritious / medicinal properties of plants) will be particularly targeted.

1.1.4	Project NPC, supported by field assistants, Gender Officer, EMA, FAO, and OPs	(i) Support the national LDN TWG in engaging policy dialogues to identify the policy documents that do not fully support integrated land-use planning and LDN, and in developing ? using a participatory approach with central government stakeholders ? an action plan to address main issues in the policy framework ? With help of gender/ LDN specialist, the project will ensure that inventories/ methodology is informed by the UNCCD ?Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality? (2017) and specifically chapter 6.3.6 on ?Gender considerations for the design of preliminary assessments?. It notes that ?If gender is excluded from the analysis of preliminary assessment data (e.g., poorly selected indicators, lack of advanced planning for the disaggregation of data by sex), then the findings will be incomplete or misleading. ... Preliminary assessments should be conducted strategically so that the data collected can be disaggregated by sex, socio-economic and ethnic grouping and age, against which progress and results can be measured.? ? The policy documents will thus be reviewed with a gender lens, and gaps in the mainstreaming of gender aspects into LDN-relevant policies will be identified. ? Stakeholders consulted in the process will include approximately 52% of women. (ii) Develop policy recommendations to address priority gaps to support the integrated management of natural resources. ? Based on the gender-sensitive assessment of gaps under Activity (i), relevant recommendations will be formulated to foster the mainstreaming of gender aspects into LDN-relevant policies. (iii) Raise awareness on existing policies: a. Print 500 copies of the Forestry policy document to be distributed to Provincial offices (Mutare, Masvingo, Gweru) and 8 RDCs offices, Agritex, EMA, ZINWA, Care, SNV, Plan, SAFIRE, and Environment Africa) b. Conduct two national workshops and a landscape-level dissemination workshop on the Forestry Policy and other relevant national policies ? The national and landscape-level workshops will equally target men and women. (iv) Engage high level discussions on government budget repartition between sectors to promote cross-sectoral collaboration for natural resources management in collaboration with the MFED. ? Means to increase the gender sensitivity of budget repartition will also be looked into. (v) Investigate the barriers to the operationalisation of the Environmental Fund and to its allocation to SLM and SFM interventions, propose solutions and present them to the MFED

1.1.5	Project NPC, supported by field assistants, Gender Officer, EMA, FAO, OPs	(i) Identify the by-laws needed as a priority to support the implementation of the ILUP ? Required by-laws will be identified by the members of the cross-sectoral and gender-sensitive governance platforms. ii) Develop the new by-laws following the step-by-step bottom-up approach developed under the Forest ForCES project ? The participation of women to the elaboration of the new by-laws will be strongly supported, in accordance with the Forest ForCES approach. (iii) Raise awareness on the existing and new by-laws in the 8 targeted districts. ? The awareness-raising campaigns will target men and women equally.

1.2.1	Project NPC, supported by field assistants, Gender Officer, FAO and OPs	(i) Design and implement awareness-raising campaigns on the multiple benefits of integrated land-use planning and management for local government, CSOs and communities ? The Gender Officer will participate to the elaboration of awareness-raising campaigns so that gender aspects are fully reflected, both in terms of the content (e.g. focus on themes of particular relevance for women) and the mode of communication (e.g. use of certain media, such as radio stations, more often consulted by women; use of examples relevant to the daily occupation of women etc.) ? If relevant, champion women?s groups identified as particularly active in natural resource management and/or community engagement will be engaged in the elaboration of the awareness-raising campaigns. ? Women groups may also contribute to the dissemination of awareness-raising material. ? The awareness-raising campaigns will target men and women equally. (ii) Prepare technical guidelines on land restoration, provide training and required equipment for the application of these guidelines. (iii) Support the development of an ILUP and its action plan for the Runde sub-basin. ? The participants to the elaboration of the ILUP will include approximately 52% of women (this will be supported by the community mobilisation strategy). (iv) Support the development of an ILUP and its action plan for the Save sub-basin. ? The participants to the elaboration of the ILUP will include approximately 52% of women (this will be supported by the community mobilisation strategy). (v) Adoption and dissemination of development plans ? Particular attention will be given to maximising women ownership of the development plans.

1.2.2	Project NPC, Gender Officer, EMA, FAO	(i) Support the development of the NEAP and the update of the district-level plans ? i.e. District Strategic Plans, District Adaptation Plans, District Disaster Risk Reduction Plans and other relevant plans ? to align these plans with the ILUPs and promote LDN. ? The project will ensure that gender aspects highlighted in the ILUPs are duly integrated into the NEAP, District Strategic Plans, District Adaptation Plans, District Disaster Risk Reduction Plans as well as other relevant plans at district level. ? An equal proportion of men and women will be consulted in the process of updating these plans (ii) Support EMA in providing training to ward and village officers to produce LEAPs taking climate change into consideration in a participatory and cross-sectoral manner with adequate community involvement process and in alignment with the ILUPs. ? The participation of women to community consultations prior to the elaboration of LEAPs will be strongly supported (see Activity 1.1.2. (ii) for concrete means to achieve this). (iii) Strengthen the capacity of EMA?s decentralised staff at the district and ward levels through training, improving communication equipment, increasing their mobility and their visibility of the ground for the implementation of the ILUPs and LEAPs. ? Specific training will be provided on how to take gender into consideration in the daily work of decentralised staff, especially on awareness-raising aspects related to environmental management. ? The number of women participating to the training sessions will be maximised. (iv) Develop the management plan for the Chimanimani National Park in collaboration with GEF7 project in Mozambique and support the process of finalisation of the TFCA agreement between Zimbabwe and Mozambique for the Chimanimani TFCA ? The plan and the agreement will be gender sensitive and support the closure of the gender gaps. (v) Support Provincial Development Councils in identifying and prioritising SLM and SFM interventions to address environmental degradation drivers to be funded with the Devolution Fund, in alignment with the ILUPs. ? PDCs will be assisted to include gender-relevant criteria (e.g. impact on women; specific benefits for women-headed households ? women headed-households etc.) for the selection of the best interventions.

2.1.1	Project NPC, supported by field assistants, Gender Officer, NGOs active in the target sub-basins (e.g. SAFIRE, CARE International)	(i) Undertake landscape-level awareness raising in the local language with a view to enhancing project buy-in by the wider stakeholders. ? The awareness-raising campaigns will target men and women equally. (ii) Identify forest, farm and rangeland users who are interested in joining the project in support of outscaling SLM/SFM (building upon PPG participatory stakeholder assessment). ? Relevant women land users and women?s groups will be approached to enquire about their interest in joining the project. At least 52% of women will be represented among the land-users who will benefit from the project. (iii) Undertake capacity assessment of farmers organisations ? Capacity needs of men and women will be distinguished, and a review of the gender balance within existing farmers organisations will be conducted. (iv) Develop a strategy and action plan for the strengthening of the FFS/APFS network in collaboration with extension and technical services of Agritex, EMA and FC to harmonize and integrate the FFS approach into the strategies of these departments and develop mechanism to sustain the FFS schools (v) Integrate identified SLM, SFM, IWM and LDN good practices into FFS/APFS Training curricula and update them regularly based on field situation and community requests. ? Women and men training needs will be addressed in the curricula, and adjusted based on community requests from the field. FAO will provide guidance on good practices for the mainstreaming of gender in FFS curricula, based on successful examples in SADC. (vi) Develop and publish user-friendly technical, business and organisational development training manuals incorporating SLM, SFM, IWM and LDN good practices, as well as FFS booklet adapted to Zimbabwe context ? These manuals will reflect the gender aspects trialled throughout the project. (vii) Select and train 100 FFS/APFS master trainers ? Trainees to become Master trainers will include a minimum of 30% of women and reach 52% if possible.

2.1.2	Project NPC, supported by field assistants and Gender Officer	(i) Review the functioning of existing CSBs and identify the gaps for the creation of a robust CSB network in the targeted sub-basins. ? The review will include the identification of means to: i) involve women and men equally in the CSBs as a source of income; and ii) generate equal benefits from local seed production for women and men land-users. (ii) Conduct participatory mapping and collection of propagation and multiplication materials and breeds, for the available climate-resilient and suitable indigenous crop varieties/ cultivars, poultry breeds and NTFP tree species. ? The participatory mapping exercise will involve approximately 52% of women including from women-headed households. (iii) Strengthen/establish CSBs and tree nurseries (for crops, grass, shrubs, herbs and trees) jointly managed by a community group, association or cooperative. ? The establishment of women-lead and women-operated CSBs and nurseries will be encouraged and supported. Existing women groups and mixed groups including women leaders will be supported to establish nurseries.

2.2.1. Miombo woodlands Value Chains (?basket product approach?) identified, selected and developed along with bankable business plans	Project NPC, supported by field assistants, Gender Officer, FAO, OPs	(i) Develop the Value Chains? selection criteria ? and corresponding selection criteria for the business plans ? to refine the Value Chains? assessment undertaken during the PPG phase and establish a cross-sectoral selection committee ? The selection criteria will include achieving gender balance. They will be developed in collaboration with Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises (MWACSMEs). Business models will meet the practical needs, interests and strategic priorities of women as well as men. ? Eligibility criteria will take into account other barriers and introduce temporary special measures for women to address identified gender gaps: o women?s greater difficulty in accessing financing due to lesser access to land and other collateral; o women?s time burden and lack of labour (more likely for women heads of household); and o cultural barriers to women earning and managing finance outside the home. ? The cross-sectoral selection committee will be composed of approximately 52% of women. (ii) Map eligible producer organisations in the targeted landscapes (building upon Value Chain and participatory stakeholder mapping results) in collaboration with the OPs ? Mapping of organisations will include women-lead producer organisation and a gender marker for mixed organisations, to assess the integration of gender aspects into the organisation?s operations. MWACSMEs will assist with this mapping exercise. (iii) Support identified producer organisations in the development of a business plan and sustainability strategy, and develop a business plan development manual. ? The business models will meet the practical needs and strategic priorities of women as well as men i.e. will take account of women?s/ men?s specific barriers, building on gender analyses and consultations for the project. ? The business plan development manual will integrate gender considerations into its guidelines for the development of business plans. ? Particular emphasis will be placed on activities most often carried out by women (such as NTFP collection and processing), with a view to: i) increase the value-added of these activities; and ii) limit the arduousness of specific tasks. (iv) Support the FFPOs in presenting the business plans to the selection committee and provide support for the implementation of the selected business plans and their sustainability strategy. ? Overall, the FFPO members benefitting from the project will include approximately 52% of women. (v) Provide required training to strengthen the FFPOs such as training on post-harvest practices, training in financial management and training in administrative management.

2.2.2 Finance and business incubation mechanisms established in support of Forest Farm Producers and their organizations	Project NPC, supported by field assistants, Gender Officer, FAO, OPs	(i) Approach microfinance institutions to discuss opportunities to increase access to the financial support for smallholder farmers/groups/associations interested in adopting or developing SLM and SFM practices. ? Micro-finance institutions that target women will be integrated in this activities and advocacy to increase women access to finance will be undertaken with institutions that are not gender sensitive. Experience from other projects in the target sub-basins will be capitalised upon to pre-select adequate financial institutions that may be inclined to facilitate access to finance for women. (ii) Assess the current contribution of the private sector to environmental protection. ? Additional gender markers will be assigned to private sector contributions supporting environmental activities that bear particular benefits for women. (iii) Engage and get commitment or pledges by private sector partners for green financing. ? Gender co-benefits will be systematically sought to select interventions presented to private sector partners (e.g. development of commodity-based Value Chains with strong participation of women). (iv) Advocate for FOTE to fund SFM (and SLM) interventions. (v) Establish an LDN Donor/Finance RoundTable with government and non-government partners, and relevant private sector actors (vi) Identify and engage with suitable business incubators identified under the RoundTable ? Overall, the businesses to be supported by the private sector partners will have to benefit women and men equally.
3.1.1	NPC and field assistants, FAO, Gender Officer, Operational Partners	(i) Define in a participatory manner the role of each government institutions in monitoring, evaluating and reporting on SLM, SFM, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem functioning and LDN, and develop corresponding M&E strategy and guidelines in alignment with regional LDN assessment work. ? The Gender Officer will contribute to establishing the participatory monitoring system and ensuring that varied stakeholder groups, including women, support data collection efforts and validate results, including qualitative methods to measure social impact. (ii) Provide training for the implementation of the monitoring, evaluation and reporting strategy ? Trainees will include approximately 52% of women.

3.1.2	FAO, Project NPC	(i) Undertake the Mid-Term Review. ? The project indicators will be monitored including the gender-sensitive indicators, and if any weaknesses in the gender-sensitivity of the interventions is identified, corrective measures will be developed and implemented. (ii) Undertake the Final Evaluation. ? The gender sensitivity of all the elements of the project will be evaluated.
3.2.1	NPC and field assistants, FAO, Gender Officer, Operational Partners	(i) Develop gender-sensitive/responsive knowledge management and communication strategy (and their financial plans) to support implementation and replication of project activities to make information related to LDN accessible at the national level (from the central to the village levels) building on the LDN repository under development, and at the regional and global levels beyond the project lifespan. (ii) Compile and package the knowledge and experience generated by the project interventions under Components 1 and 2 on a continuous basis. ? Knowledge and experience will include key messages on gender integration in SLM and SFM interventions, and systematically highlight the gender dimensions of the project interventions. (iii) Support the establishment of the LDN repository for LDN information ? including the information collected under Output 1.1.3 ? to be accessible to all relevant national stakeholders to support LDN in Zimbabwe. ? The LDN repository will be enable equal access to information for men and women. (iv) Depending on its utility and effectiveness during project implementation, an action plan will be developed for mainstreaming the ILAM as part of the national LDN Decision Support System.

3.2.2	NPC and field assistants, FAO, Gender Officer, Operational Partners	(i) Compile and package the knowledge and experience generated by the project interventions under Components 1 and 2 on a continuous basis. ? Knowledge and experience will include key messages on gender integration in SLM and SFM interventions, and systematically highlight the gender dimensions of the project interventions. (ii) Support the establishment of the LDN repository for LDN information ? including the information collected under Output 1.1.3 ? to be accessible to all relevant national stakeholders to support LDN in Zimbabwe. ? The LDN repository will be enable equal access to information for men and women. (iii) Disseminate knowledge and experience generated by the project interventions on regional and global platforms. ? Gender equity is access to information made available on the regional and global platforms will be ensured. (iv) Undertake a diagnostic of transboundary issues between Zimbabwe and Mozambique linked to land degradation in the Save and Runde basins, and between Zimbabwe and South Africa (v) Identify the priority challenges to be addressed (e.g. veldt fires, invasive alien species, illegal mining, charcoal, extraction of indigenous plant resources, watershed management) and identify means to address them in a collaborative manner between the two countries involved. ? Particular attention will be given to transboundary issues that enhance women vulnerability. (vi) Participate to global and regional (REM) learning platforms events.
3.2.3	FAO	(i) Prepare and validate the participatory methodological approach with local communities ? Equal participation of men and women will be sought. (ii) Develop a web-platform for transparent LDN monitoring, reporting and evaluation (iii) Develop recommendations for sustainable and institutionalized process for participatory landscape LDN monitoring ? The LDN monitoring approach to be promoted will be fully gender sensitive.

[1] UN Women, Global Mechanism of the UNCCD and IUCN. 2019. A Manual for Gender-Responsive Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Programmes.

[2] UN Women, Global Mechanism of the UNCCD and IUCN. 2019. A Manual for Gender-Responsive Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Programmes.

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?

Yes
Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

Does the project?s results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes
4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

The involvement of the Private sector is critical for the success and sustainability of several project outputs particularly under Component 2. In alignment with GEF?s Private Sector Engagement Strategy, the entry points for private sector engagement in the project have been maximised. Continuous involvement of private sector through the project implementation phase will be ensured through having private sector representatives in the Project Steering Committee (PSC). At least one private sector representative will participate to the PSC as a permanent member. One of the members of the private sector FOTE which regroup approximately 25 sponsors from the private sector will represent the private sector, assist with the identification of relevant private sector partners for the project interventions, contribute to defining the private sector interests and expectations to invest in environmental matters, and support the identification of further opportunities to increase private sector involvement during the project.

Following an inclusive stakeholders? involvement approach, private sector actors operating in the targeted sub-basins will be adequately represented in the cross-sectoral and gender-sensitive coordination structures to be established under Output 1.1.2. Thereafter, they will be expected to participate actively in the development of the ILUPs and Action Plans under Output 1.2.1. Private sector agreements and support regarding all aspects of the ILUP that concern their operations is

essential to successfully achieving the sustainable management of natural resources following an LDN approach.

Private sector representatives operating in the targeted sub-basins such as Kaza Natural Oils or Four Seasons will be invited to participate to the selection of the business plans under Output 2.2.1 to benefit from their expertise in entrepreneurship and business development. Thereafter, private sector companies operating in the targeted sub-basins will be strongly involved in the diagnostic of existing Value Chains, the identification of opportunities for improvement based on the demand, and the establishment of partnership with forest, farm and rangeland users. As an example, opportunities for Value Chain strengthening through the establishment of national standards and international certifications to access high-value markets will be discussed with private companies who have an extended knowledge of the market trends and demand. Value Chains? strengthening will increase the stability and sustainability of the local supply and sales thereby benefitting both the producers/gatherers and the private companies. Multiple companies working in NUS, livestock and NTFPs Value Chains that present good opportunities for development in the targeted sub-basins were identified during the PPG phase. They include for example grains processors, consumers and wholesalers (e.g. Profeeds, Delta Corporation, Grain Marketing Board), NTFP processors and traders (e.g. Kaza Natural Oils, Bayoba, Baomix PBC, Utsanzi, Four Seasons, AfriDeli, Pharmpack), small-livestock processors and wholesalers, agricultural outlets, and chain stores (e.g. OK, Choppies, Food World). The list of companies to be engaged in the project will be determined based on the NUS, livestock and NTFP Value Chains of interest to the FFPOs to be supported by the project in the targeted basins.

1. To further increase financial opportunities for farmers to adopt and maintain improved livelihoods, private sector contribution through CSR and/or PES schemes will be investigated and increased. Under Output 2.2.2, a stocktake of the current financial contribution of the private sector in environmental protection (e.g. through non-profit organisations such as FOTE) will be undertaken. Private sector companies within the sub-basins and at the national level such as large plantations owners in Chimanimani and Chipingue (e.g. Cashel Valley, Gwigwi Estate, Silver Streams), fuel companies (e.g. Glo fuels, Zuva), corporates (e.g. Econet Wireless and Zimoco), and medium to large mining companies that are likely to be interested in CSR schemes to support sustainable development in rural areas will then be approached ? following due diligence verification ? to promote the establishment of such schemes. Current private sector investments in environmental protection such as FOTE?s interventions will be also be reviewed and advocacy for these contributions to fund SLM and SFM interventions will be undertaken. Furthermore, existing financial opportunities for Small Scale Farmers (e.g. SACCOS, CBZ Holdings Limited, AgriBank, Youth and Women Banks) will be analysed to identify means for these companies to incentivise the use of SLM and SFM practices by their beneficiaries. Similarly, opportunities for the development of PES where the activities of private companies activities depend on the sustainable management of surrouding resources or ecosystems by local communities will be investigated and supported if appropriate. Finally, active participation of private sector representatives to the Donor/Finance RoundTable to be established under Output 2.2.2 will be ensured to identify and grasp opportunities to further increase private sector contribution in SLM and SFM towards achieving the national LDN targets.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

Section A: Risks to the project

Table 7: RISK TABLE AND MITIGATION ACTIONS

Description of risk	Impact[1]	Probability of occurance3	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
Insufficient ownership of the project by local communities prevent the project from being successful and sustainable.	High	Low	Community mobilisation systems will be strengthened. Local authorities? capacity to conduct inclusive consultation processes will be increased. The mapping of land-degradation issues and preferred solutions will be refined in a participatory manner with local communities. Community members will be empowerment through the creation and strengthening of FFPOs. The grievance mechanism will enable to identify any weaknesses in the community engagement process. Project management team to ensure that communities have been adequately consulted before any decision or action is taken.	Central and decentralized authorities Operational partners Project Management Unit (PMU)
Sectoral ministries do not manage to collaborate efficiently.	Medium	Low	The respective roles, timeline of engagement, communication streams and frequency, and collaboration means will be refined at inception using a participatory approach.	Central and decentralized authorities PMU
The design and validation process for the ILUPs is slower than initially planned or delays are encountered which lead to delay in implementing these plans.	High	Low	The participatory processes for the development of the ILUPs (involving government authorities and local communities) will raise awareness and capacity on SLM and SFM from the start of the implementation period. If delays are foreseen in the validation of the ILUPs, it will be possible to start working at the local level with local authorities and community groups and organisations on the implementation of preidentified SLM and SFM practices (based on PPG assessments, and existing plans that meet the project criteria e.g. climate-resilient, gender sensitive, integrated?).	Central and decentralized authorities PMU
The current planning and budgeting system in place hinder the timely implementation of the ILUP.	Medium	Medium	It will be specified for each ILUPs budget lines which sector is responsible. The capacity of district-level authorities on sectoral coordination and budget validation in support of the ILUPs will be strengthened.	District level authorities, sectoral institutions PMU

Existing governance structures prevent to go beyond administrative boundaries.	Medium	Medium	A stocktake of previous efforts in landscape-level planning will be undertaken to gather the lessons learned. The roles of provincial- and district-level authorities will be clarified and vertical and horizontal collaboration systems at provincial and district levels will be better defined and strengthened.	Provincial and District-level authorities
The SLM and SFM interventions under Component 2 take more time than expected to generate significant and measurable benefits which hinders efficient outscaling and upscaling of SLM and SFM before the end of the implementation period.	Medium	Low	SLM and SFM interventions will be carefully selected based on existing evidence-based information and on efficient current practices under implementation in the targeted sub-basins to ensure their success. The selection of the SLM and SFM interventions will consider the timeline for measurable results to be achieved to prevent any delay in the implementation of the project.	Central and decentralized authorities Project Management Unit (PMU) Operational partners
Current economic crisis and inflation rate in Zimbabwe leads to loss of monetary value for the implementation of the project.	Medium	Medium	Safety measures to prevent monetary losses through conversion to local currency will be implemented (e.g. transfers to FAO country office and/or direct payment to service provider?s systems.	FAO country office EMA FAO HQ
The demand for crop, forest and rangeland products reduces or is unstable because ochangesf a national or international economic crisis.	Medium	Medium	The impact of any significant changes in the national and international demand on a specific product for the benefitting FFPOs will be mitigated through supporting the adoption of a basket of diversified Value Chains linked to different markets rather than one.	Project Management Unit (PMU) Operational partners

Climate-induced hazards such as droughts, floods, hailstorms or pest outbreaks affect agricultural productivity over one or several seasons.	Medium	Medium	Climate resilience has been and will remain a primary selection factor for the project interventions (including *inter alia* resilient agricultural inputs, Value Chains, and climate-resilient practices for forest, farm and rangeland management). A climate risk analysis affecting the Miombo-Mopane ecoregion is availble: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ng-VWBnviBbLVHTxccbN4msvHWUSnrOy/view	Sectoral institutions (e.g. MECTHI, MLAWRR) Operational partners Research institutions PMU

The Miombo/Mopane child projects will follow a similar process that takes identified climate risks, vulnerabilities and corresponding management actions into account.

Component 1:

Climate risks will be systematically incorporated in the integrated land use planning process to anticipate future extreme weather events and plan positive actions of sustainable land management. This joint planning process will benefit from climate change related assessments conducted during the PPG (SHARP) as well as available climate change analysis (e.g. IFAD/ACDI climate analysis) and other available data sets.

The National Meteorological Authorities (NMA) and other institutions leading the collection, analysis and use of climate data should be engaged in the development and implementation of LDN strategies. Trainings and capacity building of relevant stakeholders should include activities on the use of climate information for informing strategies and planning, certain activities can be led by the NMAs.

Component 2:

The selection of evidence-based climate smart SLM/SFM practices will follow the results of the joint planning process (component 1) to ensure they are adapted to local contexts and supported by scientific evidence of project climate conditions. The identified practices should be integrated in the forest and farm producers? training manuals and be part of the Famers Field Schools curricula. The newly developed global note for FFS facilitators on integrating climate change adaptation into farmer field schools can inform this process as well as lessons learned from participatory engagement approaches such a PICSA. Climate field schools can link to demonstration plots of sustainable intensification practices and resilience measures post-harvest.

The selection of dryland value chains should also consider climate related risks. Their selection should be based on (i) their viability under climate change in the mid to long term; (ii) their contribution to drivers of climate-related impacts; and (iii) their ability to increase the resilience of the most vulnerable populations.

Development of green value chains, including appropriate infrastructure or technologies to climate proof food value chains, should be based on results of climate impact assessments. Planning around drying, storage and transport can be informed by climate impacts at each stage.

Additional information: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ng-VWBnviBbLVHTxccbN4msvHWUSnrOy/view?usp=sharing

Risks related to COVID-19:

Zimbabwe?s officially confirmed/reported COVID-19 cases as on 26 October 2020 is 8269 persons and 237 confirmed deaths[2]. Zimbabwe has been on a national lockdown since 30 March 2020. The lockdown was initially only supposed to last 21 days, but it has been extended twice already, and in mid-May a further ?indefinite? extension was announced. Although some mobility restrictions were eased with the second lockdown extension, informal businesses will remain largely closed, except for some fruit and veg markets. Mobility into town continues to be restricted and thus impacts the flow of customers. It is estimated that over 90 per cent of Zimbabweans work in the informal economy, and many live hand to mouth. A ZimRights report reveals that the impact of the lockdown on the informal sector will hit women the hardest, with women constituting the majority of informal workers.

A recent assessment of COVID-19 implications in Zimbabwe by UN indicate that the COVID-19 pandemic is evolving against the backdrop of a difficult macro-economic environment, climatic shocks (cyclone Idai and drought). The preliminary impacts show that the country?s healthcare system will likely be stretched further. In addition, the public health response measures to contain the pandemic have shown that, while necessary, they have also led to a disruption of economic activities and livelihoods resulting in increased poverty and vulnerability[3].

The pandemic is affecting socio-economic and gender groups differently with women, children, poor households, persons with disabilities and people living with HIV and AIDS most adversely affected. Without urgent collective responses to address the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, suffering will escalate, endangering lives and livelihoods for years to come. Shutdowns continue to have deepening impact on the economy as a whole. Border closures, travel restrictions, school closures and business shutdowns have negative short- and long-term effects on national economic growth and national revenues. In addition, internal and external factors associated with COVID-19 hit the complex web of agricultural supply chains, affecting input suppliers, producers, collectors, processors and consumers. Food supply and demand disruptions and market and business uncertainties put a strain on the supply chains while posing multiple threats to food systems. Vulnerable groups, including the poor, mothers and children, the elderly, the unemployed and returning migrant workers, face real food security issues.?

Whilst there are still risks of COVID-19 infections increasing in Zimbabwe, most implications on this project are likely to be from the economic fallout, especially on co-finance.

Risks related to COVID-19:

Zimbabwe recorded its first case of COVID-19 on 20 March 2020 and now has over 34,949 confirmed cases as of 11 February 2021, including 1382 deaths (all with comorbidities). Of the 10 provinces in Zimbabwe, five (Bulawayo, Harare, Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West and Matabeleland North) have confirmed COVID-19 transmission. The Government has declared the COVID-19 pandemic a national disaster and has introduced several urgent and essential health-related containment measures, including a national lockdown and the closure of international borders, with the exception of essential services. At the early stages of the containment measures, informal markets were closed resulting in losses for smallholder farmers and traders. These have now been lifted as of mid-June, but as the country is highly dependent on imports, supply chains remain very fragile. Although challenging to differentiate between the ongoing humanitarian crisis and the effects of COVID-19, the World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that more than 60 percent of households, in both rural and urban contexts, have not been able to generate meaningful incomes due to market closure, loss of labour opportunities and declining remittances.

A particular vulnerable group are agro/pastoral communities residing in some of the low rainfall areas of Zimbabwe (far north, east and south). Rangeland quality during the wet season was classified as ?fair to poor? by the First Round Crop Assessment completed by MLAWRR and is expected to deteriorate from April to October 2020 with some districts having already run low on grazing land by June. The near real-time vegetation anomaly was indicated as below normal for June, prior to the onset of the dry season. Supplies of animal feed have been disrupted due to COVID-19 prevention and containment measures, feed companies? inability to access raw materials and staff shortages. Livestock markets have also been disrupted by measures to prevent the spread of the virus, which has and will continue to prevent the sale of livestock products to local and regional markets. This will reduce livelihood opportunities for households that depend on such sales for their income.

Likely evolution of the impacts of COVID-19 on food security:

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), cases of COVID-19 in Zimbabwe and across southern Africa are expected to peak between July and August 2020. Although the Government has put in place measures to mitigate the impact of the pandemic including a grain price moratorium, price subsidy for grain millers and the removal of import duties for agricultural products, it is anticipated that the containment measures will have a profound impact on agricultural livelihoods for several years to come. Disruptions to harvesting activities and the movement of fresh produce to local and regional markets due to limited transport are having a severe impact on the incomes of farmers and availability of food in urban areas. Additionally, restrictions on the movement of livestock and closure of abattoirs and livestock markets coupled with a weakening local currency resulting in food price increases are and will continue to have a significant impact on poor rural and urban populations? access to food.

Declining government revenues will also reduce the Government?s ability to fund key agricultural activities such as national livestock vaccination campaigns, cattle dipping services (operating at 50 percent capacity) and input supply programmes. This will have a huge bearing on animal health in the winter season and the ability of households affected by the 2020 crop failure to access quality seed and fertilizer for the ongoing 2020/21 summer cropping season. The loss of remittances from relatives and friends working outside of Zimbabwe ? for which a large proportion was used to procure agricultural inputs ? will also have an impact on the agricultural season. For poorer households, labour opportunities and wage rates are significantly below average, mainly due to COVID-19 related income disruptions. Seasonal casual labour opportunities across the border in South Africa (e.g. harvesting on farms) and in surplus producing areas within Zimbabwe are significantly limited in the current season due to COVID-19 border closure and travel restrictions.

Against this background, the prospects for the coming main summer season already look very bleak. Another season of poor agricultural production, together with a loss of alternative livelihoods and increasing food prices could push the already millions of people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) into Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of acute food insecurity. It is therefore vital that anticipatory measures are undertaken now, to avoid a further deterioration of the food security situation in 2021.

Anticipatory actions and response:

FAO?s resilience programming prior to COVID-19 has focused on supporting rural livelihoods through a range of interventions that include the provision of policy advice on markets, training of farmers on climate smart agriculture, formation of farmer group enterprises, provision of access to microfinance and the promotion of dietary diversity through nutrition awareness. Additionally, FAO has been supporting the Department of Veterinary Services to reduce livestock mortality and improve food safety and hygiene. These programmes have been reconfigured to take into account the impact of COVID-19 through the mainstreaming of prevention messages, improved hand washing facilities and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Strengthen assessments and analysis to inform response interventions.

To address the impact of COVID-19, FAO, in coordination with key partners, will strengthen data collection and analysis in order to improve anticipatory assessment and response. This will involve supporting MLAWRR to enhance seasonal crop production assessments and livestock disease surveillance. Consequently, this will enable more empirical analysis in order to assist in the design of short and longer-

term interventions to prevent further deterioration and increase resilience to the impact of COVID-19 and other related shocks.

Enhance the resilience of the livestock sector.

FAO will strengthen support to animal health services by scaling up existing activities including the rehabilitation of dip tanks and provision of acaricides, rehabilitation of Animal Health Service Centres and provision of veterinary kits for use by para-veterinarians. Furthermore, FAO will support the local production of poultry vaccinations through matching grant assistance to the Central Veterinary Laboratory. This will mitigate the impact of animal diseases such as anthrax, blackleg, lumpy skin disease (for cattle) and Newcastle disease (poultry).

Ensure the safe movement of food products.

FAO will support the United Nations Development Programme?s Resilient Food Supply Chain Management initiative by providing technical assistance for the pre-implementation diagnostic study and improving water supply in markets. In order to reduce post-harvest losses and allow farmers to preserve produce until prices are favourable, FAO will procure and distribute hermetic bags for grain storage. There is a need to scale up activities that will safeguard the post-harvest production and movement of agricultural produce and materials for processing and packaging. Moreover, there will be a need to ensure key government services in the livestock sector are maintained and quality seeds and fertilizers are available to farmers for the upcoming summer planting season.

Minimize the threat of virus transmission.

FAO will also scale up strong hygiene messaging and dissemination of information and prevention messages related to COVID-19 across all community engagement activities. This will include sensitizing extension workers on COVID-19 and mitigation measures, maintaining hand washing facilities and distributing PPE (masks at a minimum) for implementing project staff when necessary.

The Zimbabwe child project will introduce several digital technologies and innovative approaches to support sharing of knowledge virtually in support of social distancing. For example; tablets that were

introduced for the SHARP household surveys will be used to take footages on different SLM/SFM approaches that will be disseminated to wider groups of stakeholders as well as for monitoring and evaluation purposes. This approach will be complemented by the "Making every voice count for adaptive management" initiative facilitated by the Global Coordination project. This initiative promotes a variety of communication tools, focusing on a participatory video approach as an interactive platform that supports networking and knowledge generation, and in later stages documenting and disseminating knowledge assets and lessons learned ? especially those identified by the local communities and stakeholders at landscape level. The goal is to create a bridge between other teams and initiatives and work beyond the 11 countries involved in this program. The activities will be complemented by specific activities and tools to ensure access to agriculture and forestry advisory services during COVID-19 pandemic, such as the use of radio, print media, videos, mobile vans, and social media (e.g. WhatsApp) to overcome barriers related to social distance, travel limitations and possible lockdown periods.

Overall the project?s strategy is geared towards increasing the ecological, social and economic resilience in the target landscapes therefore contributing to green recovery in relation to the impacts of COVID by:

? Supporting local agricultural supply chains, hence increasing the resilience of local food systems, food security and nutrition (through the establishment of community seed banks and diversification of on-farm production using drought tolerant and nutritious legumes) while simultaneously addressing land degradation and increasing agricultural productivity.

? Creating green jobs through the selected value chains which in turn will improve the overall management and resilience of the landscape (e.g. apiculture which promotes pollination, reduction of forest fires through introduction of modern bee hives while increasing local livelihoods).

? Promote the sustainable management of the forest resources which make a significant contribution to food and nutrition security, helping ward off debilitating micronutrient deficiencies while diversifying diets and livelihoods.

? Supporting the sustainable use of woodfuel (which remains the main source of energy for cooking) and therefore energy and food security.

The project?s components will complement the existing COVID 19 mitigation efforts as follows:

Component 1:

? Contribute to preventing COVID-19 transmission through the integration of preventive measures in the two Integrated Land-Use Plans (ILUPs) and their action plans in Save and Runde basins (e.g. access to adequate hand washing facilities, distribution of PPE).

? Take advantage of all participation events for the elaboration of Integrated Land-Use Plans (ILUPs) to: (i) counter spread of fake news on COVID-19, (ii) equip and train front-line project facilitators and field workers, and community leaders, about COVID-19 related knowledge; (iii) raise awareness and disseminate information about COVID-19 impacts and response measures in agriculture, forestry, food security and nutrition; and (iv) inform about and encourage the observation of the official rules to be followed to avoid contagion and transmission.

? Apply governmental defined measures during all participatory events and provide kits to participants.

Component 2:

? Apply the FAO resource handbook for running farmer field schools (FFS) and Forest Management Learning Groups (FMLG) during the COVID-19 pandemic, as a way to raise awareness among participants about the impact of COVID-19 in natural resources management, value chain development and food security, and build capacity of master trainers, community-based facilitators and other extension agents about effective tools and procedures to train farmers and forest users.

? Plan for and develop specific activities and tools to ensure access to agriculture and forestry advisory services during COVID-19 pandemic, such as the use of radio, print media, videos, mobile vans, and social media (e.g. WhatsApp) to overcome barriers related to social distance, travel limitations and possible lockdown periods.

? Adopt emergency criteria linked to COVID-19 situation in the targeted landscapes in the procurement windows 1, 2 and 3 to make sure that the purchase and distribution of SLM/SFM/CSB inputs and equipment enhances the preparedness and response capacity of vulnerable farmers and forest users and producers? organizations and enterprises to the pandemic waves.

? Promote the adoption of safety and health measures linked to COVID-19 in the producer organization and enterprises targeted by the project, to ensure safe working environment, train their employees on safety and health issues for the workplace, and comply with safety and health standards at workplace.

Component 3:

? Integrate gender-sensitive indicators in the project?s M&E strategy and the Participatory landscape-level LDN monitoring, reporting and evaluation system to help track and monitor COVID-19 evolving dynamics linked to agriculture, forestry and food security.

? Develop ? under the knowledge management strategy ? gender-sensitive knowledge materials in English and the local languages (e.g. printed materials, videos, jingles, radio/TV products) and innovative social dissemination channels (e.g. WhatsApp and other social media groups, theater groups, roadshows) informing about impacts and responses to COVID-19 in sustainable natural resources? management, green value chain development, and food security, and facilitating interactions among farmers/forest users, members of producer organizations, and value chain actors.

Category	*Description of risks*	*Mitigation measures*
Implications at national level		
Short to medium term	? Reduced financial (co-financing) support from Government, development partners, and private sector, due to limited overall funding availability resulting from the COVID-19-related economic downturn, and/or the reorientation of available funding to actions directly related to COVID-19. ? Government expenditure and prioritization of different programs and sectors, including agriculture, food security and natural resources might change.	? If there are changes in co-finance, then partners to work closely to seek alternative options for co-financing and ensure continuity of resource allocation to ongoing initiatives in project target areas. ? It is anticipated that the project scope will help to support the Government?s response to COVID-19 through its focus on food security and livelihoods diversification of vulnerable communities in coastal areas already impacted by climate risks and hazards. However, project activities will be further discussed with the Government to ensure that emerging priorities and responses, as a result of the pandemic, are well reflected in the project?s target areas during implementation.
Implications for project activities (on the ground)		
Short to medium term	? Closure of offices, transport etc. will delay launch of project and its implementation.	? It is likely that periodic closures of transport and offices as well as restrictions on organizing meetings/ training with large number of people will impact project implementation. Therefore, the project will institute local mechanisms such as local facilitators in collaboration with each Operational Partner / work with local partners to ensure that some work can continue on the ground. Detailed planning will be done with the government operational partners to mobilize their field offices and others and the project will ensure that all recommended safe practice are followed by the project team and by communities where the project is working.

Short to medium term	? Potential or partial disruption of food system supply chains, such as logistics ? Increased losses and spoilage in high value commodities/perishables. ? Disruption of demand for products and markets, due to temporary closure of hotels and restaurants, and reduced purchasing power.	? Close collaboration with private sector entities and logistic companies will be maintained throughout the implementation phase to understand emerging barriers related to the pandemic and adapt the project interventions accordingly. ? Producer organizations will be supported in linking with online markets where possible. ? Local production of required inputs for SLM and SFM (e.g. seeds, seedlings, indigenous breeds) and linkages with local markets and buyers will be increased to make farmers more resilient to national and international market restrictions.
Short to medium term	? Higher dependence on natural ecosystems and dry land forest resources, as people who lose employment and income from other sectors depend more on illegal mining (gold panning), selling of firewood and charcoal, and poaching of wildlife for their livelihoods, thereby increasing pressures on these systems.	? FAO is planning to undertake more detailed analysis on the impacts of COVID-19. Based on this findings, the project will prioritize work in more impacted areas of the project sites to strengthen community management and alternative livelihoods.

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

EMA will have the overall executing and technical responsibility for the project, with FAO providing oversight and tailored technical assistance as GEF Agency as described below and in Annex K. EMA will act as the lead executing agency and will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project results entrusted to it in full compliance with all terms and conditions of the Operational Partnership Agreement (OPA) signed with FAO. As Executing Agency of the project, EMA is responsible and accountable to FAO for the timely implementation of the agreed project results, operational oversight of implementation activities, timely reporting, and for effective use of GEF resources for the intended purposes and in line with FAO and GEF policy requirements. The project organization structure is presented in Figure 10.

The government will designate a National Project Director (NPD). Located in EMA offices in Harare, the NPD will be responsible for coordinating the activities with all the national bodies related to the different project components, as well as with the project partners. S/he will also be responsible for supervising and guiding the Project Coordinator (see below) on the government policies and priorities.

The NPD will chair the PSC which will be the main governing body of the project. The PSC will approve Annual Work Plans and Budgets on a yearly basis and will provide strategic guidance to the Project Management Team and to all executing partners. The PSC will be comprised of representatives from

MECTHI (chair), EMA (Secretariat), MLAWRR, MWACSMEs, MLGPWNH, RDCs (8 districts), ZINWA (Save & Runde), the FC, ZPWMA,, Midlands State University, Great Zimbabwe University (GZU), Delta (Private Sector & FOTE), Zimbabwe Farmers Union (ZFU) and/or ZOPA, MFED, and FAO. The members of the PSC will each assure the role of a Focal Point for the project in their respective agencies. Hence, the project will have a Focal Point in each key institution. As Focal Points in their agency, the concerned PSC members will: (i) technically oversee activities in their sector; (ii) ensure a fluid two-way exchange of information and knowledge between their agency and the project; (iii) facilitate coordination and links between the project activities and the work plan of their agency; and (iv) facilitate the provision of co-financing to the project.

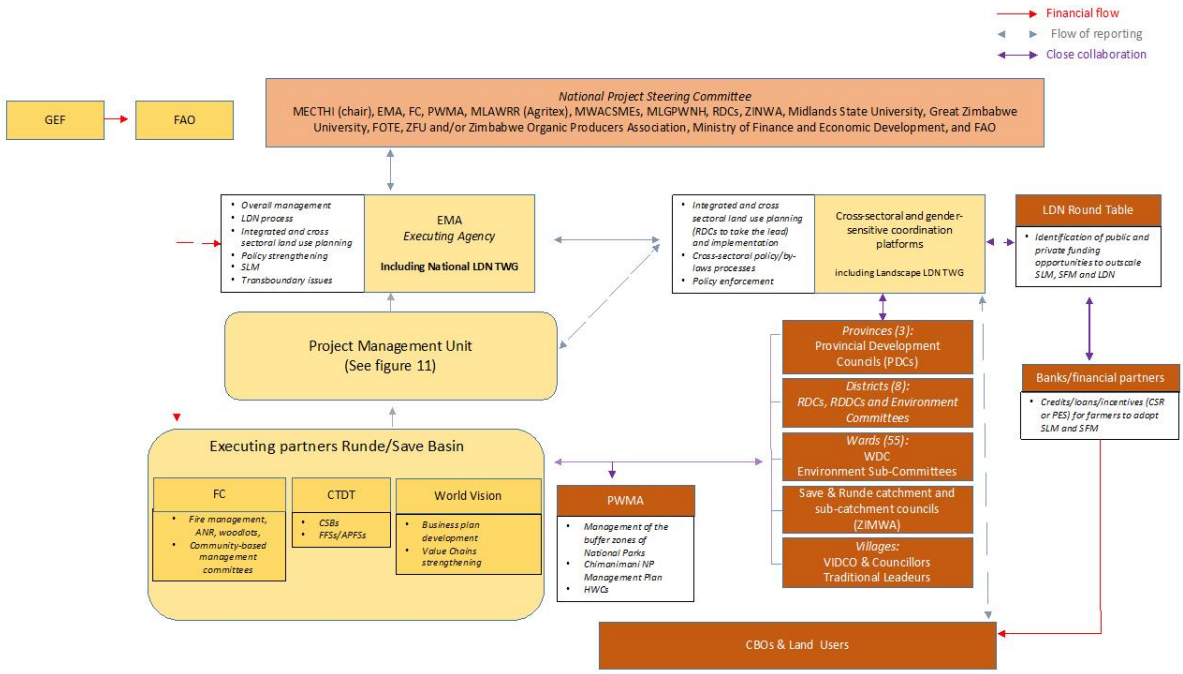

Figure 10: PROJECT ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

In addition to the PSC, the national LDN Technical Working Group committee will oversee and discuss all technical assignments and tasks undertaken during this child project.

The NPC (see below) will be the Secretary to the PSC. The PSC will meet at least twice per year to ensure: i) Oversight and assurance of technical quality of outputs; ii) Close linkages between the project and other ongoing projects and programmes relevant to the project; iii) Timely availability and effectiveness of co-financing support; iv) Sustainability of key project outcomes, including up-scaling and replication; v) Effective coordination of government partner work under this project; vi) Approval of the six-monthly Project Progress and Financial Reports, the Annual Work Plan and Budget; vii) Making by consensus, management decisions when guidance is required by the NPC of the PMU.

1. A PMU will be co-funded by the GEF and established within EMA?s central office in Harare. The main functions of the PMU, following the guidance of the PSC and PMC guidelines, are to ensure overall efficient management, coordination, implementation and monitoring of the project through

the effective implementation of the annual work plans and budgets (AWP/Bs). The PMU will be composed of (Figure 11 and Annex N):

? The full-time NPC based at EMA?s central office in Harare;

? A full-time Financial and Administrative Officer (see Annex N) based at EMA?s central office in Harare;

? Two Field Assistants to the NPC, one based in Masvingo and one based in Mutare;

? A full-time Execution Capacity development Support and ESS monitoring Specialist based at FAO country office in Harare;

? A full-time Knowledge Management - Stakeholder Engagement- Systemic Capacity Development expert based at EMA?s central office in Harare;

? A full-time M&E expert based at EMA?s central office in Harare; and

? A part-time Gender Officer based at EMA?s central office in Harare

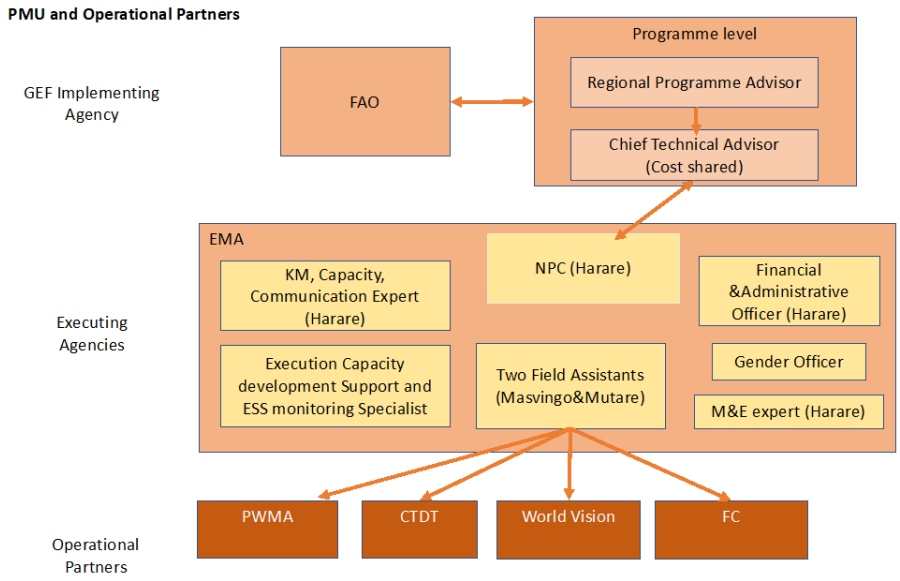

Figure 11: Proposed PMU structure

The NPC will be in charge of daily implementation, management, administration and technical supervision of the project, on behalf of EMA and within the framework delineated by the PSC (see Annex N).

FAO will be the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for the Project, providing project cycle management and support services as established in the GEF Policy. As the GEF IA, FAO holds overall accountability and

responsibility to the GEF for delivery of the results. In the IA role, FAO will utilise the GEF fees to deploy three different actors within the organization to support the project (see Annex J for details):

? the Budget Holder, which is usually the most decentralised FAO office, will provide oversight of day to day project execution;

? the Lead Technical Officer(s), drawn from across FAO will provide oversight/support to the projects technical work in coordination with government representatives participating in the PSC;

? the Funding Liaison Officer(s) within FAO will monitor and support the project cycle to ensure that the project is being carried out and reporting done in accordance with agreed standards and requirements.

FAO responsibilities, as GEF agency, will include:

? Administrate funds from GEF in accordance with the rules and procedures of FAO;

? Oversee project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers, OPAs and other rules and procedures of FAO;

? Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities concerned;

? Conduct at least one supervision mission per year;

? Report to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, the Mid Term Review, the Terminal Evaluation and the Project Closure Report on project progress; and

? Ensure financial reporting to the GEF Trustee.

The overall roles and responsibilities in implementing this project are the following:

? National main executive partners:

  o EMA: Operational Partners Implementation Modality (OPIM), overall project management, leads cross sectoral coordination on environmental issues / integrated and cross sectoral landscape planning (together with FC, Agritex, PDCs and RDCs) / mainstreaming and monitoring LDN / land restoration and rehabilitation (invasive species management, gullies rehabilitation) / business incubation for NTFPs / ecosystem assessments

  o CTDT: OPIM, FFPOs capacity assessment and training / establishment of the FFS network / establishment of the CSB network / development of climate-resilient Value Chains particularly for the NUSs

  o World Vision: Letters of Agreement (LoA), technical support for SFM interventions and strengthening of the tree nurseries network / development of Business Plans development and

support to FFPO for their implementation / development of climate-resilient Value Chains particularly NTFP, small livestock and fodder production

- the FC: LoA, cross-sectoral management planning / fire management / woodlots establishment / fuelwood management and sustainable sources of energy / forest restoration / community-based forest management / support policy review and enforcement

- ZPWMA: LoA, design of the Chimanimani National Park management plan / assist management planning in the buffer zone of national parks / advise on HWC mitigation

? Other partners:

- MLAWRR particularly Agritex, ZINWA and NPGRC: MoU, PSC members, technical support on crop and animal production as well as water resources matters, development of conservation agricultural, rangeland management, small livestock production and rainwater harvesting, establishment of CSBs and linkages with the National Gene Bank, support policy review and enforcement

- MWACSMEs: MoU, capacity building and awareness raising for decentralised government and FFPOs, cross-sectoral management planning, integration of gender aspects, FFPOs and Business Plans selection for the development of climate-resilient Value Chains

- MLGPWNH: MoU, lead cross-sectoral management planning and oversee adequate budget and implementation of the ILUPs

- Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation: MoU, cross-sectoral management planning, FFPOs and Business Plans selection for the development of climate-resilient Value Chains

- University of Zimbabwe, HIT, Midlands State University (MSU); GZU: MoU, research of SLM and SFM technologies, climate resilience of crop and tree varieties.

Coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

There are currently several GEF-financed projects under implementation or recently completed across Zimbabwe, with a focus on LDN. To ensure lessons can be learnt from those projects, even if not located at the same intervention sites, and that proper coordination is established to avoid a duplication of efforts, these projects are identified below:

Table 8: OTHER RELEVANT GEF-FINANCED PROJECTS AND OTHER INITIATIVES

Project title	Implementing Agency	Period	Project description
GEF5 project Hwange-Sanyati Biological Corridor (HSBC) Project	EMA and the World Bank	2014-2019	The HSBC project covers an area of 5.7 million ha in north western Zimbabwe and falls within the Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) TFCA with a budget of USD 5,645,000. The project focuses on the sustainable management of the HSBC through the implementation of three components: i) improving PA management in the Hwange National Park and the livelihood of communities involved in the stewardship of natural resources in the buffer area of the Park through pilot livelihood projects; ii) developing tools that address land degradation and deforestation across the corridor and piloting rehabilitation measures in the Sanyati catchment; and iii) awareness raising, capacity building and outreach for local communities and government on climate change adaptation, and strengthening of the Local Environmental Committees. As part of this project, a Sustainable Landscape Management toolkit was developed by EMA to guide the rehabilitation of degraded land and gullies on fragile sodic and non-sodic dispersive soil. The toolkit is based on the experience gained on gully rehabilitation in Chireya area (Gokwe North) using an integrated people-centred multi-stakeholder approach. The on-the-ground interventions in Chireya sub-catchment included rainwater harvesting interventions, gully rehabilitation (i.e. gabion and green structure with banana trees and other species), the establishment of consolidated gardens (i.e. solar powered and fenced) and the construction of egg-drop manual brick laying machines. This toolkit will be applied to gully rehabilitation under the GEF7 project and EMA?s experience in cross-sectoral coordination and planning under the project will be highly valuable to the GEF7 project.

GEF-6 - Strengthening Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management and Climate-Smart Landscapes in the Mid to Lower Zambezi Region of Zimbabwe	MECTHI and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	2018-2022	With a budget of 10,025,964 USD, the GEF6 project objective is to promote an integrated landscape approach to managing wildlife resources, carbon and ecosystem services in the face of climate change in the protected areas and community lands of the Mid to Lower Zambezi Regions of Zimbabwe. The interventions are outside the GEF7 project area but the approach of the two projects is strongly aligned. Indeed, the project interventions include the development of Integrated Landscape Management Plans for Hurungwe (northern part), Mbire, and Muzarabani Districts which will be a very valuable experience for the implementation of Output 1.2.1 of the GEF7 project. In addition, the GEF6 project will pilot SLM and SFM interventions, model woodland restoration projects, alternative sources of energy and energy saving equipment as well as CSR programmes. Successes and lessons learned from these interventions will be used to design the interventions under Output 2.1.3. Lastly, the lessons learned from the project on transboundary collaboration between Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique for sustainable wildlife and landscape management will be built upon for the implementation of Output 3.1.1 of the GEF7 project.
GEF-5 Scaling up Adaptation in Zimbabwe, with a Focus on Rural Livelihoods, by Strengthening Integrated Planning Systems	UNDP in collaboration with Oxfam in partnership with Safire and Plan International	2014-2019	The project aimed at scaling up adaptation measures and reducing the vulnerability of rural communities, particularly women to climate variability and change in the project area of Buhera, Chimanimani and Chiredzi Districts (Natural Region V) in Zimbabwe. The project focused on women and youth headed households, and on the development of resilient livelihoods through Value Chain strengthening, as well as on the establishment a climate Early Warning System. Soil and water conservation techniques (including roof tops rainwater tanks in schools), conservation agriculture including agroforestry, wetland protection, the strengthening of resilient crop and livestock Value Chains using Climate Smart Villages and FFS approaches. The supported Value Chains include among others bee keeping, goats, poultry, sorghum, and pea. The experience under the GEF5 project generated in two of the targeted districts will be built on for the design and implementation of interventions that maximise increased climate resilience of female-headed households, youth and children under GEF7 project.

Presidential Input programme	Government of Zimbabwe	Long-term	The Presidential Input Programme run by the Government of Zimbabwe supports agricultural production across Zimbabwe. The national budget of USD 43,000,000 in 2016 increased to USD 263,000,000 in 2018. During the 2019/20 agriculture season, additional budget was provided for grain inputs (maize, sorghum and pearl millet). The scheme also included sugar and soya beans seed. Currently, 1,800,000 households (from Communal, Old Resettlement, Former Small Scale Purchase Areas and A1 Farms) are benefitting from the programme. Each household receives 50 kg of base fertilisers and 50 kg of top-dressing fertilisers, as well as maize and small grain. Discussions are ongoing to make conservation agriculture mandatory under this scheme (with potential surfaces under cereals from 0.12 to 1 ha, and under legumes from 0.06 to 1 ha). In addition, farmers are supported to get loans from banks (e.g. CBZ Holdings Limited, AgriBank) for the purchase of seed, fertilisers and pesticides. Support will be provided under the GEF7 project to increase the resilient of the investments under the programme and assist with the promotion of conservation agriculture under the programme.
Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF)	7 Consortia supported by the MLAWRR, the EU, the Embassy of Sweden, the UNDP, and the Department for International Development (DFID).	2015-2021	Long-term development initiative with an overall objective of contributing to increased capacity of communities to protect development gains in the face of recurrent shocks and stresses enabling them to contribute to the economic development of Zimbabwe. The project is operating in 18 districts Chiredzi. It has a total budget of USD 72,000,000 for six years. This objective will be reached through multi-stakeholder implementation of three interlinked multi-sectorial outputs, namely: Application of evidence in policy making for resilience increased; Absorptive, adaptive and transformative capacities of at-risk communities increased and improved and; Timely and cost effective response to emergencies rolled out via existing safety net and other relevant programmes. The interventions are all aimed at achieving increased capacities of communities to withstand shocks and stresses. The Fund is also supporting national surveys critical for resilience programming such as livelihoods and vulnerability assessments, poverty surveys and agriculture related surveys.

Enhancing Nutrition, Stepping Up Resiliency and Enterprise (ENSURE)	Funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Lead by World Vision in collaboration with CARE, Foundation of Netherlands Volunteers (SNV), SAFIRE, and ICRISAT	2013-2018	ENSURE project targeted chronically food insecure rural households in 66 wards in six districts of Manicaland and Masvingo provinces where food insecurity was higher than the national average. It focused on: i) improving nutrition among women of reproductive age and children under 5 years; ii) increasing Household income; and iii) improving resilience to food insecurity of communities. ENSURE agricultural interventions focused on strengthening knowledge and skills associated with dryland crop production, introducing irrigated vegetable gardens and fruit trees, and rehabilitating or creating irrigation schemes that support crop and livestock production as well as provide water for domestic uses. The project promoted the production of dryland crops such as sorghum, millet, cowpea, and groundnuts. In concert with Agritex officers, ENSURE staff promoted improved varieties of crops (e.g., NUA45) and livestock (e.g., Boschveld chickens), crop cultural practices (e.g., spacing, row planting, thinning), early planting, conservation agriculture (e.g., low-tillage, mulching, crop rotations), contour farming, irrigation practices, supplementary feeding for livestock, livestock health (e.g., vaccinations), improved livestock pens/shelters (e.g., poultry, goats), proper use of pesticides, soil conservation, animal breeding, and post-harvest handling and storage. The strong alignment between the on-the-ground interventions of ENSURE and GEF7 project will be capitalized on for the development and implementation of the ILUPs under Output 1.2.1 and 2.1.3.
EU-funded project ?Forests Sustainably Managed for Communities, Environment and Shock Resilience (Forest ForCES)?	Funded by the European Union Implemented by FAO	2013-2018	The Forest ForCES project was implemented in Manicaland Province (Chimanimani and Mutasa), Mashonaland East (Hwedza and Mutoko), Matabeleland North (Hwange and Lupane) and Matabeleland South (Bulilima and Matobo). The main objective of the project was to improve food security of vulnerable rural communities through participatory sustainable forest management and valorisation of forest products, diversified livelihood strategies and enhanced capacity to deal with shocks through implementation of various activities at national, district and local levels. Under the project, the country?s first draft Forestry Policy was developed. The project supported the development of six Value Chains: Baobab, Honey, Jatropha, Manketti, Marula and the Timber Out-grower schemes. The investments made and lessons learned from the project have been considered for the design of the GEF7 project and will be further built on during its implementation.

Resilient Agro-Ecological Project in Shurugwi and Chivi	Local Initiatives and Development (LID) Agency	2020-2023	LID is working with the Forestry Commission in Shurugwi and Chivi districts on the Resilient Agro-Ecological Project (May 2020 - April 2023; Budget: USD 447,230) which focuses on Sustainable Natural Resources Management through Forestry and Agro-ecology in Rural communities. The planned interventions include the establishment of free range chickens hatcheries and multiplication, the establishment of four community nurseries at their community centres of excellence in Shurugwi with a minimum capacity of 30,000 seedlings each for fodder, fruit and forest restoration (250 ha of forest to be restored per year), the construction of two earth dams, the restoration of two major gullies in Nhema area, the construction of 300 wood savings stoves, and the development of related livelihoods such as inter alia bakeries micro enterprises for women, beekeeping, fish farming, smallgrain seedbanks and milling social enterprises. Capacity interventions under this project will focus on Community Adaptation Action Planning, Climate Change Participatory Scenario Planning, Soil and Water Conservation, Nurseries and Woodlots development among others. LID?s experience in the development of agroforestry, soil and water conservation interventions, Social Enterprises and Value Chains will be used for the design of the ILUPs under Output 1.2.1. The GEF7 project will build on LID experience and on the outputs from previous projects that LID implemented in Shurugwi such as tree nurseries, equipment for hatcheries for free range chickens, cold rooms for fresh produce, milling and value addition centre for small grains, farmer-training center facilities in Chachacha business center, Chitora Climate Smart Learning Centre. LID has good transportation equipment on the ground (off-road vehicles and motorbikes) in Shurugwi and Chivi districts. In addition, LID has office space and facilities for training sessions at LID?s smallholder farmer's training centre located at the Chachacha Service Centre in Shurugwi and Chitora climate smart learning centre. Collaboration with LID for the GEF7 project to benefit from their equipment and infrastructure will be discussed at project inception.

Livelihoods and Food Security Programme (LFSP)	Funded by DFID	2018-2020	LFSP Phase 2 (budget of US$ 12,000,000) enables smallholder farmers to access rural finance and invest in farm enterprise diversification, productivity-enhancing technologies and non-farm economic activities in 12 districts of Mashonaland Central, Manicaland and Midlands provinces. This include Shurugwi. It aims to address malnutrition through the adoption of nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices and improved resilience to climate change. The Value Chains interventions of the GEF-funded project will build on LFSP agricultural interventions in Manicaland and the Midlands regions to strengthen their impact and sustainability, and complement them with forest and land rehabilitation and restoration interventions ? following an integrated approach ? thereby further increasing the resilience of LFSP outputs.

In addition to the above mentioned GEF-financed projects, multiple local initiatives are being supported by international NGOs including among others: CARE, SNV, Christian Aid, Environment Africa, Oxfam, Plan International, Action Aid, SAFIRE.

A private sector initiative of particular interest for the GEF7 project is the FOTE?s support for the establishment of tree nurseries. FOTE have established a total of 30 nurseries countrywide as at end of 2019, including one in Chivi and one in Bikita. The nurseries have each an annual production capacity ranging from around 100,000 to 500,000 tree seedlings.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assesments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

The project will directly contribute to Zimbabwe?s LDN targets that are described in the Final Country Report of the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme 2018. Among the seven land degradation hotspots identified in this report ? namely the districts of Mhondoro, Shamva, Chivi, Zvishavane, Hwange, Chipinge and Umzingwane ? two districts are part of the targeted sub-basins for the proposed project (i.e. Chivi and Chipinge). Specific contributions from the project towards LDN targets are described in the table below.

TABLE 9. CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS ZIMBABWE?S LDN TARGETS.

National LDN targets	Contribution from the project

Improve land cover of forest, wetlands, shrubs, grasslands and sparsely vegetated areas by 70% by 2030 compared to 2008	Overall, LDN will be promoted across 1,048,863 ha in the Save and Runde sub-basins through the design of the ILUPs. The implementation of the ILUPs will be supported by the project through improved land cover over 44,650 ha of vegetated area ? forests, grassland, cropland, wetlands, shrubs ? as a direct impact of project interventions. In addition, SFM will be supported across 130,000 ha of forest land through the ILUPs.
LDN achieved by 2030 compared to 2008 and an additional 10% (3,905,700 ha) of the country?s total land area has been improved (net gain).	LDN will be supported across 1,048,863 ha in the Save and Runde sub-basins through the design of the ILUPs.
Reforestation with local species on 6,455,250 ha of forest converted to shrubs and on 215,050 ha of forest converted to cropland	2,050 ha of forest land will be rehabilitated with local species. SFM will be supported across 130,000 ha of forest land through the establishment of community-based forest management committees.
Use conservation farming and agro-forestry practices to improve cropland productivity on 361,250 ha of cropland showing stable but stressed productivity and early signs of decline.	30,000 of cropland will benefit from good practices to support the sustainable intensification of on-farm production.
Embark on land/catchment reclamation/restoration on 5,580 ha of grazing and cropland affected by gully erosion.	100 ha of degraded land including land affected by gullies will be reclaimed.
Enforce laws and regulations, embark on awareness programmes targeting illegal miners and rehabilitate 3,798.60 ha affected by illegal mining.	50 ha of abandoned small-scale mining sites in Shurugwi district will be restored with local species that offer opportunities to support communities? livelihoods.
Reduce the 8,857.92 ha of land affected by alien species through chemical and mechanical control methods.	Invasive species will be cleared on small surfaces where required within the targeted SLM and SFM intervention sites.
Provide alternatives such as rural electrification, renewable energy sources, expand energy for tobacco programme, provide sustainable fencing materials for fencing arable lands and for brick burning, enforce regulations on tree cutting for fuel wood sale and reduce deforestation to protect 297,000 hectares of forest land.	130,000 ha of forests will benefit from improved management of forest resources including wood resources through the establishment of community-based management committees. Awareness-raising campaigns on charcoal issues will be implemented. The establishment of woodlots on farm and agroforestry including species for wood will also support the reduction of deforestation for charcoal production.
Enforce construction of conservation works, encourage conservation agriculture and build capacity for farmers to improve 1,083,825 ha of degraded arable lands.	30,000 ha of arable land will benefit from improved water management and conservation agriculture measures.

Additional sub-national target: LDN is achieved in the land degradation hotspot in Mhondoro, Chivi, Shamva, Hwange, Umzingwane, Chipinge and Zvishavane districts by 2030 as compared to 2008 and additional 15% of degraded hotspots districts has improved (net gain)	The project will directly contribute to achieving LDN in two of the priority land degradation hotspots: Chivi and Chipinge districts.

Zimbabwe published its second NBSAP under the CBD in 2014. NBSAP targets that the project will directly contribute to include:

? Target 3: by 2020, reduce the rate of loss of natural habitats, including forests by at least 50%;

? Target 5: by 2020, 60% of areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity and sustainable land use;

? Target 12: by 2020, implement policies and strategies to maintain and restore ecosystem integrity, and reduce ecosystem degradation to enhance the livelihoods and well-being of all Zimbabweans, especially those of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable; and

? Target 13: by 2020, combat desertification, and enhance ecosystem resilience through conservation and restoration of degraded ecosystems.

The Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZimAsset) expired in 2018 and was replaced by the Vision 2030. The action points under Vision 2030 include to ?deal with, rampant deforestation, with reversal of estimated losses of 100 000 ? 320 000 hectares of forests per year, solid waste management confronting urban authorities, destruction of wetlands and other risks to the environment? and stipulate that ?EMA will work closely with traditional leaders to enforce the proper management of forests and pasturelands countrywide?. The GEF7 project is particularly well aligned with these two action points. Another major cross-sectoral policy document is the Transitional Stabilisation Programme, validated in October 2018 and due to expire in December 2020. Goal 15 of the Programme is to ?protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss? with which the proposed project is fully aligned. Similarly, the National Development Strategy (2021?2025) promotes *inter alia* the development of agro-business value chains, the development of pastures green belts and forage banks, on-farm feed production using cassava and cow peas, increased access to agriculture financing opportunities (through revolving funds, PPP development, implementation of smart subsidies, increased knowledge sharing on agricultural practices and innovation. The project is fully aligned with these recommendations. The strategy also makes a strong emphasis on attracting investments from the private sector to support sustainable development. Through the proposed interventions under Component 2 to develop public-private partnerships, CSR and P2P to outscale good practices, the GEF7 project is significantly contribute to achieving this objective.

In its INDC submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2015, Zimbabwe set a goal to decrease per capita emissions of greenhouse gases by 33% below the projected business-as-usual scenario by 2030. By restoring degraded land, increasing tree cover in production landscapes, supporting the sustainable management of forest resources and establishing sustainable woodlots, the project will allow to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 1.26 million tCO_2-eq over 20 years.

Zimbabwe?s NCCRS provides a framework for a comprehensive and strategic approach to climate change adaptation, mitigation, technology and finance. The proposed project will contribute to several objectives set forth in the NCCRS, including:

- developing and enforcing policies that regulate change from one land-use to another especially the clearance of forests and woodlands to other land-uses;

-promoting the establishment of land-use plans at district, ward, village and farm management levels that clearly identify forestry as a recognised land-use;

- building capacity for forest management in a changing climate;

- promoting appropriate climate smart land-use options for the drier natural regions;

- strengthening the effectiveness of Trans-frontier Conservation Areas as a mechanism for sustainable biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation;

- developing frameworks for sustainable intensification and commercialisation of agriculture at different scales across agro-ecological regions;

- strengthening capacity to generate new forms of empirical knowledge, technologies and agricultural support services that meet emerging development challenges arising from increased climate change and variability;

- strengthening the capacity of farmers, extension agencies, and private agro-service providers to take advantage of current and emerging indigenous and scientific knowledge on stress tolerant crop types and varieties, including landraces that are adaptable to arising climatic scenarios;

- promoting low-carbon energy provision and use;

- enhancing community resilience to climate change; and

- strengthening the adaptive capacity of the vulnerable groups.

As previously mentioned, the National Climate Policy and the NCCRS have several primary objectives towards which the project will contribute. These include:

? reducing vulnerability to climate variability and climate-related disasters by strengthening adaptive capacity;

? strengthening education and awareness to climate variability and change; and

? searching for solutions to financial resource allocation, mobilisation and management.

Zimbabwe is currently engaged in its NAP process. As part of this process, the NAP Roadmap (2019) outlined several outputs and activities, which the proposed project will synergise with. These include the identification of best adaptation options in the agricultural sector, and awareness raising on climate adaptation issues at the grassroots, decentralised government and national government levels.

Additional sectoral policies and strategies that the project aligns with are described in the baseline section. They include: the National Environmental Policy (2009); the Environmental Management (Access to Genetic Resources and Indigenous Genetic Resource Based Knowledge) Regulations (2009); the National Water Policy (2012); and the National Gender Policy (2013).

Finally, Zimbabwe has committed to achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals, with an emphasis[1] on SDGs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13 and 17. The proposed project will directly contribute to SDG targets 2 (4.1), 4, 15 (3.1) and 17.

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[1] Government of Zimbabwe, 2017. Zimbabwe Voluntary National Review of SDGs For the High-Level Political Forum.

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

A gender-sensitive and adaptive knowledge management and communication strategy will be developed during PY1 to support the project implementation and outscaling of the project activities. The below is based on the information gathered during the PPG phase, it will be fined tuned in the strategy documents.

Knowledge management under the GEF 7 project will start with undertaking a stocktake of previous initiative that piloted the following processes and approaches: cross-sectoral planning, the use of the FFS approach, the establishment of CSBs, and the establishment of community tree nurseries and woodlots in Zimbabwe. Existing experience was always integrated as much as possible in the design of the project. Further identification of the lessons learned from these initiatives will be undertaken at project inception to refine the project interventions and maximise their success and sustainability. At the technical level, forest, farm and rangeland management practices currently under implementation in the targeted sub-basins (including traditional practices of men and women from all community groups) will be assessed to identify evidence-based and gender-sensitive good practices on SLM and SFM. Evidence-based knowledge on effective current practices from land users will be integrated in the design of the on-the-ground interventions, and outscaled under the project interventions to ensure the efficiency and success of the GEF 7 project?s investments. The identification of knowledge gaps was initiated during the PPG phase and will

be finalised at inception. The project interventions will aim to generate required evidenced-based knowledge to fill in these gaps (e.g. Land Degradation assessments to undertaken as part of Output 1.1.3 to fill in the gaps from the national LDN assessment). In addition, awareness will be raised where necessary (e.g. drivers of land degradation and effects, awareness of existing policies). The knowledge generated under the project as well as under partner initiatives on good practices will be disseminated at the local level through the FFS approach. Knowledge sharing platforms will also be strengthened to enable all relevant sectors to access information on SLM and SFM at the national level. Strong connections with the efforts already undertaken in Zimbabwe towards the LDN process (e.g. national LDN TWG, planned LDN repository) will be created for the knowledge generated under the project to be directly usable by other initiative for application in other sub-basins. Knowledge sharing will also be ensured at the regional (across all Miombo/Mopane countries) and global levels.

As this project focuses on demonstrating and upscaling the LDN approach in Zimbabwe, communication is a major element of its implementation. Communication on LDN, SLM and SFM in general and on the project interventions specifically will be undertaken at several levels:

? At the household and village level: The interventions will be undertaken in collaboration with government (i.e. VIDCOs) and traditional authorities (i.e. chiefs, headman) who will be in charge of disseminating this information to relevant government staff and to community members. In addition, capacity building of the VIDCOs and extension services and trainers under the FFSs/APFSs will maintain communities? access to knowledge and information throughout and beyond the project lifespan. Contracts with local radios will be developed to disseminate information on the progress of the activities undertaken in the sub-basins including their benefits and lessons learned. Awareness-raising and communication campaigns will also be undertaken at the local level to inform on the project interventions through signage in the project sites, awareness-raising days, and pamphlets.

? At the ward level: WADCOs will be actively involved in the cross-sectoral planning interventions. They will be in charge of consulting and ensure the transfer of information on decisions made and progress to the VIDCOs. Technical training will also be provided to give them the capacity to replicate the approach beyond the interventions sites. They will therefore have a full understanding of the project purpose and interventions.

? At the district and provincial levels: RDCs will be at the forefront of the project implementation and will have a pivotal role in the transfer of information from the local level to the provincial and central levels (e.g. needs and interests of communities), and from the central, landscape and provincial levels to the local level (e.g. update on the management and administrative processes). RDCs? representatives will be members of the PSC and of the cross-sectoral and gender sensitive governance platforms, and will therefore have direct access to information on the project progress such as coordination/decision-making/policy/planning processes. The PDCs will ensure adequate and homogeneous information flow from, within and between districts. Workshops will be organised at provincial level to inform other districts and neighbouring provinces on the GEF 7 project interventions and results. An extensive communication campaign will be implemented for the general public across the three provinces. A diversity of media will be used including documentaries for television, radio shows, theatre plays, among others.

? ? At the national level: Workshops will be organised in Harare with the authorities of other provinces and districts to share the experience acquired in Save and Runde sub-basins and initiate brainstorming on the application of the LDN approach in other sub-basins. National knowledge platforms such as the LDN repository currently under development by EMA will be used for the dissemination of the knowledge products of the project.

? At the regional and global levels: Existing regional and global platforms (e.g. SADC GGWI, Miombo Network and WOCAT, NEPAD, Global Landscapes Forum, TerrAfrica) will be used to share the experience acquired in Zimbabwe with other countries within the Miombo and Mopane ecoregion and beyond. Communication documents (at least five) based on the experience generated under Component 1 and 2 of the GEF7 project published on regional and global platform. Regional and global workshops (at least three workshops) with a minimum of 40 participants each (including at least 30% of women) will be organised on shared land degradation issues and experience sharing in SLM, SFM and LDN. The GCP will also play a major role in knowledge sharing between countries and continents, as it will bring together 12 countries. The communication material will be produced in Shona and in English. The aforementioned communication interventions have all been specifically budgeted, a communication expert will support with the development of the communication strategy which will then be implemented by FAO in collaboration with EMA.

Overall, a diversity of knowledge management deliverables will be developed under the project following and adaptive approach. The specific list of knowledge products will be defined under the knowledge management strategy to be developed during the first year of the project implementation phase. They will include for example:

? the installation of signage, the display of posters and distribution of pamphlets on the project approach and interventions (timeline: Y1);

? awareness-raising events on SLM and SFM, the role of biodiversity and ecosystems, sustainable income-generating opportunities and the policy framework regarding natural resources management (timeline: Y1 to Y5);

? the development of a diversity of media including documentaries for television, radio shows, newspaper articles and theatre plays to publish project stories, share lessons learned and generally reach out to external stakeholders across the three provinces (timeline: throughout the entire implementation period according to project progress and results);

? technical guidelines will be developed to support the implementation, sustainability, scaling up and scaling out of the project interventons (timeline: Y2 and according to needs);

? dissemination of knowledge products at the national level during the annual meetings of the LDN committee and other national events (timeline: once to twice a year from Y1 to Y5); and

? dissemination of knowledge products at regional and global workshops (timeline: at least three events between Y1 and Y5).

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

Project oversight will be carried out by the PSC, FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, relevant technical units in FAO Headquarters (HQ), FAO country office and EMA. Oversight will ensure that: (i) project outputs are produced in accordance with the project results framework and leading to the achievement of project outcomes; (ii) project outcomes are leading to the achievement of the project objective; (iii) risks are continuously identified and monitored and appropriate mitigation strategies are applied; and (iv) agreed project global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits are being delivered.

The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, and HQ Technical Units will provide oversight on GEF financed activities, outputs and outcomes largely through the semi-annual project progress reports, annual PIRs, periodic backstopping and annual supervision missions.

Project monitoring will be carried out by the PMU, the FAO Budget Holder (BH), each Operational Partners, FAO country office and EMA. Project performance will be monitored using the project results matrix, including indicators (baseline and targets) and annual work plans and budgets. At project inception, the results matrix will be reviewed to finalize the identification of: i) outputs; ii) indicators; and iii) missing baseline information and targets. A detailed M&E plan, which builds on the results matrix and defines specific requirements for each indicator (data collection methods, frequency, responsibilities for data collection and analysis, etc.) will also be developed during project inception by the M&E expert appointed at the PMU and based at EMA, and reviewed and approved by the PSC and FAO.

Table 10: M&E PLAN

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame	Budget
Inception Workshop	PMU in consultation with the Lead Technical Officer (LTO), BH and PSC	Within 1 month after Start-up	USD 15,000
Results-based Annual Work Plan and Budget	PMU in consultation with the FAO Project Task Force	3 weeks after Start-up and annually with the reporting period July to June	Project staff time
Project Inception Report	PMU in consultation with the FAO LTO, FAO BH, FAO country office Report cleared by the FAO BH, FAO LTO and the FAO GEF Coordination Unit and uploaded in FPMIS by the FAO BH	1 month after Start-up	Project staff time
Project M&E Expert	Full-time expert as part of the PMU	1 month after Start-up	USD 108,000

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame	Budget
Execution Capacity Development Expert and ESS monitoring specialist	Full-time expert , cost shared between Component 3, M&E and PMU	1 month after Start-up	USD 23,000
M&E training workshop	M&E expert	During Year 1	USD 16,500
M&E tools and equipment	GPS and other tools required by the Project M&E expert	Within 6 months after Start-up	USD 18,000
Supervision Visits	FAO	Mid-term	Project staff time
Project Progress Reports (PPR)	PMU based on the systematic monitoring of output and outcome indicators identified in the project?s Results Framework. The PPR will be submitted to the FAO BH and FAO LTO for comments and clearance. The FAO BH will upload the PPR on the FPMIS.	No later than one month after the end of each six-monthly reporting period (30 June and 31 December)	Project staff time
Project Implementation Review report (PIR)	FAO LTO (in collaboration with the PMU) will prepare an annual PIR covering the period July (the previous year) through June (current year) to be submitted to the FAO BH and the GEF-Funding Liaison Officer	August 1, of each reporting year	Project staff time
Co-financing Reports (Disbursement, Output)	PMU	On a semi-annual basis, and will be considered as part of the semi-annual PPRs	Project staff time
GEF Tracking Tools	PMU and reviewed by FAO LTO	At mid-point and end of project	Project staff time
Technical Reports	Project staff and consultants, with peer review as appropriate	As appropriate	Project time and consultant costs

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame	Budget
Mid-term Review	External consultant, FAO BH in consultation with PMU, GEF Coordination Unit and other partners.	Half Way through project implementation	USD 35,000
Independent Final Evaluation	External consultant, FAO Office of Evaluation in consultation with PMU, GEF Coordination Unit and other partners including the Environmental Management Agency (EMA)	6 months prior to terminal review meeting	USD 40,000
Final Report	PMU and reviewed by FAO LTO		USD 6,550
Lessons Learned	Project Staff, short-term consultants and FAO	As appropriate	Project time and consultant costs
Total Budget			**USD 262,050**

Specific reports that will be prepared under the PMU are: (i) Project inception report; (ii) AWP/B; (iii) PPRs; (iv) annual PIR; (v) Technical Reports; (vi) co-financing reports; and (vii) Terminal Report. In addition, assessment of the relevant GEF-7 core indicators (see Annex A1: Project Results Framework) and capacity scorecards against the baselines (completed during project preparation) will be required at mid-term and final project evaluation. In addition, based on information provided by the project and its partners, the evaluations (both mid-term and final) will assess progress made on the relevant GEF-7 core indicators (see Annex A1: Project Results Framework) and fill the capacity scorecards against the baselines (completed during project preparation)

Project Inception Report: It is recommended that the PMU prepare a draft project inception report in consultation with the FAO LTO, the FAO BH, EMA and other project partners. Elements of this report should be discussed during the Project Inception Workshop and the report subsequently finalized. The report will include a narrative on the institutional roles and responsibilities and coordinating action of project partners, progress to date on project establishment and start-up activities and an update of any changed external conditions that may affect project implementation. It will also include a detailed first year AWP/B, a detailed project monitoring plan. The draft inception report will be circulated to the PSC for review and comments before its finalization, no later than one month after project start-up. The report should be cleared by the FAO BH, LTO, the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, EMA, and will be uploaded in FAO?s Field Program Management Information System (FPMIS) by the FAO BH.

Results-based AWP/B: The draft of the first AWP/B will be prepared by the PMU in consultation with the joint FAO Project Task Force and reviewed at the project Inception Workshop. The Inception Workshop inputs will be incorporated and the PMU will submit a final draft AWP/B within two weeks of the

Inception Workshop to the BH. For subsequent AWP/B, the PMU will organize a project progress review and planning meeting for its review. Once comments have been incorporated, the BH will circulate the AWP/B to the LTO, the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, EMA for comments/clearance prior to uploading in FPMIS by the BH. The AWP/B must be linked to the project?s Results Framework indicators so that the project?s work is contributing to the achievement of the indicators. The AWP/B should include detailed activities to be implemented to achieve the project outputs and output targets and divided into monthly timeframes and targets and milestone dates for output indicators to be achieved during the year. A detailed project budget for the activities to be implemented during the year should also be included together with all monitoring and supervision activities required during the year. The AWP/B should be approved by the PSC and uploaded on the FPMIS by the FAO BH.

Project Progress Reports (PPR): PPRs will be prepared by the PMU based on the systematic monitoring of output and outcome indicators identified in the project?s Results Framework (Annex A1). The purpose of the PPR is to identify constraints, problems or bottlenecks that impede timely implementation and to take appropriate remedial action in a timely manner. They will also report on projects risks and implementation of the risk mitigation plan. The Budget Holder has the responsibility to coordinate the preparation and finalization of the PPR, in consultation with the PMU, FAO LTO, FAO Funding Liaison Officer (FLO), FAO country office, and EMA. After LTO, BH, FLO, and EMA clearance, the FLO will ensure that project progress reports are uploaded in FPMIS in a timely manner.

PIR: The PMU (in collaboration with the BH and the LTO) will prepare an annual PIR covering the period July (the previous year) through June (current year) to be submitted to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit FLO for review and approval no later than (check each year with GEF Unit but roughly end June/early July each year). The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit will submit the PIR to the GEF Secretariat and GEF Evaluation Office as part of the Annual Monitoring Review report of the FAO-GEF portfolio. PIRs will be uploaded on the FPMIS by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

Key milestones for the PIR process:

? Early July: The LTOs submit the draft PIRs (after consultations with BH, project team, and EMA) to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit (faogef@fao.org, copying respective GEF Unit officer) for initial review;

? Mid July: FAO-GEF Coordination Unit responsible officers review main elements of PIR and discuss with LTO as required;

? Early/mid-August: The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit prepares and finalizes the FAO Summary Tables and send it to the GEF Secretariat by (date is communicated each year by the GEF Secretariat through the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit);

? September/October: PIRs are finalized. PIRs carefully and thoroughly reviewed by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit and discussed with the LTOs, FAO country office and EMA for final review and clearance;

? Mid-November: The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit submits the final PIR reports ? cleared by the LTO and approved by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit ? to the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Independent Evaluation Office.

Technical Reports: Technical reports will be prepared by national, international consultants, and partner organizations under LoAs as part of project outputs and to document and share project outcomes and lessons learned. The drafts of any technical reports must be submitted by the PMU to the FAO BH, who will share it with the FAO LTO, FAO country office and EMA. The LTO, FAO country office and EMA will be responsible for ensuring appropriate technical review and clearance of said report. The BH will upload the final cleared reports onto the FPMIS. Copies of the technical reports will be distributed to project partners and the PSC as appropriate.

Co-financing Reports: The FAO BH, with support from the PMU, FAO country office and EMA, will be responsible for collecting the required information and reporting on co-financing as indicated in the Project Document/CEO Request. The PMU will compile the information received from the executing partners and transmit it in a timely manner to the FAO LTO, BH, FAO country office and EMA. The report, which covers the period 1 July through 30 June, is to be submitted on or before 31 July and will be incorporated into the annual PIR. The format and tables to report on co-financing can be found in the PIR.

Terminal *Report*: Within two months before the end date of the project, and one month before the Final Evaluation, the PMU will submit to the FAO BH, LTO, FAO country office and EMA a draft Terminal Report. The main purpose of the Terminal Report is to give guidance at ministerial or senior government level on the policy decisions required for the follow-up of the project, and to provide the donor with information on how the funds were utilized. The Terminal Report is accordingly a concise account of the main products, results, conclusions and recommendations of the project, without unnecessary background, narrative or technical details. The target readership consists of persons who are not necessarily technical specialists but who need to understand the policy implications of technical findings and needs for insuring sustainability of project results.

Evaluation Provisions

1. Two independent project evaluations, an MTR half way throughout the project and a Final Evaluation to begin six months prior to project NTE, will be carried out.

2. *Mid-Term Review*: The FAO BH will arrange an independent MTR in consultation with the PSC, the PMU, the LTO, the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, FAO country office and EMA. The MTR will be conducted to review the progress and effectiveness of implementation in terms of achieving project objective, outcomes and outputs. The MTR will allow mid-course corrective actions, if needed. The MTR will provide a systematic analysis of the information on project progress in the achievement of expected results against budget expenditures. It will refer to the Project Budget (see Annex A2) and the approved AWP/Bs. It will highlight replicable good practices and key issues faced during project implementation and will suggest mitigation actions to be discussed by the PSC, the LTO, the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, FAO country office and EMA.

3. *Final Evaluation*: An independent Final Evaluation will be carried out six months prior to project?s NTE. Under the leadership of the FAO office of evaluation and with the full collaboration of both the FAO country office and executing partner EMA, the evaluation will assess the entirety of the project. The Final Evaluation will aim to identify the project impacts, sustainability of project outcomes and the degree of achievement of long-term results. The Final Evaluation will also have the purpose of indicating lessons learned and future actions/recommendations needed to expand the existing project results, mainstream and upscale its products and practices, and disseminate information to management authorities and institutions with responsibilities for food systems, land use and restoration, and improvement of agricultural livelihoods to assure continuity of the project initiatives. Both the MTR and the Final Evaluation will pay special attention to outcome indicators, including the GEF core indicators and the capacity scorecards.

Disclosure

4. The project will ensure transparency in the preparation, conduct, reporting and evaluation of its activities. This includes full disclosure of all non-confidential information, and consultation with major groups and representatives of local communities. The disclosure of information shall be ensured through posting on websites and dissemination of findings through knowledge products and events. Project reports will be broadly and freely shared, and findings and lessons learned made available.

10. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

Socio-economic benefits

5. The project interventions under Components 1 and 2 will contribute to **empowering local communities** through increasing access to knowledge, supporting clustering into strong organisation, and improving agriculture and forest management practices that increase livelihoods? resilience. This will enhance communities? autonomy and adaptive capacity, and give them the opportunity to become agents of change. Furthermore, the gender-sensitive approach adopted throughout the project will contribute to addressing gender inequalities by creating opportunities for women which are often marginalised in rural communities and particularly vulnerable to climate change. Gender balance will be promoted by ensuring that women benefits adequately from the awareness-raising, knowledge-sharing, capacity building and income-generation interventions.

6. The GEF 7 project will contribute to **conserving and capitalising on traditional knowledge**. Under Component 1, traditional and indigenous knowledge as well as practical knowledge on SLM and SFM will be integrated in the analysis for the identification of effective current practices. These practices will then be promoted through the implementation of the ILUPs under Component 2. Traditional crop species (NUSs) and corresponding agricultural practices will also be promoted where adequate.

7. The diversification of agricultural and forest products under Component 2 will enable **better nutrition and health** for approximately 15,000 households. Consuming a diverse range of cereals, legumes, fruits, vegetables, NTFP and animal-source products contributes to improved nutritional outcomes. Furthermore, the biological diversity of resilient agricultural systems will reduce health risks from parasitism[1].

8. Sustainable agricultural intensification practices will improve the use of natural resources, such as solar radiation, atmospheric carbon and nitrogen. In addition, in these improved production systems, the recycling of nutrients, biomass and water will be increased as well as resource use efficiency, and wastes will be reduced. As a result, **agricultural production will be sustainably increased**[2],[3].

9. A basket of resilient farm- and forest-based income sources and markets will be strengthened under the GEF 7 project. The **diversification of income sources** from diverse products and local food processing by 15,000 land-users including 7,800 women and 7,200 men will contribute to stabilising household income for approximately 67,500 individuals. In addition, diversified income sources will increase the resilience of forest, farm and rangeland users to climate and environmental risks. The failure of a crop, forest or livestock species will have lower impact on the households income which will be more economically resilient.

10. By enhancing biological processes and recycling biomass, nutrients and water, producers will be able to use fewer external resources, thereby **reducing costs**. As an example, biological nitrogen fixation by legumes in intercropping and rotation systems can enable a major reduction in the need for synthetic fertilizers[4]. The establishment of CSB network will further reduce dependency on external support, and costs of agricultural input, and increase producers autonomy.

11. The implementation of SLM and SFM requires skilled labour. 100 Master trainers and 600 facilitators will be trained through the FFS/APFS approach and transfer their skills to FFSs/APFSs members. This will sustainably strengthen the skill set of farm, forest and rangeland users thereby

contributing to increasing opportunities for employment. In addition, the development of climate-resilient Value Chains under Component 2 will lead to **job creation** across the chain from the producers, to the processors, the retailers and the traders. This is particularly true for youth which will be able to acquire new skills according to emerging needs in sustainable nature-based markets.

12. Approximately 60 government representatives (including 52% of women) from the central to the local level will receive training on LDN and cross-sectoral coordination under Output 1.1.1 and 1.1.2. These institutions will therefore be able to replicate cross-sectoral planning processes in other sub-basins. In addition, approximately 20 non-government staff from partner organizations and CSO and 30 government staff (including 52% of women) will receive training to become trainers on LD assessment, integrated land-use planning and LDN monitoring under Output 1.1.3. It is expected to reach a far larger number of trainees through the training-of-trainer approach. This will provide sufficient capacity to enable the maintenance of LDN monitoring interventions beyond the project lifespan and generate required evidence-based knowledge for informed decision making and planning for sustainable development.

Environmental benefits

13. The implementation of SLM and SFM interventions over 172,540 ha and the restoration of 2,150 ha of degraded forest and mixed landscape areas in the Miombo and Mopane woodlands of the targeted sub-basins will significantly contribute to the conservation of natural habitat and biodiversity. The project will result in: increased above and below ground biodiversity including in the buffer zones of protected areas, and increased ecosystems? resilience to climate change. It will also directly support the conservation of threatened tree species in collaboration with the Forestry Commission. In addition, the wildlife corridors will be mapped and strengthened to support eocsystems connectivity and reduce human wildlife conflicts. Wildlife conservation will be further supported through the development of the management plan for the Chimanimani National Park and through improved collaboration with Mozambique for the sustainable management of the Chimanimani TFCA. The restoration of ecosystem functioning and increased biodiversity resulting from the project interventions will lead to increased provision of ecosystems good and services such as the provision of NTFPs, soil productivity and availabilty of water resources. The SLM and SFM interventions will contribute to increasing tree cover and will enable the storage of 1,267,525 tCO2 eq thereby contributing to climate change mitigation. The LDN approach to be demonstrated in the two sub-basins will enable to have no net degradation of land resources in the targeted area, and beyond through supporting outscaling and upscaling of the approach and interventions in other sub-basins, and at the national, regional and global levels. Increased economic value of natural resources through Value Chains development under Outputs 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 will encourage these environmental benefits to be sustained.

Benefits related to the current situation with COVID-19

14. The DSL project provides a critical opportunity to support vulnerable dryland communities in building a livelihood foundation that not only enhances climate resilience but also provides a response and recovery plan to the COVID-19 pandemic. This will be done through the establishment and strengthening of key sustainable dryland commodity Value Chains. For example, under Outputs 2.1 and 2.2, livelihoods resilience and diversification will be supported through improved management of crop, forest and rangeland resources and through the strengthening of crop, NTFPs and small livestock Value Chains to support increased and more reliable income for vulnerable households. The criteria for prioritising the livelihood interventions will include the impact of COVID-19 on local communities. Increased production of local input (e.g. seeds, seedlings, indigenous breeds) will increase economic reliance in rural areas and reduce their vulnerability to national market restrictions. Furthermore, the project will provide support to facilitate community-level access to social protection mechanisms and other supporting programmes from the government, donors, private sector organisations and NGOs that are currently being designed and implemented.

15. The project will directly and indirectly support communities so that they continue to undertake preventive behavior to stop COVID-19 infection and spread. This will include:

? supporting the project staff/consultants in observing recommended practices ? such as social distancing, not organizing in-person meetings or big gatherings if recommended; minimizing travel between sites, wearing masks and use of sanitizers; and

? encouraging project staff and consultants in promoting government and international best practice behaviours at the local level through direct communication, and dissemination of government information and communication products.

16. The project will apply FAO?s guidelines on how to implement FFS in times of COVID-19: http://www.fao.org/3/ca9064en/ca9064en.pdf

17. Moreover, in order to support efficient monitoring and dissemination of knowledge during COVID 19, the GCP will be leveraging the efforts of the FAO South-South and Triangular Cooperation Division in promoting a systematic learning approach to document and disseminate knowledge resources through the initiative called "Making every voice count for adaptive management". The initiative proposed the KM strategy based on the knowledge management cycle. It uses a variety of communication tools, focusing on a participatory video approach as an interactive platform that supports networking and knowledge generation, and in later stages documenting and disseminating knowledge assets and lessons learned ? especially those identified by the local communities and stakeholders at landscape level. The baseline documentation was produced in the form of participatory videos and the GCP will be selecting the practical knowledge and challenges to be discussed at the regional and global level. It will also contribute, at a later stage, to disseminate these practices through different networks, including the COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems. The goal is to create a bridge between other

teams and initiatives and work beyond the 11 countries involved in this program. Key activities will include:

? Development of a contextualized good practices and lessons learned methodology aiming to harmonize the knowledge management efforts across all child projects as well as linking country efforts to the regional and global level through the GCP.

? Deployment of innovative spatial data assessment tools to support partners in monitoring and co-production of knowledge with local stakeholders;

? A stocktaking of existing knowledge products (including tools and approaches) supporting integrated management of dryland landscapes and seascapes, including related best practices;

? Development and testing of a web-based platform on integrated approaches to dryland landscape management and restoration, best practices, guidelines, tools, and methodologies to support program implementation and host new innovations and experience emerging from the Program (this will be subject to consultative assessments of how such a platform might complement other, existing platforms, as against the alternative of enriching and enhancing such platforms, and strategies for ensuring the post-project sustainability of platforms) including the UN DECADE for Ecosystem Restoration Platform on good practices;

? Preparation of strategic communication policy briefs for senior managers and decision makers on Program implementation;

? Highlighting of the work of the Dryland Sustainable Landscapes Program within key communities of practice, such as the Global Landscapes Forum;

? Facilitation of interactive learning events, including the sharing of results and lessons learned, for example at UNCCD CRICs and COPs.

Please see GCP for further details.

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[1] FAO, 2018. The 10 Elements of Agroecology : Guiding the transition to sustainable food and agricultural systems.

[2] University of Essex, 2001. Reducing food poverty with sustainable agriculture : A summary of new evidence.

[3] Levard L (Gret), Mathieu B (AVSF), 2018. Agro?cologie : capitalisation d?exp?riences en Afrique de l?Ouest. 82pp.

[4] FAO, 2016. Soils and Pulses: Symbiosis for life. Rome.

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	Medium/Moderate		

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

The project is reclassified from low to moderate risk mostly due to the fact that although the foreseen environmental and social impacts of project are likely to be positive considering the nature of the interventions, the project includes the following risks factors under the Environmental and Social Risk Identification Screening Checklist:

(i) **ESS 1 - Natural resources management:** The project will work to improve land tenure security and access rights through policy dialogue and multi-stakeholder policy and support implementation of participatory land use planning. This may result in changes to existing tenure rights (formal and informal) of individuals, communities or others to land, fishery and forest resources which triggers ESS 1.

(ii) **ESS 3 - Plant and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture:** The project interventions on crop diversification and community seed banks will involve the provision and transfer of seeds and planting material for cultivation which triggers ESS 3.

The identified risks are mostly temporal, localized and reversible. Considering the impact, appropriate mitigation measures have been developed to address and mitigate the identified risks above. The developed risk management plan in the table below will allow managing risks by monitoring mitigation actions throughout implementation.

The risks to the project have been identified and analysed during the project preparation phase and mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project design (see Table below). With the support and oversight of FAO, the Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be responsible for managing these risks as well as the effective implementation of mitigation measures. The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system will serve to monitor outcome and output indicators, risks to the project and mitigation measures. The PSC will also be responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of mitigation measures and adjusting mitigation strategies accordingly, as well as identifying and managing any new risks that have not been identified during Project preparation, in collaboration with Project partners.

The six-monthly Project Progress Reports (PPR) are the main tool for risk monitoring and management. The PPRs include a section covering the systematic monitoring of risks and mitigation actions that were identified in the previous PPRs. The PPRs also include a section for the identification of possible new risks or risks that still need to be addressed, risk rating and mitigation actions, as well as those responsible for monitoring such actions and estimated timeframes. FAO will closely monitor project risk management and will support the adjustment and implementation of mitigation strategies. The preparation of risk monitoring reports and their rating will also be part of the Annual Project Implementation Review Report (PIR) prepared by FAO and submitted to the GEF Secretariat.

Table: Environment and Social Risks Management Plan

Risk identified	Risk Classification	Mitigation Action (s)	Indicators	Progress on mitigation action

ESS 1 NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT Tenure	Moderate	During implementation, the project activities will address tenure rights by applying an integrated landscape/territorial approach resolving insecure or inequitable tenure (right to use and benefits of ecosystem services), weak common property regimes, and natural resources management institutions. Conflict resolution measures to address land conflicts and boundary disputes will be applied as part of an inclusive engagement of all relevant stakeholders in this process. For this purpose, the project will follow the stakeholder engagement plan (Annex K2) as well as core elements of the envisaged integrated and **participatory** landscape assessment and planning at national and **landscape level**. This will result in the development of two Integrated Land-Use Plans (ILUPs) and their action plans to guide LDN activities in Save and Runde basins, in particular the multi-stakeholder workshop approach which was successfully applied during the project?s preparation. The project will apply and adhere to the principles/framework of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) and stakeholders will be trained in its use.	# of beneficiaries trained on the implementation of the VGGT Level of influence and engagement with government around the principles enshrined in the VGGT # of land use plans in place and regulations effectively implemented # of communities with user rights to natural resources, with legally recognized and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure. # of land based conflicts resolved and # of people that have actively participated in the conflict resolution activities (disaggregated by gender)	N/A

ESS 3 Plant and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	Moderate	As part of the integrated landscape management approach project will implement and scale up and selected SLM and SFM interventions based on the ILUPs and Action Plans developed under Component 1 to address land degradation issues and support increased agricultural, pastoral and forest productivity. The sustainability of the SLM and SFM interventions will be secured by supporting the targeted Forest and Farm Producer Organisations (FFPOs) in the development of viable business plans that are targeting ?baskets? of diverse crop, rangeland and forest products and corresponding business incubation services. Community Seed Banks (CSB) will serve as hubs where local communities can conserve and exchange seeds that can be used for diversifying the agricultural systems locally. The selected seeds and planting material will be largely derived from locally adapted crops and varieties and will be suitable to local conditions and preferences of farmers and consumers. The CSB and associated trainings will enable the targeted farmers and their families to conserve local varieties of their preference, multiply seeds, and distribute them both within and across farming communities. The CSB management will ensure that the seeds and planting materials are free from pests and diseases according to agreed norms, especially the IPPC. The transfer of seeds across borders will take place, if needed, following international regulations on plant health (IPPC) and access and benefit-sharing, for example through a Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA). The project (with support of	# of smallholder farming households who involved and benefiting from SLM and SFM interventions # of farmers involved in CSB activities and benefiting in resources # of crops and varieties per crops conserved and exchanged through the CSB. # of training beneficiaries (management of CSB and seed conservation, Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB), small-scale seed production and climate change adaptation strategies) National level analysis and recommendations produced on policy and legal environment in relation to access and benefit-sharing, conservation, use and exchange of germplasm. # of training beneficiaries on the mutual implementation of ITPGRFA and Nagoya Protocol and national implementation of Farmers? Rights)	N/A

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
ESS Checklist	**CEO Endorsement ESS**	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Result Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Milestone	Targets	Means of Verification	Assumptions
Project objective: To promote the sustainable management of Miombo and Mopane production landscapes in Save and Runde sub-basins following an LDN approach.	(i) # of ha under integrated management planning in the Save and Runde sub-basins through the design of the ILUPs (contributing to GEF Core Indicator 4.3)	(i) Save and Runde sub-basins are not sustainably managed and land degradation is widespread (more than 70% of the area affected by soil erosion by water and fertility decline; grasslands shrunk over the years and remaining patches under threat from overgrazing, veld fires and invasion by alien species such as *Lantana camara;* 80% of forests affected by veldt fires and 40% of forests affected by deforestation and invasive alien plants and other species).	(i) 1,048,863 ha under integrated management planning in the Save and Runde sub-basins through the design of the ILUPs	(i) 1,048,863 ha under integrated management planning in the Save and Runde sub-basins through the design of the ILUPs	(i) ILUPs including maps.	
	(ii) # of tCO2eq sequestered due to direct project interventions[1] (contributing to GEF Core Indicator 6.1)	(ii) [TBD]	(ii) N/A	(ii) -1.26 million tCO2eq over the entire 20-years-period of analysis as direct result of project interventions.	(ii) EX-ACT assessment results	

	(iii) # of direct beneficiaries[2] from the project interventions disaggregated by gender (contributing to GEF Core indicator 11)	(iii) SHARP results: ? 84% of the households use at least one practice to improve the quality of their farmland (mainly manuring and/or intercropping), less than 20% of the household practice crop rotation and only 2% of them use nitrogen-fixing legumes. ? Agroforestry on farm is practices by less than 10% of the households. ? Water conservation techniques are implemented by 51% of the households (56% male-headed households, followed by 53% of female-led and 44% dual-headed households).	(iii) At least 4,000 land-users (including at least 52% of women) directly benefitting from the project interventions.	(iii) At least 15,000 land-users (including at least 52% of women) directly benefitting from the project interventions.	(iii) Field observation, CSB reports on the quantity of resilient seeds produced, crop yields reports and production trends, farmers interviews, records of the trainings, restoration grants and revolving funds created by the project	

Component 1: Strengthening the enabling environment for the integrated management of natural resources at the national and landscape levels						
Result Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Milestone	Targets	Means of Verification	Assumptions
Outcome 1.1: Strengthened and harmonized intersectoral and multilevel decision-making and planning to avoid,	(i) # of landscape-level cross-sectoral governance platform for land use planning and management in Save and Runde sub-basins established and operational, with # active members	(i) No landscape-level cross-sectoral governance platform in place in Save and Runde sub-basins	(i) Two landscape-level cross-sectoral governance platform in Save and Runde sub-basins established and operational with # active members (TBD)	(i) Two landscape-level cross-sectoral governance platform in Save and Runde sub-basins established and operational with # active members (TBD)	(i) Inter-provincial, inter-district, cross-sectoral and multi-level MoU and agreements	National government institutions involved in natural resources? management continue to acknowledge the necessity to increase

reduce and reverse land degradation and address LDN in the targeted sub-basins and nationally	(ii) # of SLM/SFM policy recommendations at national level developed, submitted and adopted	(iii) There are several weaknesses in the policy framework regarding the integrated management of natural resources. ? Zimbabwe does not have national policies or provisions in the National Seed Law to guide and regulate local seed production. ? There is no Statutory Instrument to regulate charcoal production. ? There is no policy framework for PES schemes.	(iii) At least two policy recommendation documents developed and submitted	(iii) At least two policy recommendation documents developed and adopted	(iii) Policy documents submitted and adopted	cross-sectoral and regional collaboration and participate actively in creating an enabling environment for LDN

	(iii) Increased support for SLM and/or SFM through # government finance mechanisms and programmes as a result of the project	(iii) The budget allocated to LDN-relevant interventions across public institutions is unknown. The Environmental Fund is not yet operational. The Presidential Input Programme is in favour of conservation agriculture but it is not yet mainstreamed in the programme.	(iii) Increased support for SLM and/or SFM through at least one government finance mechanisms and programmes	(iii) Increased support for SLM and/or SFM through at least three government finance mechanisms and programmes	(iii) Operational framework of the finance mechanisms and programmes; set of criteria to access support; agricultural inputs and equipment provided; Funds/Sectors budget allocation, workplans and procurement documents	
	(iv) # of by-laws developed/updated in the targeted districts/wards in support of the implementation of the ILUPs (e.g. to address the issue of sand mining, clarify access to forests, improve monitoring of natural resources extraction)	(iv) By-laws are needed in the targeted districts/wards to guide the implementation of national policy of natural resources management and address land degradation issues in alignment with the ILUPs	(iv) At least four by-laws developed/updated to address land degradation issues submitted for validation	(iv) At least six by-laws developed/updated to address land degradation issues validated and under implementation	(iv) By-laws on sand mining, forest products? certification, management of genetic resources and other matters to support SLM and SFM	

Output 1.1.1: National platform for LDN improved, with a particular focus on the national LDN TWG

Output 1.1.2: Cross-sectoral and gender sensitive governance platforms ? including a landscape-level LDN working group ? established at landscape level in both Save and Runde sub-basins

Output 1.1.3: Assessments of targeted sub-basins jointly deepened and extended, and effective current practices identified in support of LDN decision making and corresponding capacity development programme designed and delivered for relevant stakeholders from government, private sector, civil society and communities using a training-of-trainers approach

Output 1.1.4: National policy framework, budgeting and finance mechanisms, and investment programmes, jointly reviewed by relevant government institutions within key sectors such as agriculture, forestry and land tenure sectors, and recommendations developed to integrate SLM, SFM and LDN

Output 1.1.5: By-laws to support the implementation of the ILUPs in the targeted districts developed and validated (Output 1.2.1)

Result Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Milestone	Targets	Means of Verification	Assumptions
Outcome 1.2: Integrated Landscape Planning incorporating LDN objectives applied and sustained	(i) # of ILUPs for integrated land-use management planning developed and under implementation in the Save and Runde sub-basins	(i) No integrated land-use management plans are available for the targeted sub-basins	(i) Two ILUPs developed and under validation in the Save and Runde sub-basins	(i) Two ILUPs developed, validated and under implementation in the Save and Runde sub-basins	(i) ILUPs including maps.	Decentralised government institutions, community leaders, community groups, NGOs and private

in the Save and Runde sub-basins	(ii) # of existing development plans from the Provincial to the Village level across the targeted sub-basins integrating the ILUPs and LDN aims	(ii) Each of the 8 districts has a DDP. LEAPs haven?t been developed.	(ii) At least 6 existing development plans from the Provincial to the Village level across the targeted sub-basins integrating the ILUPs and LDN aims (e.g. LEAPs)	(ii) At least 10 existing development plans from the Provincial to the Village level across the targeted sub-basins integrating the ILUPs and LDN aims (e.g. LEAPs, DDPs)	(ii) LEAPs, DDPs and other plans	sector institutions are willing to engage in participatory landscape-level cross-sectoral governance for LDN Cultural barriers do not prevent women from effectively participating in the sustainable governance of natural resources and SLM, SFM and LDN implementation
Output 1.2.1: Two integrated landscape management and corresponding action plans developed for Save and Runde sub-basins **Output 1.2.2**: Existing provincial-level, district-level and ward-level plans and finance mechanisms developed and reviewed to align with the ILUPs and to support SLM, SFM and LDN						
Component 2: Demonstrating, implementing, and scaling up and out SLM and SFM good practices in Save and Runde basins						
Result Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Milestones	Targets	Means of Verification	Assumptions

Outcome 2.1: SLM and SFM interventions demonstrated and implemented in Save and Runde sub-basins	(i) # of ha of Miombo and Mopane production landscapes under SLM and/or SFM practices for improved and sustainable production with the following distribution across the targeted LUS: ? # of ha of cropland in Save and Runde sub-basins under sustainable intensification ? # of ha of mixed landscapes with SLM and SFM practices applied for sustainable NTFP and wood harvesting ? # of ha of mixed landscapes under improved fire management ? # of ha of rangeland under improved management	(i) LD Assessment: more than 70% of the area is considered to be affected by soil erosion by water and fertility decline. Grasslands in the Save and Runde basins have shrunk over the years and the remaining patches are under threat from overgrazing, veld fires and invasion by alien species such as *Lantana camara*	(i) 10,400 of ha of Miombo and Mopane production landscapes under SLM and/or SFM practices with following distribution across the targeted LUS: ? 8,000 ha of cropland in Save and Runde sub-basins under sustainable intensification ? 400 ha of woodlots in mixed landscapes created for sustainable NTFP and wood harvesting in communal land ? 2,000 ha under improved fire management of forest and communal areas	(i) 42,500 of ha of Miombo and Mopane production landscapes under SLM and/or SFM practices with the following distribution across the targeted LUS: ? 30,000 ha of cropland in Save and Runde sub-basins under sustainable intensification ? 500 ha of woodlots established for sustainable NTFP and wood harvesting in communal land ? 7,000 ha under improved fire management of forest and communal areas ? 5,000 ha under improved rangeland management	(i) Field observations, crop yields reports and production trends, water availability monitoring results, activity reports and procurements, income generated through sustainable Value Chains, M&E results (SHARP, Collect Earth, Trends Earth), training material and workshop reports, procurement contracts and ToRs, expert reports, communities? interviews	Local communities and FFPOs grasp the opportunities offered by SLM and SFM, and are willing to invest the required time and energy to make their livelihoods more resilient

	(ii) # of ha of forests and mixed landscapes under regeneration (contributing to GEF Core Indicator 3, Sub-Indicators 3.2 and 3.3) ? # of ha of degraded forests under assisted natural regeneration ? # of ha of degraded forests (mining sites) under rehabilitation ? # of ha of mixed landscape (gullies, land degraded by invasive species) under rehabilitation	(ii) 80% of forests are considered to be affected by veldt fires (especially in Chipinge, Masvingo and Bikita districts), and 40% of forests are affected by deforestation and invasive alien plants and other species. Gully formation affects 2,220 ha across the eight targeted districts.	(ii) 410 ha of forests and mixed landscapes under regeneration ? 400 ha of ANR in forest land ? 10 ha of mining sites under the process of being restored	(ii) 2,150[3] ha of forests and mixed landscapes under regeneration ? 2,000 ha of ANR in forest land ? 50 ha of mining sites under the process of being restored ? 100 ha of degraded land (gullies, land degraded by invasive species) under rehabilitation	(ii) Field observations, activity reports, income generated through sustainable Value Chains, M&E results (SHARP, Collect Earth, Trends Earth), training material and workshop reports, procurement contracts and ToRs, expert reports, communities? interviews	
	(iii) # of management plans for Protected Areas developed for conservation and sustainable use	(iii) Chimanimani National Park does not have a management plan.	(iii) One Management Plan for Chimanimani National Park covering 21,200 ha under development	(iii) One Management Plan for Chimanimani National Park covering 21,200 ha developed	(iii) Management Plan for Chimanimani National Park	

	(iv) Increase in the # of ha of forests sustainably managed by community-based forest management committees	(iv) The Forestry Commission is implementing community-based forest management committees at a small scale in the sub-basins	(iv) An additional 30,000 ha of forests sustainably managed by community-based forest management committees ? 20,000 ha of woodlands in riverine areas ? 10,000 ha of woodlands in the buffer zone of Save Valley Conservancy	(iv) An additional 130,000[4] ha of forests sustainably managed by community-based forest management committees ? 90,000 ha of woodlands in riverine areas ? 40,000 ha of woodlands in the buffer zone of Save Valley Conservancy	(iv) Field observations, community-based management agreements, forest M&E results (SHARP, Collect Earth, Trends Earth), training material and workshop reports, communities? interviews	
Output 2.1.1: Capacity building programme delivered in the sub-basins and the targeted Forest, Farm and Rangeland users supported in the implementation of SLM/SFM activities in targeted production landscapes **Output 2.1.2**: CSBs established/strengthened and tree nurseries strengthened in support of SLM and SFM						
Result Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Milestones	Targets	Means of Verification	Assumptions

Outcome 2.2: Key sustainable dryland commodity Value Chains established and/or strengthened	(i) # of business plans for the development of climate-resilient NUSs, NTFPs and small livestock Value Chains under implementation	(i) SHARP results: 29% of farmers in Runde and 12% in Save direct their production to local markets. 90% did not manage to sell due to low production rates. The Post-harvesting practices include treatment methods (ashes for maize) (33%), cleaning (32%) and sorting (5%) the produce. None reported transformation of crops or animal products.	(i) At least 15 business plans (for at least 15 FFPOs with 70 members on average) validated for the development of climate-resilient NUS, NTFP and small livestock Value Chains	(i) At least 15 business plans (for at least 15 FFPOs with 70 members on average) under implementation	(i) Business plans, market reports on the trend in the quantities produced and sold for each product, in the cost per unit for each product, and in the income generated for each benefiting household	FFPO members are able to find consensus regarding the sustainable Value Chain (or set of sustainable Value Chains) to be jointly developed Private sector is willing (or can be encouraged) to invest in activities to address LDN and has a supporting regulatory and financial environment
	(ii) # of loans and other financial contribution for post-harvest processing of agricultural and forest products attributed by microfinance schemes and other private sector organisations in the targeted areas, particularly to women.	(ii) Farmers have limited access to microfinance schemes (e.g. SACCOS, Youth and Women Banks). EMA and the FC receive some support from the private sector (e.g. FOTE), but this is not regular and not rigorously monitored.	(ii) N.A.	(ii) [TBD during the first year of the project]	(ii) Funding agreements, loans allocation documents, partnership agreements between private entities and FFPOs	
Output 2.2.1: Miombo woodlands Value Chains (?basket product approach?) identified, selected and developed along with bankable business plans **Output 2.2.2:** Finance and business incubation mechanisms established in support of Forest Farm Producers and their organizations						

Component 3: Strengthening Knowledge Management, Monitoring and Collaboration for addressing SLM/SFM at landscape, national, regional and global levels						
Result Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Milestone	Targets	Means of Verification	Assumptions
Outcome 3.1: Project implementation supported by an M&E strategy, based on measurable and verifiable outcomes and adaptive management principles	(i) # of evaluation reports	(i) N/A	(i) One Mid-Term Review report	(i) One Mid-Term Review report and one Final Evaluation report	(i) Review and Evaluation reports	
Output 3.1.1: M & E strategy developed with relevant stakeholders, clearly defining the expected outcomes, expected implementation timeframe, and confirmation through objectively verifiable indicators and means of verification **Output 3.1.2:** Mid-Term Review and Final Evaluation carried out						
Result Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Milestone	Targets	Means of Verification	Assumptions
Outcome 3.2: Data collection and knowledge sharing approach on SFM/SLM contributing to LDN assessment work	(i) # of national database strengthened to facilitate access to LD information to all relevant sectors to support LDN in Zimbabwe	(i) EMA is expecting funding from UNCCD to establish an LDN database	(i) One intersectoral database gathering information from different sectors on the extend of LD and its trends, LD drivers and ecosystem health strengthened	(i) One intersectoral database gathering information from different sectors on the extend of LD and its trends, LD drivers and ecosystem health strengthened and widely used	(i) Online database, uploaded documents, number of site visits and downloads	

improved	(ii) # of regional and global knowledge platforms where the lessons learned, good practices and achievements supportive of LDN of the DSL IP are accessible	(ii) Regional and global platforms exist (e.g. SADC GGWI, Miombo Network and WOCAT, NEPAD, Global Landscapes Forum, TerrAfrica) but are not sufficient used for knowledge sharing between countries faced similar LD issues	(ii) At least four knowledge platforms where the results of the project are accessible to local, regional and international audiences	(ii) At least four knowledge platforms where the results of the project are accessible to local, regional and international audiences	(ii) Knowledge platforms websites, number of visits of the website and documents downloads, knowledge products	
	(iii) # of lessons learned/good practices documents from the implementation of Component 1 and 2 of the GEF7 project published on regional and global platform	(iii) Information sharing is mainly happening face-to-face between sectors at the national level, and the data available on regional and global platform only covers part of the experience held in the targeted countries, and this information is not visible and accessible enough to many government and non-government stakeholders	(iii) At least one communication documents based on the experience generated under Component 1 and 2 of the GEF7 project published on regional and global platform	(iii) At least five of communication documents based on the experience generated under Component 1 and 2 of the GEF7 project published on regional and global platform	(iii) Communication products	

	(iv) # of regional and global workshops held sharing information/ lessons learned/ best practice on SLM, SFM and LDN	(iv) A regional workshop with eight countries from Southern and Central Africa was organised in February 2020 to share lessons on ?Woodfuel Domestic Strategies and Options for Production and Trade?	(iv) At least one regional workshop with a minimum of ank0 participants each (including at least 30% of women) on shared land degradation issues and experience sharing in SLM, SFM and LDN involving Miombo countries	(iv) At least two regional workshops and one global workshop with a minimum of 40 participants each (including at least 30% of women) on shared land degradation issues and experience sharing in SLM, SFM and LDN involving Miombo countries	(iv) Attendees lists, Workshop reports, Workshop presentations and other supporting material	
Output 3.2.1: Knowledge Management strategy developed and implemented with lessons learned and best approaches/practices on addressing LD at landscape-level captured for their dissemination at the landscape and national levels **Output 3.2.2**: Knowledge exchanges on Dryland IP results and collaboration between neighboring countries and at regional and global levels to support mutual capacity development and learning **Output 3.2.3**: Participatory landscape level LDN monitoring, reporting and evaluation system established and operational						

[1] Carbon sequestration will be achieved by increasing vegetative cover on farm, supporting improved management of forest land, and restoring degraded land.

[2] Direct beneficiaries are the farmers/forest users who are involved in the project activities, e.g. receive trainings, either through FFS or through the community based facilitation. Considering that training will be provided to one person within the household, these investments will benefit a total of 67,500 people (4.5 people per household on average) through the development of improved sources of income.

[3] This target of 2,050 ha of forest under regeneration and the target of 100 ha of production landscapes restored add up to a total of 2,150 ha of land restored.

[4] This target of 130,000 ha of forest sustainably managed and the target of 42,500 ha of crop under SLM and SFM add up to a total of 172,500 ha of production land under improved practices.

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

Overall STAP assessment:

Minor issues to be considered during the project design: Applying resilience thinking ? LDN-CF

The Zimbabwe child project was designed following the principles of resilience thinking described in the Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN-CF). This includes undertaking the full set of necessary assessment to support the landscape-level, participatory planning process in alignment with LDN-CF modules (Section 1.a. 3) 3.2 Box 1). The participatory planning, implementation and monitoring processes supported under the project will involve all relevant stakeholders across sectors and scales. In addition, the project was designed considering the entire landscape and all the land types it contains. The response hierarchy of Avoid > Reduce > Reverse land degradation was applied as much as possible based on the priority needs in the targeted sub-basins and the budget available. All outcomes and outputs have been designed to contribute positively both to improve ecosystem functioning and provide more resilient livelihoods. The interactions between each element of the landscape have been considered to maximise efficiency, resilience and sustainability, and minimize the risk

of leakages.

STAP Comments	Responses:	Document reference
	Overall responses to STAP comments are embedded in the GCP and are available here: **https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dC2I43fPjCG9ocIXI1ODUo1C905g2pm7/edit** **Below some reflections specific to the Zimbabwe child project.**	

Project components: The project components support the project objective. However, STAP would have supported greater detail in the theory of change to substantiate the rationale underlying the proposed component ? such as detailing the preconditions necessary to reach each outcome. While STAP acknowledges the excellent description of global drivers of land degradation, it is also true that pressures and mechanisms of land degradation are context/geography based (e.g. differing political factors, differing forms of land governance, differing national land use planning systems, and environmental factors). For example, Box 2 of the project exemplifies climate?related pressures that vary according to country. Therefore, STAP strongly encourages the development of a theory of change for each of the child projects. Such TOC should follow the underlying assumptions of the global Dryland IP (e.g. a common vision of what the future would look like, para 66), but be tailored to the political, social, economic, legal and environmental circumstances (e.g. pressures on State Change of Land) of each child project. A TOC for each child project will support delivery of a Component #2, for instance, that focuses on ?creating country specific conditions and capacities for scaling up?. A Theory of Change for each country would also enable effective identification of the tailored, relevant and innovative solutions that the project aims to implement (pg 36 of the project). **3) the proposed alternative scenario:** The theory of change is that by developing capacities on landscape management, and strengthening knowledge exchange across scales, it will be possible to avoid, reduce, and reverse further degradation, desertification, and deforestation of land and ecosystems in drylands. Suggest that each country develops their theory of change with context?specific stakeholders (see justification above). See the table on the STAP criteria for IPs for further comments on the theory of change.	The ToC was reviewed and refined based on the additional information collected during the PPG phase, and tailored to the political, social, economic, legal and environmental context in Zimbabwe and more specifically in the targeted sub-basins. The assumptions and drivers underlying each results? chains have also been identified.	Part II Section 1.a. 3) 3.1 ? Sub-section Project Theory of Change

In component 1, STAP recommends that countries apply LDN methods for landscape planning. LDN is a participatory land use planning process to avoid land degradation, reduce land degradation, and reverse the productive potential of land.	The LDN approach has been followed throughout the PPG phase and is fully integrated in the Project Document. The land-use planning process to be undertaken under Component 1 Output 1.2.1 will be based on the required assessments (Output 1.1.3) and participatory processes (Output 1.1.2 and 1.2.1) that are prescribed under the LDN approach.	Part II Section 1.a. 3) 3.2 Sub-section ?Project Components? - Component 1
In component 2, there is an assumption that enhancing farmer?s capacities through farmer field schools will result in transformative change. STAP recommends testing this assumption in the theory of change.	One of the barriers to SLM and SFM identified in the targeted sub-basins is that extension services from the agricultural (Agritex), forestry department (FC) and environmental department (EMA) do not have enough capacity to provide support to land-users on the ground. The FFS approach which is currently being used locally by two of the project?s partners (i.e. Agritex and CTDT) has been identified as the most suitable alternative to overcome this capacity shortage of decentralized government services towards increasing the technical capacity of farm, forest and rangeland users to adopt improved and resilient practices.	Part II Section 1.a. 2) Sub-section ?Barriers? ? Barrier 2
STAP also suggests testing the impact of behavioral change on pro?environment behavior by embedding contextual interventions (e.g. norms, sensory cues) in the project. Influencing behavior may result in more durable effects than training farmers (Byerly, 2018).	The strategy of demonstrating the LDN approach and SLM/SFM practices in the pilot sub-basins and investing intensely on training, monitoring, dissemination of results and communication was designed to trigger behavioral changes regarding the necessity to sustainably manage natural resources and ecosystem to support resilient livelihoods. Every income-generating activity to be supported by the project will be reliant on environmental health. These income-generating activities will be coupled with the clarification of access rights and benefit sharing processes to natural resources by community members. A direct and strong financial incentive will therefore be created for the protection of natural resources by local communities and private sector actors.	Part II Section 1.a. 3) 3.1 and 3.2 Section 1.a. 5)
When the country projects are designed and implemented, it is important to remain cognizant that transformational change can be delivered through a series of adaptation interventions that are responsive to change ? and not necessarily only through large?scale interventions.	Yes, the priority was given to small-scale, low-risk and high impact activities to be demonstrated locally at the farm level in the targeted sub-basins. The knowledge generated on successful interventions undertaken locally will thereafter be disseminated at the basin, national and regional levels to advocate for the uptake of good practices. The combined efforts of each child project in demonstrating good practices locally and disseminating the knowledge generated widely is the foundation of the approach toward achieving transformational changes across the Miombo and Mopane woodlands.	

For component 3 and in the global coordination project, STAP recommends applying a planning process to specify further the platform?s objectives, define how to monitor the platform?s progress including building?in adaptive management, and describe methods for assessing the quality of multi?stakeholder dialogue-engagement within the platform. These processes will enable the program to identify the platform?s priorities and outcomes, assess to what extent the priorities were met, and determine the quality of the multi-stakeholder process within the platform. If the quality of the multi?stakeholder engagement is robust, the platform is likely to meet its objectives on scaling and transformational change. FAO and the program agencies may wish to consider the following paper: https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2Fs00267?017?0847?y.pdf	See response: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dC2I43fPjCG9ocIXI1ODUo1C905g2pm7/edit	
5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning: The program identifies key contributions it will make to add value to large?scale programming: innovation and integration; moving to scale; and working effectively. STAP suggests that the country projects should keep these contributions in mind when developing the theory of change, and to assign indicators to monitor whether progress is being made on these conditions.	The Regional Exchange Mechanism to be established under the GCP will ensure that the contribution of each individual project is capitalized on and shared in a systematic and efficient manner at the regional and global scales. Close collaboration with SADC GGWI, Miombo Network and WOCAT, NEPAD, Global Landscapes Forum and TerrAfrica will further contribute to the visibility of child projects interventions internationally.	Part II Section 1.a. 3) 3.2 - Box 3 Annex J

6) global environmental benefits: STAP welcomes the GEB table, explaining the baseline scenario, the GEF scenario, and the value of projects being part of the IP. It will be important to identify the assumptions and barriers to scaling and transformation in the child projects to reach the stated incremental value.	The specific barriers and assumptions underlying the project success in supporting the upscaling of project interventions, contributing to transformational changes and achieving the Global Environmental Benefits were identified.	Part II Section 1.a. 3) 3.1 Theory of Change and 3.2 Project Components Part II Section 5. Risks Annex A1 Results framework
2. Stakeholders. The relevant stakeholders should be involved in the design of the theory of change, at least as the ToCs are elaborated further during the next design phase (see RAPTA Guidelines).	The ToC was designed based on the information collected through the extensive consultation process undertaken during the PPG phase. The draft ToC was shared with national stakeholders including operational partners and other governmental and non-governmental stakeholders prior to the Validation Workshop. A simplified version of the ToC was presented to the 113 participants to the Validation Workshop held on 15 October 2020 and validated without issues.	Part II Section 1.a. 3) 3.1 Theory of Change Annex K2
3. Gender Equality and Women?s Empowerment. Suggest for the country projects to consult a gender specialist when developing the project document, and to mainstream gender into the theory of change.	In addition to the contributions from the Stakeholders, Policy Framework and Capacity Development expert appointed during the PPG phase, the gender expert of the FAO country office in Zimbabwe and from the gender expert in FAO HQ provided guidance and input to undertake the gender analysis and develop the gender action plan.	Part II Section 3.

Where culturally appropriate, the program may wish to look at the Family Farm Teams approach from Papua New Guinea as a possible elaboration to the FFS approach, that specifically addresses bringing women and youth into the decision?making processes of farming families (e.g. see https://colab.aciar.gov.au/genderequity/sites/colab.aciar.gov.au.genderequity/files/2019?02/mn_194_family_teamsweb?updated_4?10?2016.pdf).	Considering the fact that a significant proportion of the households in the interventions sites are women-headed with single parenting, it is preferred to let the gender officer define the most appropriate capacity building activities to increase gender balance in the targeted farming systems. Elements of the Family Farm modules will be integrated in the training modules for FFPOs and farmers wherever appropriate.	

5. Risks. STAP: Suggest that countries should embed these questions to address risks to climate, when developing the project: ? For climate risk, and climate resilience measures: ? How will the project?s objectives or outputs be affected by climate risks over the period 2020 to 2050, and have the impact of these risks been addressed adequately? ? Has the sensitivity to climate change, and its impacts, been assessed? ? Have resilience practices and measures to address projected climate risks and impacts been considered? How will these be dealt with? ? What technical and institutional capacity, and information, will be needed to address climate risks and resilience enhancement measures? Note: it is logically problematic to assess the risks arising from climate change (or other long?term changes such as population and demography, market demand, technologies, etc) in a conventional risk management sense after establishing the project, since these ?risks? are certain to happen in some fashion and should be part of the initial design rather than post hoc risk treatment. Otherwise the solution space is not open to creating a project that is likely to be robust in the first place. For example, if climate change may undermine local farming practices, then it may be better to promote different practices from the start. Consequently climate risk in particular should be considered in establishing the ToC, not in this risk management section, especially in child projects.	In Zimbabwe, the main climate-induced hazards that could affect the project are droughts, floods, hailstorms and pest outbreaks. The climate resilience of the agricultural, pastoral and forestry activities will be maximized through the use of crop, grass, shrub and tree species, and breeds that are water-efficient, well adapted to local conditions, and pest-resilient. Agricultural practices that increase the resilience of the agricultural system through soil stabilization, rain retention and optimized infiltration as well as species diversification will be promoted (e.g. no-tillage, inter-cropping, companion planting, crop rotation, mulching, composting, rotational grazing schemes). Capacity building of government staff on the use of climate and agro-meteorological data will be undertaken under Output 1.1.3. A climate risk assessment will be undertaken as part of the ILAM to inform the ILUP development process. Climate resilience is a key selection criteria for the VCs, latest information on climate risk will be taken into account when selecting the Value Chains. The results from resilience models recently developed by ACDI/IFAD (IFAD, 2019 - Climate Risk Assessment Zimbabwe. Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme) on several stable crops including Millet, Sorghum and Groundnuts in Zimbabwe were used to refine the preliminary crop selection undertaken during the PPG phase. The results provided for the provincial level will also be considered when designing the Integrated Land-Use Plans.	Part II Section 1.a. 2) 2.1 Part II Section 1.a. 3) 3.2 - Sub-section ?Project Components? Annex I

6. Coordination. The program does a good job of identifying initiatives that it can leverage upon. Suggest doing the same in the country projects.	Partner and baseline initiatives relevant to the project and implemented at least partly in the targeted sub-basins have been thoroughly identified and opportunities for collaboration were analyzed to maximize synergy and complementarity. The analysis of on-going on-the-ground interventions has also informed the selection of Operational Partners (e.g. World Vision, CTDT) to ensure direct access of the project to relevant experience, knowledge and skills available in the country.	Part II Section 1.a. 2) 2.2. Table 1 Part II Section 1.a. 5) Part II Section 6.b.
8. Knowledge management. Suggest identifying indicators for monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of the knowledge platform itself in component 3.	Four indicators have been integrated in the Results framework to monitor the progress and efficiency of the project in sharing knowledge at the national, regional and global levels: (i) # of national database strengthened to facilitate access to LD information to all relevant sectors to support LDN in Zimbabwe (ii) # of regional and global knowledge platforms where the lessons learned, good practices and achievements supportive of LDN of the DSL IP are accessible (iii) # of lessons learned/good practices documents from the implementation of Component 1 and 2 of the GEF7 project published on regional and global platform (iv) # of regional and global workshops held sharing information/ lessons learned/ best practice on SLM, SFM and LDN	Part II Section 1.a. 3) 3.2 - Sub-section ?Project Components? Annex A1

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: USD 300,000

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	*GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)*		
	Budgeted Amount	***Amount Spent To date***	***Amount Committed***
(5013) Consultants	185,138	189,884	(4,746)
(5020) Locally Contracted Labour	70	70	-

(5021) Travel	58,032	58,032	-
(5023) Training	44,707	35,713	8,995
(5024) Expendable Procurement	100	32	68
(5028) General Operating Expenses	11,952	10,443	1,509
Total	**300,000**	**294,174**	**5,826**

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

Please see Prodoc Annex E

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

4-days consultation workshops for the community mobilisation strategy and the conflict management strategy in each sub-basin	workshops	2	11,000	22,000	22,000					22,000	22,000						22,000					
1-day validation workshops for the community mobilisation strategy and the conflict management strategy in each sub-basin	workshops	2	3,250	6,500	6,500					6,500	6,500						6,500					
3-day ILAM training workshop	workshops	1	18,000	18,000	18,000					18,000	9,000	9,000					18,000					
5-day regional workshop to refine ILAM and LD assessment methodology	workshops	2	16,250	32,500	32,500					32,500	16,000	16,500					32,500					
On-the-job training-of-trainers workshops to develop capacity amongst national and landscape-level representatives in the refined ILAM	lumpsum	2	10,000	20,000	20,000					20,000	10,000	10,000					20,000					
Participatory data collection campaign including Collect Earth data collection	lumpsum	2	60,000	120,000	120,000					120,000	40,000	60,000	20,000				120,000					
Field visit for data collection and participatory identification of good and gender transformative SLM and SFM practices in the targeted sub-basins	lumpsum	2	10,000	20,000	20,000	0	0		0	20,000		20,000	0		0		20,000					
Training workshop on the inventory of genetic resources	workshops	2	3,200	6,400	6,400					6,400	3,000	3,400					6,400					
Data collection campaign within each district	lumpsum	8	2,000	16,000	16,000					16,000	8,000	8,000					16,000					
2-day workshops on LDN mainstreaming into the policy framework in Harare	workshops	3	9,180	27,540	27,540					27,540	27,540						27,540					
3-day workshops in the targeted sub-basins	workshops	4	8,250	33,000	33,000		0		0	33,000		33,000			0		33,000					
Awareness raising events on policy documents in the targeted sub-basins	lumpsum	2	8,000	16,000	16,000					16,000		8,000	8,000				16,000					
Awareness raising events on the benefits of integrated land-use planning and management in the targeted sub-basins	lumpsum	2	8,000	16,000	16,000					16,000	8,000	8,000					16,000					
Validation workshops for the land restoration guidelines	workshops	3	3,750	11,250	11,250				0	11,250	0	11,250			0		11,250					
Participatory assessment of land restoration opportunities at landscape level (i.e ROAM)	campaigns	2	12,000	24,000	24,000					24,000	12,000	12,000					24,000					
5-days workshops for ILUP development and validation at sub-basin level	workshops	4	16,250	65,000	65,000					65,000	25,000	40,000					65,000					
National level workshop on NEAP	lumpsum	1	9,000	9,000	9,000					9,000		3,000	6,000				9,000					
District level workshops on district-level plans	lumpsum	64	375	24,000	24,000					24,000	10,000	14,000					24,000					
Ward level workshops for LEAP development	lumpsum	90	375	33,750	33,750					33,750			20,000	13,750			33,750					
Training workshop for EMA and FC staff on the implementation of the development plans	workshops	2	8,250	16,500	16,500					16,500		8,000	8,500				16,500					
Participation to the organisation of TFCA workshops in collaboration with the GCP and GEF7 project in Mozambique	lumpsum	1	42,800	42,800	42,800					42,800		11,000	17,000	14,800							42,800	
Validation workshops for the ILUPs	workshops	3	4,750	14,250	14,250					14,250		5,000	5,000	4,250			14,250					
2-day workshops in Harare on cross-sectoral management and budget processes	workshops	3	7,250	21,750	21,750					21,750		8,000	13,750				21,750					
2-day workshop in Harare to present financing opportunities and proposed action plan	workshops	1	8,500	8,500	8,500					8,500			4,000	4,500			8,500					
Awareness raising events on the project interventions in the targeted sub-basins	lumpsum	4	8,000	32,000		32,000				32,000	15,000	17,000						32,000				
Workshop for the strategy and action plan to strengthen the FFS network	lumpsum	1	7,250	7,250		7,250				7,250		7,250						7,250				
Training sessions for Master Trainers, Facilitators and Extension Staff, including refresher training	lumpsum	1	320,000	320,000		320,000				320,000		160,000	160,000					320,000				
Workshops for the institutionalization process of FFS	Workshops	4	8,000	32,000		32,000				32,000				32,000				32,000				
Training and communication support for participatory development of grazing schemes	lumpsum	1	9,000	9,000		9,000				9,000			9,000					9,000				
Workshop for participatory development of the criteria	workshops	2	3,000	6,000		6,000				6,000		6,000							6,000			
Meetings of the cross-sectoral selection committee	lumpsum	3	2,000	6,000		6,000				6,000		6,000							6,000			
Training workshops on post-harvest practices, financial management and administrative management	workshops	4	7,750	31,000		31,000				31,000			20,000	11,000					31,000			
Awareness raising events on charcoal issues	events	4	5,000	20,000		20,000				20,000		5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000					20,000		
1-day workshop to establish the round table	workshop	1	3,750	3,750		3,750				3,750			3,750				3,750					
Bi-annual meetings of the LDN Donor/Finance Round table	meetings	6	500	3,000		3,000				3,000			3,000				3,000					
M&E training workshop	days	2	8,250	16,500				16,500		16,500	16,500						16,500					
SHARP mid-term and final surveys	Campaigns	4	10,000	40,000			40,000			40,000		10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000		40,000					
Training modules on best practices in SLM and SFM	lumpsum	1	30,000	30,000			30,000			30,000		5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000		10,000		10,000	10,000		
Workshops to discuss transboundary issues and participatory identification of solutions	lumpsum	2	62,000	124,000			124,000			124,000		124,000					40,000			20,000	64,000	
Participation to Global Program Knowledge Events	workshops	4	12,000	48,000			48,000			48,000	9,600	9,600	9,600	9,600	9,600		48,000					
Exchange visit experiences and knowledge sharing with other countries/South South cooperation	lumpsum	1	80,000	80,000			80,000		0	80,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000		80,000					
Participatory landscape level LDN monitoring, reporting and evaluation system	lumpsum	1	70,000	70,000			70,000			70,000		17,500	17,500	17,500	17,500		70,000					
5023 Sub-total training				1,616,240	715,740	474,000	395,000	31,500	0	1,616,240	345,140	669,500	369,100	156,400	76,100	0	1,006,190	400,250	53,000	50,000	106,800	0
5024 Expendable procurement																						
Small equipment for LD data collection and monitoring on the ground	lumpsum	1	20,000	20,000	20,000					20,000	20,000						20,000					
Equipment for remote sensing	lumpsum	1	30,000	30,000	30,000					30,000	30,000									30,000		
Meteorological equipment to improve weather monitoring and forecasting	lumpsum	1	40,000	40,000	40,000					40,000	40,000						40,000					
FFSs/APFSs establishment	FFS	600	1,200	720,000		720,000				720,000			720,000					720,000				
CSBs establishment	CSBs	4	50,000	200,000		200,000				200,000		200,000						200,000				
Tree nurseries strengthening	Nurseries	4	15,000	60,000		60,000				60,000		60,000						60,000				
Small equipment and agricultural input for sustainable intensification (USD 50 per ha)	ha	30,000	50	1,500,000		1,500,000				1,500,000		1,500,000						1,500,000				
Equipment and seeds/seedlings for woodlots	ha	500	450	225,000		225,000				225,000		65,000	100,000	60,000						225,000	0	
Equipment, labour and seedlings for the restoration of gullies and other degraded land	ha	100	1,500	150,000		150,000				150,000	150,000						150,000					
Small equipment and tree seedlings for assisted natural regeneration in forest area	ha	2,000	500	1,000,000		1,000,000				1,000,000		1,000,000					750,000			250,000		
Equipment, labour and seedlings for mining sites restoration	ha	50	1,700	85,000		85,000				85,000		25,000	30,000	30,000			85,000					
Equipment and labour for fire prevention and management	ha	7,000	35	245,000		245,000				245,000		60,000	80,000	80,000	25,000					245,000		
Business plans implementation	business plans	15	72,910	1,093,650		1,093,650	0		0	1,093,650	0	210,000	329,660	400,000	0		587,025		506,625			
Small equipment for FFPOs strengthening	FFPO	15	1,500	22,500	0	22,500			0	22,500		7,000	7,000	8,500					22,500			
Energy-saving technologies (e.g. improved cook stoves)	lumpsum	1	12,000	12,000		12,000				12,000			6,000	6,000						12,000		
M&E tools and equipment	lumpsum	1	18,000	18,000				18,000		18,000	18,000						18,000					
5024 Sub-total expendable procurement				5,421,150	90,000	5,313,150	0	18,000	0	5,421,150	258,000	3,127,000	1,272,660	584,500	25,000	0	1,650,025	2,480,000	529,125	762,000	0	0
6100 Non-expendable procurement																						
Small equipment for each district for the inventory and monitoring of genetic resources	lumpsum	8	9,000	72,000	72,000					72,000		36,000	36,000				72,000					
Small equipment for EMA and FC for extension services	lumpsum	2	14,000	28,000	28,000					28,000	14,000	14,000					14,000			14,000		
Vehicules x2	vehicules	2	50,000	100,000	15,000	15,000	15,000		55,000	100,000	100,000						100,000					
6100 Sub-total non-expendable procurement				200,000	115,000	15,000	15,000	0	55,000	200,000	114,000	50,000	36,000	0	0	0	186,000	0	0	14,000	0	0

See detailed budget in Prodoc Annex A2. A summary table is presented below.

Description, Units and Unit Costs				Total	Total Cost per Component and Project Management					
Oracle code and description	Unit	No. of units	Unit cost	GEF	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	M&E	PMC	GEF
5011 Salaries professionals										
National consultants										
Sub-total national Consultants				1,901,400	480,867	816,067	130,467	131,000	343,000	1,901,400
5013 Sub-total consultants				1,901,400	480,867	816,067	130,467	131,000	343,000	1,901,400
5650 Contracts										
5650 Sub-total Contracts				820,230	56,000	509,680	20,000	81,550	153,000	820,230
5021 Travel										
5021 Sub-total travel				355,075	127,833	149,908	77,333	0	0	355,075
5023 Training and workshops										
5023 Sub-total training				1,616,240	715,740	474,000	395,000	31,500	0	1,616,240
5024 Expendable procurement										
5024 Sub-total expendable procurement				5,421,150	90,000	5,313,150	0	18,000	0	5,421,150
6100 Non-expendable procurement										
6100 Sub-total non-expendable procurement				200,000	133,334	33,333	33,333	0	0	200,000
6300 General Operating Expenses budget										
6300 Sub-total GOE budget				119,850	18,000	48,000	53,850	0	0	119,850
TOTAL				**10,433,945**	**1,621,774**	**7,344,138**	**709,983**	**262,050**	**496,000**	**10,433,945**

Project Totals

0

Outcome 1	1,621,774
Outcome 2	7,344,138
Outcome 3	709,983
M&E budget	262,050
PMC	496,000

TOTAL GEF	**10,433,945**

Justification for purchase of project vehicles

The Zimbabwe DSL project covers two large catchment areas, with difficult road conditions ad terrain in most of the area. Unfortunately, the duration of a vehicle is Zimbabwe is short because of the particularly bad conditions of the road network (i.e. 70% of the roads in Zimbabwe have been declared as a state of disaster by the government). Maintaining old vehicles becomes very costly. The vehicle of the GEF5 project is not in good condition anymore, and still used for the finalisation and monitoring of the outputs. The vehicles obtained for GEF6 are still under use. In order for the PMU staff and project consultants to operate effectively for the implementation and monitoring of the interventions in the project sites, two vehicles are required (one for each catchment) to be funded by the project. It will be difficult for PMU staff as well as national and international consultants to support and participate in the field work activities if there is no dedicated transport for these activities.

The Government of Zimbabwe is providing substantial PMC co-financing to this project in the form of providing office space and staff fully dedicated to the project. The costs for procurement of two vehicles (USD 100,000) is, thus, considered economical and cost-effective given the PMC costs provided as co-financing.

ANNEX F: Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

ANNEX G: Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agencys is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

ANNEX H: Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies? capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).