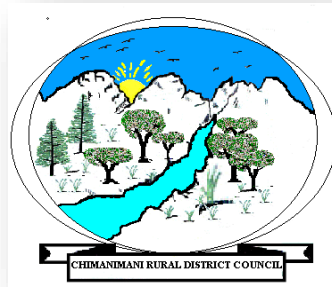


Chimanimani District Climate Change Response and Watershed Management Policy



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CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM
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FOREWORD

Climate change impacts are becoming more and more visible globally, regional, nationally and locally. The impacts of climate change are manifesting themselves through increased extreme weather conditions (hailstorms, floods, too hot or too cold temperatures) and intensity of droughts.

Chimanimani district has already witnessed an alarming changes in its climatic conditions as evidenced by increased temperatures in the once cold highlands, frequent droughts in the low veldt and changes of rainfall patterns across the whole district. The situation has been made worse due to poor natural resources management practices, especially in the watershed areas. This has increased vulnerability of the rural population due to declining livelihood options while plant and animal species are depleting on the other hand.

Guided by the National Climate Change Response Strategy, Chimanimani district has taken climate change as a priority. In its pursuit to reduce the impacts of climate change on its communities, the district has identified several strategies that ensure a joint institutional and community collaboration towards climate change mitigation. In order to stand guided, Chimanimani district has adopted a District Climate Change and Watershed Management Response Policy. This policy was drawn through extensive consultations and participation of various socio-economic groups to include men and women from several communities, traditional leaders, government ministries and departments, local authorities, the private sector, environment and climate change action groups as well as the civil society.

Chimanimani Rural District Council is strongly convinced that if this policy is implemented correctly and consistently, the district will be able sustain its beautiful and vibrant natural resource base and diversity. This in turn is expected to lead to a community that is more resilient and advantaged socially, economically and ecologically.

Alderman D. Muisa
Council Chairperson

Chimanimani Rural District Council

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We would like to thank all participants involved and their dedicated contributions during the policy making processes on climate change and watershed management for Chimanimani District. We appreciate the participation of relevant ministries such as Ministry of Water, Climate Change and Environment and Tourism; Ministry of Home Affairs; Ministry of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services; Ministry of Health and Child Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Lands and Rural Resettlement; Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education; Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare; Ministry of Youth and Economic Empowerment; Ministry of Women's Affairs, Gender and Community Development; Ministry of Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. Within these, special appreciation is given to the D.A.'s Office, EMA, the Departments of Agritex, LPD and Veterinary Services; the ZRP, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, the Forestry Commission and the Department of Social Services. In particular we gratefully acknowledge the active support of the District Administrator, the Chief Executive Officer (CRDC), the Environment and Social Services Officer of Chimanimani Rural District Council, the District Agritex Extension Officer and the Environment Management Agency District Officer.

We acknowledge the active participation of Border Timbers Ltd. and the C.E.O. of the Timber Producers Federation. Civil society organisations SAFIRE, Birdlife, TSURO Trust and Chikukwa Ecological Land Use Community Trust actively participated and mobilised resources for the process. We acknowledge the research input by OXFAM (with SAFIRE), Birdlife International and Practical Action (with the TSURO Trust).

We appreciate the active involvement of traditional leaders and in particular acknowledge the participation of Chief Muusha, Chief Saurombe, Chief Chikukwa, Chief Mutambara, Chief Ngorima, Headman Nechiora, Headman Gudyanga, and village heads from primary watershed areas in Bvumbura, Hangan, Tiya, Gudyanga, Chayamiti and Chikukwa. We thank the many community members in Action Groups from all over the District who contributed in various ways to the formulation of this policy document. We would like to give special appreciation to the efforts of the Steering Committee comprised of

AGRITEX, the D.A.'s Office, TSURO Trust, Border Timbers Limited, SAFIRE, CRDC, EMA and Chief Chikukwa.

The formulation of this policy unfolded over a period of about two years, and required considerable resources to ensure this engagement was possible. TSURO Trust, in partnership with Birdlife and WFD took a lead in mobilizing the resources required to engage all the key players in this process, and we are thankful for this contribution.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The people of Chimanimani District have been experiencing the effects of Climate Change and its negative impact on their livelihoods and increased threat to their natural environment. In order to have a better understanding of such experiences, a research was conducted in 2015 and findings from complementary researches were also reviewed. In light of these developments, nationally, The Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ), through its Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate, adopted a National Climate Change Response Strategy that seeks to develop a climate-resilient Zimbabwe through an integrated response across all socio-economic sectors. The national strategy seeks to develop multi-stakeholder platforms at national, provincial and district levels that will drive the climate change adaptation and mitigation agenda.

In view of the current climate change and watershed management hazards faced in Chimanimani district, a process of collective dialogue on climate change mitigation and adaptation response strategies began in Chimanimani in 2016. This saw the participation of several players in the district including several Government departments, traditional leaders, civil society organisations, private sector, rural community representatives and other interested individuals or actors.

The dialogue platform recommended the development of a policy to guide Climate Change and Watershed Management and implementation in Chimanimani. The policy was subsequently approved by the full council of Chimanimani Rural District Council, which links up national policy, district level plans and the needs and practices at community level. This Chimanimani District Climate Change and Watershed Management Policy (CDCC and WSMP) is the result of that inclusive process.

This policy covers six priority areas that include issues to do with governance and climate change mainstreaming, sustainable land use planning, eco-system integrity and water source management, education and research, settlement and physical infrastructure. The protection of watershed areas is also crucial to the policy.

The implementation of this strategy will be driven by a variety of motivated stakeholders. This is firmly backed by the related CC and WSM Policy driven by CRDC. While it is hoped that Government, civil society, private sector and the district at large will support this process with adequate resources, funding is not

to become a bottleneck that could jeopardize the implementation of the policy. The collective will to respond to negative effects of climate change and inadequate watershed management can make a big difference. The people of Chimanimani District want to reach out to other districts, to Manicaland Province and to national level to take appropriate and urgently needed action in this regard

ACRONYMS

AGRITEX	Agricultural Technical and Extension Services
CAMPFIRE	Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources
CARITAS	Catholic International Aid and Relief Agency
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CC	Climate Change
CCAG	Climate Change Action Groups
CC and WSM	Climate Change and Watershed Management
CELUCT	Chikukwa Ecological Land Use Community Trust
CRDC	Chimanimani Rural District Council
DA	District Administrator
DDF	District Development Fund
DDP	District Development Plan
E.A.	Environment Africa
EMA	Environmental Management Agency
ENSURE	Enhancing Nutrition, Stepping Up Resilience and Enterprise
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FC	Forestry Commission
GAA	German Agro-Action
GHG	Green House Gases
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GoZ	Government of Zimbabwe
HLLM	Holistic Land and Livestock Management
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
LPD	Livestock Production Department
MWAGCD	Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development
NCCRS	National Climate Change Response Strategy
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OPV	Open Pollinated Varieties
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
OXFAM UK	International Confederation of Charitable Organisations based in UK
PORET	Participatory Organic Research and Extension Trust
RDC	Rural District Council
RDDC	Rural District Development Committee
SAFIRE	Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources

SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
TOR	Terms of Reference
TCA	Trans-frontier Conservation Area (linking Zimbabwe and Mozambique)
TSURO	Towards Sustainable Use of Resources Organisation
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Fund
VH	Village Head
ZELA	Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association
ZFU	Zimbabwe Farmers Union
ZINWA	Zimbabwe National Water Authority
ZIMVAC	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee
ZIMASSET	Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation
ZRP	Zimbabwe Republic Police

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Adaptation	Adaptation is a broad category of ideas, technologies, practices, services, related to coping with the challenges created by a hazard
Aquatic life	Plants and animals that live or grow in water
Biodiversity	The variety of plant and animal life in the in a particular habitat
Catchment area	Is any area of land where precipitation collects and drains off
Climate change	The variation in global or regional climates over time
Conservation	Protecting or preserving something
Disasters	A sudden event, such as an accident or a natural catastrophe, that causes great damage or loss of life
Ecology	Is the interactions among organisms and their environment
Ecosystem	Is a community of living organisms in an environment including non-living things
Hazard	A potentially damaging physical event, phenomenon or human activity that may cause injury or the loss of life, property damage, social and economic disruption, or environmental degradation.
Mainstreaming	Incorporating an issue in all proceedings, at all levels and at all stages
Mitigation	Structural and non-structural measures undertaken to limit the adverse impact of natural hazards, environmental degradation and technological hazards.
Participatory	Involving or characterized by the contribution of everyone involved
Rangeland	Open country used for grazing or hunting animals
Ratified	Given formal consent, made officially valid
Rehabilitation	The action of restoring someone or something to a previous state
Resilience	The capacity of a system, community or society potentially exposed to hazards to adapt, by resisting or changing in order to reach and maintain an acceptable level of functioning and structure.
Riverine	Situated on a river or riverbank
Sacred	Dedicated to a religious purpose and so deserving respect
Species	A group of living organisms consisting of similar individuals capable of exchanging genes or interbreeding
Sporadic	Occurring at irregular intervals or only in a few places
Sustainability	Ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level
Trans-frontier	Of resources that overlap boundaries
Vulnerability	The conditions, determined by physical, social, economic, and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of a community to the impact of hazards.
Watershed	An area or ridge that separates waters flowing into different directions
Wetland	A wetland is saturated with water, either permanently or seasonally

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1. BACKGROUND

1.1. CHIMANIMANI DISTRICT AND THE PROCESS OF POLICY FORMULATION

Chimanimani District is situated in the southern part of Zimbabwe's Eastern Highlands. It consists of 23 wards covering an area of 354,805ha and comprises all 5 agro-ecological zones of Zimbabwe. Settlement patterns may be categorized into forestry estates (42 %), communal areas (34 %), resettlement areas (17 %), national parks (5 %), commercial farming areas (1 %) and semi-urban settlements (1 %). According to the 2012 Census there were 32,801 households or 133,810 inhabitants in the district. At a projected annual growth rate of 1.15% the 2016 district population is likely to exceed 140000 people. Most of these (about 89 %) live in communal and resettlement areas.

The mountainous eastern areas, with the highest peak Mount Binga rising to 2440 m a.s.l., experience high rainfall of up to 1400 mm per year, while the low veldt areas in the west, declining to altitudes of 350 m a.s.l., only receive between 300 and 800 mm in 'normal' rainy seasons.

Chimanimani District has two catchment areas, the Save River and the Budzi River catchments. The area is also significant as part of the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot, with the Chimanimani mountains representing a Key Biodiversity Area. The main watershed areas are found in:

- Eastern plateau situated in the area stretching from Chimanimani National Park and Chikukwa in the east to Saurombe, Charter and Cashel, where the rivers Haroni, Musapa, Ruwedza, Nyashoma, Nyanyadzi, Nyahode and Umvumvumvu originate;
- Central plateau around the Gwindingwe area, where the rivers Rusitu, Biriiri, Mhakwe, and Changazi originate.

The combined effects of climate change and poor watershed management in Chimanimani are felt by rural communities, service providers, industries and other stakeholders. A variety of hazards were documented by a number of research studies and agency reports during the period 2015-2016. The increased threats to bio-diversity, the alarmingly low river volumes, and the threats to forest cover and rangelands, the increasing vulnerability of rural inhabitants through loss of livelihoods demanded joint action to address these challenges and to reverse these negative trends at a variety of levels.

In a bid to find collective solutions to mitigate against the aforesaid challenges, the period April 2016 saw the collaborative efforts by Chimanimani district community (organised into a Chimanimani District Climate Change and Watershed Management Dialogue Platform) meeting and resolved to elect

and set up a Steering Committee and adopting the Terms of Reference for this Committee. The Committee promoted and facilitated an inclusive dialogue process concerning CC and WSM, involving all relevant Government departments, traditional leaders, NGOs and other civil society organisations, private sector commercial actors, rural community representatives and other interested individuals or actors. The committee was mandated, among other things, to produce a Chimanimani District Climate Change Response Policy.

1.2. RESEARCH FINDINGS

This CC and WSM Policy was also informed by recent research studies carried out in Chimanimani District. A 2015 Action Research was carried out by Practical Action Consultancy on behalf of the TSURO Trust (Participatory Action Research on community based Strategies concerning Climate Change and Watershed Management). Birdlife Zimbabwe commissioned a 2016 Biodiversity Assessment on the Zimbabwean side of the Chimanimani Trans-frontier Conservation Area. A SAFIRE/OXFAM study on Climate Change Adaptation in the Chimanimani part of the Odzi Sub-catchment was finalized in 2016 (OXFAM-UNDP/GEF Scaling-Up Adaptation in Zimbabwe). Agritex, CRDC and the Timber Producers' Federation contributed valuable data to illustrate specific aspects relevant to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The research findings provided for detailed baseline data on the following main areas: changing patterns of seasons and weather; flow of streams and rivers; crop yields; land degradation in cropping areas and rangelands; exotic tree plantations and indigenous forests; livelihood hazards; service infrastructure; threats to bio-diversity; watershed governance challenges; encroachment of settlements and agricultural activities into ecologically sensitive areas.

After wide consultation with all relevant stakeholders, this Chimanimani District Climate Change Response and Watershed Management Policy was approved in June 2017 by Chimanimani Rural District Council.

2. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

The Climate Change and Watershed Management Policy is an instrument that will be used by different implementing agencies both public and private as well as a range of other service providers in Chimanimani District as a guideline for the management of climate and watershed related issues. This policy is implemented in conjunction with the following national and local instruments or documents: -

- Constitution of Zimbabwe (Amendment No. 20 of 2013)
- Agricultural Marketing Authority Act (Chapter 18:24)
- Chimanimani RDC Environment Policy (Resolution number C3090)
- Chimanimani RDC's Five Year Strategy Plans
- Civil Aviation Act [Chapter 13:16] (Act No. 22 of 2001).
- Civil Protection Act [Chapter 10:06]
- Communal Lands Act (Chapter 20:04)
- Environmental Management Act [Chapter 20:26]
- Forestry Act [Chapter 19:05]
- Forestry Produce Act (Chapter 19:04)
- Housing Standards Control Act [Chapter 29:08]
- Mines and Minerals Act (Chapter 21:05)
- National Climate Change Management Strategy
- National Parks and Wildlife Act (Chapter 20:14)
- Provincial Councils and Administration Act [Chapter 29:11]
- Public Health Act [Chapter 15:09]
- Regional, Town and Country Planning Act [Chapter 29:12]
- Rural District Councils Act [Chapter 29:13]
- Sustainable Development Goals (2016-2030)
- Traditional Leaders Act [Chapter 29:17], (Act No. 25 of 1998)
- Water Act [Chapter 20:22].
- ZINWA Act [Chapter 20:25]
- Agricultural Land Settlement Act (Chapter 20:01)
- ZIMASSET (2013-2018)
- Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act [Chapter 20:03], Act no 22 of 2001)

3. POLICY DIRECTION

3.1. POLICY VISION

Chimanimani communities and stakeholders that are able to work together to sustain a climate change resilient district.

3.2. POLICY STATEMENT/ MISSION

Chimanimani Rural District Council is committed to demonstrating climate change and watershed management best practices in its operations, fostering positive behavior in its staff, the communities, stakeholders, and development partners to influence and promote positive actions towards sustainability in the wider community.

3.3. POLICY GOAL

Improve institutional framework and capacity to influence and promote positive actions towards climate change and watershed management.

3.4. Policy Objectives

The Climate change and Watershed management policy aims to:

- i. Strengthen participatory, inclusive and coordinated climate change governance systems in the district.
- ii. Encourage sustainable land use planning and management at all levels.
- iii. Strengthen community driven water and natural resources managed ecosystems supporting a high quality of life
- iv. Generate, manage and disseminate climate change information for strengthening a climate change conscious society
- v. Integrate climate change proofing in infrastructure planning and settlement design and prevent unplanned settlement and extractive industries in ecologically sensitive areas
- vi. Effectively support socio- economic initiatives which enhance a healthy, self-sustaining district community with climate change sensitive functional industries and diverse livelihood systems

4. POLICY OUTCOMES

The policy outcomes are expected to be as follows:

4.1. Outcome 1:

Reduced community vulnerability to climate change impacts through improved social, economic and ecological resilience.

4.2. Outcome 2:

Reduced greenhouse gas emissions and environment degradation.

4.3. Outcome 3:

Increased institutional and community awareness of climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation measures.

4.4. Outcome 4:

Enhanced participatory research, technology development and transfer and systematic observations strengthened.

4.5. Outcome 5:

Improved district capacity to undertake climate change and watershed management related interventions.

4.6. Outcome 6:

Climate change, watershed management and its cross cutting issues integrated into district development policies on land use planning, infrastructure development, social services provision, coordination and monitoring of key relevant sectors.

5. LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

The country has ratified most of the fundamental conventions designed foster climate change resilient nation across sectors. The climate change and water management policy is designed to translate and deliver on the provisions of an array of international, regional and national provisions stated below.

5.1. INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND PROTOCOLS

Zimbabwe is a signatory to and/or has ratified a number of international treaties and/or protocols on the environment. It has ratified and signed the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992, and has ratified the Kyoto Protocol in 2009. The Policy also builds on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Environmental Action Plan which recognizes the importance of poverty reduction and socio-economic development in Africa. It is important to position local watershed management and climate-related dynamics within the global context, which may have implications for communities that depend on ecosystem services for a livelihood.

5.2. Zimbabwe's Constitution

The Constitution of Zimbabwe adopted in 2013 is widely acknowledged for its firm commitment to the protection of the environment. Section 73 of the constitution expressly compels its citizens to protect the environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

5.3. National and legislative frameworks

In Zimbabwe, legislation restricting use of wetlands and other ecosystem goods include the Environmental Management Act (2002), the Water Act (2002) and the Communal Forest Produce Act (1988). Restrictions include inter alia; pasturing or movement of livestock, felling of trees, cultivation or method of cultivation or use of land within stipulated distances from the river bank, and erecting buildings near a public stream or water source. Local Authorities (RDCs), are also charged with enforcement of rules or by-laws regarding soil conservation methods, environmental regulations and land use plans. In addition, traditional leaders such as chiefs, headmen and village heads are also empowered to enforce compliance with environmental regulations and/or by-laws (GoZ 2000) according to the Traditional Leaders Act.

The Zimbabwe National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS 2015) has the goal to 'mainstream climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies in economic and social development at national and sectoral levels through multi-stakeholder engagement'. In its Climate Change Governance Framework, the NCCRS suggests Local Urban and Rural (RDC) Authority Climate Change Platforms. Accordingly, the Chimanimani Climate Change and Watershed Management Policy has been guided by the NCCRS.

6. PRINCIPLES GUIDING THE POLICY

The policy is underpinned by the following set of principles set out in the Zimbabwean Constitution, Zimbabwe Climate Change Response Strategy, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Sustainable Development Goals and the Kyoto Protocol. The principles among others include:

6.1. Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms:

The Constitution of Zimbabwe (Section 73) guarantees protection of human rights and freedoms to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being, to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations through reasonable legislative and other 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. Therefore this policy acknowledges the diverse aspirations and needs of all inhabitants of Chimanimani District.

6.2. Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities:

Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities is a principle within the UNFCCC that acknowledges the different capabilities and differing responsibilities of individual countries in addressing climate change. Climate change and Watershed management policy is about aligning our district measures to contribute to the reduction of the country's GHG emissions and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change taking into consideration our unique district circumstances, stage of development and capacity to act.

6.3. Equality:

This is a principle in the Zimbabwe Constitution. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate change and are more vulnerable to its impacts. Gender equality must therefore be promoted as a response both in terms of mainstreaming as well as through specific focused interventions. Participation and inclusivity of communities and stakeholders regardless of their age, gender, economic or social status, political affiliation, culture and belief systems.

6.4. Sustainable Development:

Create Climate Change response budget allocations by CRDC, central government, NGOs and private sector with a view to help reduce poverty and improve living standards, while at the same time upholding the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development. Motivate industries and SMEs towards climate proofing of new investments through pursuing a relevant, implementable and practical community interest driven development agenda. This principle is also supported by the Sustainable Development Goals (2016-2030), goal number 13 which states that there is need for nations to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

6.5. Equitable development:

There is need for equitable and just access to resources and sustainable livelihood development. No development would be sustainable in the long run if it does not address poverty reduction and equity. Equity includes both “inter-generational equity” (i.e. the right of future generations to enjoy a fair level of the common patrimony) and “intra-generational equity” (i.e. the right of all people within the current generation to fair access to the current generation’s entitlement to the Earth’s natural resources). Therefore all people should attain the resources and opportunities that improve their quality of life and enable them to reach their full potential. Thus the participation of vulnerable groups including children and the disabled has to be ensured, as well as equitable and just access to resources and sustainable livelihood development.

6.6. Informed community participation

Create awareness about the purpose and intrinsic value of bio-diversity of plant and animal species. Active participation by the public in developmental

activities is essential as communities must be aware of climate change causes and impacts and how they affect development in Chimanimani District. Transparent and accountable governance at all levels of local government, traditional leadership, private sector, civil society and community based structures is a key factor enabling positive action towards climate change adaptation and mitigation.

6.7. Economic, social and ecological pillars of sustainable development

Recognizing that a robust and sustainable economy and a healthy society depends on the services that well-functioning ecosystems provide, and that enhancing the sustainability of the economic, social and ecological services is an integral component of an effective and efficient climate change response.

6.8. Inclusivity

Acknowledging the common need to include all sections of society, irrespective of their economic or social status, their religious beliefs and cultural practices, their gender or age, their political affiliation or their ethnic descent. Climate change negatively effects especially vulnerable sections of society, such as orphans and other vulnerable children, female and child headed households, internally displaced people, widows, elderly people and those living with physical or mental disability, chronically ill people and those suffering from social exclusion for one reason or another.

7. POLICY STRATEGIES

The policy objectives will be pursued through a range of strategies. These strategies should be formulated around each of the six priority areas.

8. POLICY PRIORITY AREAS

8.1. GOVERNANCE AND MAINSTREAMING

In the common view of Chimanimani stakeholders, many of the challenges around climate change and watershed management are governance related. Climate change has caused dry areas to be drier than ever. There are a lot of people thronging the wetter parts from the drier regions. These people do not seek permission from the local leaders or the local authority but rather find themselves places in watersheds thereby jeopardizing the river sources.

POLICY OBJECTIVE:

To strengthen participatory, inclusive and coordinated climate change governance systems through mainstreaming across the sector divides of government, private sector, civil society, traditional leaders and communities.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The policy will

- i. Implement programmes aimed at building the capacity of traditional leadership to take a central role in guiding community processes on climate change and watershed management related rules and regulations.
- ii. Encourage effective participatory law enforcement by traditional leaders, key institutions and communities.
- iii. Create a multi-stakeholder Climate Change and Watershed Management District Platform and Steering Committee driving a coordinated response to climate change.

8.2 SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

Land ownership in Chimanimani District consists of a mix of property regimes, in which different owners exercise their legal rights to use their land for their own objectives. The challenges of climate change and watershed deterioration demand that land owners and land users develop a shared approach and practice towards sustaining their common environment. A multi-stakeholder approach, incorporating a diversity of economic actors and interests, will be needed to overcome the pressing issues of inequality and poverty in the district.

Private and public ownership of land in watershed areas should be secure and follow clear guidelines regarding the ecological use of the land as well as the social responsibility of land owners regarding their neighbours and down-stream users in particular. Such guidelines will be based on CRDC bye-laws, traditional bye-laws and environmental policies as implemented by EMA, ZINWA and other relevant bodies.

POLICY OBJECTIVE:

To encourage the integration of climate smart strategies for a sustainable land use planning and development at all levels in the district.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The policy will

- i. Promote revision and production of land use plans for climate smart villages by communities, local authorities and traditional leaders
- ii. Institute rehabilitation of all rangelands in the district by means of community based planned grazing management
- iii. Strengthen integrated soil and water management for improved, diversified crop production and sustainable post-harvest practices
- iv. Promote conservation of indigenous forests and reforestation of bare lands
- v. Promote the eradication of invasive species in ecologically sensitive areas
- vi. Promote the establishment of woodlots at households, schools and other public institutions
- vii. Promote community action groups capacities in flora and fauna species identification and biological monitoring
- viii. Promote community capacity in the use and preservation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems for land use management.

8.3 ECO-SYSTEM INTEGRITY AND WATER SOURCE MANAGEMENT

Watershed Management is about conserving the water retention capacity of higher altitude underground reservoirs that feed the springs, streams and other water points at lower altitudes. It is also about access to and use of water and the goods and services derived from it. As water scarcity increases under conditions of climate change and inadequate management of the resources, the struggle over its distribution intensifies. It is therefore important to understand that purely technical solutions cannot solve the multiple challenges that also derive from an inequitable distribution of water.

In Chimanimani, this situation is not different from the rest of the country. In some parts of the District, ownership of land changed and with it the way the land was used and the way water was used. While this may have given more people access to these scarce resources, there is a lack of coordinated management of water, and conflicts over it arise in many situations. This is why the need for transparent and equitable water allocation at community level cannot be overemphasized. Industries with high water consumption should also become more sensitive to the effects of this on the down-stream users and promote more equitable access to water.

In the face of climate change, water is becoming an increasingly scarce resource. Access to water is currently regulated by the Water Act (1998 – 2002) under which ZINWA is entitled to issue water permits for water abstraction for purposes other than primary use. In practice, there is a need to empower and capacitate local leaders to implement community based practices that ensure equitable access to water based on sound water conservation principles.

POLICY OBJECTIVE:

To strengthen institutional and community driven water and natural resources management for ecosystems to support a high quality of life.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The policy will

- i. Encourage conservation of biodiversity, including threatened species, in the Chimanimani Key Biodiversity Area and all watershed areas of the district
- ii. Promote agro-biodiversity in cropping areas through applied land-use design
- iii. Advocate for the right of communities access to adequate, clean and safe water
- iv. Designate and establish intensive conservation areas (RDC Act 29:13, Section 61), e.g. by creating buffer zones around sensitive ecosystems, for the purpose of natural resources management especially in:
 - a. Eastern plateau situated in the area stretching from Chimanimani National Park and Chikukwa in the east to Saurombe, Charter and Cashel, where the rivers Haroni, Musapa, Ruwedza, Nyashoma, Nyanyadzi, Nyahode and Umvumvumvu originate;

- b. Central plateau around the Gwindingwe area, where the rivers Rusitu, Biriiri, Mhakwe, and Changazi originate.

8.4 EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

The realization climate change is an emerging issue, there are significant development policy and implementation gaps that would be addressed through research. On the other hand, both climate change adaptation and mitigation measures require innovative approaches and these would be supported by technology development and transfer as well as systematic observation.

POLICY OBJECTIVE:

To generate, manage and disseminate climate change information for strengthening a climate change conscious society.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The policy will

- i. Promote awareness creation and generation of information on climate change and watershed management
- ii. Integrate climate change and watershed management issues in schools and other institutions
- iii. Create linkages with research institutions on climate change and watershed management related issues
- iv. Ensure that communities are able to adapt to climate change by promoting climate change adaptive development and mitigation in the long term.
- v. Advocate for the appropriate recognition and linking up of indigenous and scientific knowledge systems
- vi. Promote environmentally friendly and uptake of low carbon technologies institutions in the district.
- vii. Promote the exchange of information and knowledge on good CC and WSM practices within the district.

8.5 SETTLEMENT AND PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure development has always depended on reliable and constant climate parameters. However, in the face of climate variability, the 'stationary

mode' scenario no longer holds. Climate variability describes the variability in climate parameters, such as precipitation on spatial and temporal scales beyond that of individual weather events. The conventional belief has been that, while climate varies between seasons within years and between years, the long term variance of climate parameters remains constant. This assumption (called the stationary assumption) has been the basis for designing hydraulic infrastructure including weirs, dams, conveyance systems, roads infrastructure among others in Zimbabwe. However climate variability offers a number of water resource planning and management implications. Thus, civil works cannot assume that infrastructure designed for past climates will be suitable or reliable for the future

POLICY OBJECTIVE:

To advance climate smart proofing in infrastructure planning and settlement design and prevent unplanned settlement and extractive industries in ecologically sensitive areas.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The policy will

- i. Institute participatory monitoring of settlement and cultivation in ecologically sensitive areas
- ii. Promote the upgrading of existing and establishment of new infrastructure development projects, in the areas of transport including road infrastructure, water supply, housing, energy and communication
- iii. Promote inclusive and disability friendly infrastructure at households and in public places.
- iv. Link up with technical experts in the field of engineering, renewable energy and communication.

8.6 LIVELIHOODS, HEALTH, VULNERABILITY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES

Key sectors such as smallholder agriculture, commercial agriculture, forestry, mining, tourism, SMEs, commerce and public service all contribute to wealth creation in the District and the Nation. At the same time they also all depend on district resources such as land, water and infrastructure. As part of creating awareness in the District, information on production output, use of resources,

employment creation and contribution to livelihood resilience by different sectors may be made available to the interested public.

Products and production processes require a range of resources that affect production costs in a variety of ways. Many of these are affected by changes in climate and management systems. Production patterns that used to be appropriate to conditions of climate and availability of resources 40 years ago are not necessarily appropriate anymore today. It is therefore important to be aware of changes in access to resources and use of resources in the view of climate change.

POLICY OBJECTIVE:

To support socio- economic initiatives which enhance a healthy, self-sustaining district community with functional industries and diverse livelihood systems.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The policy will

- i. Ensure that women, girls, people living with disability, the elderly and other vulnerable groups are involved in planning and implementing climate change adaptation interventions.
- ii. Promote mainstream of gender specific programming in climate change related activities
- iii. Increase productivity of agricultural crop production and livestock rearing, and related marketing and finance systems to increase rural incomes
- iv. Promote low carbon footprint products, technology, management and marketing systems and awareness creation on water consumption in economic activities
- v. Enhance social equity through dialogue by stakeholders on contribution of different sectors to the district economy and livelihoods
- vi. Encourage production and consumption of traditional foods, medicinal herbs and small grains.
- vii. Strengthen community based marketing approaches, SME projects and related companies.
- viii. Lobby for Chimanimani District to be a Green Production Zone.
- ix. Strengthen awareness on social change issues related to Climate Change and Watershed Management.

9 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT POLICY.

This section outlines the institutional arrangements and implementation plan for the climate change and watershed management.

Chimanimani RDC has the overall responsibility towards implementing this policy. The provisions set out in the policy cut across all sectors and hence requires a multi sector collaboration for successful implementation. Coordination and leadership across sectors and between stakeholder groups is critical for success. Leadership and coordination has to be seen at all levels of governance. In order to ensure effective climate change management, leadership and coordination must embrace district and local levels of government as well as seek community based engagement and action. Key stakeholders include: government, non-governmental organizations and civil society, the private sector, academia, traditional leaders, local communities, faith based organizations and identified vulnerable groups. Considering that climate change significantly impacts key sectors of the economy and is multi-sectorial as well as crosscutting in nature, mainstreaming climate change into sectorial plans, policies and programmes is critical. Therefore a number of institutions will be involved in sector specific implementation of activities.

During implementation stage, the planning section in the ministry responsible for climate change will among others, spearhead tracking of resources allocated to key stakeholders that address specific components of the Policy relevant to their mandate.

This policy and its provisions do not replace institutional policies or strategies within other institutions that contribute to climate change and watershed management. Rather the climate change and watershed management policy provides a comprehensive framework for action and seeks to enhance value and effectiveness of the various actors in addressing climate change and watershed management.

9.1 THE INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION FRAMEWORK

The climate change and watershed management policy provides for the creation of:

- a) District Climate change and watershed management Dialogue Platform
- b) District steering committee on climate change and watershed management
- c) Climate Change Action Groups

The institutional coordination framework is presented in Figure 1:

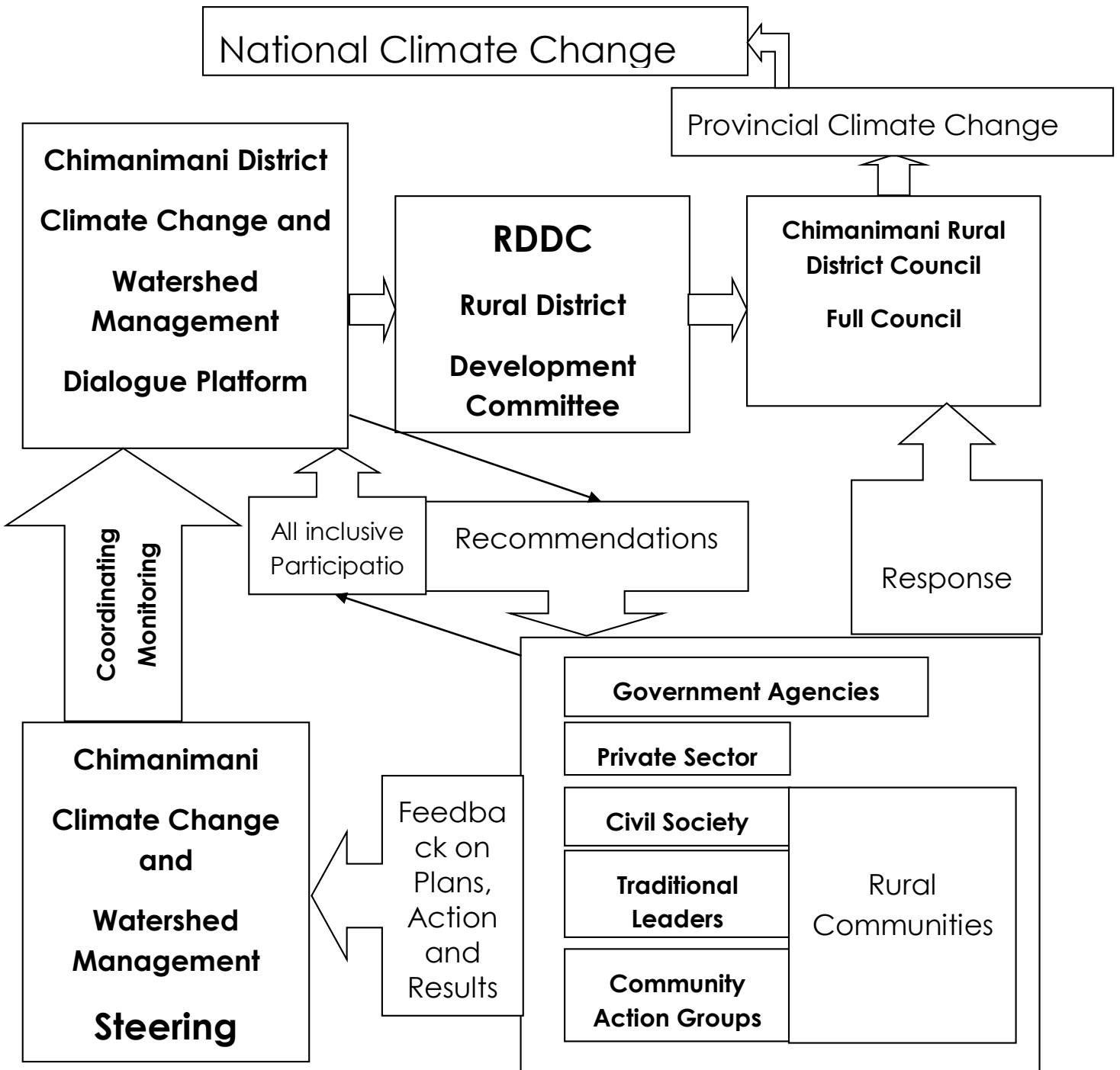


Figure 1: The institutional coordination framework

9.2 DISTRICT CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT DIALOGUE PLATFORM

The Full Council for the Local Authority shall cause the establishment of a District Climate Change and Watershed Management Platform. The dialogue platform shall be composed of the following membership:

- Chairperson of the Environment and Social Services Subcommittee of CRDC (Chairing)
- Chairperson of Chimanimani Rural District Council
- District Administrator
- Chief Executive Officer- Chimanimani Rural District Council
- Chiefs
- Headmen
- Village heads from watershed and catchment areas
- Ministry responsible for climate change and watershed management in the district
- All government ministries and departments in the district
- Zimbabwe Republic Police
- Representatives from the private sector, including timber industry
- Environment Action Groups
- Civil Society organizations undertaking climate change and watershed management programmes/ projects.
- Other stakeholders according to specific issues

The chairperson shall cause the dialogue platform to meet quarterly each year.

9.3 DISTRICT CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

The District Climate Change and Watershed Management Platform shall from amongst its members create a District Steering Committee on climate change and watershed management. The CDCC and WSM Steering Committee shall be composed of:

- AGRITEX (Chairing)
- Chimanimani Rural District Council (Secretariat)
- Chiefs Representative
- Environment Management Agency

- 3 Non-Governmental Organizations implementing environment related programmes (one of them assisting CRDC with secretarial services as required)
- Representatives from the timber industry

9.4 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

- To promote and facilitate an inclusive dialogue process concerning CC and WSM, involving all relevant Government departments, traditional leaders, NGOs and other civil society organizations, private sector commercial actors, rural community representatives and other interested individuals or actors.
- To consult with various stakeholders including rural communities on issues and actions related to CC and WSM.
- To review research studies, legislation and other relevant documentation on the state of climate change and watershed management in the district.
- To develop a Chimanimani District Climate Change Response Strategy.
- To assist in monitoring and evaluation on the effectiveness of recommended running programmes and action and evaluates their impact and make recommendations.
- To report to the District Climate Change and Watershed Management Platform.
- To promote the establishment of climate smart village in the district.

9.5 PROCEDURES OF RUNNING THE STEERING COMMITTEE

- Participating organizations will allow employees to participate in Committee meetings and activities.
- Each of the Committee members will send 1-2 participants to meetings which are called by the Chairperson at least 7 days before the date of the meeting.
- Costs of meetings (transport within the District, food and accommodation) and other activities will be covered by civil society organisations and other well-wishers according to any project funds available for the purpose.

- The Committee reports to the CRDC sub-committee on Environment and Social Services (quarterly reports) and the sub committees of the RDDC responsible for the sector.
- Minutes of all meetings will be circulated by the secretariat latest 7 days after the meeting.

The chairperson shall cause the steering committee to meet once per month.

9.6 CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION GROUPS AND ENVIRONMENT MONITORS

Each ward shall have climate change action groups and environment monitors. The climate change action groups shall be composed of:

- The climate change action groups and environment monitors shall include, women, men, young people (male and female) with each village represented.
- Two (2) Community Facilitators (one (1) male and one (1) female) in each CCAGs. The Community Facilitators shall be responsible to run the affairs of the CCAG and each Facilitator shall produce progress reports to Community Supervisors
- One (1) Community supervisor responsible for at least two CCAGs. Each Community Supervisor shall determine the size of the CCAGs in their wards of operation depending on the wards specific situations

SELECTION PROCESSES

The Climate Change Action Groups and Environment Monitors shall be selected through the leadership of the traditional leaders and the community using a participatory process. The selection shall be inclusive; gender balanced and composed of all age groups.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Observe and document changes in land use and bio-diversity
- Carry out rural neighbourhood initiatives and small community projects
- Awareness creation and advocacy
- Liaise closely with the local Councillors, ward assemblies, traditional leaders and other local governance structures

10. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

10.1 DEVELOPMENT OF AN IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION STRATEGY

A District Climate Change Response and Watershed Management Planning, Implementation and Monitoring Strategy shall be developed as a complementary document to this Policy Framework to ensure that the CC and WSM is effectively implemented. The strategic document shall spell out the objectives and strategies that need to be implemented in order to address the climate related effects being faced by Chimanimani District. The District Climate Change Response and Watershed Management Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy shall further outlines the stakeholders relevant for implementation of specific strategies. The strategies shall be in accordance with international best practice and are consistent with the UNFCCC and related agreements that Zimbabwe is a signatory to.

10.2 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Climate change is a global, multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary issue. As a consequence, adaptation, as well as mitigation, technology transfer and capacity building requires intensive and continuous cooperation at local, regional, national and global levels. Observing change, in ecosystems and livelihoods alike, can only be achieved by monitoring key indicators and communicating anomalies and trends to those who can take action. The local authority and its stakeholders are aware of the need to monitor and evaluate short term climate variability, long term climate change variables, and climate change related impacts. This will allow evidence-based decisions to be made and to adjust the plans accordingly for effective adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer and capacity building measures.

Monitoring and evaluation also provides a mechanism for institutional accountability. Progress with achievement of national developmental goals as outlined in the Strategic Development Goals, Climate Change Response Strategy, District Climate Change Response and Watershed Management Implementation Strategy can also be tracked through monitoring and evaluation. A detailed monitoring and evaluation plan has been developed with measureable, reportable and verifiable indicators to monitor and evaluate implementation of the Climate Change Response and Watershed Management Policy. The District steering committee on climate change and watershed

management will be responsible for coordinating monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the policy. The District steering committee on climate change and watershed management may receive reports from the monitoring and evaluation to better advise Chimanimani Rural District Council and its stakeholders on managing climate change.

11. POLICY REVIEW

The policy shall be reviewed after every 5 years. The following conditions also necessitate the review of this in the event that there is:

- i. Increasing frequency and magnitude of environmental disasters and hazards
- ii. A change in other related policies.
- iii. Any other circumstances that could be considered by the committee to be relevant to warrant

END