



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND

Project/Programme Title: **SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THE GWAAI-SANYATI-UMZINGWANE CATCHMENT OF WESTERN ZIMBABWE**

Country/Region: Zimbabwe/Africa

National
Designated
Authority:

Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism
and Hospitality Industry.

Concept Note

November 2020

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is seeking high-quality projects or programmes.

Accredited entities may choose to submit a concept note, in consultation with the relevant national designated authority, to present the proposed project or programme idea in order to receive early feedback and recommendation.

A. Project / Programme Information	
A.1. Project / programme title	Sustainable Forest Management in the Gwaai-Sanyati-Umzingwane Catchment of Western Zimbabwe
A.2. Project or programme	Programme
A.3. Country (ies) / region	Zimbabwe
A.4. National designated authority(ies)	Ministry of Environment Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry.
A.5. Accredited entity	
A.6. Executing entity / beneficiary	Executing Entity: Forestry Commission Beneficiary: Local communities with emphasis on women and the youth, civil society, private sector and local government organizations in 15 pilot districts of Western Zimbabwe.
A.7. Access modality	Direct <input type="checkbox"/> International <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A.8. Project size category (total investment, million USD)	Micro (≤ 10) <input type="checkbox"/> Small ($10 < x \leq 50$) <input type="checkbox"/> Medium ($50 < x \leq 250$) <input type="checkbox"/> Large (> 250) <input type="checkbox"/>
A.9. Mitigation / adaptation focus	Mitigation <input type="checkbox"/> Adaptation <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-cutting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A.10. Public or private	PPP
A.11. Results areas (mark all that apply)	<p><i>Which of the following targeted results areas does the proposed project/programme address?</i></p> <p>Reduced emissions from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Energy access and power generation (E.g. on-grid, micro-grid or off-grid solar, wind, geothermal, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Low emission transport (E.g. high-speed rail, rapid bus system, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings, cities, industries and appliances (E.g. new and retrofitted energy-efficient buildings, energy-efficient equipment for companies and supply chain management, etc.) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forestry and land use (E.g. forest conservation and management, agroforestry, agricultural irrigation, water treatment and management, etc.) <p>Increased resilience of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Most vulnerable people and communities (E.g. mitigation of operational risk associated with climate change – diversification of supply sources and supply chain management, relocation of manufacturing facilities and warehouses, etc.) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health and well-being, and food and water security (E.g. climate-resilient crops, efficient irrigation systems, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure and built environment (E.g. sea walls, resilient road networks, etc.) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ecosystems and ecosystem services (E.g. ecosystem conservation and management, ecotourism, etc.)
A.12. Project / programme life span	10 years

<p>A.13. Estimated implementation start and end date</p>	<p>Start: July 2021.....</p> <p>End: December, 2030.....</p>
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Information requested by the Green Climate Fund

The Fund requires the following preliminary information in order to promptly assess the eligibility of project/programme investment. These requirements may vary depending on the nature of the project/programme.

<p>B.1. Project / programme description (including objectives)</p>	<p>Country context</p> <p>Zimbabwe is a land locked country with a total land area of 391 000 km². About 75% of the country is semi-arid, with low and erratic rainfall. In 2013 the country’s population was 13.1 million and was growing at a rate of 3.05% per annum (Zimstat, 2013). Sixty-eight percent of Zimbabweans live in rural areas and depend on agriculture and biodiversity for their livelihood. Urbanization rate is 2% per year. Zimbabwe’s key economic sectors are agriculture, forestry, mining, manufacturing, energy and tourism. Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy accounting for 30% of formal employment and was the largest export earner in 2012 (Anseeuw <i>et al.</i>, 2012). The country has seen relative political stability since the close of the last decade. This coupled with the adoption of a multi-currency system and economic reforms contributed to economic growth. Following a modest 4.7% growth in 2012, growth decelerated to 3.0% in 2013 but was expected to increase to 4.2% in 2014. A 2011-2012 poverty report showed that 72.3% of Zimbabweans were poor with poverty being most prevalent in rural areas where 62.6% of households were deemed poor and 16.2% in extreme poverty. This puts considerable pressure on biodiversity/natural resources which are the last line of defence for community survival.</p> <p>The country is operating on a medium term plan, the Zimbabwe National Development Strategy-2021-2030. This strategy advocates for reforming and harmonizing national laws to create an enabling environment for quality service delivery and for the implementation of supportive policies and practices in key productive economic sectors. It advocates for value addition to and beneficiation of various natural resource based products and services. It also aims to, among other things, promote conservation agriculture, drought tolerant and high yielding crop varieties and irrigation infrastructure development as part of the country’s climate change and adaptation strategy.</p> <p>Natural resource/forest governance</p> <p>The two main pieces of legislation that govern the use and management of Zimbabwe’s forests are the Forest Act (Chapter 19:05) and the Communal Lands Forest Produce Act (Chapter 19:04). The Forest Act provides for “the setting aside of state forests and protection of private forests, trees and forest produce; the establishment of a Mining Timber Permit Board to control the cutting and taking of timber for mining purposes; the conservation of timber resources and the compulsory afforestation of private land; the regulation and control of trade in forest produce; and the regulation and control of vegetation burning”. On the other hand, the Communal Land Forest Produce Act was enacted “to regulate the exploitation of and to protect forest produce within Communal Land; and to regulate and encourage the establishment of plantations within Communal Land.” A glaring issue in this Act is that “the inhabitants of any Communal Land shall have the right within that Communal Land to exploit for their own use any forest produce.” Further “no forest produce exploited in the exercise of such right shall be sold to anyone or supplied to anyone who is not an inhabitant of that Communal Land.” Other national laws that impact on forests include the Environmental Management Act, the Parks and Wildlife Management Act; the Rural District Council’s Act, the Mines and Minerals Acts, and the Traditional Leaders Act.</p> <p>Zimbabwe is signatory to a number of international conventions that impact on forests and livelihoods such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the United Nations</p>
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Convention on Combating Desertification and Drought (UNCCD); and the Sustainable Development Goals. The country has also done the following:

- a. Joined the UN-REDD Program and conducted a REDD+ Country Needs Assessment;
- b. Published a National Climate Change Response Strategy that embraces REDD+ as a mitigation option for reducing GHGs in the forest sector; and,
- c. Submitted Nationally Determined Contributions to the UNFCCC. The contributions outline the country's climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

The administration of Zimbabwe's forest sector is problematic as it falls under different land categories. For example, resettlement land is administered by the Ministry of Lands and Rural Resettlement; communal land falls under the Ministry of Local Government and National Housing; and national parks and gazetted forests are superintended over by the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate. The latter is also responsible for policy formulation, strategy development and program execution across the natural resources sector. The Environmental Management Agency (EMA) is responsible for ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources and for protecting the environment; and for preventing pollution and land degradation. The Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (PWMA) manages wildlife conservation and sustainable use in the Parks Estate. The Forestry Commission (FC) is responsible for effective regulation and capacity enhancement in the sustainable utilization and management of forest resources for national socioeconomic development.

Climate change and land degradation

Global Climate Models (GCM) show that most of Southern Africa, including Zimbabwe, is likely to experience higher temperatures in the coming decades although the picture for rainfall is less clear. The International Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report suggests that Zimbabwe's temperature will be 2^o to 4^oC higher than the 1961-1990 baseline, while rainfall will be 10-20% less by 2050. Other model simulations show rainfall declining by 5%-20% in 2080 from a 1961-90 average in all major river basins. However, annual rainfall appears to have changed little over the last 50 years while droughts and floods have become more frequent and severe and the onset of the rains less dependable.

With the advent of climate change: rainfall is becoming less reliable, temperatures are rising, weather is becoming more intense, and the fight against hunger is becoming more extreme. Increases in temperature, more frequent extreme weather events, and greater rainfall variability are expected to increase the occurrence of crop failures, pests, crop diseases, and the degradation of both land and water resources. The persistent vulnerability of Zimbabwe's agricultural sector to weather shocks was evident during the 2011-2012 agricultural season when the late onset of rains, prolonged intra-seasonal drought and late arrival of inputs resulted in the write off of 45% of the potential maize harvest. This increased community vulnerability as their household assets were eroded. The situation was exacerbated by the country's limited investment in technology such as irrigation and drought resistant crops and crop varieties that increases the vulnerability of farmers to climate change and drives the expansion of agricultural land at the expense of forests and woodlands. One of the main responses to climate change will therefore likely be a greater reliance on ground water whose management will be vital in ameliorating the effects of climate change and rainfall variability.

Land degradation, worsened by climate variability and change, manifests itself through soil erosion, water scarcity, and loss of vegetation. Zimbabwe's Second Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), shows that under the worst-case scenario, the country's plant diversity will decline under dryer conditions, with concomitant shrinking of high biodiversity areas by 2080. On the other hand, the relationship between forests and climate change is intricate and complex because climate affects forests while forests also affect climate. Potential impacts of climate change on forests include changes in species composition; shifts in forest ecosystems boundaries and species ranges; changes in growth rates; increases in flora and fauna migration; loss of vegetation

cover; loss of biodiversity; increased frequency and intensity of forest fires; prevalence of invasive alien species; and increased reliance on trees and forests for human survival. At the same time, forests influence climate through carbon sequestration, emission of water vapour and control of wind speed. Consequently, the forest sector and land use changes have key roles in influencing green house gas (GHG) emissions as they contribute 17% of total global yearly emissions.

Recent reviews show that it will not be possible to keep temperature increases at below 2°C without addressing GHG produced from land use change (Elisach, 2008). The potential for mitigation through reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD+) is therefore huge. However, to be effective, mitigation activities should be integrated with adaptation and include sustainable development concerns such as local livelihoods and coping strategies as local communities often rely on forest resources for survival, hence the focus of this proposed Program.

Zimbabwe's forestry sector

Zimbabwe's forest and woodland resources cover 53% of the country's total land area. They are found on various land use systems that include communal areas, resettled land, private land, gazetted forests and national parks. The distribution of forests across land tenure systems is as follows: 43% in communal areas; 24% in resettlement and private land; 33% in gazetted forests and national parks (MEWC, 2014). The country's forests are dominated by Miombo, Mopane, Acacia, Baikiaea (Zambezi teak) and exotic timber species. Key forest species include: *Brachystegia spiciformis*, *Julbernardia globiflora*, *Colophospermum mopane*, *Uapaca kirkiana*, *Parinari curatellifolia*, *Strychnos cocculoides*, *Azanza garkceana*, *Adansonia digitata*, *Ziziphus spp*, *Sclerocarya birrea*, *Acacia erioloba*, *Baikiaea plurijuga*, *Pterocarpus angolensis* and *Guibortia coleosperma*. The bulk of these species have low economic value in their natural state and hold less carbon stocks compared to tropical forests. Consequently, they are a less economically viable land use option and are generally considered "a medium for development and not a source of development". They therefore offer limited incentives for sustainable forest management at community and individual household levels in their natural state. Notwithstanding, most Zimbabweans depend on various forest based products (both timber and non timber) and ecosystem services. Forests play important roles in food and nutrition security; soil nutrient recycling; energy provision; climate change mitigation and adaptation; biodiversity conservation; and combating land degradation. The forest industry contributes 3% of the Gross Domestic Product, largely from exotic plantations and commercial indigenous hardwood timber. However, this grossly misrepresents their contribution as non timber forest products (NTFP) and environmental services are not captured in the national accounting system.

Core problem to be addressed

The country's forest diversity and habitat condition are in decline due to agricultural and settlement expansion, unsustainable exploitation of fuel-wood, infrastructural development, tobacco curing, illegal timber harvesting for construction, uncontrolled forest/veldt fires, mining-especially illegal gold panning, invasive alien species, elephant damage in national parks and safari areas, and climate change. The situation is worsened by high poverty levels that force vulnerable communities to overexploit natural resources as the last survival option.

The national annual rate of deforestation increased from about 100 000 ha per year in the 1990s to the current 330 000 ha (GoZ, 2014). Such massive deforestation leads to carbon release, global warming, land degradation, and loss of ecosystems integrity. The latter two elements result from land use changes and unsustainable land use practices, particularly in the heavily utilized communal areas. Inappropriate land use and non-compliance with natural resource conservation measures and legislation have worsened the situation which manifests itself in reduced forest goods and services; reduced agricultural performance; and increased food and nutrition insecurity. Consequently, the need to reduce forest and land degradation for purposes of reducing GHG emissions; maintaining ecosystems goods and services; and increasing community resilience to climate change impacts cannot be overemphasized.

Program Goal, Outcomes, Objectives and Outputs

The Goal of the Program is to reduce GHG emissions and enhance the resilience of forests and forest dependent communities to climate change for sustainable socio-economic development.

It has the following outcomes:

- a. Mechanisms that reduce GHG emissions; and build resilience to climate change in place. This embraces the following:
 - i. Integrated land use planning and implementation at different scales supported;
 - ii. Community and landscape level management plans that recognize multiple uses of forests developed and implemented;
 - iii. Knowledge, tools and capacities that support forest resource protection and sustainable management in place;
 - iv. Relevant R&D facilitated;
 - v. Value addition to various timber and non timber forest products supported;
 - vi. Increased and sustainable agricultural productivity facilitated; and,
 - vii. Local communities supported to engage in business partnerships that generate significant and equitable economic benefits from sustainable forest management across value chains; and,

b. Laws and institutions that support sustainable forest management in place. This focuses on the following:

- i. Synergy and coordination among related sectoral laws facilitated; and local laws and governance frameworks entrenched;
- ii. Coordination among key national and local institutions in forest management and law enforcement strengthened; and,
- iii. Targeted institutional capacity building undertaken at national and community levels.

The specific objectives of the Program are to:

- a. Implement mitigation measures that reduce vulnerability and build resilience of forests to climate change;
- b. Support adaptation and mitigation measures that reduce vulnerability and build resilience of communities to climate change; and,
- c. Provide a conducive legal and institutional environment for sustainable forest management.

Program delivery strategy

The Program will deliver its objectives through the following five Components:

- a. Sustainable management of commercial indigenous timber concessions in gazetted and communal areas;
- b. Forest management and the development of selected Non Timber Forest Product value chains in communal and resettlement areas;
- c. REDD+ readiness for sustainable forest management in selected communal areas, gazetted forests and national parks;
- d. Maintaining ecosystems integrity in selected gazetted forests; and,
- e. Improved and sustainable agricultural production and land management on communal land.

Component 1: Sustainable management of commercial indigenous timber concessions in selected gazetted and communal areas

Preamble

The bulk of Zimbabwe's commercial indigenous hardwood timber species are found in the Gwaai-Sanyati-Umzingwane Catchment (GSUC). They include *Baikiaea plurijuga* (teak), *Pterocarpus angolensis* (mukwa), and *Guibortia coleosperma* (*Mchibi*) and constitute the bedrock of the country's indigenous hardwood timber industry that directly employed 2,000 people at one point. The industry is however under siege from economic and forest resource challenges that adversely affect its economic performance and sustainability. For example, although commercial

indigenous timber harvesting is based on a minimum allowable diameter of 35 cm, it has now been reduced to 31 cm due to: unsustainable harvesting and timber poaching (Mudekwe, 2007). In addition, the illegal export of unprocessed timber continues despite the existence of Statutory Instrument (SI) 112 of 2001 that bans the export of unprocessed indigenous timber to promote local level value addition, create downstream industries and reduce overexploitation.

Rural District Councils (RDCs) and the Forestry Commission, as the land owners on behalf of the State, grant timber concessions through a competitive bidding process adjudicated over by the Forestry Commission. This is done on the strength of a forest inventory; and timber cutting and environmental management plans produced by the land owner. Nine indigenous hardwood timber concessions are currently operational (2 under the Forestry Commission, 6 under RDCs and one on other land). Although the Forestry Commission used to insist on a winning bidder ceding a 20% stake to locals, this has not worked well partly due to inadequate financial resources and technical capacity on the part of the latter. The need for appropriate Public Private Community Partnership (PPCP) models that ensure effective community participation and benefit realization can therefore not be overemphasized. Communities could bring in timber concessions specially granted by the FC or RDC as part of their stake in the partnership.

Key Component activities by output

Output 1: Mitigation measures to reduce GHG emissions implemented.

The following activities will be carried out:

- a. Support the conduct of forest inventories and regular monitoring of the resource in selected gazetted forests;
- b. Facilitate the development and implementation of landscape and community level forest management plans that recognize land use tradeoffs;
- c. Pilot forest certification for niche international markets as an economic incentive to SFM; and,
- d. Facilitate the conduct of targeted forest research.

Output 2: Adaptation measures that reduce vulnerability and build community resilience to climate change implemented.

The following activities will be undertaken:

- a. Carry out socio-economic baselines and regularly monitor community vulnerability and resilience;
- b. Facilitate the establishment and nurturing of PPCPs in indigenous commercial timber concessions;
- c. Support the development of innovative funding mechanisms and appropriate community benefit structures for PPCPs;
- d. Facilitate value addition to commercial indigenous timber concessions across the timber value chain; and,
- e. Build community capacity for effective participation in PPCPs.

Output 3: A conducive legal and institutional environment for sustainable forest management supported.

The following activities will be carried out:

- a. Facilitate the granting of timber concessions as part of community shareholding in PPCPs;
- b. Conduct targeted capacity building of institutions and individuals at landscape and community levels;
- c. Facilitate the enforcement of Statutory Instrument (SI) 112 of 2001 that bans the export of unprocessed timber; and,
- d. Support cross learning platforms on SFM and honey and indigenous fruit production value chains.

Component 2: Sustainable forest management and the development of selected Non Timber Forest Product value chains in communal and resettlement areas.

Preamble

Most of Zimbabwe's indigenous forests are found in communal and resettlement areas which fall under the open land tenure system. This lends them to being public goods whose benefits are difficult to internalize at the household level. In addition, most of the tree species have no sufficient economic value in their natural state to justify transaction costs of institutions and organizations needed for common property management and to incentivize communities to practice sustainable forest management. Despite their limited timber production potential, most of the tree species provide a wide range of NTFPs such as honey and fruits for household consumption and for sale on an opportunistic basis. Consequently, the appetite to convert such forests into higher economic value ventures such as cropping and wood energy is high hence the need for value addition and commercialization of selected NTFPs to enhance the competitiveness of forests as a land use at the household level.

With respect to honey production it is hypothesized that improved economic returns from the activity can incentivize local communities to sustainably manage their indigenous forests as a source of pollen for the honey making bees hence a need to:

- a. Support communities to produce more and better quality honey;
- b. Facilitate value addition across the honey production value chain;
- c. Strengthen the ability of communities to access more economically viable markets; and,
- d. Support beekeepers to acquire forest land for deliberate management and to implement community level forest management plans.

Regarding indigenous fruits, communities realize very limited economic returns from the sale of the raw product locally and on road sides. In addition, private companies sometimes buy the raw fruit from them at very low prices and effect value addition outside the source areas. Consequently, there is an opportunity to increase economic returns from such fruits through local level value addition for local and international markets with the latter requiring that the fruits be produced from sustainably managed forests. This project component therefore focuses on:

- a. Certification which involves demarcation of target fruit tree source areas and agreeing on the tree's management regimes in that locality;
- b. Ensuring that the harvested fruit is stored under specified conditions and standards as per certification requirements;
- c. Developing and testing appropriate business models that facilitate local level value addition to target fruits and introducing appropriate processing equipment; and,
- d. Supporting research to: validate the availability of sufficient quantities of the target fruits in the selected landscapes.

Key Component activities by output

Output 1: Mitigation measures to reduce GHG emissions implemented.

The following activities will be undertaken:

- a. Facilitate the allocation of communally owned forest land for deliberate community management in the honey and indigenous fruit production value chains;
- b. Support the development and implementation of community led forest management plans that recognize multiple roles played by forests;
- c. Facilitate the development of a forest certification system for target indigenous fruit forest areas; and,
- d. Facilitate research on: validating the availability of adequate quantities of the target fruits; and, evaluating the response of selected tree species to climate change.

Output 2: Adaptation measures that reduce vulnerability and build community resilience to climate change implemented.

The following activities will be carried out:

- a. Carry out socio-economic baselines and regularly monitor community vulnerability and resilience;
- b. Facilitate the establishment and nurturing of PPCPs in honey and indigenous fruit tree production value chains;
- c. Support the development of innovative funding mechanisms and appropriate community benefit structure for PPCPs;
- d. Facilitate value addition to honey and target indigenous fruits across their value chains;
- e. Support the establishment of internationally recognized storage facilities for target fruit products; and,
- f. Support targeted capacity building of communities in climate resilient livelihood initiatives.

Output 3: A conducive legal and institutional environment for sustainable forest management supported

The following activities will be carried out:

- a. Conduct targeted capacity building of institutions and individuals at landscape and community levels;
- b. Support the development of landscape and community level governance structures and by-laws that foster inclusive participation in SFM;
- c. Facilitate synergy and coordination among related sectoral laws while entrenching the importance of local laws and supportive traditional norms;
- d. Facilitate cross learning platforms on SFM and honey and indigenous fruit value chains.

Component 3: REDD+ readiness for sustainable forest management in selected communal areas, gazetted forests and national parks.

Preamble

REDD+ offers Zimbabwe an opportunity to reduce deforestation and forest degradation by providing incentives for sustainable forest management. The country was admitted as a partner country to the UN-REDD programme in 2013 and relevant national stakeholders have participated in a number of REDD+ related capacity building activities at various levels. It has two on-going pilot REDD+ projects namely: Kariba REDD+ administered by Carbon Green Africa; and the Sengwe Carbon Reduction project implemented by the Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources (SAFIRE). The Kariba REDD+ project has traded 3 million tonnes of carbon in the voluntary carbon market (VCM) and distributed benefits to Rural Districts Councils and local communities in Hurungwe, Binga, Mbire and Nyaminyami districts in the north-eastern part of the country. It covers 785 000 ha of forest (Charles Nondo, Project Manager, personal communication, 2015). It is seen as a pioneer in the REDD+ space and as such is well placed to be a learning platform and to generate early lessons for future design of other REDD+ projects. The Sengwe Carbon Reduction Project covers 40 000 ha of forest land in Wards 13 and 15 of Sengwe District with a population of more than 1000 households. It aims to create awareness of climate change, the role of forests in carbon sequestration, the benefits of conserving carbon stocks in local forests and woodlands and the promotion of livelihood strategies (Gladman Kundhlande, personal communication, 2015). Initial estimates of above ground biomass carbon stock potential in the project area average 6.5 tC/ha. This compares fairly well with results obtained from the Kariba REDD+ project of 8.7tC/ha.

A REDD+ capacity needs assessment carried out in Zimbabwe showed that (2015):

- a. Forest monitoring programs are still being carried out, albeit at a reduced scale largely due to financial constraints. Similarly, the country has had a successful national land use and land cover mapping program namely the Vegetation Inventory Monitoring System (VegRIS). Unfortunately financial challenges have constrained the development of national land cover maps at regular intervals, hence the need for capacity to develop and implement a regular national monitoring system;
- b. There is no sufficient information system and protocols for managing REDD+ type data and information within the Forestry Commission (the National REDD+ Focal Point) hence a need to make upfront investments to rebuild both capacity and multi-

purpose infrastructure. In addition, there is need to establish a credible REDD+ program. This entails data acquisition for land cover mapping and monitoring; and re-establishing a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) that is critical for preparing credible GHG estimates; and,

c. Some key stakeholders are not entirely familiar with some REDD+ concepts and expressed the need to establish REDD+ pilot projects which would generate knowledge, lessons and a community of practice in a country that is just starting to embrace REDD+. Such pilots can be valuable in testing benefits sharing approaches, safeguards and stakeholder consultation mechanisms. Of interest is the understanding of the importance of non-carbon benefits as REDD+ is not just about carbon.

Key Component activities by output

Output 1: Mitigation measures that reduce GHG emissions implemented.

The following activities will be undertaken:

- a. Support the development and implementation of integrated landscape level land use plans;
- b. Facilitate the development and implementation of targeted forest management plans at various scales;
- c. Support the implementation of regular national forest monitoring programs; and,
- d. Facilitate the conduct of REDD+ pilots focusing on the voluntary carbon market in the first instance;

Output 2: Adaptation measures that reduce vulnerability and build community resilience to climate change implemented.

The following activities will be carried out:

- a. Carry out socio-economic baselines and regularly monitor community vulnerability and resilience;
- b. Support the testing of various benefit sharing approaches through REDD+ pilots; and,
- c. Support targeted capacity building of communities in climate resilient livelihood initiatives.

Output 3: A conducive legal and institutional environment for sustainable forest management supported.

The following activities will be undertaken:

- a. Support the development and implementation of an integrated REDD+ knowledge management system;
- b. Facilitate the building of technical and institutional capacity of the Forestry Commission and other key institutions in various aspects of REDD+;
- c. Support the development of a national REDD+ program implementation structure and mechanism around the Forestry Commission the national REDD+ national focal point; and,
- d. Foster greater coordination and synergy among key national and local level institutions at both implementation and enforcement levels.

Component 4: Maintaining ecosystems integrity in selected gazetted forests

Preamble

Zimbabwe has 24 gazetted indigenous forests covering 800,000 hectares in low rainfall areas and on the fragile Kalahari sand ecosystem. They were gazetted to control the harvesting of commercial indigenous timber species that were used to produce mine props, railway sleepers, flooring parquets and furniture. The forests are also important for watershed and soil protection, nutrient recycling, biodiversity conservation, and the provision of wildlife habitats. The integrity of gazetted forests is however under threat from illegal settlers who are intent on settling and earning a living from them, e.g. through agricultural activities, that result in deforestation and land degradation. In addition to illegal settlers, gazetted forests face the problems of timber and game poaching and of late forest fires.

Despite provisions of the Forest Act that preclude buffer communities from accessing goods and services from gazetted forests, the Forestry Commission allows them controlled access to thatch grass, livestock grazing and other non-timber forest products. In addition, the Forest Authority has piloted a joint forest management model with communities neighbouring a gazetted forest. However, the pilot met limited success due to absence of buffer community participation at an early stage and the offer of fewer benefits than they could illegally obtain from the forests.

Key Component activities by output

Output 1: Mitigation measures to reduce GHG emissions implemented.

The following activities will be carried out:

- a. Support the conduct of forest inventories and regular monitoring of the resource in selected gazetted forests;
- b. Review and update management plans of selected gazetted forests;
- c. Facilitate the improved management of the target gazetted forests based on forest management plans; and,
- d. Design and pilot forest co-management models with buffer communities;

Output 2: Adaptation measures that reduce vulnerability and build community resilience to climate change implemented.

The following activities will be undertaken:

- a. Carry out socio-economic baselines and regularly monitor buffer community vulnerability and resilience;
- b. Facilitate the development and implementation of resource sharing initiatives between buffer communities and the Forestry Commission; and,
- c. Explore and pilot innovative financing mechanisms for buffer community level forest based initiatives (e.g. Trusts, PES).

Output 3: A conducive legal and institutional environment for sustainable forest management supported.

The following activities will be carried out:

- a. Facilitate a review and revision of appropriate laws in line with current realities and the Constitution of Zimbabwe;
- b. Support the stopping of illegal settlements in gazetted forests;
- c. Facilitate the creation and strengthening of community level structures that support co-management activities with buffer communities in gazetted forests; and,
- d. Conduct targeted capacity building of institutions and individuals at landscape and community levels.

Component 5: Improved and sustainable agricultural production and land management on communal land.

Preamble

Smallholder farmers in the Program area face challenges of poor soils, low and erratic rainfall, limited inputs, low access to extension and technology and limited entry points to sustainable value chains. They depend on rain-fed subsistence crop production, achieve low and variable crop yields (less than 30% of yield potential) and experience food and nutrition insecurity. Consequently, the bulk of the consumed food comes from agricultural expansion resulting in deforestation, habitat shrinkage, fragmentation and degradation; loss of ecosystems integrity; and increased GHG emissions. This trend is likely to worsen with climate change as drought and flood induced agricultural failures will contribute to the opening up of more agricultural land as a risk management strategy. Consequently, there is need to design and promote smallholder farming systems that improve food and nutrition security, increase climate resilience, enhance agro-biodiversity and reduce stress on water resources. It is also worth noting that the attainment of food and nutrition security at household level requires functional input and output markets and stakeholder empowerment,

especially smallholder farmers to effectively benefit from such markets and associated value chains.

Key Component activities by output

Output 1: Mitigation measures to reduce GHG emissions implemented.

The following activities will be undertaken:

- a. Identify potential partners to co-create appropriate climate and conservation smart knowledge management systems;
- b. Develop a portal on-going climate and conservation smart agricultural activities and provide links to other websites, key research and other information;
- c. Based on identified gaps, develop appropriate “learning/knowledge sharing” mechanisms such as research projects, reviews and group discussions; and
- d. Develop guidance materials on the implementation of climate and conservation smart agriculture; and,
- e. Facilitate the implementation of climate and conservation smart agriculture.

Output 2: Adaptation measures that reduce vulnerability and build community resilience to climate change implemented.

The following activities will be carried out:

- a. Conduct community climate change vulnerability and adaptation assessments and establish gaps;
- b. Facilitate the adoption of climate resilient crops and crop yield improving agronomic practices;
- c. Promote sustainable and yield enhancing technologies that reduce soil loss, and enhance the fertility and water storage capacity of soils;
- d. Promote drought tolerant crop diversity for human and soil nutrition; agrobiodiversity; and income viability;
- e. Facilitate low input and high impact sustainable farming techniques that embrace efficient water use, organic farming, mixed cropping and agro-forestry;
- f. Support enhanced access to value chains that support sustainable yield enhancing technologies and practices; and,
- g. Promote agroforestry.

Program geographical area.

The Gwaai-Sanyati-Umzingwane Catchment (GSUC) Program area covers 13.5 million ha in Matebeleland North and Mateleland South provinces of western Zimbabwe. The catchment incorporates 14 of the country’s 55 administrative districts from Binga in the extreme north; Gwanda in the south; Insiza in the east; and Hwange in the west (Table 1). It embraces all the country’s land use systems namely: communal, resettlement, private, national parks and gazetted forests and predominantly falls under agro-ecological regions IV and IV that are characterized by low and erratic rainfall and are very marginal for rain-fed cropping but suitable for livestock rearing, wildlife and tourism. The Catchment’s predominant soil family groups are the fersiallitic, regosols, siallitic and vertisols in that order. Its forests and woodlands are subdivided into Miombo, Baikiaea, Mopane, and Acacia. They cover 7.2 million ha (average 53% forest cover) and store a total of 110.0 million tons of above ground carbon (16.7 tons/ha C). Anthropogenic influences such as land clearing for crop production, commercial timber harvesting, veldt fires and livestock grazing are converting some of the forests and woodlands to shrub lands and wooded grasslands leading to GHG emissions, loss of habit and ecosystems integrity, and reduced capacity to provide forest goods and services for human survival on a sustained basis. For example, the area under cultivation in the catchment was 17%, 25% and 28% in 1992, 2008 and 2012 respectively (Forestry Commission, nd).

Table 2: Land and forest area of the Gwaai-Sanyati-Umzingwane catchment by district

District	Land area, ha	Forest area, ha
Hwange	2 968 493	1 573 301
Binga	1 334 603	707 340
Tsholotsho	775 564	411 049

Lupane	771 119	408 693
Nkayi	535 383	283 753
Bubi	561 777	297 742
Umguza	615 604	326 270
Umzingwane	270 059	143 131
Bulilima & Mangwe	1 230 832	652 341
Matobo	724 658	384 069
Insiza	832 216	441 074
Gwanda	1 075 927	570 241
Gokwe North	732 359	388 150
Gokwe South	1 112 334	589 537
TOTAL	13 540 928	7 176 691

Table 2 shows key socio-economic statistics of the Catchment Program areas' 14 districts. They have a total human population of 1.8 million people of which 52% are women; and 60% consist of young people. Average human population density is low (17.1 km²) while average food insecurity and poverty levels are high (38% and 83% households respectively).

Table 2: Key socio-economic characteristics of the Program districts

District	Population				Food insecurity, % households	Poverty levels, %
	Men	Women	Total	Density, #/km ²		
Hwange	31 888	31 888	62 649	4.3	42	68.5
Binga	63 512	74 562	138 074	10.3	50	88.3
Tsholotsho	52 629	61 266	113 895	14.7	45	89.3
Lupane	47 233	51 631	98 864	12.8	43	92.9
Nkayi	52 241	57 130	109 371	20.1	42	96.5
Bubi	31 898	30 290	62 188	11.1	24	88.7
Umguza	45 949	41 569	87 518	14.2	57	79.9
Umzingwane	30 796	31 744	62 540	23.2	51	82.1
Bulilima and Mangwe	73 391	84 371	224 767	24.0	24	76.7
Matobo	45 018	48 973	93 991	13.0	34	77.6
Insiza	49 181	50 612	99 793	12.0	27	77.1
Gwanda	56 524	59 833	116 357	19.0	19	80.2
Gokwe North	118 181	126 795	244 976	33.5	43	74.1
Gokwe South	148 279	158 971	307 250	27.6	30	90.9
Total/Average	846 720	909 635	1 822 233	17.1	38	83.1

Source: Zimstats, 2012; Zimvac, 2016

B.2. Background information on project/programme sponsor

The main Executing partner is the Forestry Commission which has a long history of forest program regulation and implementation across the country. It was established through the Forest Act-an Act of Parliament. The Act, together with the Communal Area Forest Produce Act guide forest management and conservation in Zimbabwe. The Commission's core mandate is to: support the sustainable management of the country's forest resources: regulate the forest sector; facilitate the conservation of all forest resources; and conduct forest extension, research and training.

Other Program Executing partners are: Environmental Management Agency(EMA) WWF Zimbabwe, SAFIRE and Environment Africa.

B.3. Market overview

The Program focuses on value addition to the following forest based products: commercial indigenous hardwood timber; and Non timber Forest Products (NTFP) mainly honey and indigenous fruits. The availability of readily available and profitable markets is critical for these products to provide meaningful economic incentives to participating communities.

Indigenous hardwood timber products

	<p>The indigenous commercial timber industry in Zimbabwe is shrinking with 50% of the companies involved in timber processing closing down in the last 6 years. Current utilization of installed processing capacity is estimated at between 15 and 30%. Major timber products produced include: furniture, flooring and decking whose demand on the local market is depressed due to liquidity challenges and cheap Chinese ceramics that have invaded the local flooring industry. In addition, other SADC countries dump wet-off-sawn planks to established traditional markets such as South Africa at very low prices, thereby making Zimbabwe products too expensive against a background of high production costs partly caused by the use of antiquated equipment.</p> <p>Statutory Instrument 112 of 2001 that banned the export of unprocessed timber was introduced to promote local value addition and create downstream employment. However, its effectiveness has been constrained by the inability of Zimbabwe's sawn planks to compete with the low prices of products within the region and poor enforcement of the regulations. For example, there has been a significant decrease in timber exports during the last few years accompanied by a significant increase in timber imports (EU, 2014). While the volume of exports has fallen there has been a significant increase in the proportion of those exports accounted for by unprocessed logs which increased from approximately 5% of the total in 2004 (5 000m³) to more than 30% in 2011 (40 000m³). This only refers to legally recorded flows which could be a fraction of the total flows as was the case in Mozambique between the two time periods (EIA, 2013).</p> <p>Forest certification could offer Zimbabwean forest products an opportunity to penetrate international niche markets. There is some interest among timber users in developed countries to access timber that is ethically sourced. For those timber users, the story of the timber and the benefits that timber brings to both the environment and local people is considered to be of significant value. For example, in Sweden large hotel chains, house building companies, banks and department stores have shown a desire to use wood from these sources for their own development, not necessarily as a resale product. Such users want to have personal contact with smallholders and communities who supply their timber needs. Satisfying such end users could be based on the principle of low to medium volume, high quality products combined with personalized market contacts. A key benefit of certification for these types of buyers relates to the improved assurances of legal origin that certification provides.</p> <p>Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) The development and promotion of NTFP value chains such as the honey and indigenous fruits as income generation and employment opportunities have largely remained opportunistic and uncoordinated in most parts of Zimbabwe. However more lucrative national and international markets exist for value added and well branded and packaged products.</p> <p>REDD+ Sustainably managed forest areas in the Program districts will benefit from the voluntary and involuntary carbon market in the first instance, and ultimately the involuntary carbon markets once all UN REDD+ Program requirements are in place.</p>
<p>B.4. Regulation, taxation and insurance</p>	<p>i. The Communal Land Forest Produce Act allows inhabitants of Communal areas to exploit forest produce for own use and not for sale outside these areas; ii. The Forest Act Prohibits communities to settle in or utilize forest resources within gazetted forest areas; iii. Statutory Instrument (SI) 112 of 2001 bans the export of unprocessed commercial indigenous hardwood timber in order to promote local level value addition; and, iv. Statutory Instrument (SI) 116 of 2012 as amended in 2013, controls the utilization, movement, exportation and trade in fuel wood, timber and other forest products and produce.</p>
<p>B.5. Implementation arrangements</p>	<p>The ministry of Environment will be responsible for overseeing the Program and partners, in charge of technical and financial implementation, and ensuring that Program implementation is consistent with the design expectations; as well as the fiduciary and safeguards requirements to which it is held.</p>

	<p>The Program will be subject to government accounting rules according to a monitoring–control mechanism, informed by approved budget and annual work plans validated by a Program Steering Committee. Financial execution will be performed by the implementing partners who submit quarterly execution reports with supporting documentation to the ministry prior to mobilizing any new request for funding. An annual audit will be carried out at ministry request by an independent auditor firm to be selected through tender.</p> <p>The ministry will work through implementing partners, particularly the Forestry Commission, the main technical and operational partner. Service provision contracts will be established with public and private partners to execute the selected activities under specified procurement rules. Memoranda of Understanding will be signed with implementing partners including the definition of tasks and responsibilities, together with allocation of resources.</p>
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C. Financing / Cost information

<p><i>C.1. Description of financial elements</i></p>	<p>Table 3 shows the Program budget by component.</p> <p>Table 3: Program budget: 2021-2030</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Component</th> <th style="text-align: center;">USD million</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Percent</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Component 1: Sustainable management of commercial indigenous timber concessions in selected communal areas.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">29</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Component 2: Sustainable forest management and the development of selected Non Timber Forest Product value chains in communal and resettlement areas.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">45</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Component 3: REDD+ readiness for sustainable forest management in selected communal areas, gazetted forests and national parks.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">40</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Component 4: Maintaining ecosystems integrity in selected gazetted forests.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">27</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Component 5: Improved and sustainable agricultural production and land management</td> <td style="text-align: center;">32</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub-total</td> <td style="text-align: center;">173</td> <td style="text-align: center;">87.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Programme coordination and management, monitoring and evaluation</td> <td style="text-align: center;">25</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grand total</td> <td style="text-align: center;">198</td> <td style="text-align: center;">100.0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Program’s holistic approach in addressing the core problem makes it difficult if not impossible to finance the four components from currently available funding sources hence the focus on CO2Bit Technologies. Given that the main Program beneficiaries are poor forest dependent smallholder subsistence farmers, it difficult to seek loan financing for the Program. In addition, significant private sector financing could only start tickling in after the planned PPCP ventures start to take root.</p>	Component	USD million	Percent	Component 1: Sustainable management of commercial indigenous timber concessions in selected communal areas.	29	14.7	Component 2: Sustainable forest management and the development of selected Non Timber Forest Product value chains in communal and resettlement areas.	45	22.8	Component 3: REDD+ readiness for sustainable forest management in selected communal areas, gazetted forests and national parks.	40	20.2	Component 4: Maintaining ecosystems integrity in selected gazetted forests.	27	13.7	Component 5: Improved and sustainable agricultural production and land management	32	16.1	Sub-total	173	87.5	Programme coordination and management, monitoring and evaluation	25	12.5	Grand total	198	100.0
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	Grand total	198	100.0																									

C.2. Project financing information		Financial Instrument	Amount USD	Currency	Tenor	Pricing
	Total programme financing (a) = (b) + (c)		198 000 000	<u>Options</u>		

	(b) Requested Amount	(i) Senior Loans	.....		
		(ii) Subordinated Loans	.....	<u>Options</u>	() years	() %
		(iii) Equity	.....	<u>Options</u>	() years	() %
		(iv) Guarantees	.....	<u>Options</u>		() % IRR
		(v) Reimbursable grants *		<u>Options</u>		
		(vi) Grants *	198 000 000			
		* Please provide detailed economic and financial justification in the case of grants.				
		Total Requested	198 000 000	<u>Options</u>		

D. Expected Performance against Investment Criteria

Please explain the potential of the Project/Programme to achieve the Fund's six investment criteria as listed below.

<p>D.1. Climate impact potential <i>[Potential to achieve the GCF's objectives and results]</i></p>	<p>The climate change mitigation potential Program is -57.4 million tCO₂ equivalent on a pilot forest area of 3 440 000 ha, representing about 52% of the Catchment Program area up to 2028. The mitigation potential will be achieved by a combination of the following: reduced deforestation, improved forest management, enhanced catchment area management; and improved agricultural production practices and land management. This will be realized through the creation of appropriate economic incentives for communities to practice good forest stewardship; and adoption of sustainable agricultural production and land management practices.</p>
<p>D.2. Paradigm shift potential <i>[Potential to catalyze impact beyond a one-off project or programme investment]</i></p>	<p>Innovation To date, communities living with and/or near natural forests have not meaningfully benefited from timber and non timber forest products based business ventures. Consequently, they have not been adequately motivated to sustainably manage forest resources. This Program therefore seeks to promote economic and food security based incentives through Public-Private-Community Partnerships underpinned by value addition in the following areas: commercial indigenous timber concessions; commercial honey production, indigenous fruit production, carbon trading through voluntary and</p>

	<p>non voluntary carbon markets; and improved and sustainable agricultural production. Financing mechanism such as Trusts and Payment for Ecosystems Services will also be investigated.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Program recognizes that agricultural expansion and climate change are a major driver of deforestation for poor and food insecure communities. It therefore seeks to promote the use of sustainable yield enhancing to stabilize the agricultural production and natural capital interface.</p> <p>Scaling up Results from the pilot Program will be collated, packaged and widely shared for cross learning and replication for cross learning and replication cross Program districts and beyond. Multi stakeholder platforms will be established and supported to facilitate knowledge management and cross learning.</p> <p>Tactical strategy The Program will enable Government to use REDD+ as a bridge to develop transformational strategies that address the fundamental issues around drivers and agents of deforestation and forest degradation; as a means of growing the forest resource against competing land use demands and resource extraction (mining, forestry-agriculture interface, etc.); and to resolve policy conflicts. In addition, it will assist the Government to build on action plans of the National Climate Change Response Strategy; and the draft Forest Policy to define pathways to a low carbon economy.</p> <p>Creation of an enabling governance environment The Forest Act and the Communal Land Forest Produce Act represent the traditional “command and control” approaches to natural resources governance that do not reflect the aspirations of local communities but focus on state control of resources. They are based on the concept of sovereign ownership of natural resources whereby forest management solely lies in the State with communities having user rights and not ownership rights. Information that will be generated from the value addition and commercialization of NTFPs; and the maintenance of ecosystems integrity of gazetted forest components will be used to appropriately amend the Communal Forest Produce Act and Forest Act respectively. With respect to REDD+ which is still a new phenomenon in the country, the Program will assist the country to develop a national REDD+ Framework and Strategy under the auspices of the UN-REDD Program. Regarding the involvement of local communities in decision making, management and benefiting from forest resources, the Program will facilitate the establishment and operationalization of Environment Sub-committees as provided for under the District Council’s Act and the Environment Act (Chapter 20:17). Such committees are non-existent or non functional in some of the Program districts.</p> <p>Stakeholders involved in the Program include the Forestry Commission, the Environmental Management agency, the Department of Technical and Extension Services in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development, Rural District Councils, and traditional leaders who all have different mandates and working modalities which sometimes conflict. Given its cross cutting nature, the Program will bring these actors together for synergy, coordination and cooperation in areas such as law enforcement and best practice dissemination to communities.</p>
<p>D.3. Sustainable development potential [Potential to provide wider development co-benefits</p>	<p>Economic benefits Over 50% of the population in Program districts are women and some 60% are young people. Given the high levels of poverty and food insecurity; and lack of gainful employment opportunities in the target districts, some youths migrate to South Africa and other urban centres in search of a better life which is sometimes not tenable. This Program prioritizes the creation of forest based green jobs for women and the youth along selected timber and non timber product value chains. Some 50 000 households (about 400 000 people) consisting of 30% of the Program Catchment area of 1.2 million people, will directly benefit from the pilot Program. The benefits will accrue from timber and non timber forest product joint business ventures; carbon trading receipts; enhanced food and nutrition security; and improved environmental services. A considerable number of downstream business opportunities will also be created. The</p>

	<p>Program will more than double the proportion of household income that accrues from forest and agriculture based business ventures and reduce the proportion of food insecure households by 50%.</p> <p>Environmental benefits The Program uses economic incentives from forest based product value chains to catalyze good forest resource stewardship among target communities. In this regard, some 3 440 000 ha of forests will be sustainably managed across land tenure and land use systems through various interventions elaborated earlier. This will contribute to habitat and biodiversity maintenance, reduced land degradation and siltation, enhanced ground water availability, increased overall land productivity, and reduced GHG emissions (-57.4 million tCO₂ equivalent).</p>
<p>D.4. Needs of recipient [Vulnerability to climate change and financing needs of the recipients]</p>	<p>According to the 2015 Environment Outlook Report for the Zambezi River Basin, poverty is probably the biggest single constraint to effective conservation in the Basin countries (including Zimbabwe)-(ZAMCOM, SADC, SARDC, 2015). As is the case with other Basin States, Zimbabwe's external debt, terms of trade and market access, and dependence on single commodities combine to create an adverse socio-economic environment. In addition, the bulk of the country's population is rural and lives on less than \$2 per day.</p> <p>The country has a mix of agricultural activities and natural resource based livelihoods. Anthropogenic activities centre on the partial to complete clearance of woodland, conversion of woodland to cropland, resource extraction and grazing. Land use change is often the first consequence of population and economic growth. Furthermore, a growing population accelerates the rate of subsistence agricultural expansion, much of which will be at the expense of woodlands. This entrenches poverty, increases food and nutrition insecurity and undermines livelihoods. In addition, it increases human-wildlife conflict as the wildlife habitat is reduced (e.g. elephant destruction of crops and lion attacks on livestock and humans).</p> <p>Gender and the natural environment are cross cutting issues in the country. The 2015 Environment Outlook Report acknowledges that women, particularly those in rural areas, play a major role in managing natural resources such as the soil, water and forests. Women constitute the bulk of the population and the poor and remain on the periphery of human development and governance. Most of their work is unpaid and their share of household income and decisions are not proportional to their labour. A similar situation obtains for the youth who end up leaving rural areas in search of greener pastures thus depriving such areas of a much needed vibrant labour force.</p> <p>Given the foregoing, the need to recognize the different experiences and divergent needs of men, women and the youth when formulating livelihood and natural resource management policies and practices in the face of climate change cannot be overemphasized.</p>
<p>D.5. Country ownership [Beneficiary country ownership of project or programme and capacity to implement the proposed activities]</p>	<p>The Program is fully aligned to the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-economic Transformation (Zim Asset: 2013-2018) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to which Government is a signatory. Zim Asset mentions environmental management and protection; conservation of biodiversity; community-level value addition and benefit realization; and increased and sustainable agricultural productivity as part of the overall strategy towards food and nutrition security and sustainable development. The Program also contributes to the implementation of the National Climate Change Response Strategy and the draft National Forest Policy.</p> <p>Program development has been led by the Forestry Commission, the Forest State Authority and the REDD+ National Focal Point, with guidance from its parent ministry, the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate. The Commission is responsible for effective regulation and capacity enhancement in the sustainable utilization and management of forest resources for national socioeconomic development.</p> <p>The Program has been developed through a consultative process involving a wide range of stakeholders that include public sector agencies, civil society organizations,</p>

	the private sector, rural district councils, the academia and traditional leaders through workshops and targeted discussions.
D.6. Effectiveness and efficiency [Economic and financial soundness and effectiveness of the proposed activities]	The estimated unit cost of emission reduction per tCO ₂ eq calculated by dividing the Program investment by the total amount of the mitigation impact is USD 0.34 during the entire investment for the implementation and capitalization period (10 years). Given that the achievement of mitigation potential is not possible without parallel investment in adaptation, it does not make much sense to partition the investment cost between mitigation and adaptation.

E. Brief Rationale for CO₂ bit Technologies Involvement and Exit Strategy

The Program is in line with CO₂ Bit Technologies objectives and investment framework. It is catalytic with an intention to eventually cover the whole country by leveraging on the initial CO₂ Bit Technologies investment. Its long term financing strategy is to self finance the supported activities by the country itself. This requires the development of economically efficient ways for the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems and land resources. The rationale for CO₂Bit Technologies grant financing is to bridge the gap between the present high emission climate vulnerable situation and the targeted low-emission climate resilient development path through economic and financial sustainability of the payments for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

F. Risk Analysis

Target communities could continue engaging in unsustainable forest management practices as survival strategies due to limited incentives from forest based goods and services. The Program will identify and pilot innovative and value adding forest based income generating activities and opportunities.

The Program could encounter implementation challenges due to some limited technical and project execution capacity within implementing institutions. Consequently, it will provide appropriate technical and project management support as well as targeted training to build necessary capacities within implementing institutions.

The availability of technical information on the management of Zimbabwe’s natural forests is limited partly due to their multiple uses, inadequate understanding of their response to climate change and their limited economic value, especially under communal tenure systems. The Program will support research and development on sustainable forest management as well as on yield enhancing and stabilizing technologies.

There is substantial project sustainability risk due to the vastness of the Program catchment area. The Program will spend some time articulating its modest ambition of piloting tangible solutions and developing tools for sustainable forest and agricultural management in selected landscapes for possible up-scaling throughout the catchment and beyond.

G. Multi-Stakeholder Engagement

Key Program stakeholders include: community representatives, community based organizations, farmer associations, youth, women, rural district councils, traditional leaders, academic institutions, the timber industry, private sector, national NGOs, international NGOs, embassies, international cooperating partners, Ministry of Environment, and Climate, Forestry Commission, Environmental Management Agency, the Parks and Wildlife Management Agency, , Zimbabwe National Water Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development (the Department of Agricultural and Technical Services-AGRITEX), Ministry of Lands and Rural Resettlement, Ministry of Legal and Parliamentary Affairs (including the judiciary) and Members of Parliament. The stakeholders were mapped using the influence and importance matrix. Key Program stakeholders are those in the following quadrants: Highly affected and low influence; and highly affected with high influence.

Program allies include:

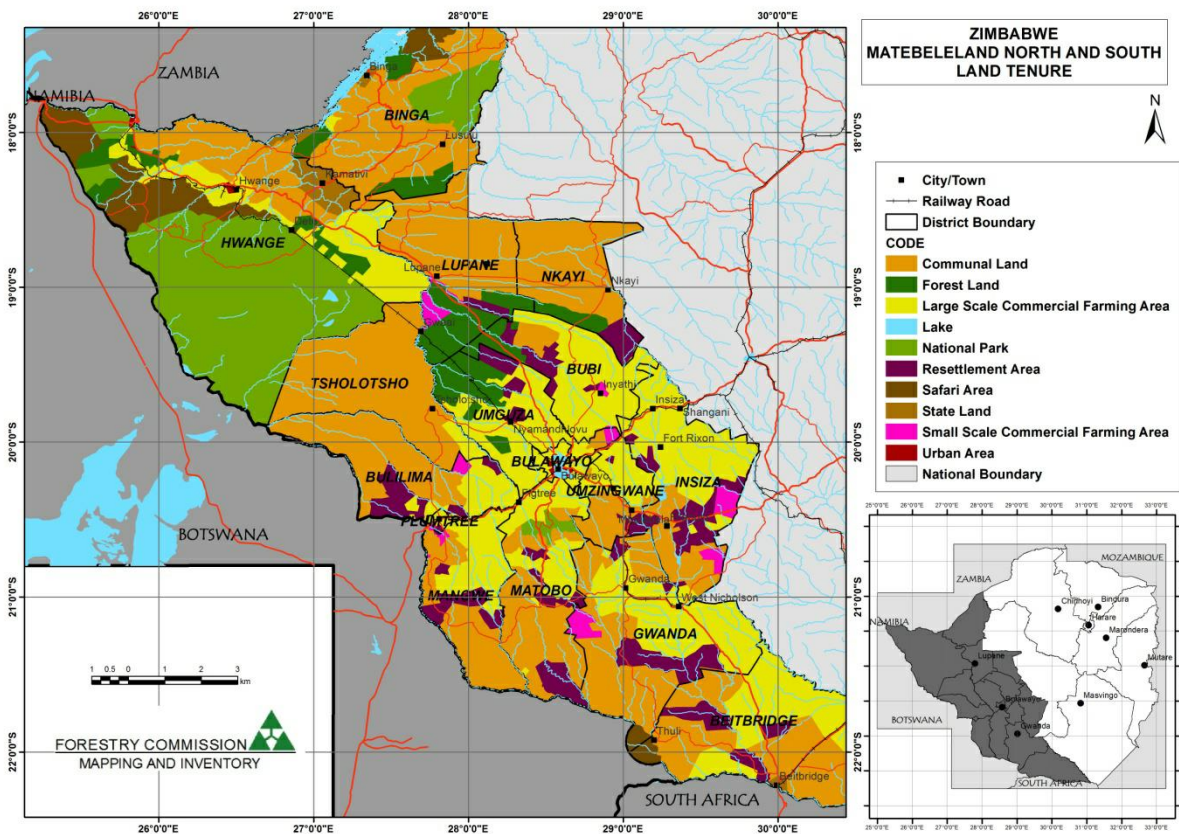
- a. Entrepreneurs who provide appropriate technologies and services along value chains and provide a market for value added products through appropriate PPCPs;
- b. Government agencies that provide enabling institutional and policy frameworks to support natural resource based enterprises and a conducive environment for sustainable natural resource management and law enforcement;

- c. Traditional leadership and community based natural resources management structures that facilitate community level initiatives; and,
- d. Research institutions that provide science based information to support local level initiatives.

Program antagonists include:

They include private sector players who have been buying unprocessed products from communities for value addition outside the source areas. They might feel threatened by the Program's thrust of value addition at source which is intended to increase economic returns to participating communities.

Annex 1: Map indicating the location of the Program districts



Map of the Programme Area