

IMPACT BRIEF



ZIMBABWE

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MARCH 2023

NDC 
PARTNERSHIP

Zimbabwe has pioneered a successful whole-of-government approach to climate action and low-emission national development with comprehensive support from the NDC Partnership.

The country has raised climate ambitions with new economy-wide commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by committing to a 40% greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction per capita by 2030.

Zimbabwe has also prioritized adaptation primarily through the development and launch of a comprehensive National Adaptation Plan, finalized in 2023.

To date, 14 members and 13 other global and local partners have committed over USD 121 million to turn Zimbabwe's nationally determined contribution (NDC) Implementation Plan into on-the-ground action, in part by helping to finance flagship projects in key sectors and vulnerable regions and support green jobs and enterprises. This includes adaptation approaches in the agriculture sector and expanding access to renewable energy (see below).

New climate finance mechanisms, also supported by the Partnership, are helping to mobilize public- and private-sector support for the flagship projects and other sustainable initiatives. For example, the Infrastructure Development Bank of Zimbabwe, accredited to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, has set up a Climate Finance Facility to help with these efforts. Additionally, to catalyze investments in renewable energy for the accelerating progress toward sustainable development goals, Joint SDG Fund is working with local stakeholders (private and public).



CLIMATE FACT FILE

Current and projected climate change impacts include an increase in extreme weather events ranging from tropical cyclones and floods to droughts and heatwaves.

National development is threatened by environmental, economic and social impacts linked to climate change including frequent droughts, soil erosion, deforestation and air and water pollution.

70% of citizens live in rural areas, of whom 80% rely on rain-fed agriculture, making them highly vulnerable to changes in local climatic conditions.

Yields of maize, the country's staple food, are projected to drop by up to 30% by 2030.



ENGAGEMENT AT A GLANCE

NDC Implementation Plan: 2019; Revised in 2022 to reflect updated NDC

Support mobilized: USD 121 million

Members supporting: African Development Bank, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Food and Agriculture Organization, Global Environment Facility, Germany, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, International Fund for Agricultural Development, International Labor Organization, Sweden, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Kingdom, World Bank, World Wide Fund for Nature.

OBJECTIVES LAID OUT IN ZIMBABWE'S NDC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The NDC Implementation Plan lays out more than 100 different actions across a dozen ministries and other government institutions responsible for key sectors. Objectives include:

- › Mainstream and implement NDC priority actions at national and subnational levels through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.
- › Improve the institutional framework and enabling environment to catalyze transformative mitigation and adaptation actions.
- › Create and strengthen mechanisms and capacities to mobilize and manage climate finance at speed and scale.
- › Strengthen capacities to coordinate, monitor and report on NDC implementation.

CHALLENGES AND NEEDS

- › Further NDC and SDG alignment
- › Support for LEDS/NDC Implementation and Investment Framework
- › Support for mainstreaming NDC implementation into private sector plans and processes
- › Need for establishing a Climate Finance Unit in the Ministry of Finance

FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES

Partnership members liaise with government ministries and work with partners including nongovernmental organizations, the private sector and civil society in planning and implementing programs across Zimbabwe that support NDC priorities. Below are highlights of specific initiatives underway with Partnership support.

Transitioning to renewable energy

A national solar thermal technology program will reduce electricity demand by transferring water heating from the grid to solar power. Developed by the UNDP, the project supports Zimbabwe's National Renewable Energy Policy (2020), and funding is still needed. The goal is to support 334,198 square meters of solar thermal coverage by 2026, reducing electricity demand in electrified households by around 195,000 MWh each year and thus saving an estimated 38.4 kilotons of CO₂ per year when fully implemented.

Solar for Health, another national program designed with UNDP support, is providing sustainable and reliable low-carbon energy services to public health facilities. Thus far, 405 healthcare facilities have been equipped with solar systems, and, when complete, the project will not only improve healthcare delivery but also cut CO₂ emissions by 11.5 kilotons per year and help stimulate the renewable energy market.

Sustainably managing forests and drylands

Climate smart agriculture is a cornerstone of Zimbabwe's approach to climate adaptation. The new **Sustainable Landscape Impact Program** will restore 2,150 hectares of vulnerable land and forest and introduce integrated management and sustainable land use practices across a further 172,540 hectares. Developed by the Ministry of Environment, Food and Agriculture Organization, and the NDC Partnership Support Unit and approved for Global Environment Facility financing, the program centers on the Save and Runde catchment areas in southern Zimbabwe. The shift to sustainable production will save an estimated 1.26 million metric tons of CO₂e emissions.

Strengthening early warning systems

Zimbabwe's NDC Implementation Plan highlights the urgent need to strengthen early warning systems to track agricultural threats related to climate change. The **World Food Programme** is now helping improve climate forecasting and information to bolster national and community climate risk management with support from the Green Climate Fund.



Improving water management

The UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office has identified investments in water and energy infrastructure and management that will reduce risk to vulnerable populations. Following the feasibility studies, four vulnerable districts — Chivi, Insiza, Binga and Chipinge — will benefit from a £12 million investment that will support the development of climate-resilient and renewable energy infrastructure in vulnerable communities of Zimbabwe to enable continued access to water for productive and household use, including during droughts and floods, and improved access to clean and affordable energy to support economic activities with the intention of supporting more sustainable livelihoods.

FURTHER READING

Zimbabwe's Partnership Plan

[Learn more](#)

Partnership in Action report

Zimbabwe – Increasing private-sector engagement

[Learn more](#)

ABOUT THE NDC PARTNERSHIP

The NDC Partnership brings together more than 200 members, including more than 115 countries, developed and developing, and more than 80 institutions to create and deliver on ambitious climate action that help achieve the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals. Governments identify their NDC implementation priorities and the type of support that is needed to translate them into actionable policies and programs. Based on these requests, the membership offers a tailored package of expertise, technical assistance and funding. This collaborative response provides developing countries with efficient access to a wide range of resources to adapt to and mitigate climate change and foster more equitable and sustainable development.