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**THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**ANNEX 2**

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Republic of Zimbabwe for 2024

**Action Document “Biodiversity enhancement for resilience building in Zimbabwe”**

**ANNUAL ACTION PLAN**

This document constitutes the annual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

## 1 SYNOPSIS

### 1.1 Action Summary Table

<b>1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act</b>	Biodiversity enhancement for resilience building in Zimbabwe OPSYS number: ACT-61917 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	Yes. This action is part of the Delegation’s TEI on “Greener and Climate Smart Agriculture” for Zimbabwe
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	The action shall be carried out in Zimbabwe
<b>4. Programming document</b>	European Union Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) for Zimbabwe (2021-2027)
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results</b>	<b>Priority Area 2: Green Economic Growth</b> <b>Specific Objective 2.1 (SO2.1):</b> To strengthen local governance of infrastructures and natural resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Expected Result 2.1.1.</b> Communities have jointly established plans for the sustainable use, development and preservation of their infrastructure and natural resources</li><li>○ <b>Expected Result 2.1.2.</b> Enhanced supervision and monitoring of the use of local infrastructures and natural resources by local institutions such as local authorities and CSO.</li><li>○ <b>Expected Result 2.1.3.</b> Communities' action plans to preserve and develop their local infrastructures and natural resources or to prevent harm to them are designed and implemented.</li></ul> <b>Specific Objective 2.3 (SO2.3):</b> To preserve and protect specific eco-systems and valorise their assets with participation of local communities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Expected Result 2.3.2.</b> Plans to preserve and restore biodiversity including support of local communities are established and implemented.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Expected Result 2.3.3.</b> Strategies to valorise biodiversity and eco-system services are designed and advertised aiming to mobilise complementary funding for specific eco-systems.</li> <li>○ <b>Expected Result 2.3.4.</b> Technical capacity of all relevant stakeholders involved in natural resources management is improved</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific Objective 2.4 (SO2.4):</b> To increase production and use of clean energy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Expected Result 2.4.1.</b> A plan for cost-reflective Renewable Energy production and supply, including clean cooking, is designed, budgeted and implemented.</li> </ul> <p><b>Priority Area 3: Social Recovery and Human Development</b></p> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.3 (SO3.3):</b> To increase access and promotion of livelihood diversification and entrepreneurship opportunities, including strengthened participation in digital economies for vulnerable women and youth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Expected Result 3.3.2.</b> Digital literacy, VET, entrepreneurship skills and engagement in entrepreneurship activities by vulnerable women and youth enhanced.</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.4 (SO3.4):</b> To enhance food and nutrition security for extremely poor girls, boys, women and men.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Expected Result 3.4.2.</b> Reduced prevalence of food poverty and improved dietary diversity.</li> </ul>
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	Priority Area 2: Green Economic Growth. Sector General Environmental Protections (410), Energy (230); Priority Area 3: Social Recovery and Human Development. Sector Other Social Infrastructure & Services (160).
<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	Main SDG (1 only): SDG-1 Eradication of poverty Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: SDG-2 Zero hunger; SDG-5 Gender equality; SDG-7 Affordable and clean energy; SDG -10 Reduced inequality; SDG-13 Climate action; SDG-15 Life on land;
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	DAC code 43040 – Rural development 10% DAC code 43060 – Disaster Risk Reduction 15% DAC code 43072 – Household food security programmes 5% DAC code 12240 – Nutrition 5% DAC code 14030 – Basic drinking water supply and basic sanitation 10% DAC code 15180 Ending violence against women and girls 5% DAC code 410 – General Environmental Protection 40% DAC code 230 – Energy 10%
<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society - 20000 International NGO - 21000 UN entities - 41000
<b>9. Targets</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance

<b>10. Markers</b> (from DAC form)	<b>General policy objective @</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>	
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Nutrition @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>	
	Biological diversity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Combat desertification @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>11. Internal markers and Tags:</b>	<b>Policy objectives</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
Digitalisation @		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services		YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/	
Connectivity @		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
digital connectivity energy transport health education and research		YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/	
Migration @		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduction of Inequalities @		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Covid-19		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>					
<b>12. Amounts concerned</b>		Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020122			

	<p>Total estimated cost: EUR 26 000 000</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 26 000 000</p> <p>This action is part of the Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Greener and Climate Smart Agriculture, in support of identified climate smart solutions for Zimbabwe's agricultural sector, with a total indicative budget of 212 000 000 EUR. The EU contributes with 134 200 000 EUR. Contributions from Member States are as follows: Sweden: 21 800 000 EUR; France: 17 500 000 EUR; the Netherlands: 700 000 EUR and Italy: 3 800 000 EUR. Switzerland contributes 34 000 000 EUR.</p>
<b>MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>	
<b>13. Type of financing</b>	<p><b>Direct management</b> through Grants (section 4.4.1)</p> <p><b>Indirect management with</b> entrusted entity to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.2</p>

## 1.2 Summary of the Action

Most of the Zimbabwe's nearly 15-million people live in rural areas, highly dependent on livelihoods generated by natural resources, and are affected by diverse climate and economic shocks, including prolonged droughts and floods, and recurrent economic and financial crisis. As a response to this situation, communities are using their immediate environment to obtain the resources they need to survive. This involves over-exploitation of resources, including land, encroachment into protected areas and even poaching, hence generating a vicious circle of environmental degradation that exacerbates conflicts over access and control of resources as well as increasing human-wildlife conflict (HWC). Wildlife attitude surveys reveal that women and men often express quite different attitudes towards wildlife rights and hold distinct views on how to best manage HWC<sup>1</sup>.

The landscape approach provides a holistic and integrated way to address the challenges of biodiversity loss, environmental management and resilience of rural communities in Zimbabwe. It recognizes the interdependence of social, ecological, and economic systems and aims to balance conservation and development objectives by promoting collaboration among multiple stakeholders.

With this approach, the Action is structured around two integrated pillars:

- 1) **Enhanced management of natural resources**, including ecosystems' integrity and the potential environmental services and economic benefits they can produce, promoting sustainable land use practices, developing and implementing adequate land and resources management plans. Calls for proposals will be launched for the implementation of activities under this pillar.
- 2) **Increased resilience levels of rural communities**, by a higher level of income from more diversified sources. This will involve diversification of livelihoods, higher agricultural productivity based on the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices, agro-ecology and improved business models by smallholder women and men farmers based on circular economy principles, including the enhancement of Disaster Risk Management capacities at the local level. This pillar will be implemented through indirect management with an entrusted entity.

Agriculture related activities will be linked when possible with the other EU supported programmes in particular the TEI on Greener and Smart Agriculture: promotion of traditional grains, mechanisation, integration of agro-ecological practices, rangeland management and others. It also integrates comprehensively all aspects of value-chain development in traditional grains, taking into account all the steps of the value chain by supporting agri-business centres, input supplies, processing facilities, aggregation services and cold stores, market access, trade facilitation, support to private investments (through EIB credit facilities, EFSD+ guarantees) and renewable energies. It also

<sup>1</sup> Li, W. and Seager, J. 2023. In wildlife conservation, gender equality brings win-win returns. Development and a Changing Climate. World Bank Blogs online. Accessed through <https://blogs.worldbank.org/climatechange/wildlife-conservation-gender-equality-brings-win-win-returns>

complements research activities under thematic programmes, as well as other trade facilitation support under regional programmes, building synergies between EU instruments.

The activities focus on two particular landscapes: the South East Lowveld (SEL) and the Mid-Zambezi Valley<sup>2</sup>. These two landscapes with world-renowned value for conservation, are both characterised by their vast biodiversity, including outstanding wildlife populations. The improvement of living conditions, support to job creation and sustainable livelihood opportunities will occur while preserving ecosystems and their wildlife. An improvement in the environmental situation should lead to better living conditions and increased economic opportunities due to their close interdependency. The different characteristics of these territories are taken into account, from areas with low human presence and high natural values towards more populated places, by designing activities along a logical gradient of intensification. The selected landscapes host very important populations of a wide range of large mammals. In a context of biodiversity erosion and declining populations of megafauna, they constitute a real stronghold for these species whose populations have been largely decimated all over the African continent.

This action is part of the TEI on “Greener and Climate Smart Agriculture” for Zimbabwe and linked to the TEI on Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in Africa which is part of the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package. It supports the National Development Strategy-1 where Natural Resources Management, Environmental Protection and Food Security are declared National Priorities. It also fits into Priority areas 2 & 3 of the MIP: Green Economic Growth & Social Recovery and Human Development respectively.

It builds on previous EU supported interventions, like the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Programme implemented in 18 districts and the projects implemented in the SEL and the Mid-Zambezi with long standing EU partners. Lessons learned in these actions are orienting the activities to use a landscape approach and to maximise the impact of the programme in the 7 districts pre-identified: Mbire, Hurungwe, Kariba and Binga (in the Mid-Zambezi) and Beitbridge, Mwenezi and Chiredzi (in SEL). The EU has been the reference donor in these areas with bilateral and regional interventions and its position will be reinforced thanks to the TEI approach.

The Action will contribute to the fulfilment of the EU Gender Action Plan 2021-2025 GAP III, in particular to its thematic areas of engagement “Promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women” and ‘Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation”, Likewise, it will contribute to the implementation of the EU Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, particularly on the commitment to supporting countries to improve accessibility of the environment and the EU’s Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024.

### 1.3 Zone benefitting from the Action

The Action shall be carried out in Zimbabwe, which is included in the list of ODA recipients.

## 2 RATIONALE

### 2.1 Context

The European Union is a major traditional partner to the Government of Zimbabwe, providing international technical assistance to the Ministry of Environment on policy and governance elements of natural resources as the National Forest Policy, National Wildlife Policy, National Environmental Policy and Strategy, Forest Act, Parks and Wildlife Act and the Environmental Act. Also in a range of sectors outlined in the 2016 Zimbabwe Social Protection Policy, as well as addressing the major hazards, pillars, principles and measures of wellbeing outlined in its 2022 Zimbabwe National Disaster Risk Management Strategy and its 2015 Resilience Policy and in line with the National Climate Change Response Strategy and the National Climate Policy. The latter strategic frameworks highlight several pressing concerns related to effects of climate change, deforestation, and human-wildlife conflict. In addition, despite abundant resources, the country’s economy has been structurally undermined by economic instability and hyperinflation.

<sup>2</sup> We use in this AD the term Mid-Zambezi that refers to the section of the Zambezi river after Victoria Falls. In Zambia, this stretch of the river is called Lower-Zambezi.

This Action is part of the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027 between the EU and the Republic of Zimbabwe (MIP). The EU's engagement in the area of Green Economic Growth is aligned with the Government of Zimbabwe's (GoZ) National Development strategy (NDS-1) and other GoZ policies including its Nationally Determined Contributions, and is consistent with the European Green Deal Alliances and the Biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies. The NDS' overarching goal is to ensure accelerated, high, inclusive, broad-based and sustainable economic growth as well as socio-economic transformation and development as the country moves towards a "prosperous and empowered" upper middle-income status by 2030 in line with Vision 2030, the African Union's Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP). Similarly, it is aligned with relevant regional policies, like the SADC Biodiversity Action Plan. Equally, it is consistent with the European Green Deal Alliances and synergies will be established with all relevant regional interventions: NaturAfrica, Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme, Blue Africa, Transboundary Water Management. Of particular relevance is the coherence and complementarity with ongoing and future actions from Member States, in particular Sweden, that is adopting exactly the same approach on its resilience and biodiversity protection program.

In addition to the above mentioned, Zimbabwe is a signatory to a large number of international and regional conventions and protocols that promote human rights and gender equality – to name a few – the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); the Beijing Platform for Action and the Beijing +20; the Protocol to the African Charter in Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.

Landscape management approach provides a critical organising framework for addressing the complexities at play across Zimbabwe's diverse agro-ecological assemblage generally, and the proposed target areas specifically. Importantly, landscapes, understood as naturally bounded geographies linked by land and water, provide the most spatially explicit, biophysical and socio-economic context for analysis of management, food, ecological and institutional systems. The proposed approach seeks to build on this, providing a framework within which to assess and respond to productive, conservation, and restorative / rehabilitative constraints and opportunities at multiple scales. The intervention will sequence intensity of interventions along a gradient, from a core area where priority will be given to protection of ecological corridors and biodiversity (usually inside protected areas or safari or hunting areas) towards more heavily intervened land uses. Participative approaches will be fostered, together with the support to local entities<sup>3</sup>. Livelihood interventions will encompass capacity building at different levels and aims at enhancing food security and nutrition, access to services and skills development. It will focus on women, in all their diversity, on youth and other persons living in most vulnerable and marginalised situations (i.e. persons with disabilities), capitalizing on the long experience of previous EU co-funded interventions. In support of all the above, when feasible, an additional component of renewable energy will be deployed.

Most of Zimbabwe's nearly 15-million people live in rural areas (67.7% percent) and are highly dependent on livelihoods generated by natural resources. The economy and food systems are heavily influenced by biophysical factors. Floods and droughts impact poorest populations in rural areas disproportionately as their nature-based livelihoods are increasingly exposed to recurrent extreme climate events. Prolonged macroeconomic crisis, partly caused by a radical restructuring of the agriculture sector in the 2000s due to the abrupt land reform and associated policies, has led to increasing poverty and food insecurity.

In some well-preserved natural areas, protected or not, human wildlife conflict (HWC) is rife, affecting communities' livelihoods, security and sustenance. This is exacerbated by climate change effects, thus the need for resilience building in communities. A socio-economic profile of three districts in Mid- Zambezi landscape (Mbire, Hurungwe and Muzarabani) shows that 74% of the households can be classified as poor, and that nutrition is the most important form of deprivation, accounting for over 30% of multi-dimensional poverty in all the three districts. Cooking/heating fuel was identified as one of the critical problems, reflecting an overreliance on forest-based fuel forms. Water scarcity is a common problem in these districts. Women and female-headed households, in particular, experience a

<sup>3</sup> Another action pipelined in current NDICI programme focuses on promoting transparency and accountability of local entities: Synergic effects will allow to deploy the four basic principles of tackling inequality.

disproportionate HWC burden due to their high vulnerability to health and economic losses<sup>4</sup>. The intervention will encompass a suite of climate-adaptation elements, linked to decreased vulnerability of rural communities to climate-exacerbated factors already described. Climate change mitigation actions will focus on decreasing pressure over natural forests<sup>5</sup>, combined with the use of renewable energies and will also get a contribution from increased soil carbon content thanks to soil health practices and agroecology.

The EU is the reference actor and donor for wildlife conservation interventions in Africa through its strategy defined in the "Larger than Elephants" document since 2016. Furthermore, it is the preferred partner for interventions in the two selected landscapes as reflected in the requests for support from ZimParks, in the dialogue with the Ministry of Environment and with the project implementing institutions on the ground. The EU has funded actions through regional (NaturAfrica and Sustainable Wildlife Management) and bilateral programmes in these landscapes, which are part of two important Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas (TFCA). Through bilateral projects the EU has funded interventions in transboundary natural resource management both in the Mid-Zambezi and Gonarezhou National Park and surrounding areas. The co-management model in Gonarezhou is the reference for national authorities given its success and the model has been replicated in Matusadona National Park and is being explored for the management of Hwange National Park.

Two major landscapes were identified for interventions that will strengthen resilience of communities and enhance natural resources management:

**South East Lowveld (SEL).** The South East Lowveld region lies within agro-ecological region V<sup>6</sup> of Zimbabwe where dryland agriculture is severely constrained by the low rainfall and attempts to practice it in traditional ways give rise to serious land degradation. The livelihoods of the majority of rural households therefore require significant subsidization in the form of earnings remitted from other areas along with frequent food aid. No single sector of economic activity in the Lowveld can be expected to resolve the overall situation of declining natural capital and decreasing food security, especially in the face of climate change: a diversified economy is essential. Reliance of subsistence communities on inappropriate, unimproved dry-land slash and burn agriculture, coupled with inappropriate crops (priority is still given to maize despite its unsuitability to this agro ecological zone), means that annual crop failures have become the norm in this landscape resulting in chronic food insecurity and malnutrition. Of particular relevance for this action is the so-called *Sengwe-Tchipise Wilderness Corridor*. This ecological corridor connects Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe with Kruger National Park in South Africa. Zimbabwe signed the treaty to establish the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park formally committing to establish a wildlife corridor linking the Kruger and Gonarezhou National Parks<sup>7</sup>. Despite the Sengwe Tchipise Corridor having been designated in 2002 with a comprehensive land-use plan agreed and gazetted in 2009, an EU-funded assessment of the corridor conducted in 2020-2021 found that in fact very little progress had actually been realised in developing the ecotourism and livelihood development plans promised to local communities.

**Mid Zambezi Valley (MZV).** The Mid Zambezi Valley landscape covers 12,774 km<sup>2</sup> of protected area (PA) including five Safari Areas (Chewore, Hurungwe, Dande, Doma, and Sapi), two recreational Parks (Chinhoyi Caves and Lake Kariba), two National Parks (Mana Pools and Matusadona) and surrounded by the Hurungwe, Mbire, Muzarabani and Makonde rural districts. It is host to a wide range of large mammals and carnivores. Mana Pools National Park (MPNP) forms the core area of the Mid Zambezi Valley Biosphere Reserve, a World Heritage Site and it is designated as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance.

<sup>4</sup> UNDP (2018). Strengthening Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management and Climate-Smart Landscapes in the Mid to Lower Zambezi Region of Zimbabwe: Project Document for nationally implemented projects financed by GEF Trust Fund

<sup>5</sup> UNDP (2022) reported 1.64% as the deforestation rate for Zimbabwe. Main direct drivers of deforestation are firewood collection, new settlements, agriculture, wildfires and tobacco curing.

<sup>6</sup> Zimbabwe is divided into five agro-ecological regions based on a combination of factors including: rainfall regimes, temperatures, quantity and variability of average rainfall as well as soil quality and natural vegetation. The suitability of cropping declines from Region I to Region V. In regions IV and V rainfall is below 650 mm per annum. Regions I, II and III have climatic conditions for intensive crop and animal production, while regions IV and V are only suitable for extensive livestock production (not for agricultural production in absence of irrigation).

<sup>7</sup> The Presidents of Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe signed the international Treaty for the establishment of Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park in 2002.

The landscape also forms part of the proposed Lower- Zambezi-Mana Pools (LOZAMAP) Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) composed of the Mid- Zambezi National Park (LZNP, 4,092 km<sup>2</sup>) in Zambia, and MPNP in northern Zimbabwe (2,196 km<sup>2</sup>) as well as part of the proposed Zimbabwe-Mozambique-Zambia (ZIMOZA) TFCA to the east. The Zambezi River is central to the Mid Zambezi landscape that shares natural resources and wildlife corridors with Zambia and Mozambique. This heightens the importance of adopting an integrated landscape approach and synchronising national conservation priorities for effective cross-border coordination and collaboration though the action will concern only the Zimbabwean side of this landscape. There will be a focus on law enforcement and joint patrolling of the area, together with actions to foster tourism and overall capacities from ZimParks.

## 2.2 Problem Analysis

Zimbabwe's richness in terms of biodiversity faces several challenges to its sustainability and adequate development, the main problem being the **accelerated competition for land and natural resources** between humans and wildlife. Protected areas are not large enough on their own to fully sustain populations of wide-ranging wildlife species or to allow ecological and evolutionary processes to adequately buffer against extreme weather events, demographic pressure, and anthropogenic environmental impact and climate change. The large Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) that have been initiated cut across mixed-land-use landscapes with a view to deepening genetic pools and increase international cooperation in sustainable green economic development and wildlife trade.

Zimbabwe's biodiversity, together with its stunning natural landscapes, make a key tourism drawcard. In 2019 tourism accounted for 6.3% of GDP (only 1.7% from protected areas) and 3.7% of national employment. The main tourist attraction in the country for foreign visitors is the natural parks and an essential source of income, employment and foreign exchange. Tourism receipts declined by some 70% in 2020 coinciding with the SARS-CoV-2 virus Covid-19 Pandemic. Trophy hunting makes an important contribution to conservation in Zimbabwe, mainly in state conservancies, safari areas, CAMPFIRE (*a national programme that helps rural communities manage natural resources for their own local development, mainly through hunting*) areas and communal lands and wildlife ranches. However, off-take has been declining since year 2000 and related revenues by 30% over the 5-year period 2015 to 2020. Areas allocated for hunting are moving to non-consumptive tourism (e.g. photographic tourism) and CAMPFIRE structure is dysfunctional. However, communities are not fully benefitting from this important sector. There are **growing clashes between rural populations and wildlife** exemplified by the increase in human-wildlife conflicts: in addition to the destruction of crops and death of livestock, the dead, maimed or injured in rural areas are creating a negative perception of coexistence with wildlife. Rural communities are not finding benefits in biodiversity protection and it is essential to break this pernicious dynamics. In case of poaching, evidence suggests that most poachers are men: in most studies, men comprise more than 90% of persons involved in illegal wildlife trade offences. In resource-based communities, women participate in illegal wildlife trade in several ways, often by folding it into their traditional roles as small traders and market sellers. There is a potential to combat illegal wildlife trade in developing cohorts of women, in their diversity, to act as field agents and conservation champions in national parks and protected areas<sup>8</sup>.

Increasing human populations around protected areas and increased demand for resources are a problem for the proper functioning of **wildlife corridors** connecting distant landscapes. Ecological corridors are essential for conservation and also for reducing pressures on specific sites. A key approach is therefore to strategically set up effective conservation corridors to isolated wildlife populations, habitats, and ecosystems as drivers of sustainable livelihoods and green economic growth. This requires an integrated approach to address broad-ranging interests that arise in opening up animal migration biological corridors within the context of climate change and the management of water catchments, wildlife conservation, and sustainable community development. Advancing gender equality is central of the integrated approach, along with an emphasis on inclusive, participatory landscape planning in partnership with local communities. Both women and men make key contributions across commodity value chains, agricultural landscapes, and forest sectors as farmers, workers, processors and entrepreneurs. Their roles differ according to the

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<sup>8</sup> Li, W. and Seager, J. 2023. In wildlife conservation, gender equality brings win-win returns. Development and a Changing Climate. World Bank Blogs online. Accessed through <https://blogs.worldbank.org/climatechange/wildlife-conservation-gender-equality-brings-win-win-returns>



region. However, women who are too often dependent on forest and farming landscapes face many obstacles moving out of poverty<sup>9</sup>.

Zimbabwe hosts the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest population of African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) – only after Botswana- and very important populations of other iconic species, like black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*), white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum*), big cats (*Panthera sp.*) and wild dogs (*Lycaon pictus*) to name only a few. In a context of biodiversity erosion and declining populations of megafauna, the selected areas constitute a real stronghold for these species whose populations have been largely decimated all over the African continent.

The rural populations in the indicated intervention areas share the general characteristics of vulnerability of most of the country's farmers and only a small fraction produces a surplus in excess of their household immediate needs. In addition to some 1000 corporate and commercial farmers each with some 1500 hectares on average, since the 2000 land reform, there is a category of only some 30,000 resettled and small-scale women and men farmers scattered across the country that progressively produce significant quantities for the market and increasingly become part of the commodity value chains. In fact the districts selected for intervention are identified as some of the most vulnerable in the country and were the basis for the selection of the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF) programme.

Poverty continues to be one of the major underlying causes of **vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity** as well as precarious livelihoods in Zimbabwe. According to the ZIMSTAT Poverty, Income, Consumption and Expenditure Survey 2017 report, 70.5% of the population were poor whilst 29.3% were deemed extremely poor. The macroeconomic situation remains volatile due to parallel market exchange rates that are the main drivers of price increases in the local currency in both formal and informal sectors. This is impacting livelihoods and access to food, especially among poor households. Zimbabwe's predominantly semi-arid climate is extremely variable, with shifting rainfall patterns, droughts and floods exacerbated by substantial environmental challenges including land degradation, deforestation and inadequate water quantity and quality. Climate stressors affect agriculture and food and nutrition security, disproportionately affecting women and girls.

About 80 percent of agricultural production is rainfed and thus **highly vulnerable to drought**, resulting in strong annual fluctuations in, and overall decreasing levels of, national maize (main staple in the country) production over recent decades. The food system in Zimbabwe is characterized by a sharp trend of increasing cereal imports since 2000, in a context of a steadily increasing population and a general decline in per capita food supply (daily kcal) in all foods, except vegetable oils (sunflower and sesame) which have tripled since 2007. The production of cereals, beef and milk have remained largely unchanged over the past 20 years. Production of fruits, vegetables, roots and tubers have increased steadily since 1980, and the production of poultry, eggs and goats has risen rapidly over the past 20 years. However, increases in these products have been insufficient to keep pace with the growing population. The importance of Oil Crops and Livestock Feeds to the Zimbabwe food economy is highlighted by significant increases in both their production and the imports since 2000.

The Zimbabwe National Agriculture Policy Framework (2018-2030) notes that while the land reform and resettlement programme created a new and more equitable structure of landownership, control and use in Zimbabwe, **numerous challenges remain within the domain of land management and administration**. Key challenges persist such as farmland tenure insecurity and lack of access to capital in a high-risk business environment, poor crop diversity a general lack of value addition, structural bottlenecks in input/output markets, land underutilization, and low productivity.

Effects of protracted and complex crises, including climate change, are not gender neutral, as women and youth, in their diversities, are typically among the highest risk groups. Key factors that account for the differences between women's and men's vulnerability to such risks include gender-based differences in time use, access to assets and credit, treatment by formal institutions which can constrain women's opportunities, access to policy discussions and decision making. Systematic collection of sex-disaggregated data for policy change is one of the key avenues to address the issue and this Action has the potential to contribute to the overall improvement.

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<sup>9</sup> GEF, 2022. How gender equality can make landscapes more sustainable. The Global Environment Facility online, accessed through <https://www.thegef.org/newsroom/feature-stories/how-gender-equality-can-make-landscapes-more-sustainable>

Another critical issue for rural areas is **access to energy in general and to electricity in particular**. Zimbabwe is well endowed with a wide range of energy sources including hydropower, coal, wood fuels and renewable sources. However, its potential is not fully developed and there is an **energy deficit** in the country, which is much more pronounced in rural areas.

Zimbabwe's energy needs are much greater than installed capacity - 2300MW - can cover. Wood fuel accounts for over 61% of total national energy consumption. In rural areas, 94% of cooking energy requirements is from wood fuels, mainly firewood, and in the urban areas, 20% wood fuel for cooking. However, most of the rural areas are facing a wood fuel shortage due to the clearing of land for agriculture and unsustainable firewood harvesting.

**Zimbabwe's electricity penetration rate of 40%** leaves a great part of the country's population in the dark. Access to electricity currently stands at about 40% (78% urban and 16% rural) affecting directly the access to clean water, storage of food, internet connection, phone communication and other essential services. A majority – i.e., 73% - of urban households use electricity for cooking compared to only 6% of rural households. Zimbabwe's Renewable Energy Policy (NREP) aims to build the country's renewable energy capacity of 1,100 to 2,100 MW between 2025 and 2030 or 16.5 to 26.5% of the total generation from renewable energy sources. The renewable energy sources are solar, small-scale hydro, wind, geothermal and biomass which includes bagasse (sugarcane based), agricultural waste, energy crops, sawmill waste, biogas and forestry waste. Large hydropower potential exists mainly along water courses and in land dams.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

- **Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, Climate and Rural Development.** Its mission is to promote and sustain a viable agriculture sector in a changing climate. It receives the biggest allocation in the National Budget and it is the key player in rural areas. Despite its abundant resources it is not capable to address the numerous challenges and it requires support from international donors. It will be lead by the future Resilience Platform to coordinate resilience actions in the country.
- **Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry.** Its mission is to manage, conserve and promote the sustainable use of natural resources and facilitate the delivery of high quality tourism products that contribute to the economic development of Zimbabwe. With growing importance in the country, it has benefitted from technical assistance from the EU at the governance and policy level in the past. It is the key player for natural resources management although with limited budget.
- **Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development.** Its mission is to formulate and implement policies and programmes for women's empowerment, gender equality, resilient communities, MSMEs, and cooperatives' development. Concerning its mandate in climate change policies, it supervises the increase of gender responsiveness of the environment and natural resources management strategies and in climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives.
- **Environmental Management Agency, Zimbabwe Parks & Wildlife Management Authority (Zimparks) and the Forestry Commission.** These three parastatals entities, under the umbrella of the Ministry of Environment, have specific responsibilities in the environmental sector, from policy formulation to direct management. The three parastatals count with a good number of professionals but the financial situation is critical as the funds received from the budget are minimal, not enough to cover their minimal expenses. They are mandated to be self-sustainable from the financial point of view but this is not happening yet and external support is essential.
- **Rural District Councils (RDC):** the 60 RDC are mandated to provide social services (health and education), infrastructure development, provision of all-weather trafficable roads, and maintenance of existing roads, environmental management, spatial planning and development control within its area of jurisdiction. The action will target 7 RDC. RDC are usually underfunded considering their mandates. RDCs are key partners for interventions in rural areas.
- **Gonarezhou and Matusadona Conservation Trusts.** These two entities are formed by Frankfurt Zoological Society and Zimparks for Gonarezhou National Park and African Parks and Zimparks for Matusadona National Park for long term co-management of these areas. Well-funded, they don't usually require financial support for their actions within the protected areas. They usually request support for actions with the communities at the border of the areas, out of their mandate.

- **Peace Parks Foundation (PPF).** PPF has signed an agreement with Zimparks for the co-management of the Greater Mana Pools area that includes the national park and other protected areas, with the goal of setting a Mana Pools Conservation Trust.
- **UN agencies.** They are obviously essential actors in various areas of in-country cooperation and the EU partners with many of them for interventions related to agriculture, health, resilience, humanitarian aid and others. The main agencies associated with the areas of intervention of this project with a presence in the country are UNDP, FAO, UNICEF and WFP.
- **Embassies and other donors.** There is a wide range of third country donors supporting Zimbabwe. In terms of the amount of resources mobilised, the United States stands out for its relevant interventions in rural areas, having shown interest in greater coordination of activities with the government and other donors. In terms of resilience and environmental projects, Ireland has already availed initial funding for a joint resilience building programme, to complement EU efforts. Sweden and France are part of the TEI on climate smart agriculture, encompassing this action. Collaboration with Switzerland and UK, with which the EU is partnering in various interventions, are noteworthy.
- **Department for Civil Protection and Food and Nutrition Council.** Both are critical actors in the context of Disaster Risk Reduction and vulnerability reduction in rural Zimbabwe.

### 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

#### 3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of this action is to contribute to the economic and social well-being of Zimbabwean citizens while improving the management of natural resources in the South East Lowveld and the Mid-Zambezi.

The Specific(s) Objective(s) (or outcomes) of this action are to:

**Specific Objective 1:** Improve natural resource management and reduce human-wildlife conflict (HWC) with a gender balance and inclusive participation of local communities.

**Specific Objective 2:** Increase resilience of targeted local communities, particularly bottom 40%, women and youth in all their diversities, through livelihood diversification and entrepreneurship opportunities reducing vulnerability to environmental and climate risks and disasters.

The **Outputs** to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives are:

**1.1.** Contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1) Enhanced management tools for participative conservation  
**1.2.** Contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1): Enhanced capacities of Community-based organizations (CBOs) and Ward Environmental committees in natural resource management

**2.1.** Contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2): Enhanced sustainable livelihood and entrepreneurship opportunities for local communities, with a focus on the most vulnerable.

**2.2.** Contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2): Increased access to renewable energy for public facilities, agriculture and local businesses.

**2.3.** Contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2): Improved availability of disaster risk management (DRM) tools for local authorities, including crisis modifiers in times of shocks.

#### 3.2 Indicative Activities

##### **Activities relating to Output 1.1: Enhanced management tools for participative conservation**

- Capacity strengthening of Community Based Organisations (CBOs), including those representing persons with disabilities (PwD) ensuring gender-balanced and meaningful participation in the preparation and implementation of management plans at ward level and in community conservancies.
- Development and implementation of local land use plans in order to attract investment for biodiversity and natural resources conservation.

- Support to the CAMPFIRE<sup>10</sup> reform for the devolution/transfer of management capacities and resources to rights holders (communities) in close coordination with the Sustainable Wildlife Management programme.
- Identification and protection of existing ecological corridors for proper connectivity.
- Support to environmental law enforcement operatives and judicial actors in both landscapes, including enhancing cross-border collaboration.
- Resourcing and coordinating capacity development, improving landscape governance and management through support to update and develop species and protected areas general management plans.
- For the South-East Lowveld area and the Sengwe Tchipise Corridor in the Great Limpopo Trans-Frontier Conservation Area and communities neighbouring Gonarezhou National Park:
  - o Development of infrastructures for eco-tourism and natural protection.
  - o Establishment of partnerships for effective biodiversity conservation, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, animal control and natural resources management.
  - o Promotion of enterprise and commercial partnerships, including PPP, for long-term sustainability.
  - o Facilitation of payment for ecosystem services and other biodiversity and/or carbon credit systems will be promoted (e.g. REDD+<sup>11</sup>).
- For the Mid-Zambezi valley:
  - o Rehabilitation of ZimParks infrastructure (focused on Mana Pools but covering a wider area) and tourism facilities.
  - o Analysis, design and consolidation of an inclusive business model for the landscape.
  - o Implementation of the management plan.
  - o Facilitation of Community-based Natural Resources Management programmes in selected districts of the Mid-Zambezi valley in relation with CAMPFIRE.

**Activities relating to Output 1.2: Enhanced capacities of Community-based organizations (CBOs) and Ward Environmental committees in natural resource management**

- Development of tools for the development of comprehensive, digitalised data-gathering and reporting of up-to-date information by national authorities, mainly ZimParks.
- Gender and disability sensitive monitoring, evaluation and adaptive management of information relating to green economy and conservation activities.
- Support to local authorities and CBOs and linkages with Government agencies to implement sectorial plans: Local Environment and Climate Change Adaptation action plans, HWC interventions (e.g. tracking and management of problematic individuals, deterrent measures as chili cultivation and bee-keeping, habilitation of alternative water points for wildlife in areas of high conflict) and others, including adequate gender and disability balanced staffing and trainings.

**Activities relating to Output 2.1: Enhanced sustainable livelihood and entrepreneurship opportunities for local communities, with a focus on the most vulnerable.**

- Promotion of risk-informed livelihoods and economic activities diversification with a strong focus on addressing gender, disability and other and inequalities (employment creation, asset accumulation, and improved social and human capital) with a focus on environmental sustainability and protection of natural resources including biodiversity and soil/land resources.
- Facilitation of access and links to off-farm activities, including vocational skills training and entrepreneurship.
- Establishment of linkages with private sector and piloting of investment blueprints in high potential areas, commercial viability of services and products derived from biodiversity resources, including:
  - o Tourism and hospitality industry.

<sup>10</sup> Zimbabwe's Communal Areas Management Program for Indigenous Resources –CAMPFIRE- established an innovative approach by ensuring benefits for communities derived from non-consumptive and consumptive tourism (especially safari hunting). Currently, hunting benefits are mostly received by RDCs as they are nominated as “appropriate authority” with communities often not profiting from the exploitation of the natural resources.

<sup>11</sup> REDD+ stands for ‘Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation’. Is a UN Programme negotiated in 2005 with the objective of mitigating climate change through reducing net emissions of greenhouse gases through enhanced forest management in developing countries.

- Support for Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP).
- Sustainable agro-ecological climate-smart and resilient agriculture value chains, such as those for elephant-friendly chili and honey, mushroom, quinoa and sesame, or traditional grains and export-oriented horticulture.
- Where suitable, promotion of inclusive, climate adapted, viable and sustainable value chains, (drought-tolerant bio-fortified seeds, locally produced bio-inputs)
- Support to veterinary services (dipping and animal health services).
- Reinforcement of market linkages and financial inclusion approaches and models.
- Agro-processing and support to agriculture services cooperatives will be targeting the youth.
- Establishment of synergies with the TEI on Greener and Smart Agriculture.

**Activities relating to Output 2.2: Increased access to renewable energy for public facilities, agriculture and local businesses.**

- Renewable energy investment in eco-tourism facilities, agricultural centres and other public infrastructures (e.g. schools, health facilities).
- Support to Renewable energy investments in selected communities to reduce deforestation practices, with a focus on the most vulnerable.
- Setting solar powered electric installations, solar pumps, drip irrigation and fuel-efficient cook stoves.

**Activities relating to Output 2.3: Improved availability of disaster risk management (DRM) tools for local authorities, including crisis modifiers in times of shocks.**

- Support to the implementation of harmonized DRM templates at local and district levels, and subsequent early warning and implementation of preparatory, anticipatory and response actions.
- Strengthening of complementarity between existing meteorological protocols and traditional weather forecasting sources for Early Warning Systems.
- Integration of climate risks and HWC risks into agricultural planning and implementation, especially in preparation of and response to the lean season or to climate-related shocks at district, ward and smallholder community levels.
- Provision and deployment of crisis modifiers to cater for anticipatory actions and first responses to emergencies as additional agricultural inputs (drought resistant varieties, management of carrying capacities and others), acceleration of actions and other emergency measures in accordance to the specific emergency.

The commitment of the EU's contribution to the Team Europe Initiative to which this action refers, will be complemented by other contributions from Team Europe members. It is subject to the formal confirmation of each respective member's meaningful contribution as early as possible. In the event that the TEIs and/or these contributions do not materialise, the EU action may continue outside a TEI framework.

### 3.3 Mainstreaming

**Environmental Protection & Climate Change**

**Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening** (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category B (not requiring an EIA, but for which environment aspects will be addressed during design).

**Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening** (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment).

**Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls**

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that all project actions, in particular those related to enhancing resilience, will have a gender perspective, favouring women's leadership and providing specific responses to women's needs in their diversity.

The Constitution of Zimbabwe is considered one of the most progressive in the region. It provides strong legal framework for the rights of women in various sections on gender balance, equality and non-discrimination, rights of women, etc. Zimbabwe is a party to a significant number of international and regional conventions and protocols that promote gender equality and human rights. However, despite all these legal instruments, women face hindrances in the exercise of their rights and gender-based violence is a matter of serious concern.

Zimbabwean women are of key importance to the economic development of the nation. However, they face more challenges than men to participate in rural development programmes. Gender dynamics are ingrained in patriarchal systems and cultural norms and traditions that shape the status of women in Zimbabwe. This is most evident in differences in access to and control of resources, and participation in decision making, rural institutions and development planning.

The action will ensure effective gender inclusion both for the resilience building and biodiversity management components of the programme. From the resilience perspective, the action will promote gender equality by including at least one woman out of four people in community level decision-making structures and increasing the number of women at ward level. The action will target particularly women in the rural areas because they face cultural, political and economic barriers limiting their ability to make decisions about agricultural production, their access to and decision-making power over productive resources. Female-headed households require a special focus as they are more vulnerable to stresses and handle shocks with a different approach. Experiences from previous EU funded programmes –ZRBf and others- show very positive impacts on women empowerment related to management of village savings and lending funds. This is a particular element to be replicated.

In relation to the biodiversity management component, this action will pay particular attention to recognising the role and rights of women in their diversity in relation to landscape management, land use, ecosystems preservation, livelihoods and tackling climate change, in order to fight gender inequalities while ensuring the active engagement of women's human rights organisations in relevant policy dialogues and stakeholder platforms. The action will build on the experiences of previous EU supported projects where women have been effectively incorporated as guardians and defenders of natural resources against threats like poaching. Employment of women (of various age, disability or migration status) and youth will be a priority. The action will pay attention to the multiple disadvantages faced by women based on their age, disability or refugee status and those in socioeconomic difficulties.

The Action is well aligned with the EU Gender Action Plan 2021-2025 (GAP III), in particular with two thematic areas:

- i) Strengthening economic and social rights and empowering girls and women, and
- ii) Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and digital transformation.

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## Human Rights

The country was recently reviewed by the UN Universal Periodic Review (WG 40 in January 2022). It received 264 recommendations and it supported 168 which were adopted by the Human Rights Council 50 (July 2022). More than half of the recommendations considered the area of peace, justice and strong institutions (51%, SDG 16)<sup>12</sup>, others targeted the areas of gender equality (13%, SDG 5), decent work and economic growth (7%, SDG 8, poverty (6%, SDG 1) and good health and well-being (5%, SDG 3).

A human rights based approach (RBA) will be enshrined into the planned interventions, while working in close cooperation with local government to meet its obligations of service delivery. Strengthening capacities of right holders to hold local authorities accountable and to ensure more transparency of service provision are part of the proposed approach. This action strengthens the capacities of the State of Zimbabwe as duty bearer as it has particular obligations and responsibilities to respect, promote and fulfil human rights. The Action in its interventions will pay attention to the situation of persons living in the most vulnerable and marginalised situations (persons living in poverty, persons

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<sup>12</sup> UPR Recommendations as they relate to SDGs, Source: UPR Index accessed through <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/upr/sessions/session40/zw/2022-12-23/Zimbabwe.pdf>

with disabilities, indigenous peoples, persons belonging to ethnic minorities, etc.) It shall leave no one behind throughout the programme cycle and the design process.

The action supports a range of human rights, from participation and freedom of expression, to economic and social rights, including third generation rights such as the right to a healthy environment and the right to access safe water. The Action is designed taking into account the need to uphold national and international human rights and safeguarding obligations, recognising the right of every person, without discrimination, to survival, well-being and development, as well as to be protected from harm.

The action is aligned with the EU's Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024.

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**Disability**

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that all project actions, in particular those related to enhancing resilience and income generation activities, will take into account the rights and specific needs of persons living with disabilities guided by the principle of leaving no one behind. The Action will ensure that the rights of women and men with disabilities are going to be respected, and the envisaged interventions are disability responsive and inclusive.

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**Reduction of inequalities**

This Action is marked as an I-2 against the Inequality Marker. The intervention has been conceived considering the four basic principles of tackling inequality:

Beneficiary approach is embedded into design and implementation: reinforcing CBO and communities, strengthening their capacities for the management of their own natural resources, which will contribute to transparency and fostering of participation. Accountability of duty bearers will be promoted as well. The strong focus on resilience and support to livelihood interventions, including addressing the Human Wildlife Conflict, is mainly concerned with poverty issues, since the persons living in the most socio-economic difficulties and both women and men dwellers of the most remote areas are the most prone to experience this type of conflicts with wildlife.

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**Democracy**

Preserving biodiversity is increasingly considered as contributing to people's security and rights. Involvement of and benefits for rights-holders (local populations) will be one key criterion against which the individual on-the-ground projects will be screened. In conducting all of its target activities and also in working with others, partners should follow the practices of good biodiversity or forest governance principles including: transparency, legitimacy, accountability, inclusiveness, fairness, connectivity, and resilience. Finally, the right to food will also be taken into account throughout the action, by addressing the inter-relation between food security, ecosystem management and climate change.

The Action supports and facilitates the participation of communities in the definition of policies and management plans that affect them, both in terms of the use of natural resources and economic and social development. Apart from this component, no interaction with the democratic process is foreseen.

The Action is aligned with the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024.

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**Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience**

Strengthening resilience, as explained previously, is one of the two main pillars of this AD. By regulating and addressing tensions over competing land uses, as well as access to other natural resources, and providing alternative livelihood opportunities that increase human and ecosystem resilience to climate change and other natural disasters and to food security, the action will contribute to the stability and security of targeted populations, as well as to land-related conflict prevention and management.

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**Disaster Risk Reduction**

The preservation of natural resources on the intervention sites will contribute to the fight against deforestation and its corollaries: drought, erosion, and desertification. Moreover, strengthening the DRM capacities at local level, including

support to preparatory and early actions aftershocks, including for triggering of crisis modifiers to cater for them are part of the activities of this action.

**Other considerations if relevant**

N.A.

### 3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

<b>Category</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)</b>	<b>Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)</b>	<b>Mitigating measures</b>
Risks related to the external environment	Political instability: Elections in August 2023 may create a context of post-electoral violence, which could impact development partner's willingness to re-engage steadily and strongly with the Government or make policy dialogue more difficult.	<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Field activities are targeting local levels of the administration which arguably are less affected by the political situation at central level.  The intervention is designed to give a pivotal role to empowered communities.  In cases of need, strengthen the policy dialogue to avoid interferences in the intervention areas.
Risks related to the external environment	Unpredictable development of the socio-economic situation with negative impact on household income and purchasing power.	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	Integrate flexibility mechanisms to address uncertainties, like enhancing small scale initiatives on access to finance based on hard currency or enhance access to high value markets. Procurement of inputs in bulk quantities through tender will limit this risk up to certain degree.
Risks related to the external environment	Recurrent climatic induced shocks will continue to affect target populations.	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	Climate Change is part of the rural Zimbabwe, so DRM mechanisms will need to be fostered and optimized to ensure adequate prevention, mitigation and responses to shocks. Adequate rationalization of agricultural practices, via promotion of small grains in agro ecological zones
Risks related to interventions, which are not gender-responsive	The lack of gender-responsive context and problem analysis could reinforce existing gender inequalities and non-realization of human	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Use gender-sensitive monitoring, use of sex-disaggregated data, and gender-sensitive indicators. Gender mainstreaming is applied in all phases of the support services.



	rights in the sector, and hinder the efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the Action			
Risks related to the external environment	Political interferences on Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC), and/or pressures to revisit CITES.	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	<p>Fostering support to livelihoods in vulnerable areas ensuring benefits from wildlife are reaped by rural populations.</p> <p>Introducing or supporting Government's strategies on compensation of human losses caused by conflicts with wildlife.</p> <p>Political dialogue enhanced to avoid mixed arguments and misleading communications.</p>
Risks related to the external environment	Insufficient capacity of national institutions, which may also be related to distribution of competencies within the administration.	<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	The Action addresses this through substantial capacity building and support to local levels of the administration, where coordination between different government entities and stakeholders can be easier to materialize.

#### **Lessons Learnt:**

One of the main lessons learnt from the ending 11<sup>th</sup> EDF interventions is the need to coordinate interventions through a landscape approach and avoid isolated sectorial interventions that, despite of occurring in the same landscape, do not interact with each other and opportunities of collaboration were lost.

In this sense, a comprehensive analysis of landscapes and its ecological functionality and linking specialized implementing partners along the landscape will deliver into more coherent and solid interventions, along a gradient of intensification of land uses. Starting from purely conservation-biodiversity management, where human habitation is restricted (including tourism and/or safari industry in some cases) towards some more diversified interventions, based on other uses and different degrees of landscape transformation. This will contribute to long term sustainability and lesser dependency on livelihood-related interventions.

Law enforcement and combatting illegal trade of wildlife needs to come together with the support to the livelihood of rural inhabitants, which has not always been the case. Urgent is the need to avoid communities feeling detached from their wildlife populations due to unresolved human-wildlife conflict (HWC) disputes. Poorest rural areas should be the first to benefit from the existence of healthy wildlife populations and not bear the cost of preserving them, at the expense of their economies or even of individual's personal integrity. The support to government entities in the area of biodiversity conservation needs to cover both central and local level administrations, and has to be linked to the support to rural communities living in the wildlife areas

The support to resilience building of rural populations made use of a donor basket –ZRBF- which has proven to be an adequate vehicle to channel different funding and respond to development challenges in a holistic way. However, ZRBF was a very ambitious programme, encompassing eighteen districts and adding up financial resources amounting to nearly USD 100 million. The budget of this Action is much lower, so a downsizing is required to ensure adequate degree of impact. Moreover, is imperative to synergize interventions and ensure complementarity along the landscapes and between sectors.

The current situation in Zimbabwe justifies the support to local administration: the low level of devolution of funding arriving at local administration levels from estate entities results in shortages of funding and in difficulties to fulfil

respective mandates in the field. Notwithstanding, in many cases are the local administrations the responsible to implement interventions in the domain of natural resources, especially when considering Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) interventions –like CAMPFIRE programme in the past-. The close link between natural resources endowment and opportunities of development for local communities is paramount. Vulnerability of rural populations is determined by exposure to natural cycles and / or processes. With Climate Change exacerbating these dynamics, the support to better management of natural resources must ensure adequate participation from the local level.

In a context of recurrent crisis, due to economy instability compounded by climatic fluctuations, the integration of a fast response mechanism, i.e. the crisis modifier, has proven very useful in the aftermath of shocks. Moreover, in line with ongoing best practices from humanitarian field, an improved mechanism should include anticipatory actions for an early response to shocks. Is this type of synergies that reinforces transition from humanitarian into development-resilience. Therefore, collaboration between social protection, risk management and humanitarian actors should be further strengthened to ensure complementary and reciprocal reinforcement of the different types of actions.

### 3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is based on an integrated landscape approach. It will consider all the elements of a territorial space, together with traditional and/or potential new uses with the aim of increasing the resilience of communities by diversifying their sources of income and decreasing their vulnerability. And at the same time, decoupling that process from the destruction of natural ecosystems, maintaining their ability to generate ecosystem services, and ensuring the integrity of ecological corridors.

The intervention is structured around two integrated pillars<sup>13</sup>:

- i) enhanced management of the natural resources in two targeted landscapes (with emphasis in ecosystems integrity its contained wildlife and the potential economic benefits they can produce) and,
- ii) enhanced resilience levels of rural communities, better prepared, more empowered, with higher level of disposable income originated from more diversified sources, less vulnerable to climate, economic and other shocks and less dependant on humanitarian aid.

The project builds on the experience gained from previously supported programmes such as the ZRBF<sup>14</sup>, the ZAGP<sup>15</sup>, the ILMP<sup>16</sup>, ERVHIZ<sup>17</sup> and other national initiatives, like CAMPFIRE<sup>18</sup>, as well as on the capacities of specialised entities in conjunction with communities and fully supported by other public and private institutions.

The **underlying intervention logic for this action** is that:

**If** all stakeholders, including local administration and communities are capacitated and engaged into more sustainable land use practices, and/or towards alternative and more profitable sources of income,

**and if** better management of natural areas is performed by public entities, including enabling the environment for the creation of economic opportunities by other public and private stakeholders,

<sup>13</sup> The Intervention Logic equally matches the three pillars of the integrated landscape approach promoted by the EU's 'Larger than Elephants' strategy document: 1) conservation pillar; 2) sustainable development pillar & 3) governance pillar.

<sup>14</sup> Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund. EU contributed with EUR 40.1M during the period 2016-2021.

<sup>15</sup> Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme. EU contributed with over EUR 40M from the 11th EDF to modernize several agricultural value chains in Zimbabwe.

<sup>16</sup> Integrated Landscape Management Programme. Developed in the South East Lowveld, in areas of vicinity of Gonarezou National Park, and encompasses environmental protection and resilience building interventions.

<sup>17</sup> Enhanced Resilience for Vulnerable Households in Zimbabwe. With a EU contribution over EUR 12m, it contributes to resilience building efforts in Matabeleland South region.

<sup>18</sup> Zimbabwe's Communal Areas Management Program for Indigenous Resources –CAMPFIRE- established an innovative approach by ensuring benefits for communities derived from non-consumptive and consumptive tourism (especially safari hunting). Currently, hunting benefits are mostly received by RDCs as they are nominated as "appropriate authority" with communities often not profiting from the exploitation of the natural resources.

**and if** adequate land and resources management plans are developed and implemented by communities, including abiding to wildlife areas and ecological corridors boundaries,

**and if** climate smart and more sustainable practices are adopted by small-scale farmers,

**and if** Disaster Risk Management capacities are enhanced at local level,

**and if** provision and adequate use of local infrastructure facilities, enhanced by renewable energy are ensured for key activities implemented under the Action,

**And assuming that**

- Actions are specifically focused in two biodiversity-rich areas, that serve the dual interest of improving the living conditions of highly vulnerable populations and protecting ecosystems (South East Lowveld and Mid-Zambezi), ensuring adequate level of impact and avoiding geographical overspread of interventions,
- Synergies between interventions and their different entry points will materialize (i.e. increased governance at local and community levels, enhancement of rural infrastructures, delivery of key services ...) and with both local and regional dimensions,
- Relevant duty-bearers and key stakeholders (decentralised government authorities, administrations, services, parastatals and community actors) are effectively capacitated to respond better to requirements and responsibilities,
- A locally adapted, sustained, and right-based approach, with a strong focus on gender equality and inclusion of youth population, is a prerequisite to tackle entrenched inequalities, thus critical to the success of the Action;
- Linkages and synergies with other interventions, with shared vision for the targeted landscapes (also related to other EU-funded Actions) in crucial sectors like agriculture, transparency and accountability, support to local authorities and gender will enhance the achievements of targets and objectives of this Action.

**Then the Action will**

- Enhance the integrity and health status of ecosystems, including their connectivity with regional wildlife corridors in the two targeted landscapes, together with improved census of wildlife.
- Improve local communities livelihoods' opportunities and income, based on training and diversification of livelihoods, and higher agricultural productivity based on adoption of climate smart agricultural practices, technology and improved business models by smallholder farmers.
- Increase communities' wellbeing –including for key indicators, like nutrition levels or access to adequate food resources- based on a more secured environment, less prone to impacts by shocks (either climatic or caused by conflicts with wildlife –HWC-), hence decreasing food insecurity levels and the reliance on humanitarian aid.
- Deliver into climate change mitigation, due to lower emission levels and higher rate of carbon sequestration coming from healthier ecosystems status and the provision of renewable energy.

### 3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest.

New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To contribute to the economic and social well-being of Zimbabwean citizens while improving the management of natural resources in the South East Lowveld and the Mid-Zambezi.	<p>1. Proportion of population living below the poverty line disaggregated by sex, age, disability and migration status. (SDG 1.1.1)</p> <p>2. Wildlife densities within the targeted ecological corridors (Sengwe-Chipise and Eastern section of KAZA).</p> <p>3. Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity, as assessed by the Experience-based Food Insecurity Scale (OPSYS key indicator) (SDG 2.1.2) (disaggregated by sex)</p>	<p>1. TBD at the inception phase (2023)</p> <p>2. TBD (2023)</p> <p>3. TBD at the inception phase (2023)</p>	<p>1. TBD (2027)</p> <p>2. TBD (2027)</p> <p>3. TBD (2027)</p>	<p>1. ZIMVAC <i>PIECES (Poverty, income, Consumption, Expenditure survey).</i> <i>ZIMSTAT. FEWSNET</i></p> <p>2. IUCN Red List census</p> <p>3. ZimParks, associated implementing partners and other conservation entities specific reports</p> <p>4. SMART Survey (Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions) (<a href="https://smartmethodology.org/">https://smartmethodology.org/</a>)</p>	Not applicable

Outcome 1	1. Improve natural resource management and reduce human-wildlife conflict (HWC) with a gender balance and inclusive participation of local communities	<p>1.1. Areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under b) sustainable management with EU support (km<sup>2</sup>) (GERF 2.9, b)</p> <p>1.2. Direct revenue generated by public &amp; private operators in Protected Areas (disaggregated by type of operators: public and private)</p> <p>1.3 Deforestation rate at selected landscapes</p> <p>1.4 Number of reported poaching events in areas of intervention.</p> <p>1.5 Number of reported cases of Human-Wildlife Conflict in the areas of intervention.</p>	<p>1.1: 0 (2023)</p> <p>1.2 TBD per area (2023)</p> <p>1.3 TBD at the inception phase (2023)</p> <p>1.4 36 elephants + 11 Rhinos (2023)</p> <p>1.5 1598 (2021)</p>	<p>1.1 TBD (2027)</p> <p>1.2 = 15% (2027)</p> <p>1.3 TBD (2027)</p> <p>1.4 TBD (2027)</p> <p>1.5 1300 (2027)</p>	<p>1.1. Global Forest Watch. Intervention reports</p> <p>1.2 Park Management reports</p> <p>1.3 Global Forest Watch. Intervention reports</p> <p>1.4 ZimParks anti-poaching reports</p> <p>1.5 Zimbabwe Environmental Lawyers Association reports</p>	<p>There is no crisis affecting tourism (pandemic, financial crisis,...)</p> <p>The country maintains its adherence to international treaties and conventions on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and its policy priorities and conservation strategies do not change significantly</p>
Outcome 2	2. Increase resilience of targeted local communities, particularly bottom 40%, women and youth in all their diversities, through livelihood diversification and entrepreneurship opportunities reducing vulnerability to environmental and	<p>2.1. Proportion of targeted HH deemed food insecure in lean season compared with district population.</p> <p>2.2. Average monthly disposable income for HH (disaggregated by sex and age).</p>	<p>2.1. TBD at inception (indicatively ZRBF obtained 39% better-off than overall)</p>	<p>2.1 40% better than overall population (2027)</p> <p>2.2. TBD (2027)</p>	<p>2.1. ZIMVAC. Crop and Livestock assessments</p> <p>Baseline/Endline Outcome and Monitoring survey</p> <p>2.2. Baseline and endline surveys conducted and</p>	<p>- Cooperation with Southern Africa and neighbour countries is maintained.</p>

	climate risks and disasters.	2.3 Percentage of local communities that perceive enhanced security against climate hazards and natural disasters (disaggregated by sex, age and disability)	population) (2023) 2.2. TBD (2023) 2.3 TBD (2023)	2.3 TBD (2027)	budgeted by the EU-funded intervention  2.3 Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention	
Output 1 relating to Outcome 1	1.1. Enhanced management tools for participative conservation	1.1.1. Degree of accomplishment of National Park plans and land use plans for wards and community conservancies  1.1.2. Number of ward land-use plans developed with the support of the EU-intervention	1.1.1. 0 = baseline to be determined  1.1.2 0 (2023)	1.1.1. Yr 5 = Full accomplishment in NP annual operation plans. (Wards TBD) are finalised (2027)  1.1.2 TBD (2027)	1.1.1 Progress reports of EU-funded intervention  1.1.2 Progress reports of EU-funded intervention	Communities are committed to participating in project activities
Output 2 Relating to Outcome 1	1.2 Enhanced capacities of Community-based organizations (CBOs) and Ward Environmental committees in natural resource management	1.2.1 Number of members of CBOs and ward committees trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills in sustainable management practices (disaggregated by sex)	1.2.1 0 (2023)	1.2.1 TBD (2027) M: X F: X	1.2.1 Progress reports of EU-funded intervention	
		1.2.2 Number of ward land-use plans approved and/or implemented.	1.2.2 0 (2023)	1.2.2 TBD (2027)	1.2.2 Progress reports of EU-funded intervention	
Output 1 relating to Outcome 2	2.1 Enhanced sustainable livelihood and entrepreneurship opportunities for local	2.1.1. Number of persons whose resilience (adaptive, absorptive, transformative capacities) have improved with EU support,	2.1.1. 0 (2023)	2.1.1. 160,000 (2027)	2.1.1. Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee	- Lessons learnt from ZRBF adequately inform the design of

	communities, with a focus on the most vulnerable.	<p>disaggregated by sex, age and disability.</p> <p>2.1.2. Number of (b) green jobs supported/sustained by the EU (GERF 2.13, b)</p> <p>2.1.3. Number of women with increased training, financial resources, technology or other resources for sustainable and safe food production, sustainable energy, sustainable transport, and clean water sources, for family consumption or for productive uses. (GAP III)</p>	<p>2.1.2. TBD (2023)</p> <p>2.1.3. TBD (2023)</p>	<p>2.1.2. TBD (2027)</p> <p>2.1.3. TBD (2027)</p>	<p>(ZIMVAC) Assessment Reports Baseline, mid-term and final action assessments to be commissioned by the action</p> <p>2.1.2. Progress reports of EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.1.3. Progress reports of EU-funded intervention</p>	<p>the new resilience programme.</p> <p>- Through a comprehensive gender equality strategy, women and other vulnerable groups are willing to participate in project activities and are not hindered by cultural norms and barriers.</p> <p>- Men and local leaders do not feel threatened by or hinder the active participation of women</p>
Output 2 relating to Outcome 2	2.2. Increased access to renewable energy for public facilities, agriculture and local businesses.	2.2.1. Renewable energy generation capacity installed (MW) with EU support (GERF 2.4)	2.2.1 (2023)	2.2.1. TBD (2027)	2.2.1. Progress reports of EU-funded intervention	-
Output 3 relating to Outcome 2	2.3 Improved availability of disaster risk management (DRM) tools for local authorities, including crisis modifiers in times of shocks	<p>2.3.1. Number of wards with disaster early warning and response (EWR) systems functional with the support of the EU-intervention</p> <p>2.3.2. Status of implementation of Crisis modifiers providing early warning and early actions</p>	2.3.1. TBD at inception (indicatively ZRBF obtained 307 wards for 18 districts) (2023)	<p>2.3.1. TBD (2027)</p> <p>2.3.2. Crisis modifiers are in place for target</p>	<p>2.3.1. Progress reports of EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.3.2. Progress reports of EU-funded intervention</p>	Operating environment is supportive enough to allow interventions to impact on household and community resilience capacities.



			2.3.2. Crisis modifiers are not used (2023)	districts (2027)		
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## 4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country

### 4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

### 4.3 Implementation of the Budget Support Component

N.A.

### 4.4 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures<sup>19</sup>.

#### 4.4.1 Direct Management (Grants)

##### **Grants: (direct management)**

##### **(a) Purpose of the grant(s)**

This part entails mainly the achievement of Specific Objective 1 (Improve natural resource management and reduce human-wildlife conflict (HWC) with the participation of local communities, including women), while some specific activities could be related to Specific Objective 2 (Increase resilience of targeted local communities, particularly women and youth in all their diversities, through livelihood diversification and entrepreneurship opportunities reducing vulnerability to environmental and climate risks and disasters)

##### **(b) Type of applicants targeted**

The potential grant applicants are Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

#### 4.4.2 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entrusted entity. The envisaged entity will be selected using the following criteria:

- Proven experience in the implementation of resilience programmes including a disaster risk management component in Zimbabwe at district levels in the last 10 years, and proved capacity to operate in several districts simultaneously.
- Sound financial experience managing multi-donor programmes.
- Effective linkages with relevant ministries and government offices, including Rural District Councils in Zimbabwe.

<sup>19</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu). Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

This part entails mainly the achievement of Specific Objective 2 (Increase resilience of targeted local communities, particularly women and youth in all their diversities, through livelihood diversification and entrepreneurship opportunities reducing vulnerability to environmental and climate risks and disasters), and some complementary activities related to Specific Objective 1 (Improve natural resource management and reduce human-wildlife conflict (HWC) with the participation of local communities, including women).

#### 4.4.3 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

Grants (direct management), as in section 4.4.1, can replace Indirect management with an entrusted entity where this preferred modality cannot be implemented due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control.

The potential grant applicants are Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) with proven and recent experience (in the last 10 years) in resilience building interventions, including Disaster Risk Management in rural areas in Zimbabwe.

Alternatively, indirect management with an entrusted entity as in section 4.4.2, can replace grants under direct management due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control. The entrusted entity will be selected using the criteria described in 4.4.2.

#### 4.5. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

#### 4.6. Indicative Budget

<b>Indicative Budget components</b>	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR)</b>
<b>Implementation modalities</b> – cf. section 4.4	
<b>SO1. Improve natural resource management and reduce human-wildlife conflict (HWC) with the participation of local communities, including women</b> composed of:	<b>10 000 000</b>
Grants (direct management)- cf. section 4.4.1	10 000 000
<b>SO2 Increase resilience of targeted local communities, particularly women and youth in all their diversities, through livelihood diversification and entrepreneurship opportunities reducing vulnerability to environmental and climate risks and disasters</b> , composed of:	<b>15 800 000</b>
Indirect management with an entrusted entity – cf. section 4.4.2	15 800 000
<i><b>Grants</b> – total envelope under section 4.4.1</i>	<i>10 000 000</i>
<b>Evaluation</b> – cf. section 5.2	<b>200 000</b>
<b>Audit</b> – cf. section 5.3	
<b>Contingencies</b>	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26 000 000</b>

## 4.7 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development will provide overall programme coordination. A **Programme Steering Committee** will provide programme oversight, guidance and monitoring and shall be composed of the following members: Permanent Secretaries, or their delegates, from:

- Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, Climate and Rural Development, represented by the Permanent Secretary or his/her delegate
- Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry, represented by the Permanent Secretary or his/her delegate.
- Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development, represented by the Permanent Secretary or her/his delegate
- European Union Delegation, represented by the Ambassador or his/her delegate.

Additionally, a **Programme Technical Coordination Committee** composed by the EU, the Ministry of Lands, the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development, Zimparks and the implementing partners will meet twice a year to coordinate, monitor and provide advice on the implementation of this Financing Agreement and the related contracts.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structure set up for governing the implementation of the action and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

## 5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

### 5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding gender and disability sensitive indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Monitoring and evaluation will be based on indicators that are disaggregated by sex and age groups, and even further when appropriate (disability, minority group, location urban/rural etc.) with a focus on the realisation of rights and the reduction of inequalities. Key stakeholders will participate in the monitoring process whenever possible. All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is considering the principle of gender equality, human-rights based approach, and rights of persons with disabilities including diversified indicators to be disaggregated at least by sex.

The implementing partners will be responsible for data collection, including the preparation of baselines, analysis and monitoring. Annual and final reports will be available to the Steering Committee and to the Technical Coordination Committee for proper action.

Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by income. All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is taking into account inequality reduction. The Distributional Impact Assessment tool (DIA) will be applied, as a data source whenever other sources (national, regional, local data) are not available to monitor whether expected outputs have, to a large extent, benefited socio-economically disadvantaged groups, households and individuals.

The DIA can also be performed at the start of the implementation phase to a) locate where the most vulnerable live and target them geographically; b) identify main drivers of inequalities (e.g. reasons for not accessing some services) c) unveil intersectionalities (e.g. bottom 40 income who are women, children etc.).

## 5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a(n) mid-term and final evaluation(s) may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission via an implementing partner.

The mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to the integration of the resilience and natural resources components and the coordination among the implementing partners.

The final or evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), in particular with respect to the possibility of providing additional support to the biodiversity management component as these type of programmes take a long time to come to full fruition. Recommendations for an exit strategy that will guarantee sustainability will be incorporated.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 2 months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

All evaluation shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach and well as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment and disability inclusion. Expertise on human rights-based approach, disability and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

Evaluation services may be contracted under a framework contract.

The evaluation plan (or component in the foreseen evaluation) should assess the distributional impact of activities undertaken on the socio-economically disadvantaged individuals, households or groups. This can be done through the Distributional Impact Assessment tool (DIA). The DIA analysis looks at the effective targeting of beneficiaries of development interventions, identifying if more than 40 per cent of beneficiaries are at the bottom two quintiles of the income or wealth distribution. It also allows to evaluate whether effective targeting has been done towards women, children and youth or other disadvantaged groups (e.g. ethnic minorities) or at territorial level. Expertise on inequality reduction will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

## 5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

# 6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 “[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)”, it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service

providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

## Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

A Primary Intervention (project/programme) is a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Identifying the level of the primary intervention will allow for:

Articulating Actions or Contracts according to an expected chain of results and therefore allowing them to ensure efficient monitoring and reporting of performance;

Differentiating these Actions or Contracts from those that do not produce direct reportable development results, defined as support entities (i.e. audits, evaluations);

Having a complete and exhaustive mapping of all results-bearing Actions and Contracts.

Primary Interventions are identified during the design of each action by the responsible service (Delegation or Headquarters operational Unit).

The level of the Primary Intervention chosen can be modified (directly in OPSYS) and the modification does not constitute an amendment of the action document.

The intervention level for the present Action identifies as (tick one of the 4 following options);

<b>Action level (i.e. Budget Support, blending)</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single action	OPSYS number: ACT-61917
<b>Group of actions level (i.e. top-up cases, different phases of a single programme)</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#):
<b>Contract level</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	TBD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	TBD
	(...)	
<b>Group of contracts level (i.e. series of programme estimates, cases in which an Action includes for example four contracts and two of them, a technical assistance contract and a contribution agreement, aim at the same objectives and complement each other)</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	