



## Natural Resources Management and climate change adaptation

### Likulu pilot project



The GoZ-UNDP/GEF: **Coping with Drought and Climate Change project** is working with small-holder farmers in Chiredzi district to demonstrate Natural Resources Management as a drought risk management and climate change adaptation strategy. Demonstration site is in Chibwedziva of Matibi II communal lands in WARD 8 of Chiredzi district.

#### Background

In the local Shangani language “*Likulu*” literally means “*does not grow*”. The area derives its name from the stunted but dense Mopane (*Colophospermum mopane*) trees that dominate this area. Rainfall is highly uncertain, droughts are frequent and crop failure is the norm. The locals have long realized that rainfed agriculture is not a viable land-use option for this area, and that climate change may worsen the situation. Inhabitants of Likulu have also noted that their resilience to climatic variability and change can only be sustained by obtaining their needs from a large spatial area, by treating their core resources (wild animals) very conservatively, by possession and nurturing intimate local knowledge and through high social capital in the community. A balanced exploitation strategy in which core resources are not damaged beyond recovery remains crucial. Critical success factors for the project include the low population density, high rate of crop failure (farmers forced by nature to innovate), proximity to National Park (provides a pool of wild animals - elephants, lions, impalas), governance arrangements and tangible benefits in the form of cash and meat. Cash generated from concession hunting has been ploughed back into the development of local schools, purchase of grinding mills and the establishment of a small community shop. The Coping with Drought and Climate Change project is working with farmers in Likulu to enhance Natural Resources Management as both a climate change mitigation and adaptation strategy.

#### Partners and collaborators

Main partners in this initiative include the Environment Management Agency, Chiredzi Rural District Council, CAMPFIRE and the Parks and Wildlife Management Authority of Zimbabwe. Community leaders and the locals are the main drivers of the project.

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