

ANNUAL REPORT

Climate Action
Youth Empowerment
Governance

2025

Youth-Led. Evidence-Based. Community-Driven.



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS

AAZ	ActionAid Zimbabwe
ACBOs	Area-based Community Based Organisations
GGZ	Green Governance Zimbabwe
HIVOS	Humanistisch Instituut voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking
MAYA	Manicaland Youth Assembly
MP	Member of Parliament
SPA2	Strategic Partnership for Agreement 2
ZELO	Zimbabwe Environmental Law Organisation
ZIMACE	Zimbabwe Accountability and Citizen Engagement
ZIMCODD	Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



NYASHA FRANK MPAHLO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“

Throughout 2025, Green Governance Zimbabwe reached more than **3,800** direct beneficiaries across Manicaland Province through programmes focused on **climate and energy, environmental governance, and sustainable livelihoods.**

Dear Partners, Stakeholders, and Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I present Green Governance Zimbabwe's 2025 Annual Report, reflecting on a year of growth, innovation, and impact.

As we marked the first year of implementing our 2025–2027 Strategic Plan, we remained committed to advancing climate justice, inclusive governance, and sustainable livelihoods through youth-led and community-driven approaches. Despite a challenging operating environment, we continued to demonstrate that meaningful change is possible when communities are empowered, evidence informs action, and partnerships are nurtured.

Throughout 2025, Green Governance Zimbabwe reached more than 3,800 direct beneficiaries across Manicaland Province through programmes focused on climate and energy, environmental governance, and sustainable livelihoods. Our work supported the distribution of fuel-efficient cookstoves, expanded access to clean energy solutions, strengthened mining governance accountability, and empowered young entrepreneurs through training, mentorship, and seed funding

One of the highlights of the year was the continued growth of our Climate Youth Hubs in Chimanimani, Chipinge, and Mutare, which have become important spaces for innovation, learning, advocacy, and community resilience. These hubs continue to demonstrate the power of youth leadership in addressing environmental and development challenges while creating sustainable economic opportunities.

We are equally encouraged by the progress made in strengthening citizen participation in governance processes. Through stakeholder dialogues, policy engagement platforms, research, and advocacy initiatives, communities were able to contribute meaningfully to discussions on natural resource governance, climate action, and sustainable development.

These achievements would not have been possible without the unwavering commitment of our staff, volunteers, partners, donors, government stakeholders, community leaders, and the young people who continue to champion transformative change within their communities. To each of you, I extend my sincere gratitude.

As we look ahead, Green Governance Zimbabwe remains committed to building a future that is environmentally sustainable, socially just, and economically inclusive. We will continue to amplify community voices, invest in youth leadership, and advocate for policies and practices that safeguard both people and the planet.

Together, we are not only responding to today's challenges, we are shaping a greener, more resilient future for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Nyasha Frank Mpahlo

Executive Director

Green Governance Zimbabwe



INTRODUCTION

Green Governance Zimbabwe (GGZ) is a youth-led civil society organisation committed to promoting climate justice, inclusive governance, and sustainable livelihoods across Zimbabwe. Founded on the principle that young people must be at the centre of environmental and governance transformation, GGZ bridges the gap between communities, duty-bearers, and policy-makers.

Operating primarily in Zimbabwe, GGZ works at the intersection of clean energy, natural resource governance, and urban food systems - bringing together young women, rural communities, artisanal miners, and urban entrepreneurs to champion evidence-based advocacy and practical green solutions.

The 2025 Annual Report covers the first year of implementation under the 2025–2027 Strategic Plan - a period marked by consolidation of programmatic achievements, strategic organisational growth, and deepened community-level impact across three thematic priorities.

CLIMATE & ENERGY

Fuel-efficient cookstoves, solar installation, agro-forestry and clean energy transition across Chimanimani and Chipinge

ENVIRONMENT & GOVERNANCE

Mining cadastre reform advocacy, stakeholder dialogues, parliamentary engagement and radio outreach in Mutare, Mutasa and Odzi

LIVELIHOODS & FOOD SYSTEMS

Urban food enterprise incubation, youth masterclasses, seed funding and Climate Youth Hubs in Chimanimani, Chipinge and Mutare



ABOUT US

We believe in advancing people-centred public institutions, policies, systems and laws that are established to consolidate and enhance natural resources for the well-being of local communities

Ours is a pan-African story which is inspired by the vision of a continent that is able to sustain itself from natural resources (both below and above ground). Governance Zimbabwe was established in February 2019. The organization which started as an environmental protection movement has established itself as an influential institution that engages in community mobilization, policy advocacy, multi-stakeholder engagement and an innovation hub.

OUR VALUES



INNOVATION

Technological change is undoubtedly one of the keys to ensuring that environmental challenges can be addressed without compromising sustainable economic growth. In order for this GGZ prioritizes the use of innovation to provide the right incentives for the development and diffusion of climate-friendly technologies.



EQUITY

GGZ acknowledges that the quality of being fair and reasonable in a way that gives equal access to natural resources to different groups of people including poor men, women, youths and persons with disability benefits everyone. We base this call on grounds of climate and social justice



TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

GGZ acknowledges that Transparency enables accountability and that to achieve transparency, GGZ will provide information about its activities and governance to all stakeholders that is accurate, complete and made available in a timely way and in different forms. GGZ will be responsible for its actions and has the ability to provide sound reasoning for actions.



INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION

GGZ acknowledges that the quality of being fair and reasonable in a way that gives equal access to natural resources to different groups of people including poor men, women, youths and persons with disability benefits everyone. We base this call on grounds of climate and social justice

OUR STORY

BRIEF HISTORY OF GGZ - 2020 TO 2025

Over five years, GGZ grew from a nascent idea into a recognised actor in climate governance, youth empowerment, and natural resource management in Zimbabwe.

2020	Green Governance Zimbabwe is formally established, focused on promoting environmental governance, youth participation, and community resilience in Manicaland Province.
2021	GGZ launches its first clean energy programme, distributing fuel-efficient cookstoves and providing solar installation training to rural communities in Chimanimani District.
2022	The organisation establishes its first Rural Youth Hub in Chimanimani District - a centre for climate justice advocacy, agroecology demonstration, and sustainable skills development.
2023	GGZ expands to Chipinge District with a second Rural Youth Hub. Mining governance advocacy commences in Mutare, Mutasa, and Odzi.
2024	In partnership with the City of Mutare, MAYA, and HIVOS, GGZ establishes the Mwaka Climate Youth Hub - its first urban incubation centre - in Chikanga, Mutare.
2025	GGZ launches the 2025–2027 Strategic Plan, reaches 3,800+ direct beneficiaries, funds 12 youth enterprises, and catalyses award-winning green innovations.



Urban Futures Mwaka Climate Hub in Chikanga, Mutare - GGZ's first urban incubation centre, established 2024

3 HUBS

Two rural hubs (Chimanimani, Chipinge) + one urban hub (Mwaka, Mutare) operational by end of 2025.

5 YEARS

From 0 to 3,800+ direct beneficiaries across Manicaland Province in just five years.

2025–27

Strategic Plan launched with three thematic priorities and a clear pathway to expanded impact.



DATA DRIVEN ADVOCACY

For accountability
in mining

IMPACT BRIEF 2025 AT A GLANCE

The 2025 reporting period was defined by measurable impact across three thematic areas. GGZ reached thousands of beneficiaries, launched critical advocacy initiatives, and catalysed economic opportunities for marginalised youth and women across Manicaland Province.

3,800

Direct Beneficiaries



144

Cookstoves
Distributed



12

Youth Enterprises
Funded



3

Youth Hubs
Operating



670

Climate Justice
Beneficiaries



4,000

Radio Listeners
Reached



92%

Business Survival
Rate



42%

Youth Budget
Participation



THEMATIC 1 - CLIMATE & ENERGY

CLEAN ENERGY FOR COMMUNITIES

670 beneficiaries across Chipinge and Chimanimani received clean energy support. **144 fuel-efficient cookstoves** were distributed, reducing firewood use from daily to fortnightly purchases. Youth were trained in solar installation, mushroom farming, and agroforestry - creating new income streams alongside climate resilience.



THEMATIC 2 - ENVIRONMENT & NRM

MINING GOVERNANCE ADVOCACY

120 community participants engaged in **4 district** multi-stakeholder dialogues and **1 Provincial Technical Caucus** on the Computerised Mining Cadastre System. A provincial case study based on **20 stakeholder** interviews was completed, and engagement with MPs generated formal parliamentary scrutiny of mining governance practices.

THEMATIC 3 - LIVELIHOODS & FOOD SYSTEMS

CLEAN ENERGY FOR COMMUNITIES

3,065 people reached in Mutare through the Urban Futures programme. **19 youth** completed entrepreneurship masterclasses; **12** received seed funding. **92%** of funded enterprises survived with **25%** securing additional external investment. The Mwaka Climate Youth Hub was established in Chikanga, Mutare - in partnership with City of Mutare, MAYA, and HIVOS.



These results affirm GGZ's model: combining evidence-based advocacy with practical community interventions simultaneously advances environmental sustainability, democratic participation, and economic resilience. The deliberate focus on marginalised groups - particularly young women, rural youth, and artisanal miners - ensured inclusive impact throughout the reporting period.

STRATEGIC PILLARS REPORT FOCUS AREAS

GGZ's 2025 work is organised around four mutually reinforcing pillars that drive systemic change across communities, institutions, and policy spaces.

INNOVATION



- Solar-powered agricultural tech
- Cookstove rollout across districts
- Digital skills for youth entrepreneurs
- Green Hub incubation centres
- Youth-driven climate solutions

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION



- Evidence-based policy research
- Mining cadastre documentation
- Case studies and impact stories
- Parliamentary engagement reports
- Community needs assessments

POLICY INFLUENCING



- Parliamentary mining governance advocacy
- Youth Budget Conference submissions
- Multi-stakeholder policy dialogues
- Radio & media outreach
- National and regional webinars

MOVEMENT BUILDING

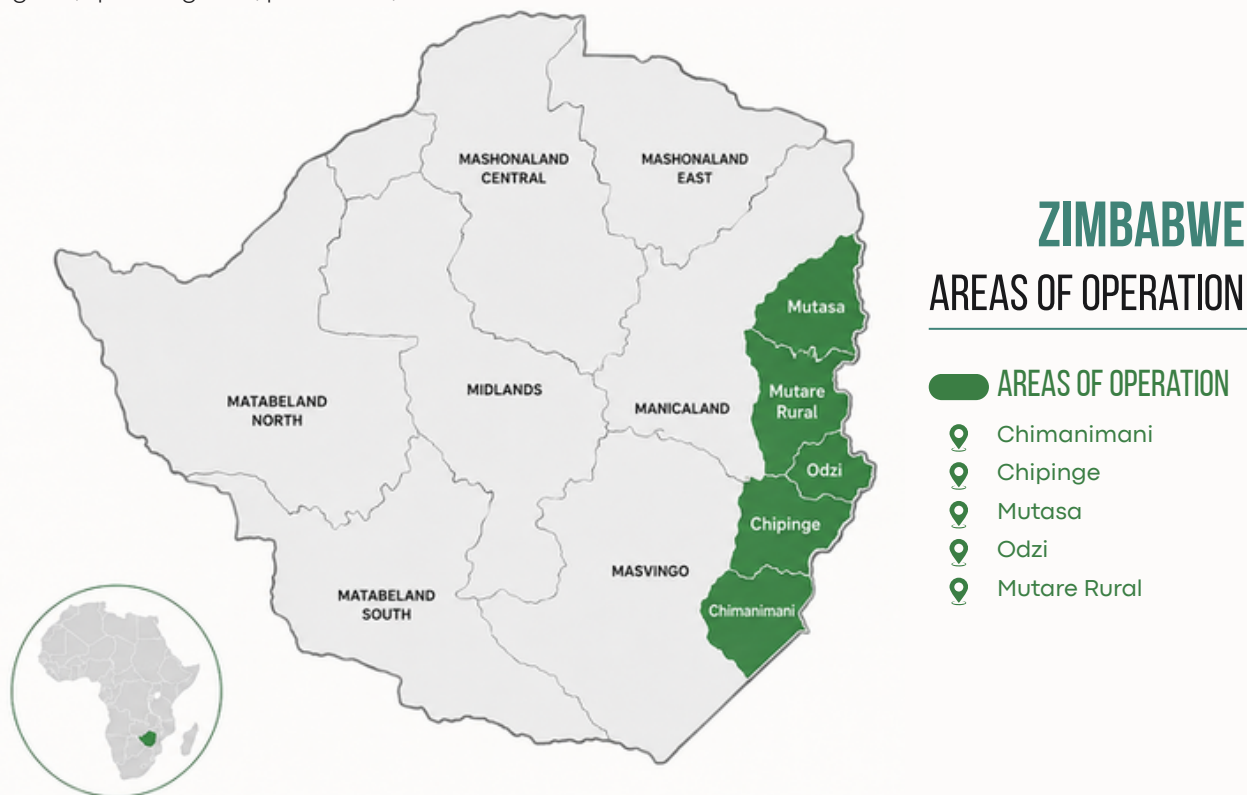


- Youth Champions Committee
- Community climate justice platforms
- SASA Champions programme
- Urban & rural youth hub networks
- Civil society coalition work

WHERE WE WORK

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

GGZ's work in 2025 was concentrated in Manicaland Province, one of Zimbabwe's most climate-vulnerable regions, spanning rural, peri-urban, and urban communities.



DISTRICT	PROVINCE	PROGRAMME AREA	BENEFICIARIES
Chimanimani	Manicaland	Climate & Just Energy Transition	340+
Chipinge	Manicaland	Climate & Just Energy Transition	330+
Mutasa	Manicaland	Mining Governance & NRM	40+
Odzi	Manicaland	Mining Governance & NRM	40+
Mutare Rural	Manicaland	Mining Governance & NRM	40+
Mutare Urban	Manicaland	Livelihoods & Sustainable Food Systems	3,065+

Beyond direct community reach, GGZ engaged nationally through parliamentary advocacy in Harare and internationally via regional webinars connecting practitioners from Zimbabwe, Zambia, Ghana, United States of America and the United Kingdom.



QUANTIFYING OUR REACH IMPACT BY NUMBERS

3,800± Direct Beneficiaries Across all programmes	670 Climate Beneficiaries 453 female, 217 male	144 Cookstoves Distributed in 2025
12 Youth Enterprises Received seed funding	92% Business Survival Operating enterprises	25% Secured Extra Investment Beyond initial grants
19 Masterclass Graduates Entrepreneurship trained	4,000± Radio Listeners Reached in Manicaland	3 Youth Hubs Rural & urban operating
4 Stakeholder Dialogues Convened in 2025	20 Youth Farmers Trained 60% female	24 Policy-Trained Youth Governance participation

GENDER BREAKDOWN WHO WE REACHED

62% FEMALE	38% MALE
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The Green Hub Agroecology Demonstration Garden



Participatory community session at the Green Hub

IMPACT STORIES

Behind every statistic is a person. These are the stories of communities, youth, and women whose lives changed in 2025 through GGZ's work across Manicaland Province.



CLEAN ENERGY COOKSTOVES CHANGING LIVES

In 2025, GGZ facilitated the distribution of **144** fuel-efficient cookstoves across Chimanimani and Chipinge. Firewood lasting one day now lasts two weeks - slashing household costs and freeing women from hours of daily collection.

Beneficiaries also received training in solar installation and solar-powered value addition technologies including dryers, enabling income diversification while advancing Zimbabwe's low-carbon transition.



Youth trained in mushroom farming at the Chimanimani Hub



Fuel-efficient brick cookstove in Chipinge household

SOLAR-POWERED VALUE ADDITION

Youth received training and solar dryers for food preservation and value addition. The solar drier programme reduces post-harvest losses and creates marketable products - generating income while reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

“I am so thankful to the SPA2 project for bringing this stove into my life. It is not just a stove; it is hope for my family and our community.”

— **Rejoice, 28 - Chimanimani Ward 21, SPA2 Beneficiary**





FUNDING DISBURSED FROM SEED GRANT TO NATIONAL AWARD

GGZ disbursed seed funding to **12 Youth Champions**. Standout recipient **Tendai Manyeza**, founder of **Amalgamated Fresh Solutions**, used his **USD 5,000** grant to develop a solar-powered veggie cooler - extending shelf life for smallholder farmers' produce.

He subsequently won the Eight2Five Innovation Hub's Value Creation Challenge, earning an additional **USD 15,000** to scale operations - turning a community grant into a nationally recognised green enterprise.



Value addition workshop at the Chimanimani Hub



Youth value addition session at the Green Hub

“

Now I can manage banking tasks, request quotes, place online orders, and sign documents electronically. Entrepreneurship has brought a huge gain in productivity.”

- **Tendai Manyeza, Amalgamated Fresh Solutions**

TRAINING YOUTH AND WOMEN TRAINED

Training and capacity building remained a cornerstone of GGZ's 2025 programming. Across all thematic areas, hundreds of young people were trained with deliberate gender inclusion and meaningful participation of young women.



19

Youth Reached
through
Entrepreneurship
Masterclass

20

Youth Trained in
Sustainable Farming

24

Youth Engaged in
Policy Influencing

75

Youth Participated in
Food & Environment
Workshops



Field learning: improved seed varieties and climate-smart techniques



Youth tree planting in Chimanimani

A **13-member** Youth Champions Committee provided peer leadership and strategic direction, with **46%** leading food systems and climate resilience initiatives. **42%** of trained youth participated in the 2026 Youth Budget Conference at the Parliament of Zimbabwe.



AGROFORESTRY & NURSERIES

Community nurseries produced hundreds of indigenous and fruit tree seedlings distributed across Chimanimani and Chipinge. Youth and women trained in seedling propagation built long-term environmental stewardship capacity.

HOUSEHOLDS HOUSEHOLDS IMPACTED

YEAR-ROUND PRODUCTION

Solar-powered drip irrigation systems enabled year-round vegetable production at the Green Hubs, reducing water waste and increasing yields for youth enterprises and community households. The 144 fuel-efficient cookstoves reached households directly, with firewood lasting two weeks instead of one day.





DRIP IRRIGATION EFFICIENT IRRIGATION

Efficient irrigation systems supported by solar power created resilient food production even during dry seasons. Tomato, leafy greens, and legume crops generated both food security and income for participating households.

COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Savings across **144 households** represent thousands of dollars preserved - redirected toward school fees, healthcare, nutrition, and community participation for women and girls.

“

Before this stove, I spent a dollar every day on firewood. Now, one bundle lasts me two weeks. This stove has given me peace of mind. It has truly lightened my burden as a mother and wife.”

- Rejoice, 28 — Chimanimani Ward 21

URBAN HORTICULTURE EMPOWERING URBAN YOUTH THROUGH INNOVATIVE HORTICULTURE

FROM STRUGGLE TO STOREFRONT

Tendai Uzande, 28, from Mutare, revolutionised local access to nutrition by offering customised fruit and vegetable packs delivered directly to doorsteps. Her model eliminates long trips to distant markets, making healthy food accessible for urban dwellers.

Before her success, challenging personal experiences left her battling depression. A turning point arrived when she was referred to the Youth Green Transition Project through her church - where a participatory approach gave her a safe space to rebuild.

With support of a solar dryer through a project grant, Tendai expanded into value-added products like pastes and spices. She showcased her innovations at the Good Food and Good Seed Festival — and was offered a formal market store by the City of Mutare, giving her enterprise legal recognition and long-term stability.



“

I had finally found something to be excited about on a weekly basis.”

- Tendai Uzande, Urban Horticulturalist & Youth Green Transition Project Beneficiary

ADVOCACY OUTCOME

Tendai now advocates for other marginalised groups — particularly single mothers — in similar empowerment programmes. Her journey shows how entrepreneurship and policy work hand-in-hand: when a business operates within a legal framework, it gains stability for long-term growth.

OUR ALLIES PARTNERSHIPS

GGZ's impact is amplified through strategic partnerships with civil society organisations, government bodies, and international development partners.



PARLIAMENTARY ADVOCACY ZIMCodd

The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCodd) collaborated with GGZ on budget advocacy, parliamentary engagement, and civic education. Together they elevated youth voice in national financial and environmental policy spaces, and co-facilitated the multi-stakeholder mining dialogues with Members of Parliament.

YOUTH ENERGY & CLIMATE RESILIENCE ACTIONAID ZIMBABWE

ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ) partnered with GGZ to advance youth empowerment, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihoods through support towards the completion of the Youth Energy Centre in Chimanimani. The partnership also facilitated learning and exchange opportunities, including a visit by ActionAid Zimbabwe and SPAIL consortium partners to the Mwaka Hub.



COMMUNITY MOBILISATION ACBOS

Area-based Community Based Organisations (ACBOs) provided the critical last-mile link between GGZ's programmes and rural communities. Their grassroots networks ensured climate advocacy, clean energy, and governance interventions reached the most marginalised beneficiaries.

RESEARCH & TECHNICAL RESOURCE NATURE

Resource Nature provided technical expertise in natural resource governance, research methodologies, and evidence generation – strengthening GGZ’s ability to translate community experiences into credible policy advocacy and knowledge products.



URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS & INCUBATION HIVOS & URBAN FUTURES

HIVOS, through the Urban Futures programme, co-funded GGZ’s youth enterprise incubation work in Mutare. This partnership supported 12 seed grants, 19 masterclass graduates, and the establishment of the Mwaka Climate Youth Hub as an anchor institution for urban green enterprise.

ADDITIONAL PARTNERS

GGZ also works closely with **ActionAid, ZELO, ZIMACE, City of Mutare,** and the **Manica Youth Assembly (MAYA)** — forming a multi-layered ecosystem of funding, technical assistance, policy engagement, and community mobilisation.

INTEGRATING EQUITY CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

GGZ’s programming deliberately mainstreams cross-cutting themes that are integral to the organisation’s theory of change – not afterthoughts.



Solar-powered fish pond — integrating food security and climate adaptation



Youth-led tree planting — environmental restoration in Chimanimani

GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

All programmes target 50%+ female participation. Young women are prioritised in training, leadership, seed funding, and movement building.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP & AGENCY

Young people aged 15–35 are positioned as agents of change. Youth Champions committees embed youth voice in all decision-making.

CLIMATE JUSTICE & RESILIENCE

GGZ frames its work through a climate justice lens, recognising that the communities most affected by climate change must lead the response.

GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY

GGZ promotes transparency and inclusive participation — from mining cadastre reform to municipal budget consultations.

LIVELIHOODS & ECONOMIC INCLUSION

Sustainable livelihoods connect clean energy, food systems, and green enterprises. Economic empowerment is inseparable from environmental outcomes.

DIGITAL INCLUSION & INNOVATION

Digital literacy is integrated across all programmes — from solar training to export readiness and business digitalisation for youth entrepreneurs.

INNOVATION, KNOWLEDGE & RESEARCH BUILDING AN EVIDENCE BASE FOR CHANGE



MINING GOVERNANCE RESEARCH

A provincial case study on cadastre reform was developed from interviews with 20 key stakeholders. This research documented the Computerised Mining Cadastre System's implementation, community perceptions, and governance gaps — providing actionable evidence for parliamentary engagement.

Engagement with MPs resulted in formal calls for parliamentary interrogation of the system, positioning Parliament as an active governance actor in mining reform.

INNOVATION THROUGH YOUTH HUBS

The three GGZ Youth Hubs function as laboratories for innovation, providing physical infrastructure for solar dryers, mushroom production, aquaculture, agroecology, and digital skills. The Mwaka Climate Youth Hub is equipped with computers, high-speed internet, and machinery for value addition, enabling export-readiness and business digitalisation.





Tree nursery at the Chimanimani Green Hub



Youth demonstrating solar dryers at the Hub

Two national and regional webinars facilitated knowledge exchange with experts from Zimbabwe, Zambia, Ghana, and the United Kingdom. Four live radio programmes reached approximately **4,000** listeners across Manicaland Province.

GROWING OUR IMPACT EXPANSION - 2026 AND BEYOND

As GGZ consolidates its **2025** achievements, the organisation looks ahead with ambition. The **2025–2027 Strategic Plan** outlines three key areas of programmatic expansion, building on proven models and new strategic opportunities.



EXPANSION AREA

CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Scale fuel-efficient cookstove distribution to additional wards across Chimanimani, Chipinge, and Mutare Rural. Expand solar installation training to 500+ additional youth annually. Develop community-owned renewable energy micro-enterprises. Pilot biogas technology for household and small enterprise energy access.



The Green Hub - carbon credit baseline site



Chimanimani Hub — reforestation activities

EXPANSION AREA B

CARBON CREDITS PROGRAMME

Develop GGZ's first community-based carbon credit programme tied to cookstove distribution and reforestation. Document emissions reductions from existing interventions to build a credible baseline. Engage international carbon finance institutions and voluntary carbon markets to mobilise climate finance for community benefit.



Urban Futures youth panel — Mutare multi-stakeholder dialogue



Aquaculture at the Green Hub — urban food systems innovation

EXPANSION AREA C

URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS

Scale the Urban Futures programme to additional high-density suburbs in Mutare. Expand the Mwaka Climate Youth Hub model to two additional urban centres. Develop a municipal food policy advocacy agenda in partnership with City of Mutare and MAYA. Support 50 additional youth food enterprises with seed funding and mentorship.

THE NEXT CHAPTER

GGZ enters the next phase of its 2025–2027 Strategic Plan with hard-won lessons, renewed momentum, and a deepened commitment to youth-led, community-driven climate action across Zimbabwe.

LOOKING FORWARD GGZ 2026 AND BEYOND

SCALE GREEN ENTERPRISES

Building on the 92% business survival rate, GGZ will expand enterprise development — reaching more youth with mentorship, market linkages, and climate finance access. The goal: 50 viable green enterprises by 2027.



DEEPEN POLICY INFLUENCE

GGZ will invest in stronger research infrastructure — developing internal capacity for policy analysis, data collection, and impact documentation. This strengthens credibility as a knowledge broker in national policy dialogues on climate, mining, and food systems.

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY NETWORKS

With three active hubs and a growing alumni network of Youth Champions, GGZ will invest in peer-to-peer learning, cross-district exchange, and digital platforms that connect youth entrepreneurs across Manicaland and beyond.



50

Green enterprises by
2027

500±

Youth trained
annually

2

New urban hub
locations

1

Carbon credit
programme launched

"I am so thankful to the SPA2 project for bringing this stove into my life. It is not just a stove; it is hope for my family and our community."

— REJOICE, 28 — CHIMANIMANI WARD 21, SPA2 BENEFICIARY

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OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS

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SUPPORTING FREEDOM AROUND THE WORLD





GREEN GOVERNANCE ZIMBABWE

Youth-Led. Evidence-Based. Community-Driven.

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