



Green Governance Zimbabwe

POLICY BRIEF

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION IN ZIMBABWE: AN ANALYSIS OF THE DISASTER RISK PROFILE FOR MANICALAND PROVINCE



LIST OF ACRONYMS

DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
CPCs	Provincial Civil Protection Committees
EMA	Environmental Management Agency
MLGPW	Ministry of Public Works and Public Works
NFIs	Non-Food Item
FIs	Food item

INTRODUCTION

Zimbabwe's food security is supported by 80 percent rain fed agriculture. With erratic rainfall, the vulnerability levels have been on the increase due to climate change. Poverty in general is being exacerbated by the depletion of the environment due to degradation of the natural resources on which the economy depends on.

Climate Change is for real and the Government of Zimbabwe is committed to the mitigation of the negative effects. Government through the Climate Policy supported by the National Climate Change Response Strategy, National Adaptation Plan, the Low Carbon Development Strategy, National Environmental Policy and Strategic Document as well as other policies aimed at achieving sustainable development. Other legislations including the EMA Act (Chapter 20:27) and the Civil Protection Act (10:06).

Through the Civil Protection Act (10:06) the Department of Civil Protection (DPC) developed Disaster Risk Management (DRM) new tools to improve on Community Based Risk Management (CBDRM) and this has been cascaded to all Provinces including Manicaland. Cyclone Idai of 2019 is one such wake up call for Zimbabwe and indeed for Manicaland as Province and the new tools are improving capacity development for Manicaland Civil Protection Committee. The new tools are necessary to assist communities to manage the effects of natural and manmade hazards. The increase in intensity and frequency of hazards is being attributed mainly to climate change. There is deliberate emphasis by the Government of Zimbabwe for the need for the multi stakeholder approach on issues to do with environmental protection and disaster risk reduction (drr) respectively. Civil Protection Act provides for various functions and roles of Government Ministries/departments, local authorities, Development Partners, Civil Society and the public in general in mitigating disasters.



2.0 LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

In Zimbabwe it is mandatory for every citizen to take every possible step to assist in the prevention of disaster(s) from occurring. It is indeed in that very vein that issues of disaster governance are therefore a prerogative not only for government alone but for every Zimbabwean. This brings individuals, organised into volunteers or not, Ministries, Agencies and Development Agencies (MDAs) (Church organisations included) to work together as committees in the management of disasters before they happen, during and after. The law governing the general coordination of Civil Protection matters is the Civil Protection Act, Chapter (10: 06) of 1989.

2.1 Provisions of the Civil Protection Act (Chap 10:06)

2.1.1 Coordination: The Ministry of Local Government and Public Works coordinate all structures from national to subnational structures.

2.1.2 Multisectoral Approach: The Universal Suffrage approach through the multisectoral approach as no one structure, organisation or person can manage disaster(s) alone. This is informed by the philosophy of ubuntu/hunhuism that an injury or damage to one is an injury or damage to all hence the need to come together for a common cause. This was demonstrated during Cyclone Idai in 2019 in Chimanimani District when other people who were not affected directly moved in to assist others and some were injured whilst others even died during the cause of helping others.

2.1.3 Planning (Pre-emergency, During and Post-emergency): Planning for disasters at National, Provincial, District, Ward and Village level is chaired by the Chief Director Civil Protection (CDCP), Director Local Government Services and Administration(DLGSA), District Development Coordinator (DDC), Councillor and Village Head accordingly. During Cyclone Idai in 2019, the system realized the importance of traditional leaders who played a critical role as first responders in their communities. It is therefore necessary to plan without leaving anyone and any place behind.

At Local Authority Level, the Local Authorities are expected to plan for their Wards under the guidance of the District Development Coordinator and so is the scenario at Ward and Village level where the Councils and the Village Heads are expected to contribute to the planning process at District level. This planning process for disaster preparedness has been mainstreamed into development planning as well. In other words, Civil Protection Planning tallies the Development Planning Process (see diagram below).

MAINSTREAMING CIVIL PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING STRUCTURES

CIVIL PROTECTION	DEVELOPMENT
National Civil Protection Committee (NCPC).	National Provincial Development Committee (PDC).
Provincial Civil Protection Committee (PCPC).	District Development Committee (DDC).
District Civil Protection Committee (DCPC).	Ward Development Committee (WADCO).
Ward Civil Protection Committee (WCPC).	Village Development Committee (VIDCO)
Village Civil Protection Committee (VCPC).	

N.B: Communication is two way, its either TOP-Down or Bottom-UP as shown by the arrows.

3.0 ENABLING LEGISLATION AND POLICIES WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS RESPONSIBLE FOR CIVIL PROTECTION

The Minister of Local Government and Public Works (MLGPW) is charged with the coordination role as empowered by the Civil Protection Act (Cap 10:06). The Act provides for;

- The establishment of the Civil Protection Directorate.
- Special powers designed to establish, coordinate and direct the activities of both the public and private emergency services.
- Guidelines for action and maximum use of resources since disaster mitigation require a multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary approach.
- The establishment of a National Civil Protection Fund that receives money from both Government and the public. The fund is applied to the development and promotion of Civil Protection activities throughout the country.

There are also other Acts besides the two mentioned above that support disaster management. The principal ones are;

- Public Health Act Cap 15:17
- Rural District Councils Act Cap 29:13
- The Regional, Town and Country Planning Act, Cap 29:12
- The Police Act, Cap 11:10
- Urban Councils Act Chapter 29:15.

3.1 PROVINCIAL DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT (DRM) PLAN FOR MANICALAND PROVINCE

To improve capacity building and efficiency, both in mitigation of hazards and management of disasters in the Province.

3.2 Objectives of the DRM Plan

- To reduce loss of life, infrastructure, livelihoods as well as alleviating human suffering.
- To build local capacity for effective disaster reduction.
- To protect the environment for sustainable disaster reduction.
- To come up with sustainable strategies in reducing disasters and provide timely well-structured intervention measures.
- To come up with indicators and means of verifying the success of the strategies adopted.

3.3 Scope

To develop strategies which increase the coping capacity of communities in all the 7 districts of Manicaland Province.

3.4 Methodology

A consultative participatory process must engage Districts Civil Protection Committees. Secondary data was also used as it indicates the previous experiences of all the districts.

3.5 How to use the DRM Plan

The DRM plan is a public document which must be used for the betterment of Manicaland Province. The plan must be used as a tool for budgeting, resource mobilization and monitoring the districts for effective DRR. Ranking hazards per district help prioritising those hazards affecting the Province.

3.6 Summary of Manicaland Disaster Risk Profile

This section must provide a summary of Manicaland Province Disaster Risk profile. It covers a brief description of its development profile, prioritized hazards, characteristics and trends including current status of vulnerability; and the existing capacity and capacity gaps.



3.7 Brief description of the Province

Manicaland Province has seven (7) districts namely Buhera, Chimanimani, Chipinge, Makoni, Mutare, Mutasa and Nyanga and a total of 260 wards.

It is situated East of Zimbabwe, bordering Mozambique to the East, Masvingo to the south, Mashonaland east to the north and west. The province has one city which is Mutare and two towns namely Chipinge and Rusape. The other centres are district centres and rural service centres.

The Province has all the five (5) ecological regions 1 to 5. The main economic activities in the Province are mining, tourism, agriculture and trade.

In terms of trade, formal and informal markets are spread all over the Province where people trade in agricultural products and goods from outside the country.

In terms of crop production, the Province produces maize, beans, tomatoes, potatoes, sorghum, millet, macadamia nuts, bananas, tea, ground nuts among other crops.

As for animal production, there are different breeds of cattle, goats, sheep, donkeys, guinea fowls, pigs, dairy cows, indigenous chickens and pigeons.

In addition, the Province is endowed with tourist attraction centres with beautiful scenic views, mountains' and forest areas such as Chirinda Forest in Chipinge. Tourists visit places such as Chimanimani mountain range, the Bridal Veil, Haroni Falls, Nyanga mountain, Bridal, Mtarazi Falls and many other places in Manicaland. It also hosts world class hotels such as Troutbeck and Montclair and magnificent lodges scattered across the Province.

The most prominent hazards found in the Province include droughts, cyclones, strong winds, disease outbreaks, veld fires, poor roads and traffic accidents, floods, environmental degradation, human and wildlife conflicts and poor distribution of rain. Drought affects most districts yearly due mainly to the negative effects of climate change and over reliance on rain fed agriculture. Tropical cyclones have become a yearly problem in the province during the rainy season, affecting mostly Chimanimani, Chipinge and Buhera Districts. Incidents of fire are also on the increase as well as road traffic accidents. These include fire outbreaks in plantations, commercial farms residence and urban areas. Fire outbreaks require a strong and responsive mechanism given that massive destruction can be done in a very short space of time. There is an increase in road traffic accidents due to increase in volume of traffic over the past years. Epidemics are also threatening the lives of both humans and livestock. They include such diseases as cholera, malaria, diarrhoea, dysentery and measles which are human epidemics. Animals and livestock diseases include anthrax, rabies, rinder pest, foot and mouth and Newcastle. This year 2023, the province is battling with cholera which has affected mainly Buhera and Chimanimani districts. This has been attributed to poor sanitation facilities. Water pollution has now become a challenge in the province due to mining activities happening mainly in Mutare District. The problems of land degradation and the subsequent siltation of rivers and dams complement each other and therefore have to be tackled simultaneously. The effects of these in communities cannot be underestimated, and have negatively affected all corners of the province and production efforts disturbed. Reduction of these requires people to understand risks and hazards found in their areas in order to come up with best mitigation strategies. A multi stakeholder approach is also important in DRM.

3.8 Summary of Manicaland Province Disaster Risk Profile

- Brief description of prioritized hazards, characteristics and trends
 - i) Drought – Prevalent in all districts.
 - ii) Floods – Mostly affecting Chipinge, Mutare and Nyanga.
 - iii) Veld fires – Prevalent in Buhera, Chimanimani, Makoni, Mutare, and Nyanga.
 - iv) Cyclones – Mainly in Buhera, Chimanimani, Chipinge and Mutare due to the change in climate and geographical position to the Mozambican sea.
 - v) Cholera—Mostly in Buhera, Chimanimani and Mutare.
 - vi) Hailstorms- Mainly in Buhera Makoni and Mutasa.
 - vii) Road Traffic Accidents- Prevalent in Chimanimani, Chipinge, Makoni and Mutasa.
 - viii) Water Pollution – Mutasa.
 - ix) Human Wildlife Conflict- Mainly in Buhera, Chipinge and Mutare.
 - x) Malaria- Mainly in Chimanimani, Chipinge, Makoni and Mutasa.
 - xi) Livestock diseases –Mainly in Mutare and Nyanga.
 - xii) Gullies- all Districts in the province including land-degradation.
 - xiii) Whirlwinds – all Districts in the Province including Makoni and Chipinge low lying areas in the valley.
 - xiv) Siltation -all Districts in the Province.

3.9 Brief description of the current status of vulnerability

- i. Drought
- ii. Flash floods
- iii. Veld fires
- iv. Cyclones
- v. Livestock diseases (tick borne diseases)
- vi. Diseases outbreak (Cholera)
- vii. Unemployment

4.0 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING CAPACITY AND CAPACITY GAPS

The district has evacuation centres, skilled manpower, warehouses, search and rescue equipment and communication infrastructure. However, there is need for prepositioning of non-food items (NFIs), Response Ambulances, prepositioned fuel for response, and drones to move in when accessibility is physically challenging like what happened Cyclone Idai.

In trying to curb drought the district has small scale irrigations, arable land, and Zunde ramambo and nutrition gardens. However, there is need for fodder, hay, small scale equipment for more irrigation schemes and boreholes. The districts have skilled human resources with expertise, and also managed to encourage and sensitise communities on the dangers of veld fires. The district also has promoted formation of fireguards and has some knap sacks, water and fire committees in case there is an incident of fire.

There is need for First aid kits, fire tankers, fire beaters prepositioned in all Districts. There is need for First Aid brigades training for First Responders for every village to reduce response time.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROVINCIAL CIVIL PROTECTION COMMITTEE (PCPC)

To mitigate climate change in the Province the following are the recommendations;

- Continued capacity building for the Districts in disaster risk reduction (drr). Need to streamline drr in development and at workplaces. Research on the issue must be planned for, in
- Prepositioning of NFIs and FIs in preparation for disasters. Funds should be prepositioned both at Provincial and Districts accordingly.
- Construction of evacuation centres in all the Districts.
- Training of all the communities in First Aid as first responders with their communities.
- Regular drills and simulation to increase alertness and reducing response time in real accident situations.
- Involving the youth and school going children in all drr programmes as a succession policy in anticipation of volunteer base (during disasters and during Cyclone Idai there was evidence of mercenary).
- Quarterly review of DRM Plans and new tools.
- Civil Protection matters are for everyone and during disaster to improve any.
- Acquiring Landcruiser vehicles for Nyanga, Buhera, Mutare, Mutasa and Makoni Districts will at least allow the Districts to efficiently respond during disasters.
- Insurance policies for life, health, homeownership both for communities and schools against loss and damage to property.

6.0 CONCLUSION

Cognisant of the fact that hazards are area specific, so hazard identification is crucial in DRM and DRR as it shapes planning and decision-making process. An effective way of reducing disasters in Manicaland Province by having a comprehensive risk assessment by taking into account the unique characteristics of each given area. This means community members to understand and be in a position to identify the hazards and risks specific to their areas in order to come up with the best mitigation measure(s). This is important because years of investments in billions of dollars can be erased in just a few hours or minutes if a hazard strikes on vulnerable societies with low coping capacity. This requires a multi stakeholder approach in order to build resilient communities in all aspects of lives including resilient building, resilient infrastructure and sustainable livelihoods. There is need for all cooperating partners to compliment Government effort in the DRM and DRR. This is important because the main thrust of DRM is saving human lives, infrastructure and to promote livelihood activities that caution communities against poverty due to climate change hence the need to strengthen drr in the Province.

7.0 REFERENCES

- 2022 ZIMVaC Report
- 2022 Census Report
- Environmental Management Act Cap 20:27
- Public Health Act Cap 15:09
- Rural District Councils Act Cap 29:13
- The Regional, Town and Country Planning Act, Cap 29:12
- The Police Act, Cap 11:10
- The Defence Act, Cap 11:02

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