

ZIMBABWE NATIONAL CLIMATE POLICY *REPORT*



in collaboration with

AFSA

ALLIANCE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN AFRICA

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Related to


A Scoping Study
for a National
Campaign on Agroecology
for Climate Action





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Findings from this study will enable PELUM Zimbabwe to design and roll out a national campaign on agroecology for Climate Action.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2019, the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) convened a meeting in Senegal to strategise Africa's Agroecology for Climate Action Campaign. The meeting identified the need to take action at continental and national levels.

The goal at continental level is to have agroecology recognized at the African Union and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change policy spaces. At national level the campaign is to influence national climate frameworks, plans and strategies to reflect agroecology as an adaptation and mitigation measure for climate change.

As part of developing a national campaign in Zimbabwe, the Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Zimbabwe in collaboration with AFSA commissioned a national study aimed at: Understanding the climate change policy environment in Zimbabwe and identifying possible entry points for the inclusion of agroecology in the mitigation and adaptation frameworks. Findings from this study will enable PELUM Zimbabwe to design and roll out a national campaign on agroecology for Climate Action.

The study was conducted between August 2020 and October 2020. This was when Zimbabwe was observing a national lockdown to curb the spread of COVID-19. As a result, the study was largely a desk top study.

The country context review on climate change provides a worrying status. The climate is characterized by diverse weather hazards - tropical cyclones, thunderstorms, floods, and recurrent droughts. Studies from the Meteorological Services Department of Zimbabwe estimate that the minimum temperatures have risen by 2.6°C over the past century. Meanwhile, annual rainfall has declined by 5% across the country over the same period.

Zimbabwe has actively participated in international negotiations on climate change. It was among the first countries to sign and ratify the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992. In 2009, Zimbabwe acceded to the Kyoto Protocol. The country has developed strategies and plans to curb the escalation of greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions. For instance, the Climate Change Response Strategy and the National Climate Change Response Strategy were developed to provide a framework for a comprehensive and strategic approach on aspects of adaptation, mitigation, technology, financing, public education and awareness.

The overall goal of the Climate Change Response Strategy is to mainstream climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies in economic and social development at national and sectoral levels through a multi stakeholder engagement. The adoption of the Climate Change Response Strategy came with a recommendation to develop a National Climate Policy.

Zimbabwe's first intended nationally determined contribution (INDC) were approved in 2015. However, the Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) was finalized in 2019. It is in the LEDS that specific approaches are selected as mitigation measures. These include feedstock improvement, conservation agriculture, reduction of deforestation, fruit tree planting and commercial forestry.

Meanwhile, work on the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) is in progress with the aim to finalize the NAP in 2021. A Draft National Agricultural Policy Framework has been developed for the period 2019 - 2030. It is this framework that civil society organizations can use as an entry point for agroecology advocacy.

There is also an opportunity to work closely with the Zimbabwe Alliance for the Practice and Promotion of Agroecology, a multi-stakeholder platform established to advance agroecology in Zimbabwe. In order to roll out a National Campaign Strategy for Climate Action on Agroecology, an institutional framework structure has to be interrogated. Only then can the content and structure of the campaign be mapped out.

ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|------------------|---|
| AE | Agroecology |
| AFLOU | Agriculture Forestry and Other Land Use |
| AFSA | Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa |
| AGRITEX | Agriculture Technical Extension Services |
| CSA | Climate Smart Agriculture |
| COP21 | Conference of Parties (21st meeting) |
| COVID-19 | Corona Virus Disease of 2019 |
| DR&SS | Department Research & Specialist Services |
| GOZ | Government of Zimbabwe |
| GHG | Green House Gas |
| IFAD | International Fund for Agricultural Development |
| INDC | Intended National Determined Contributions |
| LEDs | Low Emission Development Strategy |
| MSDZ | Meteorological Services Department of Zimbabwe |
| NAIP | National Agriculture Investment Plan |
| NAP | National Adaptation Plan |
| NAPF | National Agricultural Policy Framework |
| NDC | National Determined Contributions |
| NCCRS | National Climate Change Response Strategy |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organisation |
| PELUM-ZWE | Participatory Ecological Land Use Management Zimbabwe |
| TNC | Third National Communication |
| TSP | Transitional Stabilisation Programme |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| UN FAO | United Nations Food Agriculture Organization |
| ZAPPA | Zimbabwe Alliance for the Practice and Promotion of Agroecology |
| ZimVAC | Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee |
| ZOPPA | Zimbabwe Organic Producers and Promoters Association |

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1.0



**AFSA
commissioned
a study aimed
at identifying
possible entry
points for the
inclusion of
agroecology in
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and adaptation
frameworks.**

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

In June 2019, the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) convened a meeting in Senegal to strategise Africa's Agroecology for Climate Action Campaign. The meeting identified the need to take action at continental and national levels.

The goal at continental level is to have agroecology recognized at the African Union and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change policy spaces. At national level the campaign is to influence national climate frameworks, plans and strategies to reflect agroecology as an adaptation and mitigation measure for climate change.

As part of developing a national campaign in Zimbabwe, the Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Zimbabwe in collaboration with AFSA commissioned a study aimed at identifying possible entry points for the inclusion of agroecology in the mitigation and adaptation frameworks. Findings from this study will enable PELUM Zimbabwe to design and roll out a national campaign on agroecology for Climate Action.

This is in recognition of the fact that agroecology promotes regeneration, communal ownership of the collective commons and use of local inputs while improving overall productivity of agricultural ecosystems. Moreover, agroecology works to minimize greenhouse gas emissions by keeping carbon in the soil as one of the Ecosystem Services.

The growing recognition of agroecology by key bodies such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO) presents an opportunity for civil society organizations and other likeminded actors to push for agroecology in climate change spaces and the mainstreaming of agroecology in climate change and mitigation frameworks. This also recognizes that Agriculture is the most affected sector by the negative impacts of climate change but also the leading contributor to greenhouse gas emission.

In pursuance of the AFSA resolve for national level climate campaigns that seek to advance Agroecology in climate change spaces and policies, PELUM Zimbabwe hosted a one-day National Agroecology for Climate Action campaign stakeholder meeting in Zimbabwe in February 2020.

The meeting was a first step in developing a national action plan for an Agroecology for Climate Action Campaign in Zimbabwe. The meeting agreed on the need to develop a national level campaign which mainstreams agroecology practices in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. However, in order to develop an appropriate and effective campaign strategy, an in-depth understanding of the climate change policy environment in Zimbabwe is vital. To this end, PELUM Zimbabwe in partnership with AFSA commissioned a national study aimed at:

Understanding the climate change policy environment in the country, identifying possible entry points for the inclusion of agroecology in the mitigation and adaptation frameworks and rolling out a national Agroecology for Climate Action campaign programme.

Thus the country study among other things:

1. Documented all the national policies and strategies that have been developed as a response to climate change
2. Suggests a National Climate Action Campaign that would contribute to the climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes.
3. Identifies an agency or body that can be used to rollout the campaign.

1.1 OBJECTIVES TO THE STUDY

The overall objective of the study is to:

Influence the adoption of Agroecology as a viable adaptation and mitigation solution to climate change through a coordinated national campaign programme.

This will be undertaken through the following:

- a) Documenting existing climate change related policies, plans, strategies, regulations and frameworks at national level.
- b) Identification and documentation of critical entry points for mainstreaming agroecology within the identified policy frameworks.
- c) Proposing approaches that guide the integration of agroecology into the national frameworks through a coordinated national campaign.

1.2 STUDY METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out during the COVID-19 lockdown period using desk top approaches. Relevant documents were collected from various government ministries and non-governmental institutions working on agriculture and climate change issues throughout the country.

A major limitation to the study was the limited inputs received from the relevant policy makers and Non-governmental Organizations (NGO) representatives. The study has produced the following:

- Analysis of existing climate related legislation, policies, frameworks and strategies as related to agroecology and agriculture in general.
- Gaps and possible entry points for national level advocacy for the inclusion of agroecology.
- Proposals/recommendations on possible spaces/platforms for agroecology advocacy.

2.0



There is evident reduction of natural regions II and III, with an increased area under the drier regions IV. This has been a result of decreased rainfall and increased average daily temperatures.

2.0 COUNTRY CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe is a land locked country in Southern Africa. It has a total land area of 391 000 square kilometres and an estimated population of 14 million people. The country is bordered by Zambia in the north, Mozambique to the east, Botswana to the south west and South Africa to the south. More than 60 % of the population reside in the rural areas and engage in small scale agricultural production.

Most of Zimbabwe's land area is on a plateau between 1200m and 1600m above sea level, which gives it a relatively mild subtropical climate with seasonal rainfall. Zimbabwe's weather condition is characterised by diverse weather hazards that include tropical cyclones, thunderstorms, floods and flashflooding. The country also experiences droughts lasting one to three years and these occur every five to seven years (NCCRS, 2015).

The country is divided into five agro-ecological regions based on a combination of factors including rainfall regime; temperature, the quantity and variability of average rainfall, as well as soil quality and vegetation. The suitability of cropping declines from Region I through to Region V.

Rainfall ranges from above 1,050mm to as low as 650 mm per annum in Regions I to III, while in Regions IV and V, rainfall is below 650 mm per annum. Most of the agricultural activities are carried out in regions, I,

II and III, which have favourable climatic conditions for intensive crop and animal production.

Extensive livestock production and irrigation crop farming (such as sugarcane production) are suitable in regions IV and V (NAPF, 2019). In recent years the country has experienced shifts in the onset of rains, increases in the frequency and intensity of heavy rainfall events, and increases in the frequency and intensity of mid-season dry spells (TNC, 2016).

Regarding temperatures, the Meteorological Services Department of Zimbabwe estimates that daily minimum temperatures have risen by approximately 2.6 °C over the past century and rainfall has declined by nearly 5 percent across the country (MSDZ, 2015)

Rising temperatures and rainfall variability, notably droughts, have impacted negatively on the agricultural production resulting in severe household food insecurity and seriously compromising economic growth, stability and employment levels. The changes in climate have shifted agro ecological zones to warmer regions and erratic rainfall patterns.

There is evident reduction of natural regions II and III, with an increased area under the drier regions IV. This has been a result of decreased rainfall and increased average daily temperatures.

It is therefore critical at this point to review the policies and strategies that have been established over the past years to respond to the climate change challenges facing the country. This would facilitate a constructive and efficient national strategy for civil society organizations, the private sector, government and communities to develop joint work programmes in response to climate change.

3.0



It is these policies and strategies that Civil Society Organizations in the country have to articulate and effectively use in order to strategically engage in multi stakeholder national climate response actions.

3.0 CLIMATE RELEVANT POLICIES, FRAMEWORKS AND STRATEGIES

The Government of Zimbabwe regards climate change as one of the threats to the country and its people and is also of the view that climate change has the potential to undermine many of the positive developments made in meeting the country development goals. (National Climate Response Strategy, GOZ).

Zimbabwe has actively participated in international negotiations on climate change from far back as 1992. It was among the first countries to sign and ratify the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992, acceded to the Kyoto Protocol in 2009 and the Paris Agreement in 2015. Over the past years the country has developed relevant policies, frameworks and strategies to respond to the climate change agenda. Some of the key policies, strategies and frameworks include the following: Climate Response Strategy, National Climate Policy, National Determined Contributions, NAP Process, Devolution and Decentralization Policy, National Agricultural Policy Framework. It is these policies and strategies that Civil Society Organizations in the country have to articulate and effectively use in order to strategically engage in multi stakeholder national climate response actions.

3.1 NATIONAL CLIMATE RESPONSE STRATEGY

The Zimbabwe National Climate Response Strategy provides a framework for a comprehensive and strategic approach on aspects of adaptation, mitigation, technology, financing, public education and awareness. The goal of the Response Strategy is to mainstream climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies in economic and social development

at the national and societal levels through a multi- stakeholder engagement. The Response Strategy broadly outlines action plans which are described under four areas:

Natural Systems: Climate Change Issues Associated with Air Pollution, Climate Change Issues for the Water Sector, Land Use and Land Use change and Forestry and Biodiversity and Ecosystems.

Economic Sectors: Agriculture and Food Security, Industry and Commerce, Mining, Tourism, and Energy.

Physical and Socio Economic Infrastructure: Energy, Transport, Disaster Risk and Social Infrastructure (Human Settlements), Waste Management, Health, Gender, People Living with HIV and AIDS and Other Vulnerable Groups.

Strategy Enablers: Capacity Building, Change Education, Communication and Public Awareness, Climate Change Governance and Institutional Framework (Climate Change Policy and Legal Framework).

The Climate Response Strategy thus provides Civil Society Climate Organizations a good framework for developing supportive national climate change responsive programs.

3.2 National Climate Policy

The National Climate Change Policy formulation was based and guided by the robust science, stakeholder consultations, review of current plans, strategies and policies, legal and regulatory analysis. The policy addresses five thematic areas: Vulnerability and Adaptation, Mitigation and Low Carbon Development, Education, Training and Awareness, Weather, Climate Modelling and Change, Enablers, Including Gender and Social Inclusion.

The purpose of the policy is to guide climate change management in the country, enhance the national adaptation capacity, scale up mitigation actions, facilitate domestication of climate related global policies and ensure compliance to the global mechanisms. The overall implementation of the policy should be provided for in the Climate Change Response Strategy, the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and other climate related documents.

The Climate Change policy clearly articulate issues be handled on the climate change agenda: Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Change Mitigation and Low Carbon Development, Education, Training and Awareness, Weather, Climate Change Research and Modelling, Technology Transfer and Information Sharing and Governance and Institutional Framework.

The Climate Policy provides a national institutional policy framework that needs development as outlined in the National Climate Response Strategy. Civil Society organizations have to respond to the Climate Change Policy.

3.3 National Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Following the international climate agreement at the UNFCCC Conference of Parties in Paris (COP21) in December, 2015, countries publicly outlined what post 2020 climate actions they intended to take under the new international agreement. These actions are known as Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).

The climate actions communicated in these INDCs largely determine whether the world achieves the long term goals of the Paris Agreement: to hold the increase in global average temperatures to well below 2 °C, to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 °C and achieve net zero emissions in the second half of this century.

In Zimbabwe, with the guidance of the Office of the President and Cabinet, the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate spearheaded the development of the INDC. The INDC was developed through engaging a team of experts who carried out extensive countrywide consultations with key socio-economic sectors, geographical specific players, private and public sectors, vulnerable groups, the academia, the National Steering Committee, various experts and policy makers.

Thus the Government of Zimbabwe submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions to the UNFCCC in 2015. Following the ratification of the Paris Agreement in 2017, the INDCs were approved into National Determined Contributions (NDCs). However, following major developments in the climate change agenda, the current NDCs for the country are being revised and expected to be finalised in 2021.

One of the strategic documents that is relevant to the NDC's revision is the recently finalised Low Greenhouse Emission Development Strategy (LEDS). The Strategy was approved in 2019 covering the following; Energy, Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFLOU). The LEDS Strategy is expected to be implemented in close liaison with the 2020 - 2025 National Development Strategy 1 (NDS).

It is therefore critical and urgent for civil society organizations to coordinate and identify key inputs to the revision process. The key institute to seek clarification on the revision process is the Department Climate Change Management.

3.4 National Agricultural Policy Framework

The Government of Zimbabwe recognizes that agriculture is one of the key priority sectors in achieving sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction. However, frequent droughts plus limited resilience, inadequate resource allocation to key drivers of agriculture growth and sometimes inconsistent and ad hoc policy actions associated with the agriculture sector have made it impossible to achieve the desired goals. Thus the challenges facing the sector require a policy framework that is not business as usual, but one that holistically addresses the key facets of agriculture. The major problems to be addressed relate to low institutional and human capacity and the lack of a stable and enabling legal, policy and institutional framework leading to diminished investor confidence and consequently, poor agriculture production and productivity. This therefore calls for the formulation of interventions that enhance both institutional and human capacity and the strengthening of the legal, policy and institutional framework within the agricultural sector.

The overall goal of the NAPF is to create a stable enabling environment and flow of investment that sustainably enhances the capacity of the agricultural sector to anchor national economic growth to upper middle income status by 2030. A key principle of NAPF is that the policy is participatory and aligned to agro-ecological potential and the devolution agenda.

The National Agricultural Policy Framework (NAPF) recognizes the role played by civil society organizations in the creating sustainable agricultural practices and thus provides a leading space for civil society in the coordination of one of its nine pillars i.e. pillar VIII, (Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture). It is in this pillar that the aspect of improving farmer resilience and improved productivity through mitigation and adaptation to climate shocks is articulated.

The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Resettlement (MLAFWRR) is developing some policies and strategies that would assist in the delivering climate resilient and sustainable production systems through pillar VIII of the National Agricultural Policy Framework.

It is therefore a critical entry point for civil society groups to fully advocate and influence policy directions in advancing resilient and sustainable agricultural practices in the country.

3.5 The Decentralization and Devolution Policy

Devolution is an integral part of democracy which brings decision making to the very place where implementation of plans, policies, programmes and projects takes place. In September 2020 the Decentralization and Devolution Policy was approved by the Government of Zimbabwe (GOZ, Devolution and Decentralization Policy, 2020).

One of the key objectives of the policy is to facilitate democratic participation of people in making decisions that will affect them. Overall, the implementation of devolution will be broad-based and inclusive of civil society organizations and the citizenry whose bottom-up participation will be strengthened. It would therefore be timely and strategic for civil society to fully exploit this opportunity to design strategies and programmes that are community based and working with local authorities.

The devolution policy provides clear opportunities for civil society organizations to engage local authorities and communities in designing sustainable local based climate action plans.

3.6 Agricultural and Food Systems Transformation Strategy

This is a five year (2020-2025) Agricultural Food Systems Strategy that seeks to develop a robust agricultural sector capable of turning and steering Zimbabwe towards Vision 2030 (an upper-middle income economy by 2030) by providing strategic responses to the increasing population; low agricultural production and productivity, climate change and low inflow investment into the agriculture sector. The strategy is based under four major categories:

- a) Enabling Agricultural Policy and Regulatory Environment to Facilitate the Flow of Investment into the Agricultural Sector- a key strategic supporting policy being the National Agriculture Policy Framework 2019-2030
- b) Appropriate Agricultural Investment for Productivity, Food Security and Resilience guided by a National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP)
- c) Efficient Agricultural Knowledge, Technology Innovation Systems
- d) Agricultural Sector Coordination for Responsive Planning, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation
- e) Resource Mobilization Strategy- private, public and development partners

In responding to these challenges civil society organizations can effectively cooperate with Government in the implementation of the Agricultural and Food System Transformation Strategy.

3.7 The Nation Adaption Plan (NAP) Process in Zimbabwe

When Zimbabwe finalized its National Climate Response Strategy in 2014 and completed its National Climate Policy in 2017, climate change adaptation was treated as a national priority. In this direction it was critical to ensure the integration of climate change adaptation in national, provincial and district level planning processes. To enable a systematic approach to this planning process, Zimbabwe decided to follow the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Process as provided for by the UNFCCC.

A NAP roadmap was developed and finalized in 2019 outlining key activities, timelines, milestones and key actors responsible for the delivery. One of key activities identified was the development of an implementation plan. With the support of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Zimbabwe is expected to clearly define its climate change adaptation agenda and mainstream climate into development planning based on the roadmap.

The NAP Readiness Project is the main vehicle for NAP process.

The main objective of the Project is to support the country's National Adaptation Plan process to facilitate adaptation planning under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The GCF readiness and preparatory support project has four expected outcomes:

1. Stakeholders' capacity to formulate and implement the NAP process in Zimbabwe enhanced.
2. Background information for formulating and implementing the NAP process managed, and adaptation options prioritized.
3. NAP implementation resources identified and studies to inform medium-to long-term climate change adaptation investments conducted.
4. Monitoring, reviewing and reporting on the NAP process in Zimbabwe improved.

These outcomes of the project will contribute to two objectives of the NAP processes namely:

- to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, by building adaptive capacity and resilience; and
- to facilitate the integration of climate change adaptation, in a coherent manner, into relevant new and existing policies, programs and activities, in particular, development planning processes and strategies, within all relevant sectors and at different levels, as appropriate.

To date the project has engaged six experts: Climate Change Policy Expert, Climate Change Communication Expert, Climate Change Adaptation Expert, Climate Change Database Expert, Monitoring and Evaluation Expert and a Principal Consultant who is expected to coordinate the various outputs by the consultancies into a single National Action Plan document. Key terms of reference for each consultant are annexed.

The NAP Readiness Project clearly outlines the Expected Outcomes, Indicative Outputs, Activities and Responsibilities. It is however clear that the project lacks the institutional framework for engaging civil society organizations.

It would be strategic for civil society organizations to seek ways of collaborating in the implementation of the NAP Readiness Project.

4.0



Civil society organizations lack a strategic framework of collaboration and hence are weak in their climate change policy advocacy work.

4.0 CIVIL SOCIETY INITIATIVES RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The National Climate Change Response Strategy recognizes that while climate change issues present an opportunity for a range of stakeholders, including various levels of government, UN agencies, development partners, CSOs and communities to work together, there is currently limited coordination amongst these stakeholders. A number of civil society organizations, working under the platform of Climate Change Working Group used to undertake various coordinated development programmes on national climate issues.

When funding of programme ended, no successor initiative was formulated. There are current attempts to resuscitate the Climate Change Working Group and strategically reposition Civil Society to closely work with government institutions and the private implementing national climate change programs similar programmes.

However, various civil society organizations are implementing climate change related programmes and projects throughout the country but with limited coordination with government and other stakeholders.

Most climate policies, strategies and programmes of government have not been able to foster a strong multi stakeholder cooperation with Civil Society groups. Civil society organizations lack a strategic framework of collaboration and hence are weak in their climate change policy advocacy work.

This study could not confirm with certainty the various programs and projects that civil society organizations are implementing in the area of climate change. It would therefore be limiting to highlight a few civil society organizations that are implementing climate change projects in the country, rather it would be more appropriate in particular study to focus on the theme, “Agroecology for Climate Action Campaign” as provided for in the Terms Reference.

4.1 CIVIL SOCIETY CONVERGENCE PLATFORM ON AGROECOLOGY IN ZIMBABWE

In November 2019, the Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre (FPC) working with two other strategic partners (Trocaire and Practical Action) hosted a multi-stakeholder consultative forum on Agroecology in Harare. The objective of this workshop was to identify current scale off agroecology practices by bringing together strategic stakeholders and agree on indicators/ practices and collective strategy meant to define, shape, regularize and demonstrate holistic and appropriate Agroecology approaches and adaptation across the sector.

This consultative forum which was supported by DanChurch AID and the Department for International Development (now Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office) as a beginning of a more coordinated and structured national programme from which a common national strategic plan were to be established, to enable scaling up and understanding and adoption of agroecology. The consultative forum agreed to ensure a systems thinking approach to inform and influence policy makers, agricultural practitioners, industry and consumers on agroecology practices, benefits and ecosystems balance.

A follow up meeting to this consultative forum was agreed upon, but due to the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020, the meeting only took place on the 2nd of October 2020. In attendance to this meeting was a Chief Director, Department of Strategic Policy Planning and Business Development in the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Resettlement. The consultative forum agreed to work together under the institutional framework referred to as the Zimbabwe Alliance for the Practice and Promotion of Agroecology (ZAPPA). The alliance was initiated by a collection of CSOs already implementing agroecology and has been in existence for the past two years.

The Chief Director who is the current chair of the nine pillars of the draft National Agricultural Policy Framework, acknowledged the role of ZAPPA in bringing effective coordination and collaboration amongst the various strategic partnerships and the uptake of resilient and sustainable agriculture through enhanced agroecology adoption nationwide.

The Director spelt out the plans of launching the National Agricultural Policy Framework (NAPF) 2019 – 2030, before the end of 2020. He indicated that in the NAPF, agroecology has been identified under Pillar VIII as one of the key approaches that the nation will have to adopt and promote as climate response strategy.

As a way forward, the meeting agreed that ZAPPA becomes the institutional mechanism under which national agroecology coordination and implementation of programmes will be undertaken. A call was made for coordinating committees to be established so as to develop a more transparent and inclusive governance structure.

4.2 Possible Entry Points for Climate Action Campaign by Civil Society

Civil society plays key roles in pushing new laws, programs, policies or strategies on climate change issues. In addition to ensuring the national policies do not forget poor and marginalised communities.

They are two entry points that civil society can engage government on climate change and agroecology programmes: the National Agricultural Policy Framework and the NAP process. The National Agricultural Policy provides an institutional framework for civil society engagement. PELUM Zimbabwe Members and Civil Society Working Group on Climate Change are members of the national steering community under pillar 8 of the National Agricultural Policy Framework. In this pillar a number of programmes implemented by civil society organisations are in the process of being finalized and launched. Examples of these programmes being:-

Agroecology and regenerative agriculture manual for Zimbabwe, Development of agroecology and organic farming policy, Water harvesting and harnessing Storage techniques amongst others.

On the NAP process civil society can engage in the development of the plan based on the current process under the Department of Climate Change. The various consultants working on the process would require key inputs from civil society. It would be strategic for civil society to understand the detail planning procedures taking place under the NAP and make informed inputs.

The process of engaging government could take the form of national campaign on agro ecology for climate action. The campaign could be structured so that it addresses the key gaps in the current climate response strategies and plans by government. In addition the campaign could be good platform for strengthening the already existing programs under implementation by civil society on climate change.

A concept note agreed by civil society organizations working in climate change issues could be the first step in articulating the challenges and possible response strategies. A key institution that has been working on climate issues and agro-ecological practises at the local, national and regional level is PELUM Association.

This could be supported by the Climate Change Working Group that is currently under revival. The current developments towards the institutionalization of the Zimbabwe Alliance of the Promotion of Agroecology could facilitate a nationally coordinated process to bring together key institutions to support a Civil Society led program/strategy on agroecology as a key response to climate change issues.

A strategic meeting to decide the detailed content and structure of the process could be worked out as soon as possible.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

This study which was conducted based a desk top data collection methods only provides a policy scoping process regarding existing policies and strategies on government response programs on climate change. The study falls short of identifying an agreed civil society climate change response framework that can be considered by concerned stakeholders at the national level.

There is evidence of clear interest by government and civil society organizations to support the agroecological concept as a responsible and effective approach to climate change challenges. There is an urgent need to draw up a concept paper that provides a road map on how civil society intends to engage government in formalising a national campaigning on agroecology for climate action. On a more general note the following conclusions are drawn based on the study:

- a) The Government of Zimbabwe has established a clear institutional mechanism for cooperation with Civil Society Organizations in the implementation of National Agricultural Policy Framework, specifically within pillar VIII, Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture, but the operational modalities need to be finalised and resources mobilised to facilitate more sustainable institutional arrangements
- b) The Government of Zimbabwe is in the process of finalizing its National Adaptation Plan as guided by the UNFCCC guidelines which seek to enhance and strengthen a multi-stakeholder cooperation in the design and implementation of the plan. The participation of Civil Society Organizations in the development of the NAP programme is still unstructured.

- c) Civil Society Organizations are keen to revive the Climate Change Working Group platform so as to enhance coordinated work on climate change issues and fully cooperate with other stakeholders in the development of future strategies, policies and programmes.
- d) The Zimbabwe Alliance for Practice and Promotion of Agroecology is the national coordinating agency which brings together stakeholders working on agroecology in the country. Work on strengthening the alliance is ongoing.
- e) The NAP process development which falls under the mandate of Climate Change Department under the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Tourism and Hospitality Industry is a key government platform for developing work programmes on Climate Change.
- f) The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Resettlement, which is the host to the NAPF is a key partner in developing the Agroecology Programme.
- g) Whilst there are clear intentions of developing joint work programmes between civil society and government mainly through the new agricultural policy framework, the institutional arrangements to facilitate this process have not been developed yet.

Coordination of civil society groups in response to climate change issues has been a major challenge in the past 5 years. This is due the lack of resources to facilitate the work of the Climate Change Working Group. There are however serious plans to revive the Working Group. Whilst efforts to strengthen agroecological approaches have been widely promoted by civil society organizations throughout the country in the past twenty years. Evidence of positive impacts from agroecological practices as response to climate change have been documented in number drier agroecological regions.

Thus, there is a policy change by government to adopt agroecology as an effective a short and long term response to building resilience in the country's food systems. On this basis we can conclude that any attempts by civil society organizations to engage government for collaborative work would be highly appreciated and supported.

8.0 KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations are presented based on the scope of the study and specific TORs as provided by PELUM Zimbabwe.

- a) PELUM Zimbabwe is already implementing programmes which are climate change responsive and located throughout the agroecological regions of the country. It would be strategic to review the institutional framework of the network and consider the methods of strengthening this platform in order to facilitate an effective national campaign strategy. A concept note could be developed to support this process as a matter of urgency with the full participation of all members.
- b) A reviving the Climate Change Working Group could be undertaken with the goal of re-establishing it to facilitate a coordinated Civil Society Long term Action Strategy on Climate Change. The process would assist in bringing partnerships between governments, the private sector, development partners and communities into a fully-fledged multi-stakeholder led National Adaptation Plan that is currently under development.
- c) Providing awareness on the current national climate change process in the country to other civil society groups and agreeing on a multiyear joint work
- d) Responding to the current institutional approaches suggested in the NAPF, Pillar VIII.
- e) Partnering in the ZAPPA platform and make input into a Strategic Programme on Climate Change Action Campaign
- f) Advocate for a Civil Society Stakeholder meeting with the participation of ZAPPA to discuss the concept of a National Campaign on Agroecology for Climate Action
- g) Suggest a long term civil society engagement strategies with Government, local authorities, and communities on the basis of the new Devolution and Decentralization Policy.

These recommendations will be considered by PELUM Zimbabwe members then taken further to other civil society platforms working on Climate Change issues, including the Climate Change Working Group and Zimbabwe Alliance for the Practice and Promotion of Agroecology (ZAPPA), with aim of drawing a nationally coordinated strategy on national campaign on agroecology for climate action.

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