



Achieving Community Stewardship Across
the Zambezi Valley

UTARIRI

Biodiversity, Climate Change, Livelihoods
Programme



UTARIRI

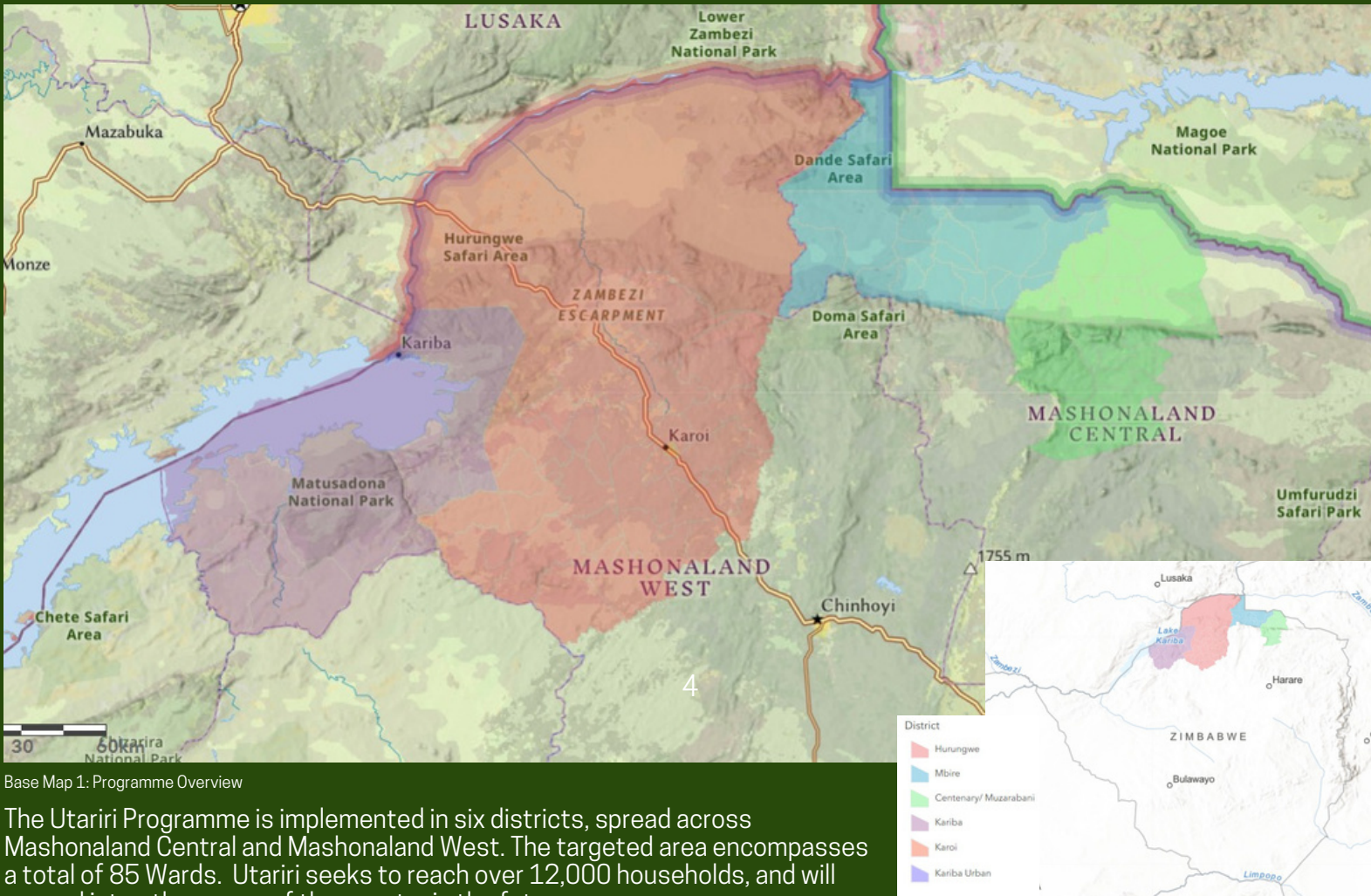
The Utariri Programme, (Utariri meaning *Stewardship* in the Shona Language) seeks to encourage ownership and contribution, towards sustainable utilisation and management of natural resources, whilst working towards the goal of restoring biodiversity, climate action, and building community resilience. The arrangement involving consortium partners, takes an expansive landscape approach, where fostering skills, cross learning, and knowledge transfer envisages livelihood transformation.

Shrinking biodiversity habitats amid increasingly dry conditions owing to climate change, illicit poaching, and prevailing macroeconomic challenges, have exacerbated biodiversity losses in important biosphere reserves such as the mid-lower Zambezi valley.

This is one of Africa's last remaining protected areas. The valley is extensive enough to support many communities, large populations of mammals and includes a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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AREA OVERVIEW



Base Map 1: Programme Overview

The Utariri Programme is implemented in six districts, spread across Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland West. The targeted area encompasses a total of 85 Wards. Utariri seeks to reach over 12,000 households, and will expand into other areas of the country in the future.

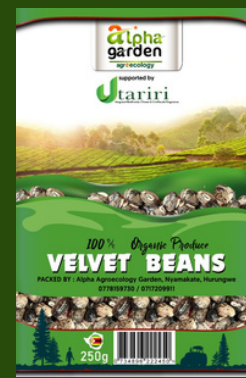
PROJECTS

Utariri is delivering on the Sustainable Development Goal of Partnerships (SDG17).

The Utariri consortium identifies mid-to-long term interventions towards sustainable solutions, where communities participate in the economic dividends from biodiversity to improve their livelihoods, while exercising stewardship in their communities.

Interventions implemented under Utariri aim to address issues such as gender based violence issues/challenges, along with others: poverty and economic distress, human wildlife conflict, habitat degradation and wildlife loss.

The combination of biodiversity losses and climate change crisis is a complex stressor in livelihood development. Women and men use and access natural resources and ecosystems differently. By virtue of their social roles, women depend more on, and interact closely with natural resources such as land, water, and vegetation. Traditionally women have played a key but marginal role in natural resource and biodiversity management.



The Utariri Programme Objectives:

Restoring Dignity to Communities

Improving food security and rural livelihoods, economic empowerment of women and youth, protection and safeguarding of children.

Inclusive Participation in Ecosystems

Integrated landscape management planning policies, community stewardship, incorporating indigenous knowledge systems and conventional wisdom.

Wildlife Protection & Conservation

Mitigating human wildlife conflict, building climate adaptive resilient communities, increasing species diversity, and managing biodiversity refuges.





PARTNERS

Together with local partners, Utariri is bringing together all stakeholders involved in policy making, conservation, economic, and social spheres, *with* the community to work towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals.



DanChurchAid - *Help us fight for the world's poorest*

Working with partners with specific expertise, experience and local knowledge, the DCA led Utariri (Stewardship) Programme promotes both sustainable human wildlife conservation management, and resilience building in marginalized communities through agroecology, and the adoption of climate smart farming.



African Wildlife Foundation - *Africa's Voice for Wildlife*

AWF is embracing the place of wildlife and wild lands not in opposition to an economically developed Africa, but as a critical and inexorable element of Africa's vibrant future. Over the past five-plus decades, the foundation has initiated community livelihood projects ... all the while continuing a landscape-level approach to conservation.



Bushlife Africa Trust - *Friends Protect Friends*

Bushlife Africa Trust strives to protect endangered species within the Mana Pools and Zambezi Valley areas of Zimbabwe from human threat. Enforcement of anti-poaching efforts and community education projects ensures a future in which the area's elephants, pangolins, painted dogs, and other wildlife flourish without risk of human-caused extinction.



The Future of Hope Foundation - *A World with hope & Future for All*

Inspired by the life experience of the founder Chido Govera, who was an orphan and experienced many hardships including hunger and abuse but was able to turn her hardship into an empowering story. The ultimate goal of the Foundation is to end poverty, abuse and victimhood, by enabling beneficiaries to step out of the victim role and become change agents.



The Farmers Association of Community Self-Help Investment Group

FACHIG is a farmer-owned grassroots organization operating in Rushinga, Mt. Darwin, Muzarabani and Guruve districts of Mashonaland Central province in north-eastern Zimbabwe. The uniqueness of FACHIG lies in the fact that it is the only major grassroots-based farmer organisation in the country with a predominantly female membership (73%) and leadership.



Zambezi Valley Conservation Network - *Conservation through Collective Action*

The Zambezi Valley Conservation Network is a landscape-focused organisation operating within the Middle Zambezi Valley and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. ZCVN is committed to gathering and sharing relevant information, optimising communications and building positive relationships with middle Zambezi stakeholders.



DONORS



Swedish Government Agency for Development Cooperation - SIDA

Sida, the Swedish Government Agency for Development Cooperation strives to reduce poverty and oppression around the world. In cooperation with organizations, government agencies and the private sector, Sida invest in sustainable development for all people.



Danish International Development Agency - DANIDA

Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, who's agency provides humanitarian aid and development assistance to other countries, with focus on developing countries. Denmark has been granting development assistance since the end of the Second World War. It is one of the five countries in the world that meets the United Nation's target of granting 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) in development assistance.



Global Environment Facility - GEF

The UN GEF Small Grants Programme embodies the very essence of sustainable development by "thinking globally acting locally". By providing financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people's well-being and livelihoods.

Private Danish Donors

CONTACT

Find out more about Utariri:

www.utariri.org

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