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GEF-8 SCIP | Implementation Committee

Project Title: Urban peri-urban Resilience through Investment for Sustainable Ecosystems in Zimbabwe (URISE)]

Country: ZIMBABWE

Cities: Harare; Bulawayo

Implementing Agency: FAO-Zimbabwe

Executing Agency:

- Environmental Management Agency- (EMA) Lead
- UN Habitat
- Forestry Commission
- UNOPS



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Project Overview

Project development objective:

To enhance community and ecosystem resilience to the stresses and shocks of rapid urbanization and climate change — through the sustainable management of urban and peri-urban wetlands, forests, waste, and agri-food systems.

Main investment components

GEF financing and co-financing (US\$)

- **USD 3.52M-GEF financing:**
Co-Financing: USD 15.40M

Names of beneficiary cities:

- Bulawayo and Harare
- **3 Components:**
 - Component 1: **Integrated planning, policy & city leadership**
 - Component 2: **Nature-positive investments in Harare & Bulawayo**
 - Component 3: **Knowledge sharing & capacity building**



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Implementation Status

Current stage and key milestones

Approval / effectiveness status

- Project approved by GEF July 2025
- Project endorsed by GEF CEO on 4 August 2025
- Project signed by Government and FAO on 24-26 October 2025 respectively
- Main OP signed April 2026
- Project Launch; May 2026
- Project Steering Committee set up and first Steering committee meeting : 3 July 2026
- Approval of Year 1 Workplan PSC :3 July 2026
- Set Up Of Cities Technical committees August /September 2026
- On boarding of other executing agencies: October 2026
- Project Duration 2025-2030

Activities started : Baseline on waste management and review of waste management regulations commenced and ongoing September (activity 1.2.1.1. and 1.2.1.2. (completion 30 October 2026)

Next milestone and expected date;

- Development of ISWM Plan (1 November 2026)
- Commencement of City resilience mapping and development of Climate action plans (Activity 1.1.1.1-1.1.1.4) (1.November 2026)



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Immediate Priorities

Next 6–12 months

- Priority 1: Develop ISWM Plans for both cities –November-December 2026
- Priority 2: Awareness and best practice on waste management and resilience action- December 2027
- Priority 3: Capacity building and development of knowledge products January 2027



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Challenge	Support Needed
Institutional coordination: Delayed constitution of project management unit by main OP	Internal continuous engagement and learning from peers
Technical capacity; Investment models Design of knowledge products	• TA in Financing and engagement with Private Sector • Support needed through sharing experiences with other agencies. • Support in designing of knowledge management products • Peer learning and exchange
Financing / co-financing;	• Peer learning in Financing Models • Budgetary support to enable FAO team to be on the ground to monitor and support partners and participate in regional learning events.
Policy / regulatory; Bureaucracy in decision making by local authorities; This may delay key milestones like endorsements of Climate Action Plans and work on some market sites. For instance we are still awaiting decision on confirmation about one of the project sites after changes in by-laws regarding markets positioning.	Internal Continuous engagement and learning from peers



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Where GPSC & Partners Can Add Value

Select up to 3 areas and specify the support needed:

- ☒ Technical assistance
- ☒ Peer-to-peer learning
- ☒ Knowledge products / toolkits
- ☐ Training / capacity building
- ☒ Expert advisory support
- ☒ South-South exchange
- ☒ Financing / private sector engagement
- ☐ Monitoring & evaluation
- ☐ Communications & visibility
- ☐ Other: _____

Optional: one lesson or innovation to share

There is need for further clarification on how the technical committees will work and interface with executing agencies during implementation. Clear definition of roles required.