Some of the Manjolo Community women who have lost an average of 70% of their annual income due to the degradation of Masibinta Wetland are taking proactive measures to restore the resource using nature-based solutions (Kalulu Mumpande)

Integrated Wetlands Biodiversity Conservation Project (Zimbabwe)

IWBCP

DESCRIPTION

The integrated wetlands biodiversity conservation project aims to restore wetlands and associated biodiversity. The approach strengthens the resilience of neighbouring marginalized groups to climate change through developing lifelong skills and providing livelihoods support.

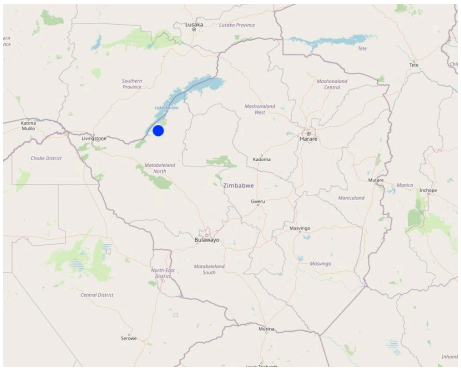
The Integrated Wetlands Biodiversity Conservation Project aims to restore wetlands and associated biodiversity. It is a 2-year project which started in June 2023 with the support of a USD 50,000.00 grant from the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP-GEFSGP). The approach strengthens the resilience of neighbouring community to climate change through developing lifelong skills and providing livelihood support. It targets those marginalized groups surrounding protected areas, who experience severe droughts due to high cases of human-wildlife conflicts, making them highly food insecure. The approach is simultaneously improving sustainable management and utilization of the Masibinta wetland and its catchment.

Technical activities are targeted at restoring Masibinta wetland's ecological integrity by protecting the wetland, implementing conservation agriculture in its catchment, reforesting bare land, controlling and reshaping gullies to create small ponds, and removing a bushy invasive species (Ipomoea carnea) while making compost from its leaves and branches. The ponds increase the recharge of the wetland. This helps provide water to the community and at the same time acts as a barrier to soil erosion and epicenters for natural vegetative cover regeneration and biodiversity restoration. Land degradation neutrality is an overall goal.

Specific targets include:
(a) Protection, rehabilitation and conservation of 13 hectares of Masibinta wetlands, as well as reclamation of degraded land in and around the wetland, while increasing the capacity of the community members to conserve biodiversity.
(b) Increasing access of 387 households to adequate and clean water.
(c) Reduction of invasive species in the wetlands by 80%, and reclamation of 1000 m of gullies.
(d) Promotion of sustainable use and management of Masibinta wetland through regenerative agriculture, livelihood support and imparting lifelong skills to 50 youths (30 females and 20 males).

A variety of technical and social methods are employed:
(a) Grey and Green Infrastructure (GGI): hybrid restoration techniques that involve the combination of engineered structures and Nature-based Solutions (NbS).
(b) Regenerative agriculture: including mulching, mixed cultivation, crop rotation, agroforestry, use of organic manure in nutrition gardens, and zero tillage ("Maganko").
(c) Incentives: monetary incentives to the community members who offer their labour.
(d) Self-mobilization.

LOCATION



Location: Binga, Matebeleland North, Zimbabwe

Geo-reference of selected sites

- 27.4034, -17.75937

Initiation date: 2023

Year of termination: 2025

Type of Approach

- ☐ traditional/ indigenous
- ☐ recent local initiative/ innovative
- ☑ project/ programme based

(e) Peer-to-peer learning.
(f) Problem-solving.

The stages of implementation involved are:
(a) Baseline survey,
(b) Education and training of project support staff, stakeholders,
(c) Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL),
(d) Livelihood support,
(e) Protection of the wetland, then MEL,
(f) Borehole Drilling,
(g) Invasive species management, then MEL,
(h) Gully modification, and
(i) Evaluation and Learning.

The stakeholders involved and their roles are:
(a) Environmental Management Agency (EMA): Implement and monitor restoration activities in the wetland and assess the impact of barricading the gully on the environment.
(b) Forestry Commission (FC): Nursery establishment, management and tree planting.
(c) Agriculture and Rural Advisory Services (ARDAS): Train farmers on agroforestry, goat rearing, climate-smart agriculture, gully reclamation, and polyculture.
(d) Rural and Infrastructure Development Agency (RIDA): oversees all engineering work.
(e) Ministry of Youth Empowerment Development and Vocational Training (MYEDVT): Monitoring youth engagement and benefits.
(f) Ministry of Women Affairs Community Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MWACSMED): Tracked and monitored inclusion and entrepreneurship.
(h) United Nations Development Programme – Grant disbursement, monitoring and evaluating the implementation and sustainability of IWBCP at the national level in line with the GEFSGP expectations.


Conservation cultivation (Mukombwe Kate)


Fencing of the wetland by land users (Vanessa Mudenda)

APPROACH AIMS AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Main aims / objectives of the approach

The Approach aimed at developing an environmentally responsive community, capable of managing and utilizing Masibinta Wetland most sustainably through:
(a)Increasing knowledge and skills in restoring degraded and conserving the restored land
(b)Improving perceptions on biodiversity and building best practices which promote sustainability of the natural resources capital
(c)Increasing conservation benefit sharing and improving governance of the natural resources

Conditions enabling the implementation of the Technology/ ies applied under the Approach

- **Collaboration/ coordination of actors**: Collaboration between the stakeholder and the community enabled the Approach to win a Provincial Award: Excellence in Biodiversity Restoration and Social Impact.

Conditions hindering the implementation of the Technology/ ies applied under the Approach

- **Legal framework (land tenure, land and water use rights)**: Land is owned along family lines which make it difficult to restore. For example a 100-meters portion of a gully which was reclaimed was later cleared to paved a way for a garden by the family member.
- **Policies**: Lack of policy on conservation cultivation
- **Knowledge about SLM, access to technical support**: The stakeholders have limited knowledge on disaster risk reduction and regenerative farming
- **Markets (to purchase inputs, sell products) and prices**: Limited access to markets which offers competitive prices for the landers as producers.
- **Workload, availability of manpower**: The work load is huge and the manpower is limited. The support staff were on a voluntary contract.

PARTICIPATION AND ROLES OF STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

Stakeholders involved in the Approach and their roles

What stakeholders / implementing bodies were involved in the Approach?	Specify stakeholders	Describe roles of stakeholders
local land users/ local communities	Traditional leaders and community members	Community members provided labour and security of materials and food during the Approach's activities. They also monitored and evaluated the Approach and provided valuable lessons. Traditional leadership provided the approach's local oversight role, whipped members into line, provided Indigenous knowledge, and guided the implementation process in accordance with the values and beliefs of the Manjolo community. Traditional leadership was key in information dissemination and resolution of issues which would otherwise affect the success of the Approach
SLM specialists/ agricultural advisers	Agriculture & Rural Development Advisory Services (ARDAS), ZimParks, Forest Commission, Environmental Management Agency (EMA), Small to Medium Enterprises, Ministry of Youth, Social Development, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Health and Child Welfare	Provided technical support, training community members, and local management committees. Supervising activities and evaluating the Approach
local government	Binga District Development Committee	Monitoring and Evaluation of the Approach Providing supportive framework and ensuring that the Approach keep in line with the district's development agenda

Lead agency

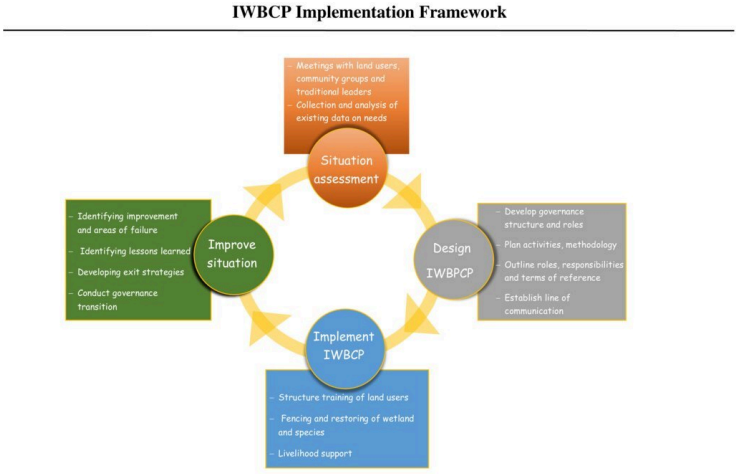
Environment Management Agency (EMA) and Agriculture & Rural Development Advisory Services (ARDAS)

Involvement of local land users/ local communities in the different phases of the Approach

	none	passive	external support	interactive	self-mobilization	
initiation/ motivation					✓	Smallholder farmers The initiation began in October 2022 where the organized a meeting and invited SEWA. At this meeting the farmer highlighted the degradation of Masibinta wetland and how the degradation was negatively affecting their lives. The farmers gave suggestion on possible solutions to the challenges faced.
planning				✓		Smallholder farmers, youth, traditional leaders, local business community, church leaders, teachers, Rural Care Givers, Health Workers, Resources Monitors, Counsellors, People with Disability In December 2022, the farmers who initiated the Approach mobilized community members to a planning meetings, developed activities, pledged own contribution to the Approach, outlined roles of each social group in the Approach, developed ways of mobilizing locally available materials and selected management committees and local lines of communication. They also identified potential challenges and suggested ways of dealing with the challenges that could otherwise arise from the Approach
implementation				✓		The smallholder farmers, traditional leaders, local business community, youth, church leaders, teachers, Rural Care Givers, Health Workers, Resources Monitors, Counsellors, People with Disability The implementation started in July 2023 after GEFSGP had supported the Approach with a grant of $50,000.00 through the UNDP. The community members worked together and provided labour and security of materials and food during the Approach's activities. They also monitored and evaluated the Approach and provided valuable lessons. Traditional leadership provided the approach's local oversight role, whipped members into line, provided Indigenous knowledge, and guided the implementation process in accordance with the values and beliefs of the Manjolo community. Traditional leadership was key in information dissemination and resolution of issues which would otherwise affect the success of the Approach
monitoring/ evaluation				✓		Small holder farmers, youth, traditional leaders, local business community, church leaders, teachers, Rural Care Givers, Health Workers, Resources Monitors, Counsellors, and People with Disability, These provided the views on how the Approach impacted their lives and also on what needed to be changed.

Flow chart

Integrated Wetland Biodiversity Conservation Project (IWBCP) Implementation framework



Author: Mumpande Kalulu

Decision-making on the selection of SLM Technology

Decisions were taken by

- ☐ land users alone (self-initiative)
- ☐ mainly land users, supported by SLM specialists
- ☑ all relevant actors, as part of a participatory approach
- ☐ mainly SLM specialists, following consultation with land users
- ☐ SLM specialists alone
- ☐ politicians/ leaders

Decisions were made based on

- ☐ evaluation of well-documented SLM knowledge (evidence-based decision-making)
- ☐ research findings
- ☑ personal experience and opinions (undocumented)

TECHNICAL SUPPORT, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

The following activities or services have been part of the approach

- [x] Capacity building/ training
- [x] Advisory service
- [x] Institution strengthening (organizational development)
- [x] Monitoring and evaluation
- [ ] Research

Capacity building/ training

Training was provided to the following stakeholders

- [ ] land users
- [ ] field staff/ advisers

Form of training

- [x] on-the-job
- [x] farmer-to-farmer
- [ ] demonstration areas
- [x] public meetings
- [ ] courses

Subjects covered

Biodiversity conservation, project infrastructure management, sustainable land management, agroforestry, gully reclamation, conservation farming, climate change, and environmental policies

Advisory service

Advisory service was provided

- [x] on land users' fields
- [x] at permanent centres

The Rural & Infrastrure Development Agency , Forest Commission and Agriculture & Rural Development Advisory Services provided advisory services to land users crop fields preparation, gully reclamation, tree planting, and wetland management

Institution strengthening

Institutions have been strengthened / established

- [ ] no
- [ ] yes, a little
- [x] yes, moderately
- [ ] yes, greatly

at the following level

- [x] local
- [ ] regional
- [ ] national

Describe institution, roles and responsibilities, members, etc.

Community Management Committee and local constitution Supervision of the land users and enforcing constitution

Type of support

- [ ] financial
- [x] capacity building/ training
- [ ] equipment

Further details

The management committee was trained once on their roles. However, more structured training would enhance their discharge of duties

Monitoring and evaluation

Continuous monitoring was carried out by the Approach support staff. Monitoring and Evaluation was done quarterly, involving all key stakeholders

FINANCING AND EXTERNAL MATERIAL SUPPORT

Annual budget in USD for the SLM component

- [ ] < 2,000
- [ ] 2,000-10,000
- [ ] 10,000-100,000
- [ ] 100,000-1,000,000
- [ ] > 1,000,000

Precise annual budget: 25000.0

-Co-funding -Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP_GEFSGP)

The following services or incentives have been provided to land users

- [x] Financial/ material support provided to land users
- [x] Subsidies for specific inputs
- [ ] Credit
- [x] Other incentives or instruments

Financial/ material support provided to land users

Fencing materials, stationary, cement, goats, seed inputs Provider: UNDP_GEFSGP

	partly financed	fully financed
equipment: tools	✓	
Fencing material		✓
agricultural: seeds	✓	
Fence		✓

Labour by land users was

- [x] voluntary
- [ ] food-for-work
- [ ] paid in cash
- [ ] rewarded with other material support

Other incentives or instruments

Monetary incentive (for activities which are yet to be done using the additional support from the G20 Global Land Restoration Initiative)

IMPACT ANALYSIS AND CONCLUDING STATEMENTS

Impacts of the Approach

	No	Yes, little	Yes, moderately	Yes, greatly
Did the Approach empower local land users, improve stakeholder participation? 124 land users were trained, supported with seed imputes, and goats.				✓
Did the Approach enable evidence-based decision-making? Decisions were made based on data gathered from community engagements, lessons learned from the before projects in the area and the surveys conducted as a baseline.			✓	
Did the Approach help land users to implement and maintain SLM Technologies? Land users have reclaimed 100 metres of gullies, implemented conservation cultivation, used nature-based approaches to restore the wetland				✓
Did the Approach improve coordination and cost-effective implementation of SLM? The use of Nature-based Solutions and indigenous knowledge reduced the cost of implementing the SLM as such approaches are cheaper in terms of cost. Approach improved coordination between the project management and land users through clearly defined roles and lines of communication			✓	
Did the Approach mobilize/ improve access to financial resources for SLM implementation? Mobilized finances from the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP-GEFSGP). Finances have also been mobilized from the G20 Global Land Initiative, though yet to be disbursed into SEWA's bank account.			✓	
Did the Approach improve knowledge and capacities of land users to implement SLM? 124 land users were trained on SLM and were given kowledge material such as brochures.				✓
Did the Approach improve knowledge and capacities of other stakeholders? Not much training of stakeholders was done. However the stakeholders drew lessons from the project and shared their experience during project progress update meetings.		✓		
Did the Approach build/ strengthen institutions, collaboration between stakeholders? Each and every stakeholder involved in the project had clearly defined roles and synergies			✓	
Did the Approach mitigate conflicts? The fencing of wetland including the nutrition gardens and the development of the land users' constitution mitigated conflicts				✓
Did the Approach empower socially and economically disadvantaged groups? Assisted women, youth and people with disability with female goats. These groups were trained under the same rood				✓
Did the Approach encourage young people/ the next generation of land users to engage in SLM? Financial limitation reduced the engagement of youth in Manjolo as the effective method of engaging youth in Manjolo require a reasonable budget		✓		
Did the Approach improve issues of land tenure/ user rights that hindered implementation of SLM Technologies? The Approach has not yet tackled the issue	✓			
Did the Approach lead to improved food security/ improved nutrition? Through crop yields, and income generation projects.				✓
Did the Approach improve access to markets? Local market. Land users are supply Boarding School and a hospital with green vegetables		✓		
Did the Approach lead to improved access to water and sanitation? Boreholes Drilling couldn't find water.	✓			
Did the Approach lead to more sustainable use/ sources of energy? The Approach did not look at energy	✓			
Did the Approach improve the capacity of the land users to adapt to climate changes/ extremes and mitigate climate related disasters? Through training and livelihoods support				✓

Main motivation of land users to implement SLM

- ✓ increased production
- ✓ increased profit(ability), improved cost-benefit-ratio
- ✓ reduced land degradation
- ✓ reduced risk of disasters
- ✓ reduced workload
- payments/ subsidies
- ✓ rules and regulations (fines)/ enforcement
- ✓ prestige, social pressure/ social cohesion
- ✓ affiliation to movement/ project/ group/ networks
- ✓ environmental consciousness
- ✓ customs and beliefs, morals
- ✓ enhanced SLM knowledge and skills
- ✓ aesthetic improvement
- ✓ conflict mitigation

Sustainability of Approach activities

Can the land users sustain what hat been implemented through the Approach (without external support)?

- no
- ✓ yes
- uncertain

In terms of human sustainability, the training that the Land Users have received, skills and knowledge that they have gained will enable them to continue with the project activities without any external support. The involvement of the Land Users in decision making structures and programmes will enable Land Users to make and implement key decisions beyond the external support. The income generating projects and the Internal Savings and Lending Schemes introduced under the

Approach will ensure financial sustainability. The training of the stakeholders by the Approach provide the technical sustainability.

CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS LEARNT

Strengths: land user's view

- The Approach is providing women with financial independence and choices.
- The Approach is empowering the marginalized community groups with climate resilient and bankable assets. For example 12 youth, 3 people with disability and 10 women have been assisted with 2 female goats, increasing conservation benefits.
- The land Users view the Approach as their out of hunger and poverty

Strengths: compiler's or other key resource person's view

- Views the Approach as sustaible and transformative development.
- The Approach is viewed as practical demonstration of sustainable land management
- Viewed as a sources of lessons for the partners and environmentalists

Weaknesses/ disadvantages/ risks: land user's viewhow to overcome

- The Approach has a limited thrust on influencing policy and land tenure Involving policy makers at local level
- The Approach has not identified learning areas Identify learning areas through monitoring and evaluation sessions

Weaknesses/ disadvantages/ risks: compiler's or other key resource person's viewhow to overcome

- The ponds may cause risk of drowning of children as kids love playing in water Constructing shallow ponds

REFERENCES

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Naison Mudenda (Nil) - land user
Nomai Mwembe (Nil) - Indigenous Knowledge Guardian

Full description in the WOCAT database

https://qcat.wocat.net/af/wocat/approaches/view/approaches_7367/
Video: https://player.vimeo.com/video/1024756839

Linked SLM data

n.a.

Documentation was faciliated by

Institution

- Safe Environment & Wildlife Africa (SEWA)

Project

- n.a.

Key references

- None:

Links to relevant information which is available online

- None: None