

**GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE**

**Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate**

**HWANGE SANYATI BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR (HSBC) PROJECT**

**PROCESS FRAMEWORK**

**JANUARY 2014**

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**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

CAP Chapter

EMA Environmental Management Agency

EMMP Environment Management and Monitoring Plan

EMP Environment Management Plan

ESIA Environment and Social Impact Assessment

ESMF Environment and Social Management Framework

ESMP Environment and Social Management Plan

FC Forestry Commission

GoZ Government of Zimbabwe

HNP Hwange National Park

HSBC Hwange Sanyati Biodiversity Corridor

ICA Intensive Conservation Area

IPPF Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework

KAZA Kavango Zambezi

NRM Natural Resources Management

PA Protection Areas

PAP Project Affected Persons

PWMA Parks and Wildlife Management Authority

RDC Rural District Council

REDD Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

TFCA Trans Frontier Conservancy Area

WWF Worldwide Wildlife Fund

**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The GEF through the World Bank is funding the HSBC project that will be implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate. The HSBC project consists of four subprojects that are implemented through four implementing partners which are coordinated by WWF. The four implementing agents and their respective subprojects are EMA (land degradation), CAMPFIRE (livelihoods), Forestry Commission (Climate Change) and PWMA (Biodiversity).

The project triggered the following World Bank environment and social safeguards policies

* O.P 4.01 – Environmental Assessment Policy.
* O.P 4.04 – Natural habitat.
* O.P 4.36 – Forests Protection.
* O.P 4.11- Physical Cultural Resource.
* O.P 4.12 – Involuntary Resettlement.
* O.P 4.10 – Indigenous Peoples.

An ESMF was developed to comply with the OP 4.01, 4.04 and 4.36 while an IPPF was developed to address the requirements of O.P 4.10. This Process Framework addresses the requirements of OP 4.12.

The PWMA and the Forestry Commission subprojects gave rise to this PF. The project location for the PWMA is the HNP while the Forestry Commission is focusing on the Ngamo and Sikumi Forests. The two subprojects are anchored on the existing restriction of access to the gazetted forest and national park area.

The location of the two subprojects generate and impact zone that includes the two districts namely Tsholotsho and Hwange. The areas that are most affected by the project activities are Tsholotsho wards 1,2,3,4,5 and 7 and Hwange wards 13,14,15,16 and 17.

A Process Framework (PF) describes the process by which affected communities participate in identification, design, implementation and monitoring of relevant project activities.

The key partners in the implementation of this PF include EMA, Forestry Commission, PWMA, RDCSs through CAMPFIRE, traditional leaders and the local NGOs. The implementation process will be anchored on the existing local communication networks and committees.

In this PF, PAPs are those people who depend on a certain level of access and use of a given resource to maintain their standard of living. As a general guideline, PAP include all families and their dependants living in or near the HNP/Forest/Buffer zones and are dependent on it on a continual or seasonal basis.

The following measures have been put in place to ensure minimum negative environmental and social impacts to the local community;

* ESMF
* Environmental Screening Planned Activities Environmental Impacts Social Impacts
* ESMP to be prepared and approved before works begin.
* Process framework
* IPPF

The real interventions against any potential negative social within the community arising from project implementation are quenched through the integration of CAMPFIRE component in the HSBC project. The implementation of the PF will therefore best be made with the total and consistent participation of the CAMPFIRE.

The PF has devised a grievance and conflict resolution procedure that revolves around the use of traditional leaders for internal and lower case conflicts. The procedure also has informal mechanisms that include management intervention, Ministerial interventions and also Presidential interventions where required. The formal mechanism will follow the magistrate court at a local level and an appeal route that can end to the Supreme Court, however dialogue and informal settlements will be encouraged.

The PF also has put in place mechanism for the involvement of the local community in the monitoring of the effectiveness of the project interventions including the conflict resolution and mitigation of the applicable negative impacts accompanying the HNP and the forests operations.

For the success implementation of this PF, the CAMPFIRE livelihoods component need to be closely merged with this PF so that the CAMPFIRE interventions are instrumental in quenching the anxiety that the local community may have as a result of the existing restriction to the HNP and the forest areas.

**2.0 Project description**

This section briefly discusses the project description and highlight the facets of the project that are likely to give rise to restriction of access to natural resources in gazetted parks and forest areas. It is important to note that there are four subproject in the HSBC project namely EMA (land degradation), CAMPFIRE (livelihoods), Forestry Commission (Climate Change) and PWMA (Biodiversity). Of the four components, two of them do not in any way generate a restriction of access to gazetted forests and park area. This project description will therefore focus on the two components that are generating or depend on an existing restriction, that is the PWMA and the Forestry Commission components. Two important facets of the project descriptions pertain to the project location and the project activities.

**2.1Project Location**

Zimbabwe has 26 wildlife areas that consist of 11 national parks, 6 safari areas, 10 recreational parks, 2 botanical gardens and 2 botanical reserves that cover 5.2 million ha. The Hwange –Sanyati Biodiversity Corridor Project area hosts three National Parks (Hwange, Chizarira and Matusadonha) and two safari areas (Chete and Chirisa). The Parks estate neighbors with some communal land, gazetted forest areas and privately owned conservancies. The estate also hosts migration wildlife routes across the different neighbouring land use systems. .

The HSBC project will focus on Hwange National Park (HNP). The HNP was preferred because of the following realities:

1. It is a reservoir of most of the wildlife found in the corridor. For example, it has about 50 000 elephants; more than 5 000 buffalo; and 400 lion and is the largest national park in the country.
2. It is part of the Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) Trans-frontier Conservation Area (TFCA) initiative. The KAZA is the largest TFCA in the world.
3. It is the source of animals that are sport hunted in the other land use systems e.g. Gwai Intensive Conservation Area (ICA); and Tsholotsho, Hwange and Binga communal lands.
4. Its wildlife is a major source of human wildlife conflicts with neighboring communal lands.

Zimbabwe has 24 gazetted indigenous forests that cover about 800 000 ha. The HSBC Project area hosts five of the country’s 24 gazetted indigenous forest areas. They are; Sikumi, Ngamo, Mzola, Kavira and Sijarira. However, the project will focus on Sikumi and Ngamo forests. This is in recognition of the fact they neighbor Hwange National Park- the reservoir of wildlife in the project corridor. Consequently they provide continuity for wildlife movement within the corridor. There is also no commercial timber logging and human settlements in the two forests. Furthermore the forests interface with communities who derive their livelihoods from them by accessing grazing, thatch grass, firewood and other non-wood forest products.

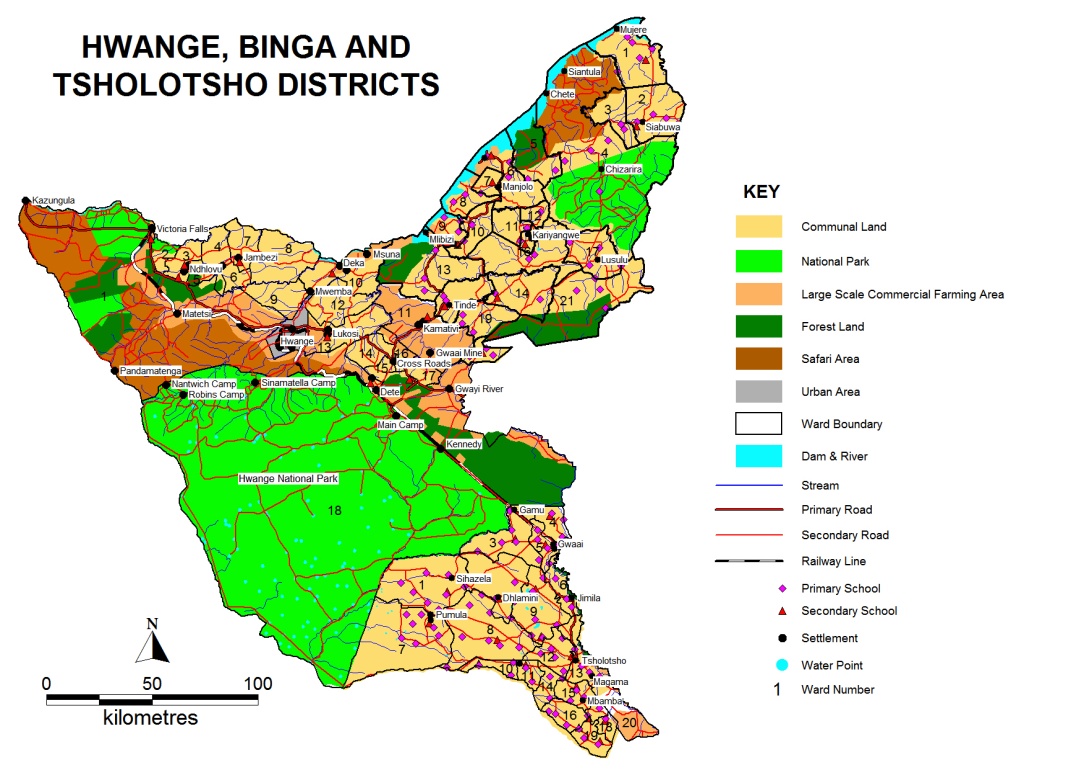
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Fig 2.1 Location of Hwange National Park in the HSBC

The above map shows that the HNP borders the Tsholotsho communal area to the south east, the gazetted forest area to the east, Safari area to the north and the Zimbabwe-Botswana border to the west. The Ngamo and Sikumi areas share borders with communal areas in the Hwange District. The communities in the Tsholotsho and Hwange district do experience varying forms of restriction of access to natural resources in the HNP and the two gazetted forests. There is total restriction to the HNP and access is only through designated access points after paying some entry fees. The surrounding community is not allowed to hunt or gather non timber products from the HNP. Anyone found to have gain illegal entry is considered to be committing and criminal offense. There is however some limited access to the gazetted forests which in most cases act as buffer zones.

The forests are important for watershed and soil protection (catchment area protection), biodiversity conservation, wildlife habitats and as a source of commercial timber and non-timber forest products such as honey, mushrooms, edible insects and indigenous fruits. The forests are generally critical for the management and protection of the fragile Kalahari sand ecosystem. Gazetted forests contribute to Zimbabwe’s Gross Domestic Product through the forestry and tourism sectors. Substantial quantities of indigenous timber products are exported as furniture, flooring and wood carvings. In addition, the forests generate revenue from photographic safaris and sport hunting. Furthermore, gazetted indigenous forests provide employment in the areas of commercial timber harvesting, safari operations, forest management and wood carving. About four timber concessions are operational in the forests at any one time. The concessions employ some 300 people in forest management and sawmilling.

With respect to hunting, there can be as many as 160 hunts lasting 14 to 20 days each per hunting season (May to October). Sport hunting and photographic safari operations employ substantial numbers of people. Depending on the size of the safari outfit, there could be up to 25 people employed in catering, grounds maintenance, game tracking, skinning and tour guiding. The approximately 44 curio stalls operating along the Bulawayo-Victoria Falls road and in Victoria Falls derive their timber from gazette forests. Each stall employs on average 20 people engaged in various activities in the production and vending of the curios.

The general application of this PF will be common whether for HNP or the Forest areas, there will however be need to adapt the PF for respective project areas and respective PAPs.

* 1. **PROJECT ACTIVITIES**
     1. **PARKS AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

1. **Focal area outputs**

The overall objective of the focal area is to assist HNP to become a thriving and self-sustaining wildlife estate. Its specific outputs are:

* The functioning of the park’s ecosystem better understood.
* Game water supply improved.
* Extent of wildlife poaching reduced.
* Incidence of veld fires curtailed.
* Pilot REDD+ project developed and piloted.

1. **Specific activities by output**

**Output 1: The functioning of the park’s ecosystem better understood**

The following activities will be carried out:

* 1. Study wildlife migratory routes throughout the corridor.
  2. Carryout a comprehensive groundwater assessment of the corridor.
  3. Conduct wildlife aerial surveys for indicator species every three years.
  4. Update the park management plan.

**Output 2: Game water supply improved**

The following activity will be undertaken:

* Establish and maintain game water points as per HNP management plan.

**Output 3: Extent of wildlife poaching reduced**

The following activities will be conducted:

1. Enhance anti-poaching activities in the park.
2. Mount joint/coordinated operations with relevant institutions (e.g. Forestry Commission, Painted dog project and Rural District Councils-RDCs).

Output 3 activities are the ones that have enforcement of the existing restriction of access to the natural resources in the park area by the surrounding communities. Though the project has no additional restrictions to the ones that already exist, the success of the project is premised on the effective enforcement of the existing restriction to the park area. For effective implementation of the anti-poaching endeavors, community participation is very essential. The HNP will ensure it consults the local community on designing and implementation of anti-poaching activities.

**Output 4: Incidence of veld fires curtailed**

The following activities will be carried out:

1. Establish and maintain fire guards.
2. Undertake firefighting operations.
3. Mount community conservation awareness campaigns.

Output 4 is the one under which most community sensitization activities are anchored. The community is expected to actively participate under this item in all its facets. The community participation is essential for effective fire management and general conservation awareness.

**Output 5: Pilot REDD+ project developed and implemented**

The following activities will be conducted:

1. Establish the underlying causes of deforestation in HNP.
2. Assess and map out the forest cover of HNP.
3. Establish the amount of carbon sequestrated by HNP forests; Assess REDD+ readiness of the forests.
4. Design and implement a pilot REDD+ project.
   * 1. **FORESTRY COMMISSION- CLIMATE CHANGE FOCAL AREA**

As indicated in section 2.2.1, the achievement of the project objectives by Forestry Commission depends totally on the close participation of the local community.

1. **OUTPUTS OF THE FOCAL AREA**

The overall objective of this focal area is to promote improved land and forest management practices in Sikumi and Ngamo forests. Its outputs are:

* Pilot REDD+ project developed and implemented.
* Incidence of forest fires curtailed.
* Extent of commercial timber and wildlife poaching reduced;
* Game water supply improved.

1. **ACTIVITIES TO THE OUTPUTS**

**Output 1: Pilot REDD+ project developed and implemented.**

The following activities will be carried out under this output:

* 1. Establish the underlying causes of deforestation in Sikumi and Ngamo forests.
  2. Assess and map out forest cover of the forests.
  3. Assess the amount of carbon sequestrated by the forests.
  4. Assess REDD+ readiness of the forests.
  5. Design and implement a pilot REDD+ project.

**Output 2: Incidence of forest fires curtailed**

The following activities will be conducted:

1. Establish and maintain fire guards.
2. Undertake firefighting operations.
3. Strengthen the work of community fire brigades.

**Output 3: Extent of commercial timber and wildlife poaching reduced**

The following activities will be done:

1. Enhance anti-poaching capacity in the forests.
2. Facilitate operations of community resource sharing committees.
3. Mount joint anti-poaching operations with relevant institutions (e.g. Parks & Wildlife Management Authority, Rural district Councils and the Painted Dog project).

**Output 4: Game water supply improved**

The following activities will be carried out:

1. Carry out a comprehensive game water assessment exercise throughout the corridor.
2. Facilitate the provision of adequate water through the establishment of new and maintenance of existing water points.

**3.0 Community stakeholders’ profile**

The stakeholder mix for PWMA and the Forestry Commission consists of both corporate and households. The corporate stakeholders are mostly private operators within and outside the park estate and the forest areas. These include NGOs, research institutions, regulatory authorities and government departments. The stakeholder profile will have more focus on the community stakeholders.

Districts that are directly impacted by the restrictions arising from the Hwange National Park and the Forestry Commission operations in Ngamo and Sikumi Forests are Tsholotsho and Hwange. The administrative authority within the participating districts is the District Administrator who coordinates local government system as represented by resident government departments. Each district has a Rural District Council which is run by a council of elected councilors from their respective wards. At district level, there is a District Environment Management Committee followed by Zone Environment Management Committee. A zone is a combination of about 5 wards depending on the areas. Below the Zone Environment Management Committee is the Ward Environment Management Committee which is followed by the Village Environment Management Committee. Within the village there are volunteer environment watchpersons who work closely with the HSBC project implementing organizations at the lowest local level. The traditional administrative arrangement starts at village level with the village head, to the headmen and to the Chief. Through this chain, there is level of delegation of power, where village heads can attend to some disputes before forwarding them to the headmen until the matter get to the Chief for final resolution. Where the traditional route fails to resolve some matters, the matter may be channeled to the administrative court that is at the local district offices. The Chief is accountable to the District Administrator.

The project area is semi-arid making crop husbandry very limited and only possible under irrigation. Where there is no irrigation some drought resistant crops like sorghum and millet are grown for consumption. Small scale agricultural activities, manufacturing and selling of curios, flea markets, CAMPFIRE projects, general commodity broking (buying and selling), tourism and mining industries are the major industrial activities that directly contribute income generation and livelihoods to the general population. Some locals especially in the Tsholotsho area earn a living through the sale of Mopani worms, which are a nutritious delicacy. The worms are harvested from the Mopani tree, dried and sold to areas as far as Kariba, Harare and Mutare. The local communities also derive a great deal of livelihoods from harvesting of non-timber products from bordering forests which include honey. The San People are still practicing the hunting and gathering livelihood approach though they are under pressure to modernize and incorporate cultivation due to the scarcity of resources and the restriction of access to the Hwange National Park. Due to their inexperience in the farming, the San people are reported to be underproductive and exposed to hunger, resulting in some NGOs having to assist them with food handouts.

The area also boasts of its timber plantation which is a major foreign currency earner since most of the teak products are exported. These plantations are found in Ngamo and Sikumi to mention a few. There is also a lot of tourism activity in the area because of the Hwange National Park, Zambezi National Park and Victoria Falls National Park which hosts a wide plethora of wildlife.

The HSBC spans through Matabeleland North and Part of Midlands with a population of 704 948 and 809 675 respectively, with an annual population growth rate of 0.11 percent [World Bank 2010]. Approximately two thirds of the population resides in rural areas, though urbanization is projected to rise [UNPD 2008]. The population is largely young with the median of 18.8 years [UNPD 2008] and about 40 percent of the population is under the age of 15 [World Bank 2010]. Population growth rate is estimated to have stalled [World Bank 2010], likely because of an adult HIV/AIDS prevalence rate estimated at 15.3 percent [World Bank 2010] and High levels of outmigration [UNICEF 2008]. The proportion of male and female population is an average 48 and 52 percent respectively in the two provinces. Information from the local NGOs working with the San people in Tsholotsho show that there are about 2000 San people living in Tsholotsho, though the greater number of the San community is across the border in Botswana. The average family size in the project area is 6 people per household. Analysis of the household mix shows that there are mostly women and the elderly who are staying with children while the middle aged and most males are seeking jobs in the provincial headquarters and commercial centers within the provinces. Where there are youths at the home, they are mostly unemployed and help with the household livelihoods activities like herding cattle and crop farming where applicable.

Communication systems are mostly concentrated on the major centres like growth points. The area is covered by both fixed and mobile network. The fix network that is operational in the area is the TelOne network and Netone is the dominant network line in most of the areas though network connectivity is still a problem.

Drinking water supply for local communities is mostly groundwater and the pumping mechanism are manual. Some of the communities use shallow wells on river beds. According to the Habbakuk Trust, a local NGO in Tsholotsho, the drinking water situation in Tsholotsho is understood to be critical, including areas where the San people are concentrated.

All wards in the project area are covered with at least one Non-Governmental Organization offering various livelihood interventions. In Tsholotsho, there are NGOs that are working for the wellbeing of the remnant San peoples in Zimbabwe. These organizations include Christian Care, Tsoro-o-tso San Development Trust, and the Habakkuk Trust.

Tsholotsho is home to three ethnic groups, these being the Ndebele, Kalanga and San. The principal language is Ndebele which is spoken by over 80% of the population and understood by over 90% of the population. The Khoisan language is the least used language within the district because even the San, also use other languages like Ndebele.

The stakeholders in the implementation of this PF include the following parties;

* The President of Zimbabwe.
* The Minister of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate.
* Member of Parliament.
* District Administrator.
* Local RDC.
* Local Ward councilors.
* Local traditional leaders
* Local community members.
* Local NGOs within with community.
* Private safari Operators.
* Government departments.
* Research Institutions within the parks estate.
* CAMPFIRE.
* EMA.
* Director General of PWMA.
* Director General of Forestry Commission.
* HNP Management.
* Forest areas Management.

**4.0 Purpose of Process Framework**

A Process Framework (PF) describes the process by which affected communities participate in identification, design, implementation and monitoring of relevant project activities and mitigation measures. The purpose of this PF is to ensure participation of Project Affected People (PAP) in the project while recognizing and protecting their interests and ensuring that they do not become worse off as a result of the project. Specifically, the PF will:

1. Describe activities that may involve new or more stringent restrictions on use of natural resources in the NWR.
2. Describe the mitigation and compensation measures required.
3. Describe the grievance procedure or process for resolving disputes to natural resource use restrictions.
4. Describe the participatory monitoring arrangements with border community members.

Through this PF, the PWMA and the Forestry Commission will establish the status quo of the community livelihoods and forecast the expected direction and magnitude of any change brought about by the proposed project. The PF will also assist in;

• Assessing and describing the administrative and legal procedures including (i) previous agreements between communities and government relating to access to natural resources, and (ii) the administrative and financial responsibilities for the key stakeholders;

• Establishing the criteria for eligibility by which PAP will be determined and measures to ensure that their living standards do not deteriorate as a result of the project; and

• Identifying how the affected communities will benefit from the project and the measures that will be implemented to assist them improve or at least maintain their standards of living.

**5.0 World Bank safeguard policy requirements**

The proposed project has been screened and classified as an environmental category B since all envisaged environmental impacts at the sites will be localized, minimal, short term and readily mitigated. The following World Bank environment and social safeguards policies were triggered and the full details on why they are triggered and the required actions are in chapter 3 of the ESMF;

* O.P 4.01 – Environmental Assessment Policy
* O.P 4.04 – Natural habitat
* O.P 4.36 – Forests Protection
* O.P 4.11- Physical Cultural Resource
* O.P 4.12 – Involuntary Resettlement
* O.P 4.10 – Indigenous Peoples

An Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been developed to comply with the OP 4.01, 4.04 and 4.36. The ESMF provides guidance on subproject screening, assessment and management, including appropriate mitigation measures of expected adverse environmental and social impacts that may be generated by the subprojects. A separate IPPF was developed to address the requirements of O.P 4.10. This Process Framework addresses the principle considerations of OP 4.12. Though there is no land acquisition in the project, the policy is triggered because of the restriction of access to gazetted forests and parks areas. While there is no new restriction that is brought about by the project, it is important to note that;

1. The existing restriction is directly and significantly related to the Bank –assisted project.
2. The existing restriction is necessary to achieve the objectives of a Bank-assisted project.

This process frame work will be implemented in conjunction with the ESMF, the IPPF and any other subsequent social or environment management instrument.

**6.0 ENGAGEMENT OF PARTNERS AND INTERVENTION FOR COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

The implementation of community participation in the HNP and the gazetted forest areas is an intricate balance of a number of partners who play specific roles in community engagement. The key partners include EMA, Forestry Commission, PWMA, RDCSs through CAMPFIRE, traditional leaders and the local NGOs.

1. EMA has a network of environment management committees from the national level to the village level. The local environment management committee will be actively involved in the implementation of this process framework. The same environment communication channels in the local community will be used to communicate the objectives of this PF and obtain feedback to the HNP. The integrated approach will ensure that the community mobilization is time efficient. The District Environment Management Committee, Ward Environment Management Committee, Village Environment Management Committee and the village based volunteers will be part of the network to effectively implement this PC.
2. Forestry Commission has a local office for both Ngamo and Sikumi forests that will be liaising with the community to advance the objectives of this PF. Within each forest there are patrol gangs that enforce the requirements of the restricted access to the forest.
3. PWMA has a fully supported interpretation unit based at the HNP that ensures close collaboration with the surrounding community of park estate management. This unit is to ensure that the relevant park management information is transmitted effectively to the neighbouring communities and the feedback from such communities is well documented and utilized in the park management.
4. CAMPFIRE is the RDCs implementation wing for all CBNRM processes. The benefits that can be accrued to the community from the project are channelled through CAMPHIRE Association. The association will also be responsible for ensuring close participation of the community in the designing, implementation and monitoring of the various facets of the HSBC especially as it relates to the community.
5. The Local leadership consists of the Chief and the top and the village head at the bottom. The traditional leadership will ensure community mobilization for any for =m of community engagement.

Local NGOs will also be instrumental in the mobilization and perception creation within the local community. They will also be closely involved in the review of the design, implementation and monitoring of the subprojects and the implementation of the PF. Some of the community based organizations/NGOs that operate within the HNP impact zone, eg Painted Dogs, E Africa, San People Trust in Zimbabwe, the Habakkuk Trust and Lupane Women Arts centre.

1. **Project Affected People (PAP) and criteria for eligibility**

As a general guideline, PAP include all families and their dependants living in or near the HNP/Forest/Buffer zones and are dependent on it on a continual or seasonal basis. This may include hunters, fishermen, agriculturists, and pastoralists, women collecting firewood, loggers, and others. PAP also include people who practice a seasonal occupation or second profession activities; they may depend on this second activity as alternative sources of livelihood income when necessary. While there is no one allowed to live within the HNP and the gazetted forest areas, the community is allowed to access the buffer zones for general supplies like firewood and non-timber products. The following wards are understood to be within the impact zone of the HNP and the gazetted forest area;

* Tsholotsho wards 1,2,3,4,5 and 7.
* Hwange wards 13,14,15,16 and 17.

Through an informed stakeholder consultation, the scope of PAPs can be reviewed continually and the extent of impacts well documented.

1. **Measures to reduce negative impactS ON THE COMMUNITY**

The following measures have been put in place to ensure minimum negative environmental and social impacts to the local community;

* ESMF
* Environmental Screening Planned Activities Environmental Impacts Social Impacts
* ESMP to be prepared and approved before works begin.
* Process framework
* IPPF

The proposed project has some activities specifically designed to alleviate negative impacts arising from the proximity effect to the HNP. The following project activities has a direct impact of reducing the extent of negative impacts on the HNP and forests operations;

* Game water supply activity is anticipated to reduce the residence time of wild animals in the surrounding communities since the animals will be having access to adequate water from within the park area.
* The promotion of the chilli cultivation is also expected to mitigate against the human wildlife conflicts that are rampant within the impact zone.
* Community conservation awareness will reduce potential project misunderstanding, thereby minimizing potential conflicts and grievances from the local community.
* The whole CAMPHIRE component is premised on cushioning the local community from the direct impacts of being in close proximity with the HNP and the forest areas.

Some of the specific CAMPFIRE activities that are meant to assist the affected communities in Hwange and Tsholotsho include;

1. Establish and nurture beneficial community and private sector partnerships that enhance safari hunting revenue streams.
2. Strengthen Environment Sub-Committees.
3. Enhance the capacity of communities to monitor wildlife and to effectively participate in the safari hunting operations in their area.
4. Assess the current magnitude and impact of and response to human and wildlife conflict in selected wards.
5. Design and implement a HWC surveillance mechanism that ensures timely communication to and response by communities and other key stakeholders.
6. Facilitate the identification and implementation of appropriate mitigation measures (e.g. chilli fence, chilli bomb and livestock biomass).
7. Raise awareness and build community level capacity in the HWC mitigation.
8. Promote chilli cultivation (as a HWC mitigation ingredient and source of income).
9. Monitor changes in HWC and wildlife damage.

It is therefore important to observe that the real interventions against any potential negative social within the community arising from project implementation are quenched through the integration of CAMPFIRE component in the HSBC project. The implementation of the PF will therefore best be made with the total and consistent participation of the CAMPFIRE.

* 1. **Capacity building for CBNRM and project awareness**

In an effort to ensure effective adoption of CBNRM and project awareness, CBNRM was introduced in Thsolotsho and Hwange in 1990 and 1992 respectively. This community approach was enhanced by the formation of the environment management committees in the respective wards and villages. The same committees will be used to enhance project awareness amongst the local community.

* 1. **Problem animal control**

The local community is confronted with the control of problem animals. These include Elephants, lions, hyenas and baboons. The common problems include the killing of domestic animals by predators and the destruction of farm produce by elephants and baboons. In an attempt to control these animals, the local community has gangs that were trained to respond to the attack by such animals. The HNP also has a ready response team to backstops the community based reaction teams. HNP staff were also trained in a human wildlife conflict toolkit. The proposed project has some activities that are aimed at combatting the human wildlife conflict. These include;

* Chilli fences, chilli briquettes.
* Bee hive fences.
  1. **Livelihood support**

Due to strict park estate access conditions, there is minimal interaction between the park estate and the surrounding communities, however; there is a livelihood support window opened through limited access to buffer zones. Within the buffer zones, the community is allowed to collect firewood, herd cattle and collect non-timber products. The proposed project has scope for livelihoods support through the CAMPFIRE component.

* 1. **Job opportunities**

Non-technical staff is recruited right at the HNP and preference is given to the locals. Though there are no San People employed within the park operations at the moment, the San People are given equal employment opportunity with the other locals. Technical staff is recruited through the head office that is based in Harare through an open competitive approaches.

* 1. **Community representation and revenues from Protected Areas**

The local community is represented by the Traditional leaders who have a direct access to the HNP and the Forestry area management system to lodge any complaints from the local community. The local community has no direct access to the revenue derived from the proceeds of the park operation. The community indirectly benefits through the community projects that are sponsored by the HNP.

1. **Grievances and conflict resolution**
   1. **land access, resource rights and** **responsibilities**

As enshrined in the Parks and WildLife Management Act (CAP 20:14), the boundaries of the park area, forest area and buffer zones are established through the government gazette, after consultation with all stakeholders. The Minister requests authority from the President to set the boundaries. As it stands now, the gazetted forest areas and park estate fall under state land and is given to the respective authorities (PWMA and Forest Commission) for management, conservation purposes and exploitation for the benefit of the nation in general and the local community in particular.

Conflicts or grievances may arise from the implementation of project activities or may already be in existence (e.g. conflicts between people and wildlife). Conflicts generally arise from poor communication, inadequate or lack of consultation, inadequate flow of relevant upto-date information, or restrictions that may be imposed on PAP. Currently the HNP impact zone is inundated with human wildlife conflict arising from the problem animals like elephants that destroy the community’s fields and lions that kill the community herd. Though there are all these challenges, there is a mechanism to effectively mitigate against impacts and also resolve potential conflicts.

**9.2 Preventive measures**

As preventive measure, the implementation of a good communication strategy is an absolute requirement to reduce misunderstanding and grievances. Project awareness raising activities will be conducted throughout the life of the project. Consultations and negotiations will be carried out with PAP where there are indications of potential conflicts. Monetary issues are often a source of grievance. Another important preventive measure is to provide clear information on the project’s budget for community related expenditure. Any community related expenditure should clearly target benefiting the community and not individual members of the community; however, where individuals are involved in project activities they should adequately resourced to avoid negative externalities on the individuals’ part (this may include travel expenditure for community representative who may be required to attend meetings offsite). In order to ensure effective communication with the PAPs, PWMA will closely use the existing communication network and also ensure all such communication is done in the local language to avoid misunderstanding.

**9.3 CORRECTIVE MEASURES**

Conflict and grievances that may arise will be multifaceted and directed to different respondents. Some conflict may be amongst community members as they will be relating to the project activities in different ways, other conflict may be between the community against the PWMA who will be implementing project activities and enforcing the existing restrictions. Conflicts and grievances to do with park boundaries are in the jurisdiction of the Minister it is the Minister who gazettes the park and forest boundaries. In time of any of such conflict, the level of interventions depends on the gravity of the matters. The resolution will also involves a multifaceted approach so that all stakeholders will be involved. In times of conflict, usually the following stakeholders are involved to some applicable extends;

* The President of Zimbabwe.
* The Minister of Environment, Water and Climate.
* The Director General of the PWMA.
* The District Administrator.
* The Magistrate Court.
* The RDC.
* HNP management.
* Member of Parliament.
* Local Ward Councillor.
* Local Chief.
* Local Headman.
* Households.

Grievance mechanisms would involve the local community leaders in providing a first level of listening and giving informal resolution to community level conflicts. These leaders will be involved in project consultation and awareness raising. Community leaders can also take grievance to the HNP management for discussion and resolution. If there is no agreement with the management, an appeal can be made to the Director General. Appeal can also be made to the Minister if the Director General of PWMA has not managed to resolve the dispute. The President will be the last level of informal appeal. As the matter is escalating from the local from to the President Office, there are other community representatives that will start to be involved. These will include the District Administrator, the Member of Parliament and other high profile interested parties. The HNP will continually raise awareness on how to resolve conflicts without going to courts unless there is real need to. An appeal mechanism against the PWMA is enshrined in the Parks and Wildlife Management Act (CAP 20:24), section 124.

In the event that the out of court resolution is not achieved, the final route is to use the formal courts available at the local level. If the local Magistrate Court fail to resolve the issue, the matter can be escalated to the High Court and the Supreme Court. Usually the community is encouraged to resolve their matters at the community level or organizational level as the courts are expensive and inconvenient especially to the community members who have to leave their work and attend court sessions.

**10.0 ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL PROCEDURES**

Administratively, the HNP and the two applicable gazetted forests do not fall under any administrative boundary following the gazetting of these areas as a national park and forest areas respectively. So in terms of accountability and management, the HNP and the Forest areas are autonomous landscapes that are not under any administrative district, but accountable to the Minister of Environment, Water and Climate. However; due to the nature of the business operation and its impact to surrounding communities, the HNP and Forestry Commission do have communities that they interact with. These surrounding communities are the ones that fall within specific district boundaries and the implementing two organizations are therefore compelled to interact with these respective district administration centres and RDCs. The internal management of the park and the forest areas are wholly under the HNP and Forestry Commission while the external affairs arising from proximity to some communities fall under their respective District Administrators and RDCs. The District Administrator addresses issues of governance within the communities through the coordination of various line ministries under the District Administrator jurisdiction. The DA is also responsible for the coordination of the traditional leaders as stipulated by the Traditional Leaders’ Act. Though the local Chief has jurisdiction to preside on cases within the community, they are subject to the DA. While the local Magistrate is resident in the district, the functions are independent from the DA to ensure transparency and non-interference in deciding cases brought to the courts. The RDCs champion rural development through various initiatives including the coordination of various development partners and government grants.

Financially the HNP through the PWMA is not funded by the central budget, but the authority raises its own resources through its operations of the national park and grants from various sources. The Forestry Commission also raises its own funds through the management of the forests. However; the government gives some special grants when it sees fit. The DA, Magistrate Court and other government departments within the district are funded through the central budget. The RDC formulates a budget and get approval from the responsible minister before implementing. The revenue sources for the RDCs include government grants, levies paid by residents and business, royalties from various businesses within the RDC jurisdiction. In this project, the financial responsibility rests with the Finance Minister since it is a grant from the World Bank to the Government of Zimbabwe. The Finance Minister however delegates this responsibility to the respective minister who will implement the project through the various departments (PWMA and Forestry Commission), with the participation of all stakeholders (including EMA and CAMPFIRE) and as coordinated by WWF.

**11.0 Community participation in monitoring**

It is important for the community to understand all facets of the project and all the environment and social management instruments developed. With this understanding the community will be able to understand its role in the project design, implementation and monitoring. The HNP and Forestry Commission will take time to explain the intended project impacts and how the community can be involved in the impact management and monitoring. The project will utilise a participatory monitoring and evaluation process which will monitor the effectiveness of mitigation measures to improve (or maintain) PAP’s standards of living. The local communication network will be employed to ensure that the community clearly understands and is involved in the project implementation. The following documents will be decoded and communicated to the community;

* ESMP
* IPPF
* PF
* Any other environment and social management instrument that will be developed.

The community leadership will be involved in the review of the project progress and feedback to the general community will be made through the local channels and in the local language. Some of the indicators that will be used to monitor project impact on the community include;

* Level of participation at project meetings.
* Effectiveness of project interventions like game water supply, chilli fencing and community anti-poaching initiatives.
* Human wildlife conflict.
* Effectiveness of the grievance settlement mechanism

**12.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the CAMPFIRE activities be synchronized with the implementation of this PF so that the livelihoods interventions that are anticipated to quench the anxiety of the local community be magnified. This is expected to ease a lot of tension that the community may have as resulting from the existing restriction of access to the forest area and the national park.

**REFERENCES**