

**PROJECT TITLE: SEVEN YEAR PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR CLIMATE CHANGE**

**PROJECT LOCATION: UCCZ HEAD OFFICE  
30/32<sup>nd</sup> AVENUE  
P. O. BOX W116  
WATERFALLS  
HARARE**

**PROJECT DATES: 2013 TO 2020**

**PROJECT SUBMITTED TO: ALLIANCE OF RELIGIONS AND CONSERVATION**

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## **TYPE OF AGENCY**

United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe (UCCZ) is a faith based organization. It was established in Zimbabwe in 1893 by Missionaries from USA. The purposes of its existence from the time of inception are:

- Evangelism
- Education
- Health
- Agriculture and
- Community Development

## **PARTNERS / PARTICIPANTS**

United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe

Conferences - Northern, Eastern, and Western

Church Councils - Evangelism Council, Ruwadzano (Women's Unit), Volunteers, Christian Youth Fellowship, Men's fellowship.

UCCZ Congregation

Local communities - WADCO, VDCO etc

Government Departments - Agritex, Forestry Commission, Environmental Management Authority, District Development Committees, Environmental and social non-governmental organisations

Schools

Farms

Ecumenical groupings

## **BACKGROUND**

UCCZ was founded in 1893 at a location known as Mt Selinda. The focus of the missionary grouping was evangelism, education, health and agriculture for food security. UCCZ has helped to Christian 80% of the communities in the three conferences. The influence of UCCZ is well shared by our neighbours these are Mozambique, South Africa, Botswana and to a lesser extend Zambia and Malawi.

UCCZ features highly in Manicaland Province particularly in Chipinge District when we talk about Evangelism. Whereas in 1893 the whole district did not have a single church, UCCZ started to evangelize and, as we write this plan, there are over 100 places of worship country wide with an estimated membership of over 300,000 members.

In Education, UCCZ has 20 institutions of learning ranging from primary to high schools and two tertiary colleges. At one time all schools in Chipinge district belonged to UCCZ except one Government school. Some people would wonder why it was necessary for a Church organization to run schools which otherwise would be considered the Government business. Education is the base to literacy and a major driver in any development plan. The church strongly believes that instilling the right morals at the youthful stage is better than repairing an adult. It was therefore a major strategy of evangelism in the early days and a prime mover of current developments.

UCCZ produced academic graduates who became famous institutional leaders in the SADC region.

UCCZ opened four health delivery service centers namely; Mt. Selinda and Chikore hospitals as well as Gwenzi and Rimbi Clinics. Mt. Selinda Hospital and Gwenzi Clinics are situated at the border of Mozambique and as a result they also serve scores of people from Mozambique.

Food security at household level for nutrition and good health were promoted. Chikore Mission was the pioneer in Agricultural activities. Agriculture was hence one of the areas UCCZ became popularly associated with in the district as Nyanyadzi and Chibuwe irrigation schemes were purposefully developed in the early 1900s. In Chikore mission farm, 420 farm tenants were settled and permanently allocated land in part of the farm. Mt. Selinda farm also settled 125 tenants while Southdown farm had 5. All farm tenants grew crops for food and income sustainability. Tenants grew fruit such as pineapples, avocado pears, bananas, citrus fruits and mangoes as well as tea plantations for cash.

For decades our farm tenants became good example for natural resources management through practicing good agricultural techniques and conservation of forests. This experience is going to become handy in combating Climate Change. Every homestead was characterized by an orchard and wood plot.

Community development: UCCZ wanted to demonstrate the holistic approach to dealing with the person hence the initiation of community development. In this regard, communities got underground water supply, income generating projects, leadership skills training and capacity building through various initiatives. The above mentioned success stories are a clear manifestation of the UCCZ mission accomplishment.

Climatic conditions were then normal as rain used to come on time and harvest was favourable. Floods were infrequent as rain would come gently. Today things have changed as weather patterns have changed and droughts and floods are common in line with climate change. Communities are struggling to cope and adapt. It is again UCCZ's objective to lead in tackling the challenge of climate change in the communities.

UCCZ is presenting this proposal that seeks to respond or mitigate on climate change impacts on the availability of food and water systems. It shapes the nature of homes and livelihoods in community. This is a concern for the country, region, continent and the world at large.

### SWOT ANALYSIS

<p><b><u>Strengths</u></b>          Long established legal institution          Farms with sound infrastructure          Training facilities          Established local capacity and support          Strong women and youth fellowships          Specialist horticultural trainers          Mutual Local Authority relations</p>	<p><b><u>Challenges</u></b>          Liquid financial resources          Equipment          Uncontrolled veld fires          Weak public enforcement of environment laws</p>
<p><b><u>Opportunities</u></b>          Community with high literacy levels          Knowledge of use of trees          Market for timber, fruits and vegetables</p>	<p><b><u>Threats</u></b>          Droughts and floods          Unpredictable temperature changes          Political interference</p>

## **PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

UCCZ participation in climate change is very critical and important now, when food shortage, water and energy sources are now at a low level of availability. As of today rainfall patterns have drastically changed in Zimbabwe whereby the minimal annual average rainfall has gone down by plus or minus 10 to 15% which has also affected co production in most areas where people are dependent on rainfall.

The bulk of the areas where UCCZ operates fall in regions 3 and 4 with the exception of Chipinge District north which shares agro-ecological regions 1 and 2 and Northern Conference. It is with the backdrop of this information that UCCZ took the initiative to participate in climate change projects.

It must also be noted that UCCZ as an entity will not make any significant change or transformation in climate change unless it brings in new players.

## **METHODOLOGY**

United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe (UCCZ) will utilise its church memberships and councils. The Women's Union (Ruwadzano), Christian Youth Fellowship (CYF), Volunteers and Men's Fellowship supported by the surrounding communities would be the hub of activities for the implementation of this project.

UCCZ has well-established institutions to facilitate the setting up of this programme. UCCZ will take advantage of the school curriculum which addresses the environment and agriculture, water usage and management at both household and community level. UCCZ also has farms which are not utilised to optimal levels due to lack of resources both human and material.

Traditional leadership will be requested to enforce those policies that reduce wanton cutting of trees and general deforestation in line with Government regulations. UCCZ would also collaborate with various sector Extension Officers to facilitate technical support and networks with other agencies of development such Non-Governmental Organisations already operating in the district, village development committees and ward development committees.

## **CAPACITY OF UCCZ**

Historically UCCZ is associated with both spiritual and social development of the people. The blending of spiritual development through evangelism, health, agriculture, education and vocational skills training is to foster a holistic approach to development. UCCZ has a well-developed infrastructure in all conferences. All our institutions established have proper governance structures in place for transparency and accountability.

The Synod Leadership supported by Synod Officers (Elected Officers) meet after every 4 months to update the church leadership represented by church delegates and council representatives. At this platform the general update about this project would be given supported by quarterly reports from conferences and councils.

## **THE CHALLENGE AND PROBLEM STATEMENT**

Climate change in Zimbabwe, particularly in areas where UCCZ is operating, is characterised by:

- droughts and floods
- inadequate food to sustain the population throughout the year.
- inadequate water to support general cropping and to feed underground water reserves.
- serious deforestation to supplement energy for cooking and heating.
- serious soil loss due to erosion by rain or wind.
- high unemployment rate due to closure of the agricultural related industries.
- excessive heat in summer and very cold dry weather in winter.

The issues outlined above are a full testimony of climate change due to human intervention in the quest to survive.

## **GOAL STATEMENT**

UCCZ would like to be part of the change agencies in development using its membership, conference structures, councils and community development agencies with the support of government institutions. UCCZ would be involved in programmes for the next seven years covering agriculture for food security, tree planting to supply energy sources, fruit trees for food and income and general rehabilitation of the supply of clean water for human and animal consumption. UCCZ would facilitate the establishment of indigenous tree planting committees.

## **SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES**

- To train 25 women in tree nursery planting per Church.
- To train 10 youths per Church in environmental management and control.
- To organise 15 workshops per year for Church and Traditional Leaders and collaborating partners in the 3 conferences.
- To subcontract trained Church members to supply seedlings of exotic, indigenous and fruit trees suitable for all the agro-ecological zones in Zimbabwe.
- To support farmers with inputs in order to grow adequate food crops countrywide.

## **MID TERM OBJECTIVES**

- Establish environmental committees in Churches to monitor and control tree-cutting and manage food production processes which are sensitive to the gender dimension of food production.
- Identify sustainable sources of water supply and to harness water from perennial sources for irrigation units and for animal consumption.
- To organise annual planning and review workshops in the three conferences.
- To establish a fruit tree nursery in order to supply group projects throughout the country.
- To establish 20ha units of land per ward as a reservoir of firewood and other much needed projects as defined by the community.

## **INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY**

UCCZ is a body corporate under the laws of Zimbabwe enjoying perpetual succession and with capacity to sue and be sued in its own right. To date UCCZ is wholly dependent on the contributions of its membership. Projects are being established to raise financial resources for the support of such great endeavours such as participating in mitigating climate change. This project is not to be perpetually carried by UCCZ but by the people as part and parcel of their social responsibility.

## **PROJECT TIME FRAME**

This project would run for seven years beginning 2013 until 2020. Focus would be on planning, organising, networking, workshops, establishing pilot projects on identified sites. The UCCZ leadership will travel across the country, meeting development partners, community leadership and government officers.

Training activities would be initiated. This programme would be set in line with the tasks of the people to avoid competition of activities. By the end of each year, a follow up programme to evaluate the progress will be undertaken.

These tasks would be replicated from year to year focusing on the 4 important areas:

- Evangelism – stewardship of God’s creation
- Agriculture - Food Production, Fruit Seedlings and Vegetable seeds
- Conservation and Management - Tree planting for energy and timber
- Water Conservation and drilling of Boreholes

Training activities covering all groups

- Developing the curriculum
- Developing the training material
- Identifying project sites
- Purchasing Production Materials esp. fertilisers, seed and lime