



*Southern Alliance For  
Indigenous Resources*



# *August Newsletter*

*Rural Communities with Resilient Livelihood In a  
Sustainably Managed Natural Environment*

AUGUST 2024

# SAFIRE EMBARKS ON BUPUSA PROJECT TO ADDRESS WATER CRISIS IN BUHERA WARD 32

SAFIRE is proud to announce its undertaking of the BUPUSA (Buhera People Under Global Waters) project, a comprehensive initiative aimed at tackling critical water-related issues in Buhera Ward 32.

This five-month project, which commenced on August 1, 2024, is generously funded by the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

SAFIRE will play a pivotal role in restoring and upgrading essential water infrastructure within the ward. The project will provide vital training to local communities on water management, conservation, and sanitation practices. This will empower residents to take ownership of their water resources and ensure sustainable use.

BUPUSA will support local community savings and lending groups through business skills enhancement and the provision of startup kits. This will enable residents to generate income and improve their livelihoods.



The project will establish and strengthen ward-level Disaster Risk Reduction structures to help communities prepare for and respond to water-related disasters, such as droughts and floods.

The BUPUSA project is a demonstration of SAFIRE's commitment to sustainable natural resource management. By addressing water-related challenges in Buhera Ward 32, SAFIRE is contributing to the long-term health and well-being of both the local community and the environment.



*Images captured during the project's ward and district level inception meetings*

Written By: Rodrick Kagura

## Empowering Communities through Solarized Boreholes

SAFIRE's Climate Adaptation for Rural Livelihoods project has transformed the lives of communities in Chidziyamhango and Zivei community gardens. These gardens have served as essential sources of food and livelihood for local families. However, the burdensome task of carrying water using buckets on their heads posed significant challenges.

With support from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and Oxfam Zimbabwe, our project has solarized the boreholes supplying both community gardens. With the advent of solar-powered water access, the lives of Chidziyamhango and Zivei community members have transformed.



*Improved crops due to availability of water  
The boreholes are also serving as water sources for livestock.*



### *Women fetching water for household use*

No longer burdened by the hours spent hauling water, farmers can now dedicate their time to nurturing crops, leading to improved productivity and yields. This is particularly crucial as climate change brings erratic weather patterns and increasing drought conditions. Reliable water access empowers farmers to adapt more effectively, ensuring food security for their families.

The solarized boreholes have not only alleviated immediate burdens but also fostered a sense of ownership among community members regarding water management. People come from afar to fetch water, do their laundry, and quench their cattle's thirst.



In Zivei village, the project has also significantly influenced farming practices. Previously reliant on streambank cultivation—often detrimental to the environment—farmers have received education on sustainable techniques. With the support of their village head, they established a 1.5-hectare community garden, equipped with essential resources like fencing, seeds, and tools.

The transformation witnessed in the Chidziyamhango and Zivei communities highlights the vital connection between sustainable water management and agricultural resilience. This empowerment is a foundation of effective natural resource management, allowing communities to build resilience against climate-related shocks.

## Strengthening Partnerships for Child Protection in Zimbabwe



This month, we participated in the Terre des hommes (TDH) partner meeting in Harare, where critical topics such as gender-based violence and the impact of climate change on children were at the forefront of discussions. This year's theme,

“Strengthening Partnerships for Greater Impact Towards Promoting, Protection, and Realization of Children’s Rights,” resonates deeply with SAFIRE’s commitment to safeguarding the well-being of young people.

TdH Southern Africa is funding the project “Prevention and Reduction of Gender-Based Rights Violations, Teenage Pregnancies, and Early Marriages of Adolescents and Young Women in Zimbabwe.” This initiative empowers adolescent girls and young women to challenge harmful social and cultural norms, enabling them to thrive in communities free from gender-based violence, teenage pregnancies, and child marriages. A vital

component of this project is the establishment of agro-processing centers that support young women and youth. By providing access to these centers, we not only enhance their economic opportunities but also promote sustainable practices that align with natural resource management (NRM). This approach helps reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts, which can worsen social issues like teenage pregnancies and child marriages.



## Empowering Rural Communities through Visual Storytelling

SAFIRE, in partnership with Oxfam Ireland, conducted a PhotoVoice Workshop to equip smallholder farmers with the power of visual storytelling. By teaching these farmers how to capture and share their experiences through photography, we aimed to foster community engagement and highlight best practices in sustainable agriculture.

This initiative is a cornerstone of the Building Resilient Inclusive and Accountable Communities in Zimbabwe (BRIC-Zim) project. Through the PhotoVoice workshop, smallholder farmers learnt to document their journey towards adopting climate-smart agricultural technologies and practices. This will not only help to raise awareness of the challenges and successes faced by rural communities but also contribute to the broader goal of promoting sustainable and resilient agriculture in Zimbabwe.



# Our partners

---



LED LIECHTENSTEIN  
DEVELOPMENT  
SERVICE



Bundesministerium für  
wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit  
und Entwicklung



**Irish Aid**  
An Roinn Gnóthai Eachtracha  
Department of Foreign Affairs

**IKI**  
INTERNATIONAL  
CLIMATE INITIATIVE



**care**



## About us

SAFIRE is a regional NGO whose focus is to improve rural livelihoods and resilience through sustainable utilization of their natural resources in Zimbabwe.

Connect with us on:

