Zimbabwe's Climate Action Journey: Implementing NDCs and Building a Sustainable Future

National Development and Energy Profile

38%

Without Electricity

Despite development goals, over a third of Zimbabwe's population still lacks access to electricity as of 2024.

62%

Rural Biomass Use

Rural households primarily rely on firewood for energy needs, contributing to deforestation and emissions.

82,916.75

GHG Emissions

Zimbabwe's 2022 net greenhouse gas emissions in Gg CO_2eq, with energy and agriculture as major contributors.

GST-Aligned Climate Commitments

1

Renewable Energy Expansion

Increase renewable energy share from 7.8% to 29% by 2030, tripling capacity through utility-scale solar, mini-hydro, and bioenergy investments.

2

Clean Cooking Solutions

Raise access to clean cooking from 38.6% to 70%, reducing reliance on firewood and charcoal that drives deforestation.

3

Energy Efficiency

Double energy efficiency by reducing transmission and distribution losses from 18% to 11% by 2025, guided by the National Energy Efficiency Policy launched in April 2025.

4

Just Coal Phase-Down

Implement equitable transition with decommissioning of three small thermal power plants totaling 300 MW, with repurposing efforts underway.

Universal Electrification Goals

Zimbabwe aims to achieve 100% household electricity access

The electrification strategy prioritizes decentralized clean energy for rural communities, supporting both household needs and agro-industrial productivity.

62%

Current Rural Access

Percentage of rural population with access to electricity in some form

100%

2030 Target

Goal for universal household electricity access through combined approaches

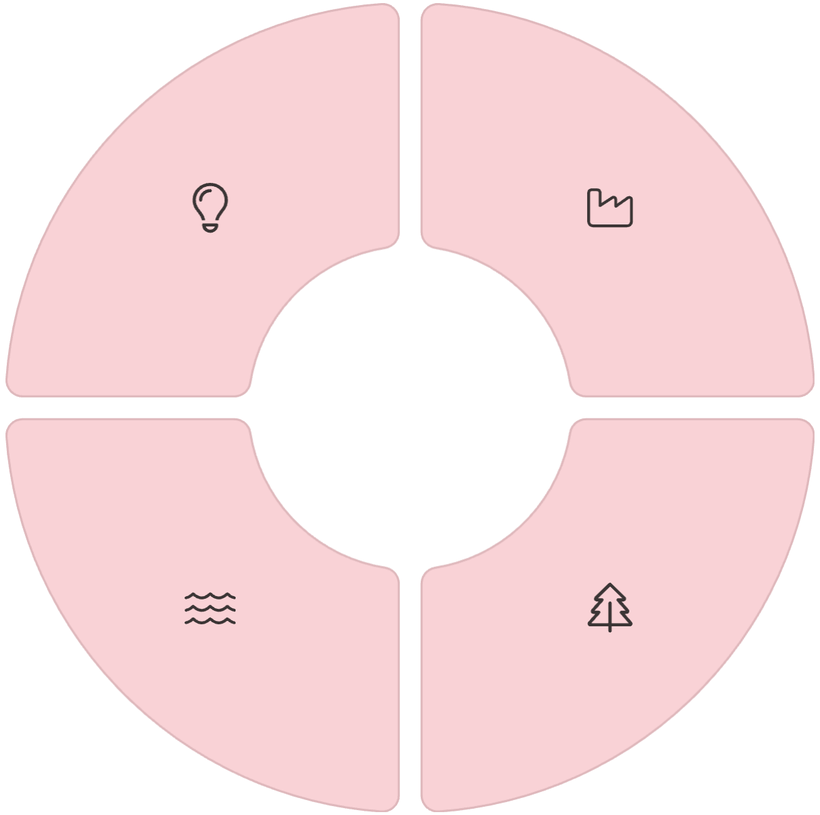
Alignment with National Priorities

Universal Electrification

Decentralized clean energy systems for rural communities supporting both household and economic activities.

Adaptation Co-benefits

Projects like Silverstroom Dam enhancing irrigation of over 2000 Ha in vulnerable areas like Lower Muzarabani.



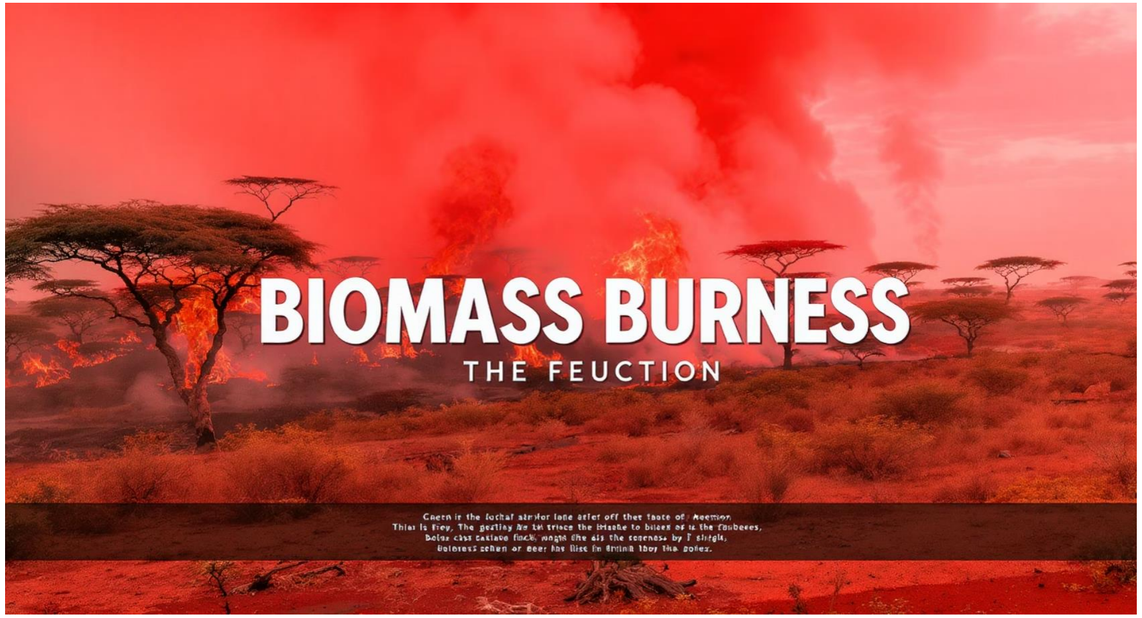
Agro-Industrial Growth

Stable power supply for MSMEs and agricultural processing to boost productivity and economic development.

Forest Rehabilitation

REDD+ and afforestation programs contributing to both mitigation and food-water-energy security in rural districts.

Implementation Challenges



Limited Climate Finance

Restricted access to concessional and results-based financing mechanisms hampering implementation of key projects.

Technology Adoption Barriers

Low adoption and limited financing for renewable energy technologies and climate-smart agricultural practices.

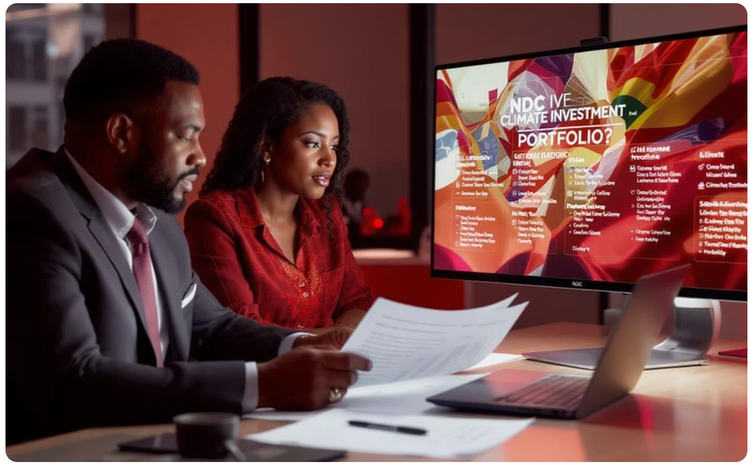
MRV System Gaps

Incomplete monitoring systems and capacity constraints in data quality, emissions forecasting, and uncertainty analysis.

Forest Degradation

Increased biomass burning with over 860,000 hectares of forest burnt in 2022 alone, accelerating emissions and biodiversity loss.

Emerging Opportunities



NDC Investment Framework

Implementation offers a pipeline for bankable climate projects, attracting international and domestic investment for priority sectors.

REDD+ Initiatives

Readiness and pilot initiatives unlock carbon finance while providing community co-benefits through sustainable forest management.

Waste-to-Energy Solutions

Urban waste-to-energy and biogas solutions present scalable mitigation pathways while addressing municipal waste challenges.

Support Needs and Call to Action

Zimbabwe's Path Forward

To accelerate implementation of GST.1-aligned actions and fully operationalize its enhanced NDC, Zimbabwe requires coordinated international support across multiple dimensions:

Scaled-up Climate Finance

Especially for renewable energy, forestry, and urban waste sectors to bridge the implementation gap.

Technology Transfer

In energy storage, grid modernization, and MRV systems to enable efficient implementation.

Capacity Development

In emissions tracking, uncertainty analysis, and GHG forecasting to strengthen reporting.