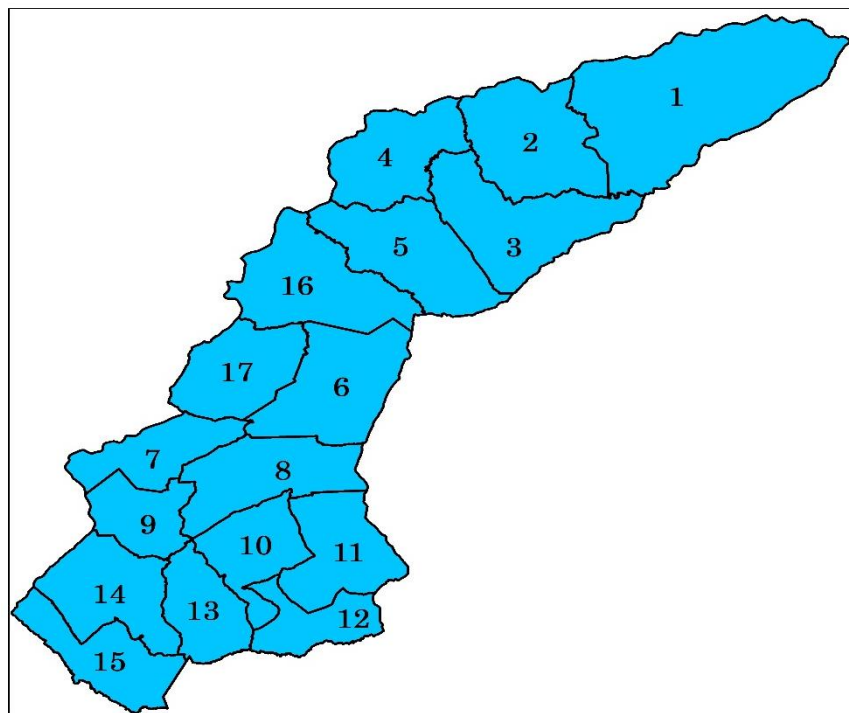


# UZUMBA MARAMBA PFUNGWE DISTRICT MASTER PLAN

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



***UMP ZVATAIDA RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL***

***OCTOBER 2024***

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **1 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe District Master Plan was prepared in response to the Presidential call for all Local Authorities to have prepared master plans by June 2024.
- 1.2 The Master Plan is being prepared in terms of the provisions of the Regional, Town and Country Planning Act, 1976 (Chapter 29:12), as read with the Regional, Town and Country Planning (Master and Local Plans) Regulations 1977 (RGN 248 of 1977).
- 1.3 The Master Plan covers a period of fifteen (15) years, and is thus a long term forward planning document. It is fundamentally a plan with broad policies and proposals. It should be seen as a component of the Zimbabwe development planning framework with the national vision document (Vision 2030) being the apex national development blue print, upon which other national plans and policies draw inspiration from.
- 1.4 The Plan is legally compliant. Its provisions are, therefore, legally binding.

### **2 PURPOSE OF THE PLAN**

- 2.1 The main purpose of the Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe District Master Plan is to guide resource utilization and development in a rational, equitable, sustainable and balanced manner in the district.

### **3 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 The major goal of the Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe District Master plan is to create a spatially well planned and organized environment which is decent, safe, functional and conducive for all human activities. This can be achieved through the formulation and generation of development strategies, policies and proposals, aimed at satisfying the needs of the present and future population of the district and promoting resource conservation and sustainable development.
- 3.2 The objectives that the master plan sets out to achieve are derived from surveys undertaken in the district with the view to identify key development issues, and also from consultations made with stakeholders, which were aimed at identifying people's needs and aspirations. On this basis, the following plan objectives were generated:
  - a) To make an inventory and analysis of the district's natural resources and their spatial distribution;
  - b) To identify major issues in the district's current development situation;

- c) To review outcomes of the existing economic and social trends in the district;
- d) To assess the existing challenges of utilization of natural resources;
- e) To assess the impact of current programs and policies ; and
- f) To identify and formulate policies, strategies and measures, with active participation of all stakeholders, to be implemented to move from the current to the desired future.

## **4 IDENTIFIED PLANNING ISSUES**

- 4.1 The analysis of data and information obtained during the study resulted in the identification of a number of issues in each sector of the economy together with their impact in respect of development in that sector. The issues are summarized hereunder.

### **Land and Population**

- 4.2 The population of the district is increasing at an increasing rate, and is estimated at 140 397 persons by the end of the plan period (2039). Yet the land area is static. The result is that there will be severe pressure on the land.

### **Social Services**

#### **4.3 Health**

- 4.3.1 The district has one hospital and 20 clinics. The district is not adequately covered in terms of accessing health facilities as 35% of the population walk for more than 5 km to reach a health facility, with cases of people walking for more than 10 km to a clinic, particularly in Pfungwe .
- 4.3.2 Access to health services is compromised by shortage of drugs and health personnel.

#### **4.4 Water and Sanitary Health (WASH)**

- 4.4.1 Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe district has 513 boreholes. But 88 boreholes (20%) are not functioning. However, some boreholes in some villages are not centrally located, thereby lengthening the distance walked by communities to access potable water.
- 4.4.2 A total of 20 418 households in the district, representing 58% of total district households, do not have toilets. This compromises the health and hygiene of the communities where this is prevalent.

## **4.5 Education**

- 4.5.1 Existing policy prescribes a maximum walking distance of 5 km for both primary and secondary school children to access a school. But there are cases of school children walking for 7-10 km in Pfungwe area. Infant learners and pre-primary school children are not catered for as they should not walk more than 3 km to school.
- 4.5.2 Teacher compliment stands at 80% and 89% for primary and secondary schools respectively. The situation is worse off in Pfungwe. This compromises the quality of education.
- 4.5.3 Disbursement of BEAM funds is erratic and inconsistent and this affects the smooth running of schools.

## **4.6 Gender and Youth Mainstreaming**

- 4.6.1 There are some inequities between male and female representation, in respect of leadership positions, in every sphere in the district. There is still a preponderance of male domination.
- 4.6.2 The pendulum in respect of gender based violence tilts towards more female victims than males.
- 4.6.3 Females experience unequal access to productive resources than their male counter parts.
- 4.6.4 The youths are still marginalized in terms of their participation in the economy.

## **4.7 Employment**

A total of 19% of the working age population in Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe is employed. The rate of unemployment in the district stands at 19.9%. The unemployment rate of the youth (15-34 years) is 23.4%. These statistics demonstrate the existing low employment levels in the district.

## **4.8 Agriculture**

- 4.8.1 Mixed farming, where arable farming is practiced alongside livestock farming, is the predominant agricultural activity practiced by almost all communal farmers. Uzumba is in agro-ecological region IIB, while Maramba and Pfungwe are in agro-ecological regions III and IV. The farmers are not adhering to farming requirements of the obtaining agro-ecological regions resulting in low agricultural productivity.
- 4.8.2 There is encroachment of arable farming on grazing land and vice versa. Similarly, there is encroachment of settlements on both arable and grazing land.

- 4.8.3 Horticulture is emerging as an important activity in the district with tomatoes, mangoes and bananas as the leading crops. However, there is no organized marketing for horticultural products.

#### **4.9 Mining**

- 4.9.1 The district is endowed with a lot of mineral resources and is renowned for the production of black granite. Other minerals include corundum and beryl, copper, kynite and garnet, lithium and gold.
- 4.9.2 There is very little systematic commercial production of precious and semi – precious stones in the district. The economy of the district can be enhanced, quite greatly, should the production and marketing of the gemstones be regulated.

#### **4.10 Tourism**

The district's tourism potential is weak and needs rejuvenation. Effective strategies should be adopted to market tourist facilities through print and electronic media to sell the tourist facilities to would – be tourists.

#### **4.11 Infrastructure and Public Utilities**

- 4.11.1 The main spine road, Madicheche road, is not only a dirty road, but it is also in a very poor state of repair from Mutawatawa to Mazowe bridge. Other primary roads linking neighbouring districts are in very bad state.
- 4.11.2 The district has 35 dams and 6 weirs, with no economic benefits derived from them, except for Saparanyambuya dam, either because they are silted, breached or in a poor state of repair.
- 4.11.3 The district has 513 boreholes. However, there are 88 boreholes, representing 17% of total boreholes, which are not functional. There are still some areas where members of the community travel long distances to get to potable water points.
- 4.11.4 Only one dip tank (at Shamba) out of 36 dip tanks in the district, is not functional. The majority of dip tanks experience water challenges especially during the dry season. The worst affected dip tanks are in the drier Maramba and Pfungwe areas.
- 4.11.5 There is poor connectivity in respect of mobile networks, thereby disrupting smooth and efficient communication.

#### **4.12 Bio-physical Environment**

- 2.12.1 Mutawatawa is surrounded by hilly and rugged terrain, which constrains its expansion.

- 2.12.2 Human activities such as mining, stream bank cultivation, bad agricultural practices and cutting down of trees cause environmental degradation. These result in water pollution, soil erosion, siltation, deforestation and destruction of wetlands.

### **3 POLICIES AND PROPOSALS**

- 3.1 The Report of Study explored the existing situation in the district and identified issues that require resolution. In order to resolve these issues, three development strategies were generated and the Rational Development strategy emerged as the preferred option that will steer the development of the district into the future. This led to the generation of policies and proposals aimed at addressing or resolving identified issues, which are buttressed by project proposals. The policy proposals are summarized below.

#### **3.2 Land versus Population Growth**

With increasing population, the district is under severe pressure for the limited land resource. To the extent that Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe has no commercial farms, there is need, in the long term, for resettling people outside the district in order to reduce pressure on land.

#### **3.3 Social Services**

- 3.3.1 Distances travelled by communities to access health and educational facilities are unbearably long. The plan proposes an expansion program so that there are more health centres, pre-primary, primary and secondary schools for ease access. There is also need to improve quality of service provision by availing drugs in health centres, qualified staff and equipment.
- 3.3.2 Women and youth have been marginalized for long. There is need for women and youth to occupy decision making positions so that they can effectively and meaningfully participate in the development of the district.

#### **3.4 District Economy and Employment**

The development and growth of the district economy, vis a vis employment, can only be propped up through developing small scale and medium enterprises. The plan proposes value addition and beneficiation of the resources found and produced in the district.

#### **3.5 Agriculture**

Agriculture, being the main livelihood activity in the district has to be developed in a more sustainable manner than is the case now. This can only be achieved through increased productivity. The district should maximize on potential for each agro-ecological zone. The plan further proposes the maximization of existing water bodies in the district by establishing irrigation schemes with the view to increase agricultural production.

### **3.6 Mining**

Mineral resources are key to the development of the district and the country in terms of economic development and employment creation. The plan proposes systematic exploration, exploitation and marketing of mineral resources in order to derive economic benefits from these.

### **3.7 Tourism**

The district's tourism potential is weak and needs rejuvenation. The plan proposes stocking up the existing community based game parks and develop new facilities and market them to would-be tourists. Sites of cultural, historic and archeological significance should be preserved and well maintained for visitors within and outside the district. Forging of partnerships with the private sector in developing tourist facilities is particularly recommended.

### **3.8 Infrastructure**

3.8.1 Transport and communication infrastructure is vital for the development of the district. The plan sets out to improve existing road infrastructure in order to facilitate movement of people, goods and services, by surfacing Mutawatawa – Madicheche road and upgrading other primary roads in the district. The plan proposes the upgrading and/ or installation of new mobile telephone infrastructure in order to enhance telecommunication.

3.8.2 Water for domestic use, watering livestock and irrigation shall be supplied in the district such that potable water is within easy walking distance. All non- functional boreholes, dams and weirs will be repaired so that they are ready for the intended use. Every household shall have toilets in order to avoid contamination of underground water. Construction of new dams will be done in order to promote irrigated agriculture.

### **3.9 Environment**

The plan proposes the preservation of natural resources in order to create a sustainable and safe living environment.

#### **3.10. District and Rural Service Centres**

3.10.1 Expansion, vis a vis growth, of Mutawatawa as a district service centre within the gazetted boundary is constrained by the hilly terrain surrounding the centre. The plan proposes expansion of the district service centre beyond the gazetted boundary, notwithstanding the obvious consequence of sprawl.

3.10.2 The district and rural service centres should be provided with the necessary physical infrastructure in order to enhance their viability.

### **3.11 Preparation of Local Development Plans**

Preparation of Local Development Plans is proposed for Pfungwe, Maramba and Uzumba in view of the unique and different characteristics of these areas. The local development plans will cover the district and rural service centres in these areas.

### **3.12 CONCLUSION**

The success of this Master Plan will depend on co-operation, active participation and support of all agencies involved in its implementation. There should be close monitoring and review of the plan in order to assess the extent to which the goals and objectives are being achieved.