

An Investigation into the Household Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in Makonde Communal Lands of Zimbabwe

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ABSTRACT This study investigated household climate change adaptation strategies being adopted by the Makonde Communal farmers in Zimbabwe. In terms of methodology, a pluralist approach was employed to derive knowledge about the multi-dimensional context of the issue of peasant community responses to climate change. Findings suggested that the livelihoods of the local population heavily depend on natural resources and rain-fed agriculture. The community under study show low adaptive capacity, hence high levels of vulnerability to climate change. The study concluded that low adaptive capacity among community members has triggered an increasing prevalence of crop and livestock failures, food insecurity, malnutrition, disease and poverty. Whereas adaptation appears to be feasible in the Makonde Communal Lands, the local households are still merely struggling to cope with the changing environment. A more concerted effort by governmental and non-governmental institutions is recommended to engage a multi-stakeholder approach towards sustainable national and local community climate change response strategies.