GOKWE SOUTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF STUDY OF THE MASTER PLAN (2024 – 2039)

Prepared by

Kainos Tabarwa & Associates

Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Tables

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BEAM	Basic Education Assistive Module
CAMFED	Campaign for Female Education
CDMA	Code Division Multiple Access
CEC	Cation Exchange Capacity
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DSPD	Department of Spatial Planning and Development
EMA	Environmental Management Agency
ERRP	Emergency Recovery and Reconstruction Programme
FBO	Faith-Based Organisations
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
FPSUs	Farming Production Support Units
GMB	Grain Marketing Board
GIS	Geographical Information
GPS	Global Positioning System
GSMC	Global System for Mobile Communications
GSRDC	Gokwe South Rural District Council
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IKS	Indigenous Knowledge Systems
KII	Key Informant Interviews
LTE	Long-Term Evolution
MLGPW	Ministry of Local Government and Public Works
MPs	Members of Parliament
MW	Mega Watt
NCCRS	National Climate Change Response Strategy
NDVI	Normalised Differential Vegetation Index

NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
NREP	National Renewable Energy Policy
NRI	Near Infra-red
NSSA	National Social Security Authority
ODF	Open Defecation Free
PSIP	Public Sector Investment Programmes
RIDA	Rural Infrastructure Development Agency
RTCPA	Regional Town and Country Planning Act (Chapter 29:12)
RTGS	Real Time Gross Settlement WIFI
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SG	Surveyor General
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Education Fund
VIDCO	Village Development Committee
WADCO	Ward Development Committee
WCDMA	Wideband Code Division Multiple Access
WIFI	Wireless Fidelity
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation
ZINARA	Zimbabwe National Roads Administration
ZINWA	Zimbabwe National Water Authority
ZNHSP	Zimbabwe National Human Settlement Policy

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Gokwe South Rural District Council (GSRDC) lacks an operational master plan. An effort to develop a Master plan for GSRDC in 1993, only resulted in the production of a report of study before the process was aborted. Currently, development in the district is not governed by any operational Master plan. Yet, over the years, Gokwe South has experienced diverse and complex challenges and opportunities that impact people's livelihoods, health, socio-economic and well-being. In this vein, GSRDC has been mandated to prepare a Master Plan by June 2024. The preparation of this district master plan is informed by the Presidential Decree, "No Compromise to Service Delivery" - which mandated all local authorities to have operational master plans by June 2024. Specifically, His Excellency President Emmerson Mnangagwa reiterated that **'Development and abiding by a Master Plan is key to the sound management of every Local Authority. It enables the local authority to develop to its full potential.'** Therefore, this master plan for GSRDC is prepared under this Presidential Decree.

1.2 SCOPE OF THE REPORT OF STUDY

The preparation process for the Master Plan dubbed the ***fast track legally compliant spatial master plan preparation process***, is being conducted following Part IV of the Regional Town and Country Planning Act (Chapter 29:12) (RTCPA), along with the Regional, Town, and Country Planning (Master and Local Plans) Regulations of 1977, as outlined in the statutory instrument. Figure 1 is a flowchart for Master plan and local plan preparation as guided by Part IV of RTCPA Sections 13-21 and RGN 248 (Master and Local Plans) Regulations.

Following the guidelines from the RTCPA and the Terms of Reference (TOR) provided by GSRDC, the Report of Study sets the tone for key issues affecting the development of GSRDC and forms the basis for the written statement. The Report of Study will consider the current service delivery levels and make necessary changes to meet the needs of Gokwe South community. The aspects will include the following:

- Environmental issues,
- District's land ownership and use,
- Population Dynamics,
- Human settlements and housing issues,
- Socio-economic issues,
- The district's social services and infrastructure including transport, water,
- Finance and governance issues.

1.3 LOCATION OF GOKWE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL IN REGIONAL CONTEXT

GSRDC was established due to the "Amalgamation" process in July 1993. Before then, there was Gokwe-Cheziya District Council which covered the areas now covered by Gokwe South and Gokwe North Rural District Councils. Gokwe South Rural District is located in the Midlands Province of Zimbabwe in the north-western parts. The study area is bound by Gokwe North District on the northern part, Kwekwe District on the eastern side, Nkayi and Lupane are positioned on the southern parts while the western part is bordered with Binga District (Figure 1). As shown in Figure 2, GSRDC consists of 33 wards and covers an estimated area of 11 124km^2 which translates to a population density of 28.55/km^2.

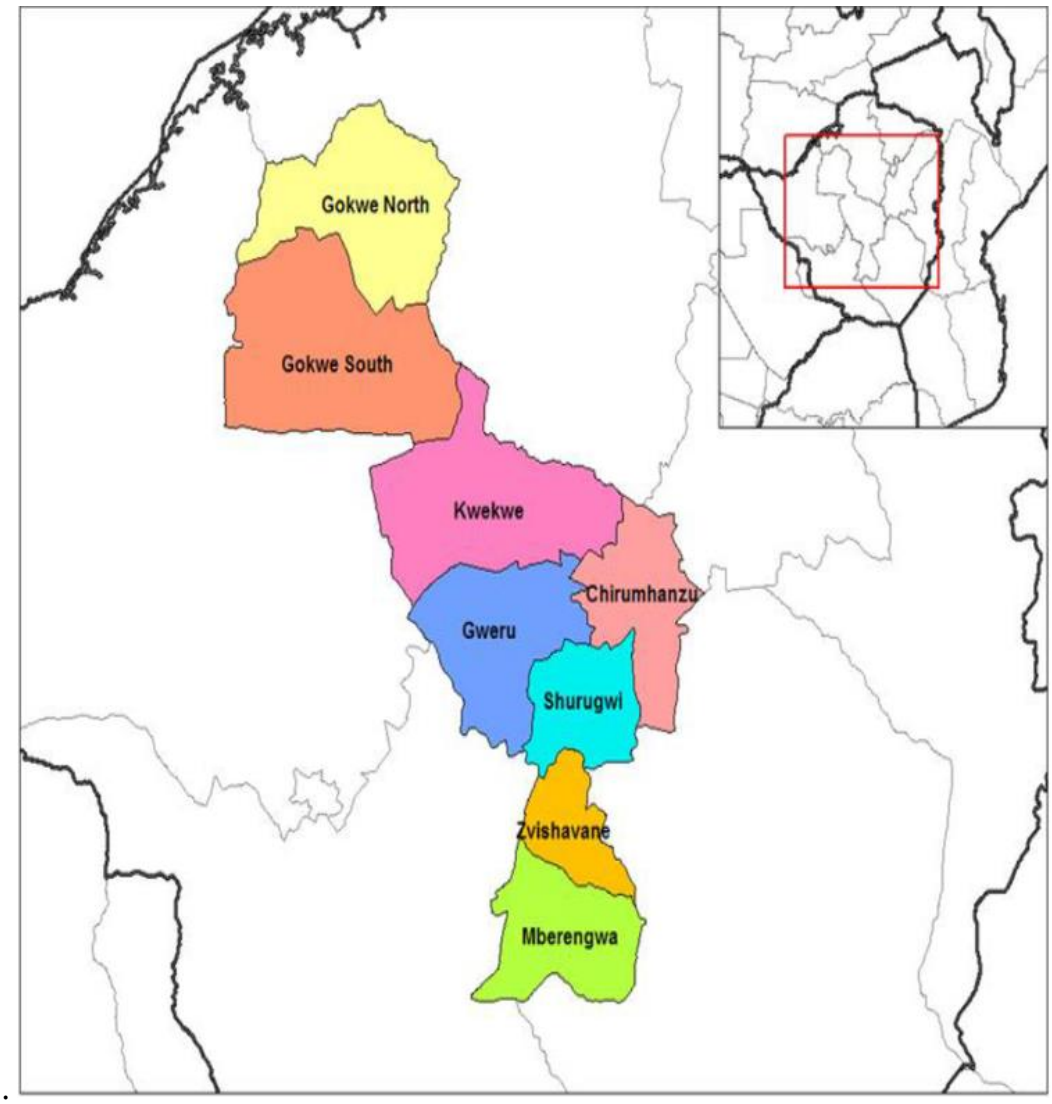

Figure 1: Location of GSRDC in relation to other districts in Midlands Province

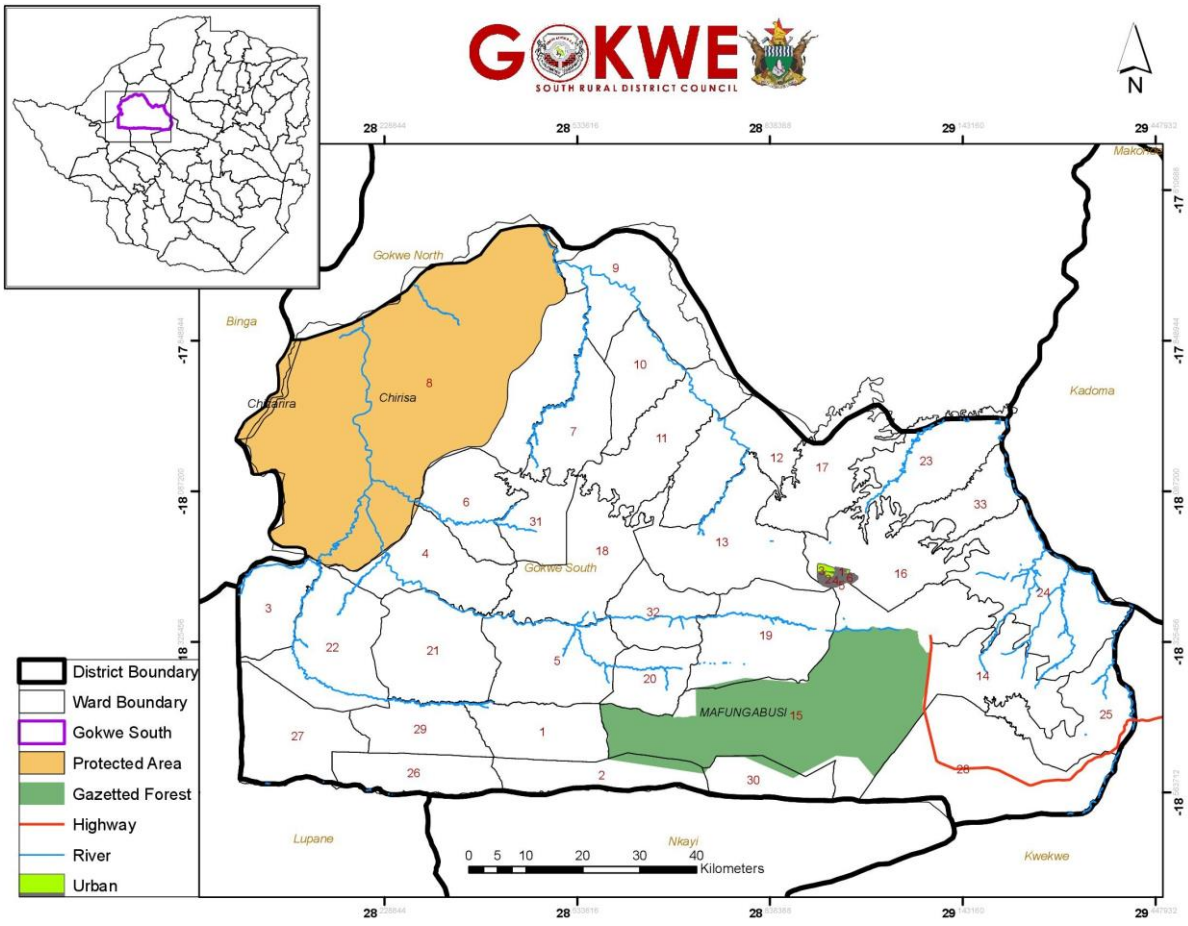

Figure 2: Map of Gokwe South

1.4 A Brief Historical Background

In the period before the 1980s, from a development perspective, Gokwe was largely viewed as part of the Sebungwe region (consisting of large parts of Mashonaland West province: Omay Safari area, Kariba, Matusadonha and Sanyati areas, and parts of Matebeleland North province: Binga and Chizarira areas). Among the unique characteristics of the region were the following:

-It was remote and undevelopable, what we conceptualised as a 'left behind place' in this report

-Infrastructure in the area was very basic, and,

-Population distribution in the "Tribal Trust lands" was sparse

Development efforts in the area concentrated more on opening up the area for human habitation, especially through the eradication of Tsetse and infrastructure provision. The period after 1980 saw the provision of infrastructure on a large scale by way of schools, roads and water facilities. This was necessitated by the rapid population growth experienced in the area due to both migration and natural increase. Various efforts have been made to redress the problems identified above, as well as some which have surfaced in the post-1980 period. It is important to note that the form of intervention at any given time has been influenced by the prevailing government policies. In light of this study also examines the policy developments over the years and in particular the policy context to the preparation of the rural master plan.

1.5 OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the GSRDC Master Plan is to formulate a comprehensive plan of action for enhancing sustained socio-economic development in the district while conserving natural resources and making maximum use of human capital. Specifically, these objectives will be met through prioritising rural development, land issues, agrarian transformation and good governance aimed at advancing improved quality of life in the district.

1.5.1 Aims and Objectives of the Master Plan

The broader aim of the Master Plan for GSRDC are:

(i) To study the planning area, bring out and analyse socio-economic and spatial issues in GSRDC at present and in future,

(ii) To prepare a Master Plan for GSRDC environments for spatial growth and development guidance.

(iii) To schedule development activities to guide Gokwe South Rural District investment for subsequent years.

The objectives of this report are multifaceted, encompassing several key aims:

1. **Mapping Existing Natural and Man-made Features**: The primary objective is to produce a detailed map delineating the natural and man-made features present within the GSRDC planning area. This includes identifying and spatially representing various elements such as landforms, water bodies, vegetation cover, infrastructure networks, settlements, and other built-up areas. Through advanced mapping techniques and satellite imagery analysis, the report aims to create an accurate and up-to-date inventory of the physical environment.
2. **Assessing Existing Features in Light of Future Development**: The report assesses the existing features within the planning area in the context of anticipated future development and growth. This involved analyzing current land use patterns, infrastructure capacities, environmental conditions, and socio-economic dynamics to identify areas of potential conflict, constraint or opportunity. By examining the compatibility of existing features with projected development scenarios, the report will inform strategic planning decisions aimed at fostering sustainable growth and resilience.
3. **Documenting Social, Cultural, Economic, and Institutional Framework**: Another key aim is to document the social, cultural, economic, and institutional landscape of the study area comprehensively. This entails gathering data on demographic trends, cultural heritage sites, economic activities, land tenure systems, governance structures, and administrative boundaries. By documenting the multi-dimensional aspects of the study area, the report seeks to provide insights into the social fabric, economic vitality, and institutional capacity necessary for effective planning and development.

1.5.2 Objectives

The general objectives of the master plan for GSRDC are:

(i) To improve the human and natural environments.

(ii) To promote health, safety, order, amenity, convenience and general welfare in the development process.

(iii) To facilitate good governance and management through co-designing and planning anchored on participatory and collaborative planning approaches.

(iv) To promote an inclusive economic and efficient development.

(v) To improve communication and transportation networks.

(vi) To promote employment creation and sustainable rural livelihoods.

(vii) To plan for effective strategies that will guide infrastructure provision for spatial growth of the district.

The specific objectives of the master plan are:

(i) To formulate strategies to stimulate per capita income growth for GSRDC.

(ii) To identify land for rural expansion, financing for physical infrastructure and general welfare of the rural population.

(iii) To propose future land use structures in the district. Thrust to be put on efficiency and co-ordination in land use, environmental conservation and preservation, efficient resource use and timely infrastructure provision.

(iv) To identify and evaluate funding sources and opportunities for rural development and agrarian transformation.

(v) To adhere to provisions of Part IV of the Regional, Town and Country Planning Act (RTCPA) (Chapter 29:12), as read in conjunction with the Regional, Town and Country Planning (Master and Local Plans) Regulations, 1977.

(vi) To incorporate roles of Central Government, Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs), Local Authorities (LAs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

(vii) To link the Master Plan with lower-tier statutory plans.

1.6 STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT OF STUDY

This Report of Study is divided into ten chapters addressing the various thematic issues inherent in GSRDC.

Chapter one serves as the introduction to the Master plan by introducing Gokwe South Rural District, its setting location, objectives and priority areas of the master plan together with the national policies and legislation affecting development in GSRDC.

Chapter two examines the global, regional and national context focusing on rural regions and left behind places and how these have an impact or can serve as useful lessons for GSRDC in its development endeavours.

Chapter three explains the participatory and action research methodology employed in the plan preparation. This methodology also recognises the digital technologies employed in understanding the geophysical and spatial realities of GSRDC.

Chapter four focuses on the physical characteristics of GSRDC, specifically looking at climate, geology and soils, vegetation and hydrological features. Other pertinent environmental issues affecting GSRDC related to anthropogenic factors are also discussed.

Chapter five analyses the land use issues in GSRDC. Issues considered in the analysis include land ownership, development status, land conflicts and administration and management dynamics.

Chapter Six addresses population dynamics paying attention to population distribution, population structure,

Chapter seven deals with socio-cultural and economic activities inherent in GSRDC. The critical issues considered in the chapter include education, health, livelihoods and cultural and heritage issues.

Chapter eight looks into issues on infrastructure and services. Critical infrastructure included in the discussion includes water and sanitation, dip tanks, energy and ICT. Consequently, service issues are also discussed, for example, clinics, food markets, police stations and business centers among others.

Chapter Nine dwelves into administration and finance issues of the district. It gives a summary of the structures of administration and the financial management and flow of finance over time.

CHAPTER 2: NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

2.1 GLOBAL ISSUES AND TRENDS IN RURAL AREAS

Rural areas are dynamic spaces characterised by multiple opportunities and challenges. Globally, it has been projected that the number of people residing in rural areas will remain almost the same between 2015 and 2030. The proportion of the world population residing in rural areas will decrease from 45 percent to around 32 percent between 2018 and 2050 respectively. While the global population is now predominantly urban, Africa and Asia are still predominantly rural – accommodating approximately 90 percent of the world's rural population.

2.2. REGIONAL TRENDS AND ISSUES IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

In Africa, close to 59 percent of the population is rural and these rural areas are marginalised spaces that continue to be neglected in accessing services and infrastructure. Characteristically, rural areas in Africa are defined by inadequate and unreliable infrastructure services that compromise the standard of living. According to the World Bank (2022), 58 % of the population in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) (excluding high-income) was accommodated in rural areas as of 2022. Figure 3. shows the rural population in SSA between 1960 and 2024. The statistics shown in Figure 3 show an increasing number of people residing in rural areas between 1960 and 2024, while the proportion of rural has been decreasing gradually over the same period. However, regardless of this larger proportion constituted by rural areas, priority is often on urban areas, a situation that exacerbates the challenges experienced in rural areas.

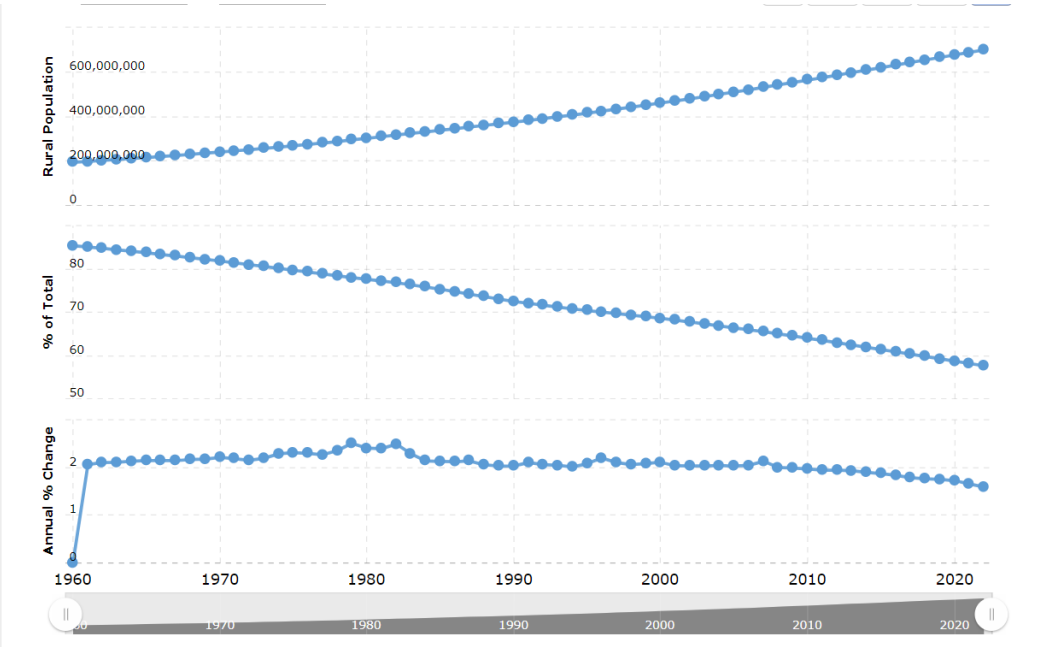

Figure 3: Sub-Saharan Africa Rural Population 1960- 2024

While rural areas in Africa are characterised by multiple problems, they provide many opportunities including the following:

- Abundant flora and fauna that can be used to support livelihoods and also for foraging among the rural communities.
- Wildlife that forms a basis for wildlife tourism.
- Scenic landmarks ranging from springs, cultural sites, waterfalls, mountain ranges and caves that are economic bases for tourism and can support the local economies.
- Large population that has rich Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) that are fundamental in advancing socio-economic development considering the challenges associated with Western science.

2.3. RURAL AREAS AS 'LEFT BEHIND PLACES'

In understanding the dynamics in GSRDC, the master plan has framed the district in the context of "left-behind places". The notion of left behind places relates to geographies of uneven development that has been articulated by David Harvey (1987). While there have been debates on the scale and context of left behind places, with some referring to small towns, and urban areas in decline.

From a spatial dimension which resonates with rural areas, left behind places include relative economic decline and lower productivity, employment and wages; lower levels of educational attainment and skills; higher levels of disadvantage and poverty; population shrinkage, outmigration, and ageing; poor health and wellbeing; limited social and economic assets, infrastructure, and underinvestment; lower public and private goods and services provision; and political neglect, disengagement and discontent (Pike et al., 2023; Partridge et al., 2020). Fiorentinotino et al. (2024) have highlighted "Whatever the geography chosen, the general argument is that the people who live in a 'left behind' area do not share the same economic opportunities, social amenities or quality of life as others in the areas around them or in the nation taken as a whole."

Applying the 'left behind places' concept in understanding the dynamics in rural areas in Africa and especially for GSRDC, it is evident that within the African context, rural areas grapple with many challenges that disadvantage the communities hence resembling left behind places. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also echo the same sentiments of not leaving anyone behind in the quest for advancing sustainable global development. Rural areas in Africa are characterised by the following challenges that indicate the left behindeness of the rural spaces.

- A significant percentage of the population in Africa lives in unserved or underserved areas with limited ICT services. This is evident from the lack of internet services and mobile phone coverage in most rural areas across the continent.
- Limited access due to poor road networks which greatly compromises the possibility of conveying resources and manpower (Ogunkola, 2020). The poor roads are associated with

disconnection from markets thereby some farmers fail to take their produce to markets resulting in a decrease in profits and an increase in food wastage.

- Shortage of healthcare practitioners, especially specialists is prevalent and compromise negatively affects healthcare delivery.
- Health care facilities tend to be poor and limited affecting the provision of basic primary health care.
- Water and sanitation is a major challenge where approximately 55 percent of the rural population has access to improved water and 25 percent has access to sanitation facilities in Africa. These deficiencies are associated with large numbers of deaths and water-borne diseases which could rather be avoided.
- Energy is a critical problem that rural Africa grapples with owing to the lack of electric supply in most rural areas. Rural communities are thus left to rely on fossil fuels which causes multiple environmental and health challenges hence the need to improve energy resources.
- Lack of industrial development which leaves many individuals unemployed or engaging in subsistence farming and other low-paying non-farm activities such as hunting and mining.

2.4. NATIONAL CONTEXT

Since independence in 1980, Zimbabwe's population has largely been rural. Figure 4 shows the percentage of rural population in Zimbabwe between 1960 and 2024. In 1960 the country's population was predominantly rural with 87.39 residing in rural areas. While the proportion of rural dwellers has been decreasing, by 2024, approximately 68 percent of the Zimbabwean population will be residing in rural areas.

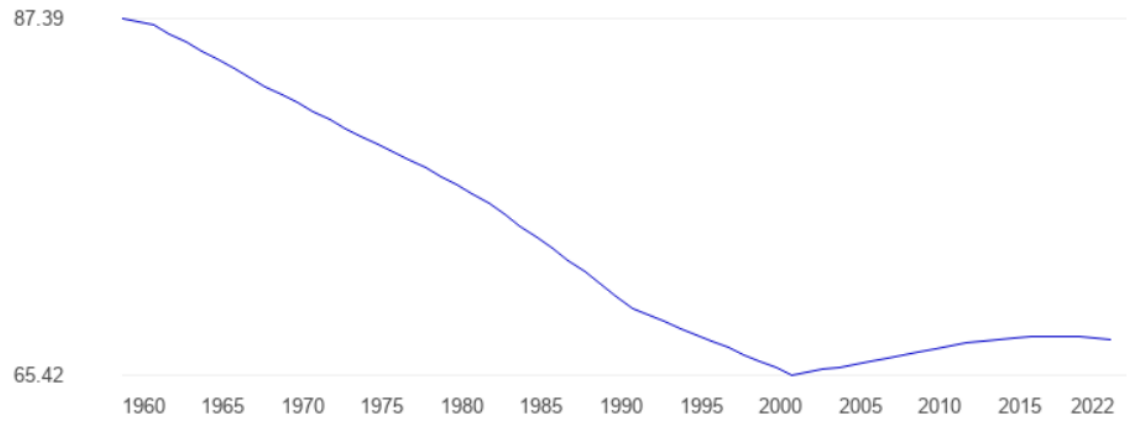

Figure 4: Proportion of rural population in Zimbabwe between 1960 and 2024

Human settlements in Zimbabwe are currently grappling with multiple challenges. The situation is critical in rural areas, which are seeming 'left-behind-places' that continue to lag

behind and be prioritised in development initiatives, yet rural areas accommodate the large share of Zimbabwean population compared to urban areas. Moreover, some rural districts continue to experience rapid growth due to their strategic location and available resources which constraints local authorities that must manage this growth and the sustainable use and allocation of these natural resources and land rights. This task comes with several challenges that range from a shortage of properly serviced land for residential and commercial activities and poor service delivery.

2.5. NATIONAL POLICIES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AFFECTING DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

The preparation of the district master plan for GSRDC is affected by different national policies and legal frameworks. The following are the most pertinent ones that are discussed hereunder.

2.5.1. Vision 2030

In 2017, Zimbabwe transitioned into a new dispensation. This period was characterised by some institutional and governance reforms that were translated through the Zimbabwe Vision 2030. Vision 2030 seeks to guide the revival of Zimbabwe's developmental process. The main aim and drive is to foster economic development and drive Zimbabwe to become an industrialised, knowledge-based upper-middle-income country providing a high quality of life to all its citizens by 2030. Specifically, the Vision is to "*Towards a Prosperous and Empowered Upper Middle-Income Society by 2030, with Job Opportunities and A High Quality of Life for its Citizens*". (Government of Zimbabwe 2018: 3). The Vision 2030 is anchored on five strategic pillars as illustrated in Table 1.

Table 1: Five strategic pillars of Vision 2030 and their alignment with the Master Planning in GSRDC.

STRATEGIC PILLAR	ISSUES RELATING TO GSRDC
Governance	• Identified as the bed-rock for the new dispensation, • Critical issues applicable to the GSRDC master plan include: • *Creation of strong institutions, open door policy, devolution and decentralisation, regional investment & development Master Plans and institutional role clarity*.
Macro-economic Stability and Financial Re-engagement	• The Vision upholds the need to sustain a stable macro-economic environment, characterised by fiscal prudence, conducive monetary and financial policies, and a sound and solvent banking sector.
Infrastructure and Utilities	• Focus on developing modern, efficient, reliable and well-developed infrastructure that will be the anchor for economic transformation. • Special emphasis and relating to GSRDC is power/energy, road, water and sanitation, housing and ICT infrastructure.
Inclusive Growth	• The government seeks to reduce its role in economic development by allowing inclusive development through empowering entrepreneurs and other stakeholders and fostering innovation at every level. • However, the government continues to lead in specific areas such as agriculture extension and training
Social Development	• Vision recognises the need to invest in sufficient state of the art medical and educational facilities through collaborations with the private sector, development partners and faith based organisations (FBO). • Prioritise social development for low-income citizens, who are predominantly the rural poor.

These pillars closely align with the developmental agenda and priorities for GSRDC which is among the areas experiencing multiple socio-economic crisis in Zimbabwe including unemployment, frequent droughts and lack of infrastructure development hence the need to align the Master plan to the five strategic pillars.

2.5.2 National Climate Policy (2016)

Climate change is among the major threats confronting Zimbabwe and it's a pressing issue that has the potential to undermine socio-economic development initiatives across the country. The climate policy aims to provide an overarching framework to give the country basic principles and guidance under which the 2014 National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS) which recognised the importance of climate change impacts for Zimbabwe's development can be implemented. Specifically, the climate change policy seeks to spur the country's endeavors to meet the nationally determined contributions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by creating resilient communities and driving the country towards and economy largely decoupled from climatic variations (Government of Zimbabwe 2016).

The climate policy aims to guide climate change management in the country, enhance the national adaptive capacity, scale up mitigation actions, facilitate domestication of global policies and ensure compliance with global mechanisms. Regarding GSRDC, the climate policy will inform the issues on institutional and infrastructure development, proposals for promoting and strengthening technology transfer and information sharing, reducing vulnerabilities in critical sections such as agriculture, human settlements development, forestry and biodiversity and water sectors. GSRDC is at risk from climate change hence the need to consider the climate dynamics as articulated in the climate policy.

2.5.3 Zimbabwe National Human Settlement Policy of 2020

Population growth in GSRDC is placing immense pressure on housing and human settlement development. The housing challenge is a national phenomenon often overlooked in rural areas, yet most of the Zimbabwean population resides in rural areas. The government of Zimbabwe has developed two critical policies aimed at addressing housing issues and human settlements. The Zimbabwe National Human Settlement Policy (ZNHSP) of 2020 specifically provides guidelines for rural human settlements aligning with GSRDC. Section 2.6 of the ZNHSP focuses on rural settlements acknowledging the challenges of rural settlements as poor housing quality and lack of social services and not as much of homelessness as urban areas (Government of Zimbabwe, 2020). The following issues highlighted in the ZNHSP apply for GSRDC:

- Processes of land identification, acquisition, planning and development for settlements will fully involve the local authorities and concerned communities;
- Clear and defensible tenure rights will be defined for all land categories and mechanisms for guaranteeing security of tenure set up;

- Rural local authorities will regulate the spatial location of settlements, design of homesteads, provide for common services (e.g. gravesites), choices of building technology, construction material and methods that are economic, sustainable, resilient and enhance land use efficiency.
- Mechanisms for displacements and relocations through the "Compensation and Relocation Framework";
- Rural local authorities will be expected to produce diverse model homesteads;
- Modernised micro, small to medium enterprise work spaces will be facilitated at these various centres to cater for those trained at local Vocational Training Centres and other institutions;
- Local authorities to prioritise the provision of social infrastructure

2.5.4 National Tourism Master Plan (2018)

Zimbabwe is a country endowed with multiple tourist attraction sites that range from cultural and heritage areas such as Great Zimbabwe Ruins, Matopos and Chinhoyi Caves. One can also find pleasure in visiting areas such as Victoria Falls, Eastern Highlands and Kariba Dam. As such in May 2018, the government of Zimbabwe developed the National Tourism-Master plan to guide the tourism sector in Zimbabwe. Specifically, the master plan sought to "act as an overarching guide to the development of Tourism in Zimbabwe. The National Tourism Master Plan will provide direction to product development and diversification, infrastructure development, manpower development, community participation, preservation of nature, culture and heritage, marketing and promotion strategies among others." GSRD is endowed with multiple tourist attractions that include waterfalls, wildlife, and cultural and heritage sites that need to be sustainably planned within the parameters of the National Tourism Master Plan.

2.5.5 National Renewable Energy Policy (2019)

Energy plays a critical role in sustained socio-economic development due to its significant role as a factor of production. The same applies in the rural context where energy is required for different activities including agriculture, domestic use and industrial uses. However, most rural areas in Zimbabwe lack adequate and reliable electric supply resulting in significant losses to the economy. To make ends meet, most households in rural areas resort to fossil fuel as the primary energy source leading to deforestation and environmental pollution. Therefore, there have been increasing calls on the use of cleaner energy and which is guided by the National Renewable Energy Policy (NREP) of 2019. Specifically, the NREP envisages providing energy access to all in a sustainable manner by increasing the contribution of renewables in the country's energy mix (Government of Zimbabwe, 2019: 19). The main goal of the policy is to increase access to clean and affordable energy through the addition of installed renewable energy capacity of:

- One thousand one hundred Mega Watts (1, 100MW) by the year 2025 of sixteen comma five percent (16.5%) of the total generation from renewable energy sources, whichever is higher; and
- Two thousand one hundred Mega Watts (2, 100 MW) by 2030 or twenty-six comma five percent (26.5%) of the total generation from renewable energy sources, whichever is higher.

2.5.6 Forestry Policy (2023)

Zimbabwe has a large stock of forestry resources largely concentrated in communal and resettlement areas. These forests provide multiple ecosystem services but they are also facing great challenges from different pressures such as deforestation. The same is true for GSRDC which has a significant area covered by forests that provide a habitat for wildlife – a basis for tourism, timber, medicines and browse for livestock and wildlife. These forests are threatened hence the significance of the National Forest Policy in managing wisely Zimbabwe's forest and woodland resources for the improved social, economic and environmental well-being of its people (Government of Zimbabwe, 2023: 04).

2.5.7 Environmental Management Policy (2009)

The environment plays a crucial role in socio-economic development in Zimbabwe. While being diverse and consisting of multiple resources, there has been increasing degradation of the environment in Zimbabwe. The same is true for GSRDC like many rural areas across the country. Hence, the provisions of the National Environmental Policy of 2009 are critical to consider in the master planning process for GSRDC. The key areas of focus include land and soil erosion from artisanal miners, soil erosion and gully formation from overgrazing and sand mining and brick making, siltation from river bank cultivation and climate change effects. Cultural issues are also an issue to consider. The master plan for GSRDC will thus be aligned to the goal of the National Environmental Policy "*to avoid irreversible environmental damage, maintain essential environmental processes, and preserve the broad spectrum of biological diversity so as to sustain the long-term ability of natural resources to meet the basic needs of people, enhance food security, reduce poverty, and improve the standard of living of Zimbabweans through long-term economic growth and the creation of employment*" (Government of Zimbabwe, 2009: 2).

2.5.8 Sustainable Development Goals (2016)

In 2016, the world leaders implemented the sustainable development goals (SDGs) as a universal set of goals, targets and indicators envisaged to guide global development until 2030. The SDGs, embody a transformative development agenda that seeks to "leave no one behind" in addressing urgent global challenges. The government of Zimbabwe is a signatory to these SDGs and hence, the Master Plan for GSRDC ought to consider these SDGs. Specifically, the SDGs are encapsulated into 17 goals summarised in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of the SDGs and relationship with selected development issues in GSRDC.

SDG
Goal 1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Goal 4 – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Goal 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Goal 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Goal 10 – reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11 – make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Goal 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
Goal 14 - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 15 – protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss
Goal 16 – promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnerships for sustainable development

2.5.9. Acts of Law

In preparing the Master Plan, the following Acts of Parliament have been considered. Each of them is discussed in detail in the respective chapters and how they impact development in GSRDC

- The Constitution of Zimbabwe (2013);
- Regional, Town and Country Planning Act (Chapter 29:12), and Master and Local Plan Regulations (RGN 248 of 1977);
- Rural Districts Councils Act (29:13);
- Communal Land Act (20:04);
- Environmental Management Act (20:27);
- Mines and Minerals Act (21:05);
- Water Act (20:24);
- ZINWA Act (20:25);
- Parks and Wildlife Act (20:14);
- Traditional Leaders Act [Chapter 29:17]);
- Museum and Monuments Act of Zimbabwe [Chapter 25:11]; and
- Forest Act [Chapter 19:05].

2.6 NOTION OF GSRDC AS A 'LEFT BEHIND PLACE'

Despite having vast of resources in their jurisdictions, most local authorities including GSRDC are struggling to fully grow to their potential. GSRDC is seized with the following critical Spatial planning issues:

i. Water shortages is a critical issue in the district mainly due to climate change effects making it challenging for communities to access water for domestic and agricultural purposes.
ii. Unsustainable and unfair commercialisation of wild food.
iii. Soil fertility decline, leading to reduction in crop yields.
iv. Land invasion into protected areas including Chirisa and Mafungautsi forest area revealing conflicts in land use and conservation efforts. This results in encroachment of developments and land use conflict within planned areas.
v. Human-wildlife conflicts are prevalent bringing out tensions between farmers and wildlife.
vi. Land degradation from artisanal miners and sand miners.
vii. Poor road network infrastructure
viii. Shortage of basic social services that include poor access to water and inadequate health facilities.
ix. Delays in planning enforcement and development control.
x. Piecemeal and disjointed planning resulting in uncoordinated developments and land use conflicts and environmental degradation.
xi. Increasing population due to continued migration into the district major growth points coupled with the natural increase of the population causing an increased demand on land for housing, other social and economic needs of the population.
xii. Environmental challenges associated with land degradation, unsustainable harvesting of natural resources, deforestation, pollution and poor sanitation.

2.7 PRIORITY AREAS FOR GSRDC

Priority areas will be meticulously identified for the development of a comprehensive and pragmatic Gokwe South Master Plan, with a keen focus on proposing initiatives that address various critical aspects:

1. **Food Security**: The master plan will prioritize initiatives aimed at improving the lives of the impoverished by reducing food prices and ensuring access to a nutritious diet. This will involve targeting the basic food basket towards different food groups, strategically identified to meet the required nutritional needs of rural communities. Efforts will be made to enhance food production, distribution, and accessibility, thereby bolstering food security in the region.
2. **Agricultural Value Chains**: Special emphasis will be placed on developing robust agricultural value chains to promote economic growth and sustainability. This includes proposing the establishment of Farming Production Support Units (FPSUs) and identifying specialized commodities per Agricultural Hub, along with addressing the requisite Agriprocessing value chain needs. By enhancing agricultural productivity and value addition,

the master plan aims to unlock the full potential of the agricultural sector and stimulate economic development.

3. **Sustainable Livelihoods**: The master plan prioritizes initiatives aimed at improving livelihoods and reducing poverty by identifying existing access to services and social amenities. Poverty pockets will be identified, and potential focus areas for economic opportunities will be proposed. Special attention will be given to exploring economic sectors beyond agriculture, uncovering possible job opportunities and value chains that can contribute to sustainable livelihoods and socio-economic development.
4. **Urban-Rural Linkages**: Recognizing the importance of bridging the gap between urban and rural areas, the master plan will focus on revitalizing and creating economic opportunities for rural communities, particularly the most vulnerable segments of the population. Efforts will be directed towards fostering synergistic relationships between urban centers and rural areas, ensuring equitable access to resources, infrastructure, and economic opportunities.
5. **Disaster Management**: The master plan will include a comprehensive assessment of various agricultural-related disaster data sets, with a particular emphasis on potential risks such as frost, hail occurrence, fires, droughts, and flooding. Strategies and interventions will be proposed to enhance disaster preparedness, mitigation, and response mechanisms, ensuring resilience and safeguarding agricultural livelihoods against adverse events.
6. **Commodity Regions**: Identification of existing commodities within the area or region will be complemented by an exploration of potential new commodities that can be sustainably cultivated or produced. By identifying and harnessing the region's comparative advantages and market opportunities, the master plan aims to promote diversification, competitiveness, and resilience in the agricultural sector, contributing to overall economic growth and development.

CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY

3.1. RESEARCH METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

The approach and methodology adopted for the GSRDC Master Plan report of study was based on a comprehensive blend of qualitative and quantitative methods, ensuring a holistic understanding of the district's dynamics. This mixed-methods approach provided robust insights necessary for formulating a comprehensive and effective report of study for better informing the master plan. Emphasis was on participatory approaches with data being collected at central points in the wards of the district. The data collection was conducted in February, March and April 2024. This participatory approach helped in saving time and costs, and also importantly facilitating access to the hard-to-reach people in the district because of poor road infrastructure. Master plans are premised on participatory research through which comprehensive analysis of the area is done, hence this approach was key for GSRDC and enabled a deeper understanding of the local realities and the hopes and aspirations of the communities.

The meeting places/ ward assembly centres included Chief Njelele's homestead, Headman Chisina residence, Chief Nemangwe at Mutimutema, Headman Mazvimbakupa at Zambezi Primary, Chief Mutendi at Defe Dopota primary, Chief Masuka's residence, Chief Sai area, Mukamba area, Chief Mukoka area, Headman Musala area, Headman Ngumeni at Nyaradza, Headman Ndhlalambi at Nyaje Rural Service Centre and other selected business centres. The ward assembly centres brought together key stakeholders including village heads, veterinary services, agriculture extension services, Members of Parliament (MPs), chiefs, local community members among other key stakeholders.

In preparing the GSRDC Master Plan Report of Study, a significant amount of data was required to ensure thorough analysis and informed decision-making. The study considered principal social, economic, and environmental characteristics, major land uses of the area, public utility services of the area, and communications within the area and any neighbouring area that may affect or be affected by the planning area. Relevant mapping, population data (including size, structure, and distribution), and resources available to implement the proposals were also essential components of the study (Table 3).

Table 3: Data required for Master Plan Preparation

Type of Data	Detail
Principal Social, Economic, and Environmental Characteristics	• Data related to social factors such as demographics, education levels, healthcare access, and cultural diversity.
	• Economic data including employment rates, income levels, major industries, and economic activities prevalent in the area. • Environmental data covering aspects like biodiversity, natural resources, climate patterns, and environmental vulnerabilities.
Major Land Uses of the Area	• Detailed information on the current land use patterns including residential areas, agricultural lands, commercial zones, industrial zones, conservation areas, and infrastructure developments. • Historical trends and projections for future land use changes, considering factors like population growth, urbanization, and economic development.

Public Utility Services and Communications	• Data on existing public utility services such as water supply, sanitation, electricity, waste management, and transportation infrastructure. • Communication networks including roads, highways, bridges, telecommunications, and internet connectivity, both within the planning area and with neighboring regions.
Relevant Mapping	• Geographic Information System (GIS) maps depicting various spatial features such as land parcels, topography, water bodies, infrastructure networks, and administrative boundaries. • Thematic maps illustrating land use, zoning regulations, natural hazards, and other relevant spatial information necessary for planning and analysis.
Population (Size, Structure, and Distribution)	• Population data indicating the total population size, age structure, gender distribution, and population density across different geographic areas within the district. • Information on population trends, migration patterns, urban-rural population distribution, and projections for future population growth or decline.
Resources Available to Implement Proposals	• Data on financial resources, human resources, and infrastructure capacities available within the district for implementing proposed development initiatives. • Assessment of existing institutional frameworks, community capacities, and partnerships that can support the implementation of the master plan proposals. • Analysis of potential funding sources, grants, and partnerships at the local, regional, national, and international levels to support sustainable development projects.

The methodology ensured the project's contribution to:

- Cross-cutting policy drivers,
- substantive planning issues,
- inclusivity,
- gender equality,
- norms and social dialogue, and
- medium and long-term effects of the plan.

Table 4: Data collection plan by thematic area as per S.I 248

Thematic Area	Variable	Source of Data/ Institution	Specific
Water -	Boreholes	Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA), United Nations Children Education Fund (UNICEF), LAs, RIDA	Location/Maps (where capacity is available capture it, RIDA
	Dams	ZINWA, Department Irrigation	Location, Maps, Capacity in cubic metres
	Wells	LAs	Location/Maps (Especially deep wells)
	Rivers/streams	Surveyor General (SG)	SG maps
	Water supply & consumption	LAs ZINWA	Municipality Billing dept
Roads	National road	Depart of National Roads	Condition – tarred, Gravel
	Council roads	Local Authorities	Condition
	RIDA roads	LAs and RIDA	Maps, Statistics
Land cover - Forest	Grassland	Ministry of Agriculture	
	Forrest	Forest Commission	Location, ha, type,
	Cropland	Agritex (ministry) SG	Ha, location, Agricultural regions, Maps
	Wetlands	Environmental Management Agency (EMA), NGOs,	Ha, location
Population	Demographic aspects	ZimStat, LAs,	Age-Gender structure, projections

Homesteads	Types of settlements Buildings	ZimStats, Local Authorities,	Villages-neighbourhoods, Wards, and details (figures)
Minerals	Formal Informal	Ministry of mines, Geological survey	Prospecting order maps, location of informal mines
Soils	Soil zones - Types of soils	Geological survey, LAs, Agriculture	Types and location, soil condition
Climate belts	The 5 belts any of them Disaster profiles	SG	Location, area covered, implication

While the primary focus of the study was the initial planning boundary of GSRD, the study also considered areas outside the given planning boundary that needed studying (Rapid Appraisal). The study captured boundaries of many activities/zones, such as Parks, Forestry, Conservancy, etc., and related them to the planning boundary of Gokwe South Rural District. It was critical to take note of these zones that extended from the primary Gokwe South Rural District planning boundary into other local authorities. The study also considered the National Development Context, SDGs at the national level, Vision 2030, the Human Settlement Policy, Climate Policy, and Food and Nutrition Security Policy and how they affected setting. Other important aspects that were considered included dams, tourist zones/infrastructure, transport networks, agricultural developments, Heritage assets, etc. – their potential in terms of development.

Primary data collection methods included interviews, focus group discussions, field observations, workshops, and GIS mapping. Previous studies and reports related to the district's development were also reviewed to build upon existing knowledge and avoid duplication of efforts. Various sampling techniques, including purposive, random sampling, and stratified sampling, were employed to ensure the representativeness of the data collected. Figure 5 summarizes the study methodology adopted.

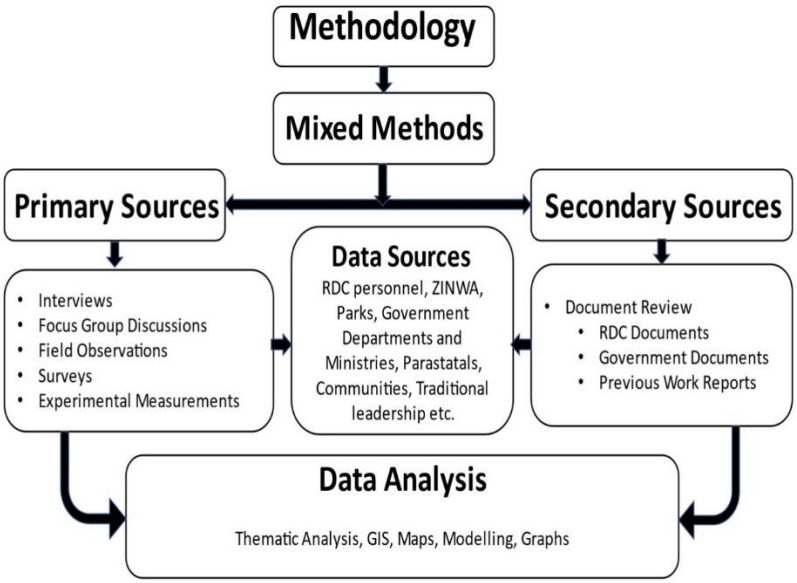

Figure 5: Summary of Study Methodology

3.1.1 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

FGDs were conducted to elicit diverse perspectives on topics such as principal social, economic, and environmental characteristics, major land uses of the area, and public utility services. These structured group discussions involved selected participants from the community or stakeholders with similar characteristics or interests, chosen based on demographics, occupation, or involvement in community affairs. Trained facilitators led the discussions using predefined questions or topics, fostering interaction and dialogue among participants to uncover shared concerns and aspirations. FGDs provided rich qualitative data, allowing exploration of group dynamics, consensus-building, and identification of common themes or issues.

3.1.2 Key Informant Interviews (KII)

KIIs were utilized to gather detailed insights from individuals possessing in-depth knowledge or expertise relevant to the master plan. Government officials, Council personnel, local leaders, and subject matter experts were interviewed one-on-one to provide nuanced perspectives on challenges, opportunities, and potential solutions. These interviews, typically conducted in person or remotely using a semi-structured interview guide, delved into specific aspects of the master plan, including principal social, economic, and environmental characteristics, relevant mapping, and resources available for implementation. Key informant interviews offered deep insights from individuals with specialized knowledge or experience, validating findings from other data collection methods.

3.1.3 In-depth Interviews

In-depth Interviews involved detailed conversations with individual participants selected based on their relevance to the research objectives. Community members, business owners, and local residents were interviewed to explore their experiences, perspectives, and opinions related to the master plan. Using a semi-structured interview guide, in-depth interviews allowed for open-ended questions and probing to elicit detailed responses. These interviews provided a deep understanding of individual perspectives and experiences, contributing to the exploration of diverse viewpoints and identification of unique insights across various aspects of the master plan.

3.1.4 Observations

Observations were conducted to systematically record and analyze phenomena, behaviors, or events in the natural environment. Trained researchers or planners used structured observation protocols or checklists to gather objective, real-time data on the study area. Observations focused on aspects such as land use patterns, infrastructure conditions, and community dynamics, complementing other data sources and validating findings from interviews and surveys. They offered contextual understanding and insights into local dynamics that may not have been captured through other methods.

3.1.5 Community Workshops

Workshops served as participatory events where community members, stakeholders, and experts collaborated on issues related to the master plan. Organized in collaboration with local authorities, community leaders, and relevant stakeholders, workshops included structured activities, group discussions, and interactive exercises. These workshops promoted inclusivity, transparency, and ownership of the planning process, ensuring that the master plan reflected the needs, aspirations, and values of the local community while facilitating knowledge sharing, capacity building, and social cohesion.

3.1.6 Geographic Information System (GIS) and Spatial Analysis

GIS methodology for the report of study involved several key steps in gathering and analyzing spatial data for informed decision-making for the report of study and written statement of the master plan. The aspects covered are presented in detail in the following subsections.

- *Topography, climate and geology*

Data on topography, climate and geology was obtained from secondary sources and primary sources. The sources included a topographic map prepared from the SG's Office, satellite data, World Meteorological Organisation' climate data and Geological Bulletin. This was verified by field observations. The data used was in the form of weather station records, topographic maps and satellite images.

- *Soils*

A desk study review was conducted to identify soils of Gokwe South Rural District. This involved examination of published literature including geological bulletins, published and unpublished soil reports. Land units were used as mapping units. Land units can be defined as areas which were identified mainly through satellite imagery interpretation with a unique combination of landform and soil pattern (Anderson et al., 1993). Land units were provisionally demarcated on the satellite image after analysis of the images in the office using an overlay of the satellite image and geology of the area and existing soil information. Geological information was obtained from the 1:1 000 000 provisional geological map of Zimbabwe. This was followed by a reconnaissance survey involving conducting transects across the district. During the field survey, soil observations were carried out using auger borings, road cuttings and gravel pits where they were available to understand the soil profile morphology and soil characteristics. Field observations were guided by preliminary satellite image interpretations, observed soil colour and textural changes in the field, vegetation, existing land use and topography using a combination of free survey and expert knowledge of the team. All sampling points were geo-referenced to be used in the production of final land unit boundaries.

- *Surface Hydrology*

A desk study was carried out using hydrological literature (rainfall, runoff and environmental flow requirements) from journal publications and ZINWA. Furthermore, a drainage map of the study area and sampling points were derived from satellite images in a GIS environment. A ground-truthing of water streams, geology, and field interviews were used to further confirm the surface and ground hydrology of the area. Information on surface water infrastructure and uses of surface and groundwater were obtained from field observations, and discussions with the local communities. GPS was used to locate the water sampling points. Water samples were collected for full chemical ambient analysis. Two-liter bottles were used to collect water samples.

Water was tested for conductivity and pH on site using a conductivity meter and a pH meter respectively. Furthermore, informal discussions with local people provided information on the aquatic animals found in the water bodies in the project.

- *Hydrogeology*

Field data collection and analysis was based on a combination of techniques, including informal interviews, fieldwork and desk studies.

- *Desk study (Analysis of existing geological, topographical and soil maps)*

A desk study was carried out to familiarize with the area's regional geology, geomorphology and soils. In particular, detailed maps of the surrounding area were analyzed to familiarize with land use and drainage patterns, major soil types and their characteristics.

- *Informal interviews and field observations*

Local people familiar with the study area and field assistants were interviewed by the field team. Information gathered includes sources and uses of groundwater, geology and depth of groundwater. This was complemented by field observations and a ground-truthing exercise to verify the information where possible. In particular, the team verified the existence of boreholes and wells and uses of groundwater.

- *Fieldwork measurements*

A sample of boreholes and deep wells were identified using GPS and their coordinates were recorded. Groundwater depth in some boreholes was measured and observed geological features of the area recorded. Groundwater flow direction was estimated using the Digital Elevation Model in a GIS environment.

3.1.7. Conceptual analysis of groundwater balance for the study area

Due to a lack of quantitative data on groundwater use for the study area, we could not quantify the different components of the groundwater balance. The conceptual groundwater balance analysis is a powerful tool for understanding the impacts of land use on hydrogeology.

3.1.8. Terrestrial Ecology

Flora (trees, grasses, herbs) and fauna species in and around the Gokwe South Rural District were identified and recorded. Fauna species were identified through physical observations and the evidence of indicators (proxies) such as spoors, droppings, feathers and eggs. Identification of bird species was aided by the use of binoculars and field guidebooks for verification. Live observations of birds as well as proxies like feathers, eggs and nests were used for the identification of bird species. Small insects such as spiders, butterflies and bush flies were captured by use of sweep-nets and guidebooks were used to identify the insects. Identification and classification of the flora and fauna species was assisted by the use of field guidebooks as well as indigenous knowledge. Specimen samples of unidentified plant species (these include leaves and whole plants) were collected for identification at the National Herbarium where necessary. These fieldwork surveys were important to recognise flora and fauna species within the district which fall in the following categories: (a) Rare species (not widely distributed), (b) Endangered species (in threat of extinction) and (c) Protected species.

3.1.9. NDVI vegetation cover

The general vegetation cover of the district was estimated using a remote sensing vegetation index called the Normalised Differential Vegetation Index (NDVI). NDVI is based on the spectral properties of green vegetation contrasting with its soil background. This index has been found to provide a strong vegetation signal and good spectral contrast from most background materials (Oindo et al., 2002). NDVI is a measure derived by dividing the difference between near-infrared and red reflectance measurements by their sum. NDVI provides an effective measure of vegetation cover (Tucker and Sellers, 1986). The Sentinel satellite imagery was used to calculate NDVI using the spectral bands 4 (Red (R)) and 8 (Near infra-red (NIR)). The NDVI values range from -1 to +1 (pixel values 0-255). Healthy vegetation will have a high NDVI value. Bare soil and rock reflect similar levels of near-infrared and red and so will have NDVI values near zero. Clouds, water, and snow are the opposite of vegetation in that they reflect more visible energy than infrared energy, and so they yield negative NDVI values. At the sampling sites, trees and grasses were sampled and their abundance was recorded. In addition, during the tour of the district, the dominant species and land cover classes were marked.

3.2. DATA MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS

Data analysis involved thematic analysis, GIS analysis, percentages, bar graphs, and modelling. Qualitative data from interviews, focus group discussions, and field observations were analysed thematically to identify recurring patterns and themes. Spatial data collected through mapping

exercises were analysed using GIS software to identify spatial trends and patterns. Quantitative data from surveys and experimental measurements were analysed using descriptive statistics, including percentages and bar graphs, to visualize key findings. Statistical modelling techniques were employed to analyse relationships between different variables and forecast future development scenarios.

CHAPTER 4: PHYSICAL FEATURES AND LAND COVERAGE

This chapter provides the descriptions of the baseline biophysical and socio-economic setting of the project area during the time of the survey.

4.1. CLIMATE

The climate of Gokwe South district is one of summer rainfall concentrated in the months from November to March. Most of the area lies in agro-ecological zones of Natural Regions III and IV (Figure 6). This climate is characterized by relatively high temperatures and evenly distributed precipitation throughout the year.

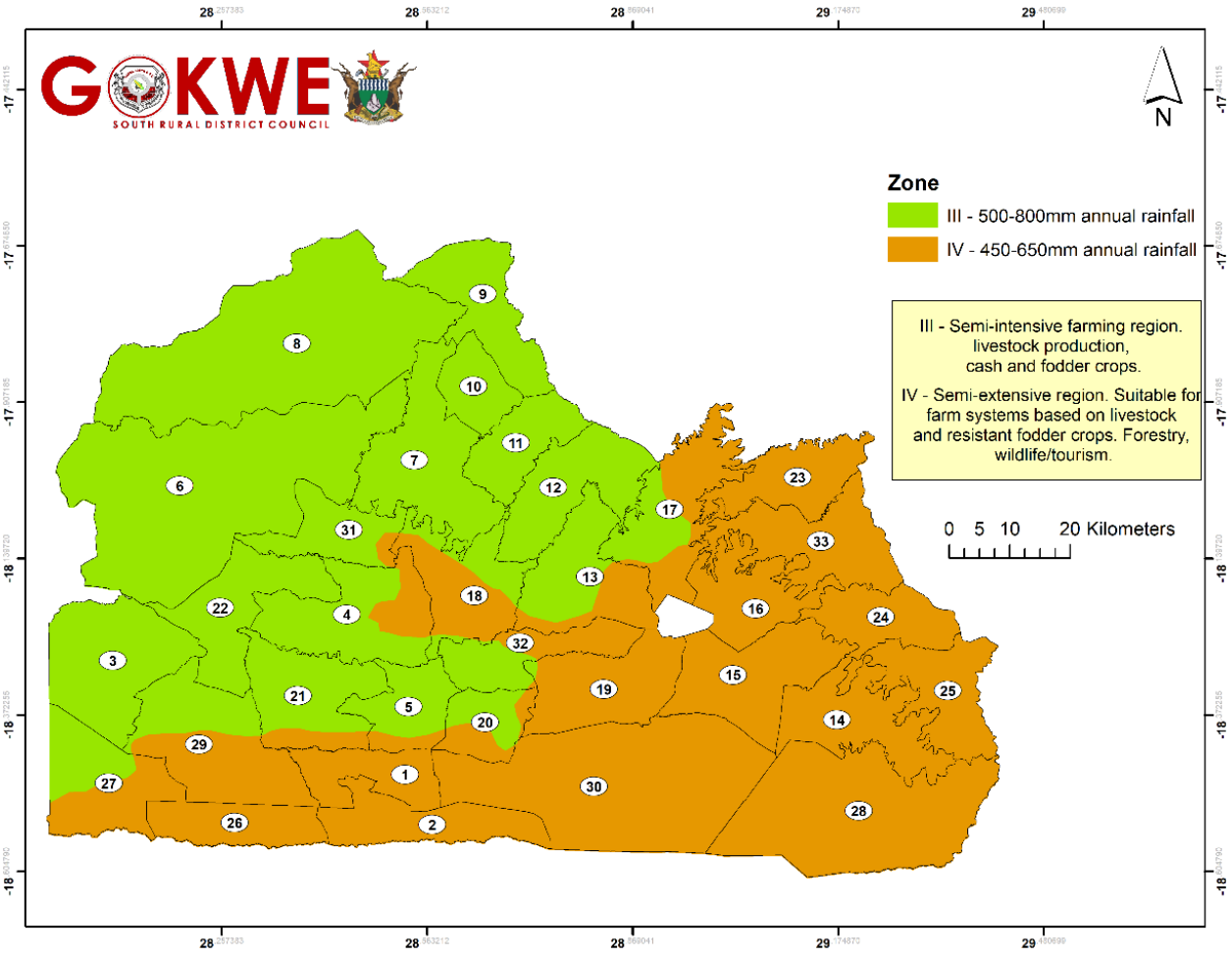

Figure 6: Agro-ecological zones in Gokwe South Rural District

Summers are usually somewhat wetter than winters, with much of the rainfall coming from convectional thunderstorm activity; tropical cyclones also enhance warm-season rainfall in some regions. Mean rainfall is between (550-650 mm.) per annum, rising to over (700 mm.) on the Mapfungautsi Plateau. As shown in Figure 7, the rainfall for the district is received largely between late October and early March. The winter season, May to August tends to be dry with no precipitation received during this period.

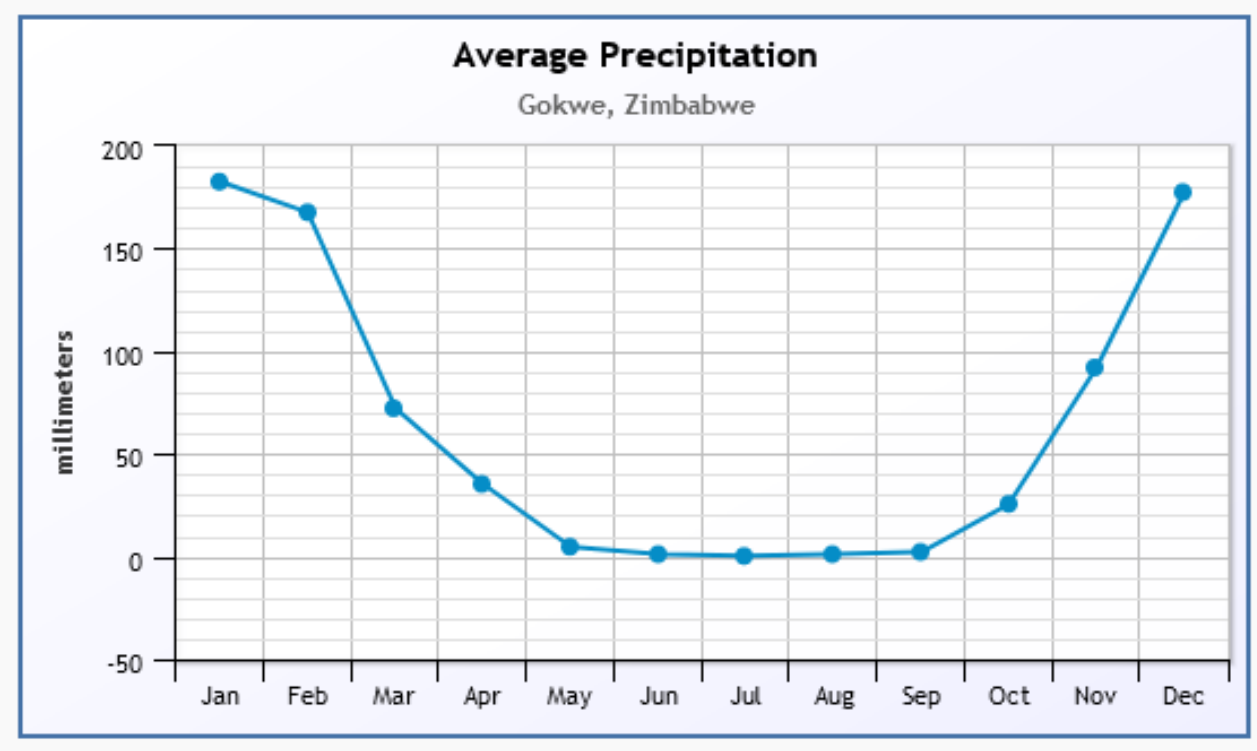

Figure 7: Average precipitation 30 years data

The coldest month is usually quite mild, although frosts are not uncommon, and winter precipitation is derived primarily from frontal cyclones along the polar front. The Köppen Climate Classification subtype for this climate is "Cfa" which is a Humid Subtropical Climate. The average temperature for the year in Gokwe South district is 20.5°C. The warmest month, on average, is October with an average temperature of 24.2°C (Figure 8). The coolest month on average is July, with an average temperature of 15.6°C.

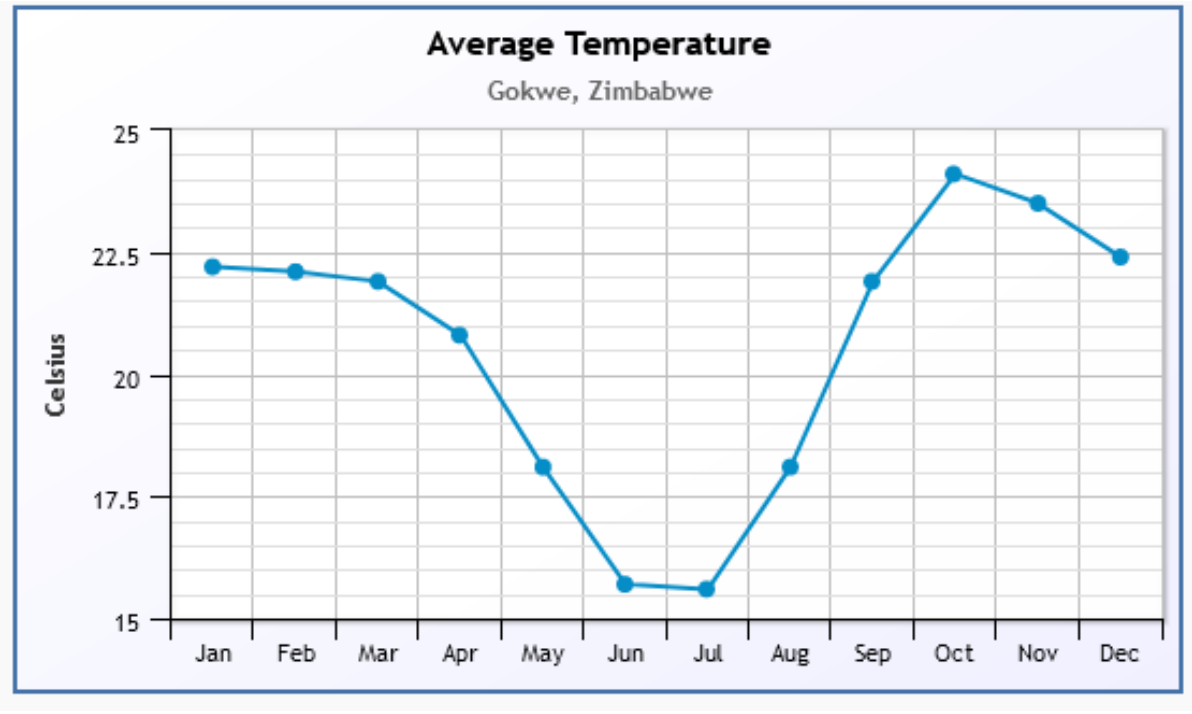

Figure 8: Average Temperature 30 years data

In 2010, Gokwe South had 6.67 kha of tree cover, extending over 0.60% of its land area. In 2023, it lost 21 ha of tree cover. Between 2001 and 2022, forests in Gokwe South emitted 44.6

ktCO₂e/year and removed -69.0 ktCO₂e/year. This represents a net carbon sink of -24.4 ktCO₂e/year.

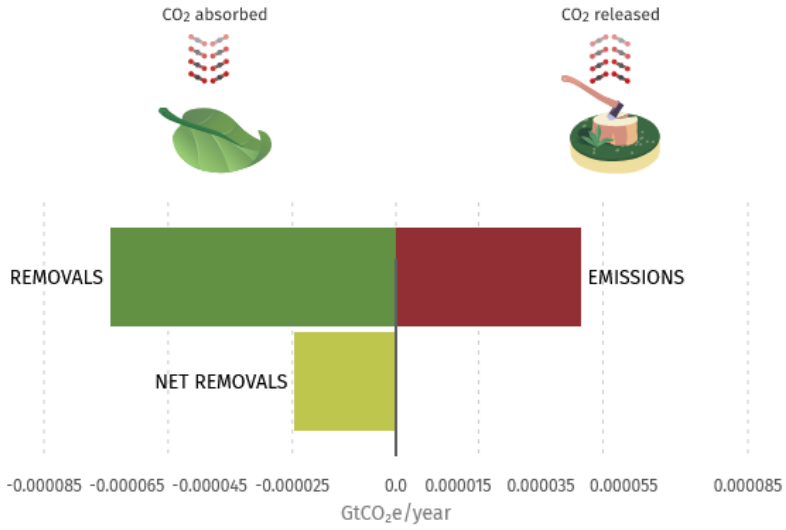

Figure 9: Forest-related greenhouse gas influxes in Gokwe South

From Figure 10, it is highlighted that between 2001 and 2022, an average of 44.6 kt per year was released into the atmosphere as a result of tree cover loss in Gokwe South. In total, 980 kt of CO₂e was emitted in this period.

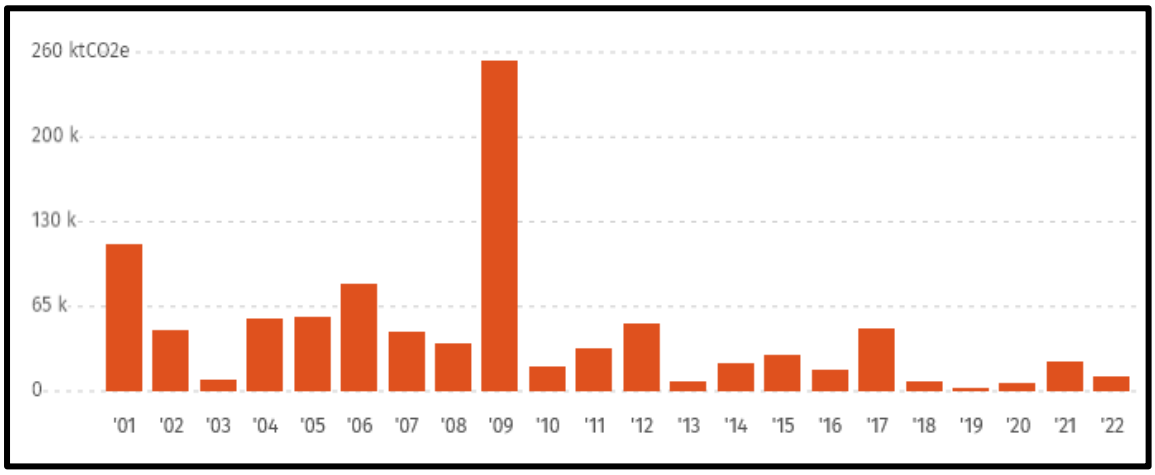

Figure 10: Forest-related greenhouse gas emission in Gokwe South

4.1.1. Solar Radiation

Through the National Energy Policy of 2013 and the National Renewable Energy Policy of 2019, the government of Zimbabwe is advocating for a shift towards solar energy (Government of Zimbabwe, 2012; 2019). A ban on electric water heaters in domestic and commercial buildings was announced in November 2019. Zimbabwe is a sunshine-rich country, enjoying a remarkable 7.5 hours of sunlight a day. Solar radiation varies from an average of about 16 MJ/m^2/day in winter to about 22 MJ/m^2/day in midsummer. Out of a total area of 390,580 km^2, the country has 250,000 km^2 which is suitable for concentrating solar power plants. The same applies to Gokwe South where solar resources in Gokwe South Rural District remain largely untapped. From Figure 11, it

is clearly shown that wards 3, 22, 21, 29, 27, 2, 5, 25, 24, 16, 33, 23, 12, 11, 10, 9 and 7 receive ample sunshine which can be used to start a viable solar farming business venture.

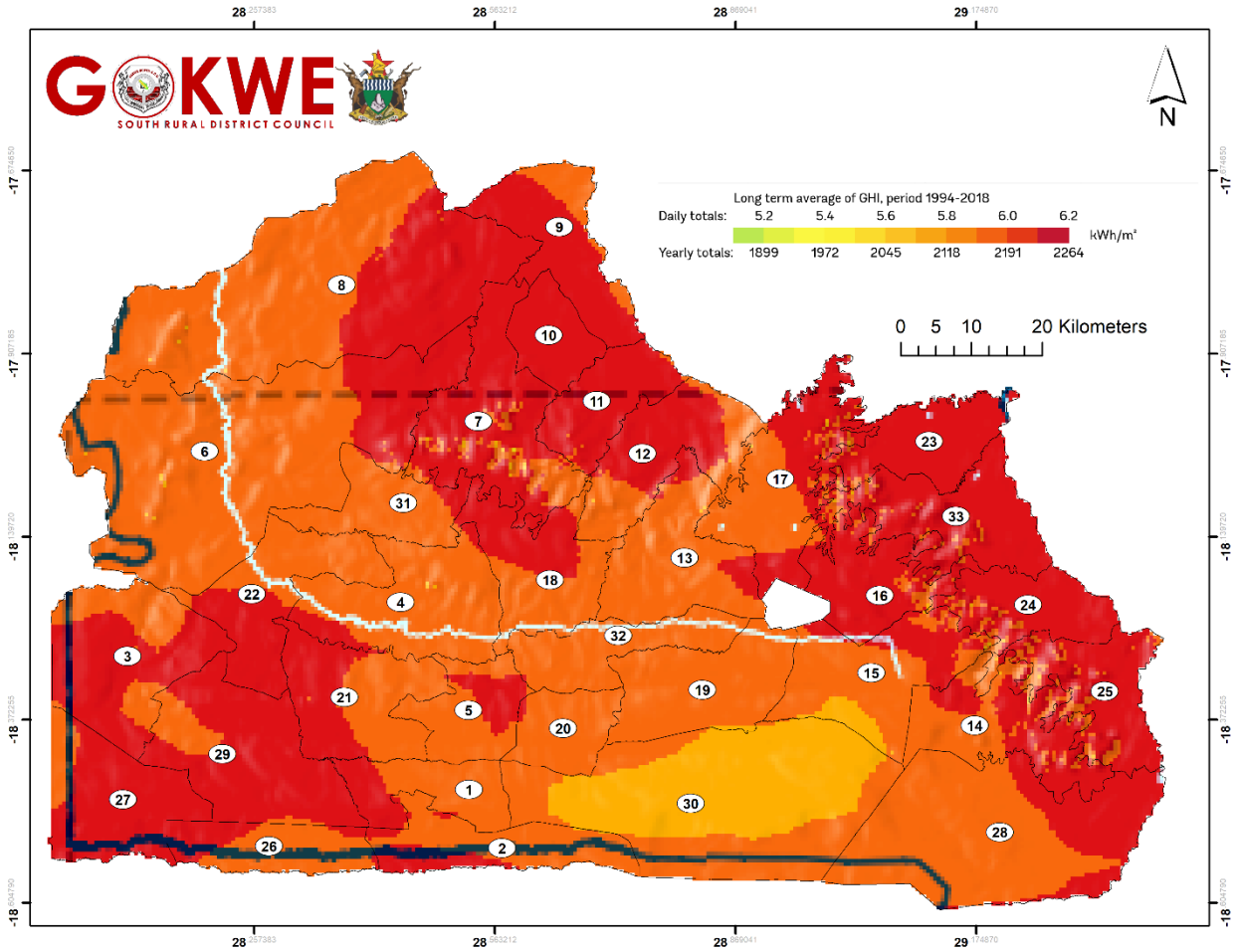

Figure 11: Long-term 1994-2018 solar radiance in Gokwe South District

4.2. GEOLOGY

Gokwe South area lies, more or less, on the southern margin of Zambezi Valley, and varies in altitude from approximately 1,230m on the Mapfungautsi and Charama plateaux down to 773 m. in the valleys of the major rivers. Precambrian and igneous rocks are exposed in the eastern part of the district, where the topography is undulating, and shales and slates of the Piriwiri series form a belt of ridges close to the Munyati River. Sedimentary rocks to the west have been exposed by a series of cycles. The beveled surfaces at 1,230m on the basalt sandstone plateaux of Mapfungautsi and Charama are probably relics of the early Tertiary "sub-Gondwana" erosion cycle level is overlain by a later deposit of Kalahari sand, which is missing the northern part of the Mapfungautsi Plateau.

A later erosion cycle has removed the earlier surface in producing the present 925m level on the sandstone. The erosion scarp of this second cycle, which might be identified with the "African" cycle, is represented by the Charama and Mapfungautsi escarpments, penetrated by deep re-entrants.

A further erosion cycle, possibly the "Victoria Falls" cycle, has cut into the sandstone of the Bumi and Sengwe Rivers exposing the underlying Madumabisa shale. Steeper river gradients

in the western part of the area have led to greater dissection of the sandstone surface. Three distinct erosion terraces can be traced on the sandstone shelf below the Charama and Mapfungautsi escarpments. The highest forms the floor of the Charama gorges, and appears to mark the outcrop of impervious rock, giving rise to a fall-line. These perennial waterfalls have cut ravines in the terrace scarp. The middle terrace is bounded by a low scarp which can be traced from the north tip of the Mapfungautsi to the western end of the Charama plateau, while the lowest terrace is bounded by a scarp at the Mapfungautsi shale contact. This system of terraces is not seen on the sandstone of the Munyati drainage, where river profiles are gentle and little dissection has occurred.

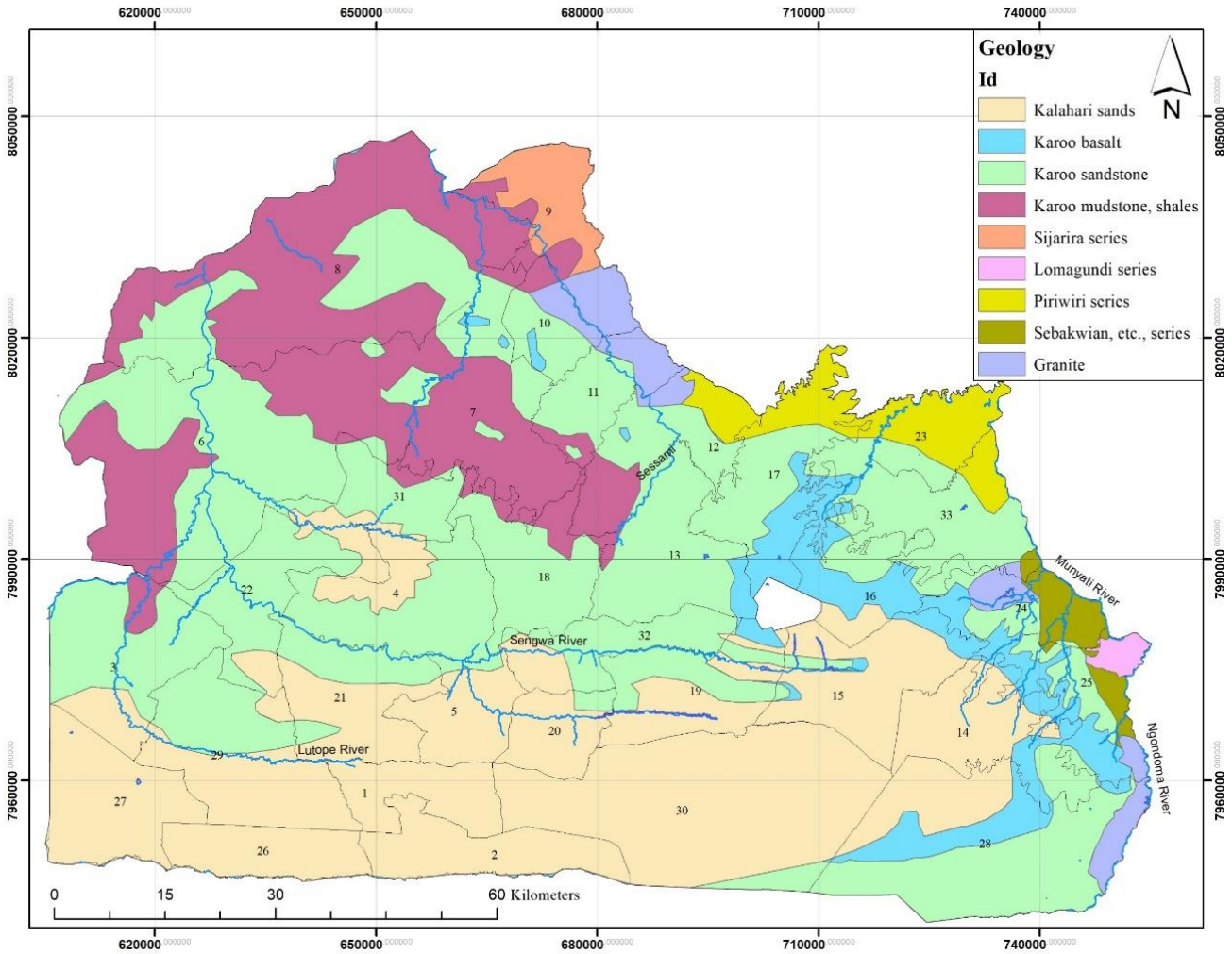

Figure 12: Gokwe South Geology map

4.3. SOILS

Soil Mapping Units

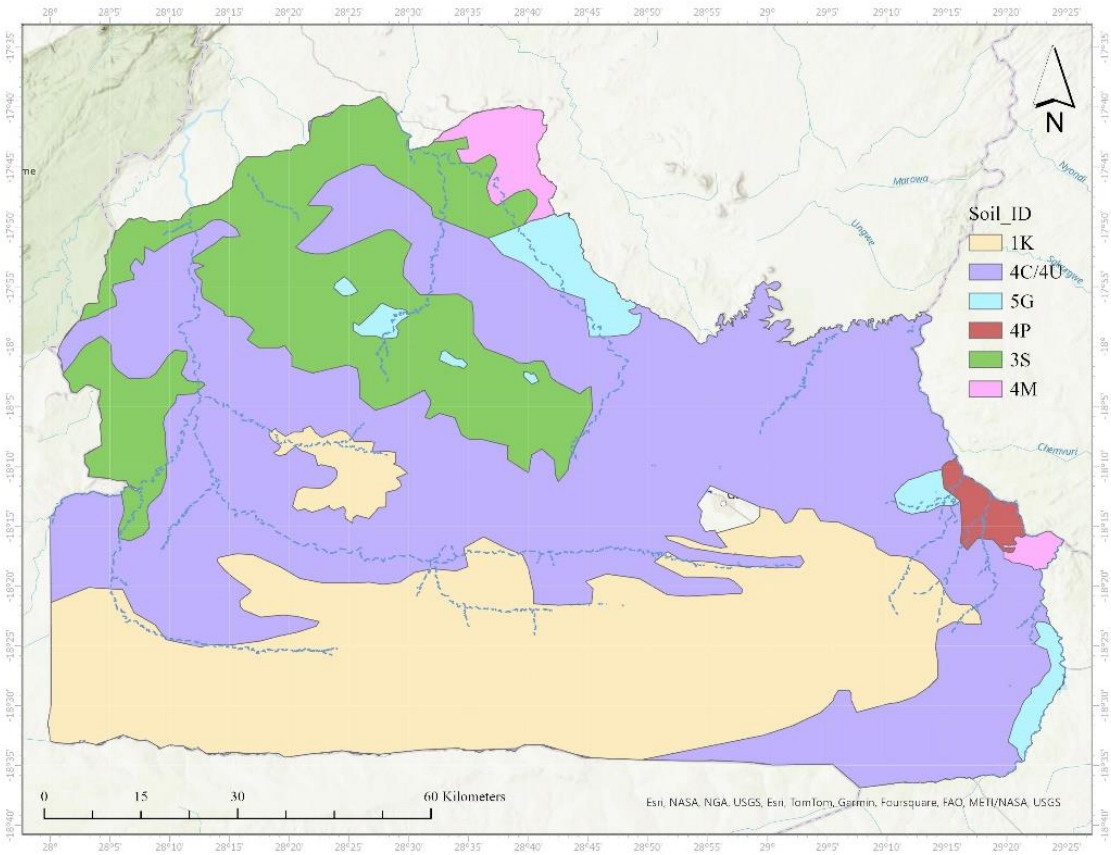

Figure 13: Land units in Gokwe South District

Table 5: General soil description for land units in Gokwe South district

Land Unit	Soil description
1K	348 929.244Ha: Deep sands with less than 10% silt + clay, >2metres deep, very little or no reserves of weatherable minerals
4C/4U	522 116.801Ha: deep, mainly medium to moderately heavy textured soils usually calcareous (4C), 4U similar to 4C but formed on alluviums
5G	30 789.037Ha: moderately shallow, greyish brown, coarse grained sands throughout the profile to similar sandy loams, over reddish-brown sandy clay loams, formed on granitic rocks
4P	8457.337Ha: Shallow to moderately shallow brown to reddish brown, fine to medium grained loamy sands over sand loams, or sandy loams over sandy clay loams, formed on siliceous gneisses.
3S	180 408.664Ha: Grey to black vertisols, often with appreciable salts and or exchangeable Na, and often gypseous, formed on Madumabisa shale or other argillaceous sediments
4M	18 344.04Ha: Moderately shallow to moderately deep soils, texturally similar to those of 4P but usually with smaller reserves of weatherable minerals, formed mainly on sandstones and quartzites of Triassic, Permian, cretaceous formations

4.3.1. Soil Vegetation Relationships

Land units in the district are dominated by associations of Brachystegia spiciformis, Brachystegia glaucescens, Brachystegia boehmii, Julbernardia globiflora, Colophospermum mopane, Grass savanna, Combretum apiculatum, Combretum ghasalense and Combretum elaeagnoides. Alluvial derived soils are dominated by: Kirkia acuminate, Terminaba randii, Dichrostachys cinerea, Terminaba sericea, Acacia tortilis, Acacia albida and Trichilia emetica riparian forest.

4.3.2. Environmental Susceptibilities of Soil Units

The major concerns to land environmental degradation in the district are: gully erosion, dust generation, compaction, trafficability when wet and subsurface pollution. Soils have an above average hazard of erosion due to the inherent low surface water intake after rainfall. Low surface intake is conducive to runoff which results in gully erosion. Sodic patches, a common feature in the central to western parts of the district, are conducive to accelerated erosion. In uncultivated areas soil loss is retarded by good grass cover especially in Mapfungautsi and Chirisa areas. Soils are generally sandy and thus have very poor contaminant adsorption capacities as they have very low cation exchange capacity (CEC). Dust generation is likely to be problematic when soils are dry and trafficability is extremely difficult when the soils are wet. The land units have moderate susceptibility to compaction because of the fineness the sand grains. Land unit 4U has a high risk of stream bank erosion during peak flows especially along the major Rivers following large intense rainstorms. This problem is exacerbated by removal of riparian vegetation for bank slope cultivation by the community members which make the rivers exposed to siltation.

4.4. ECOLOGY

The ecology is mainly characterised by four types of woodlands, mature mopane woodlands, cathedral mopane, mixed acacia/mopane regrowth and riverine vegetation. Generally, there is sparse to no grass cover. The vegetation types in uncultivated areas were consistent with those typical for high temperatures, low altitude, sodic or alluvial soils. The project area can be described by the following natural vegetation cover types developed by the consultant:

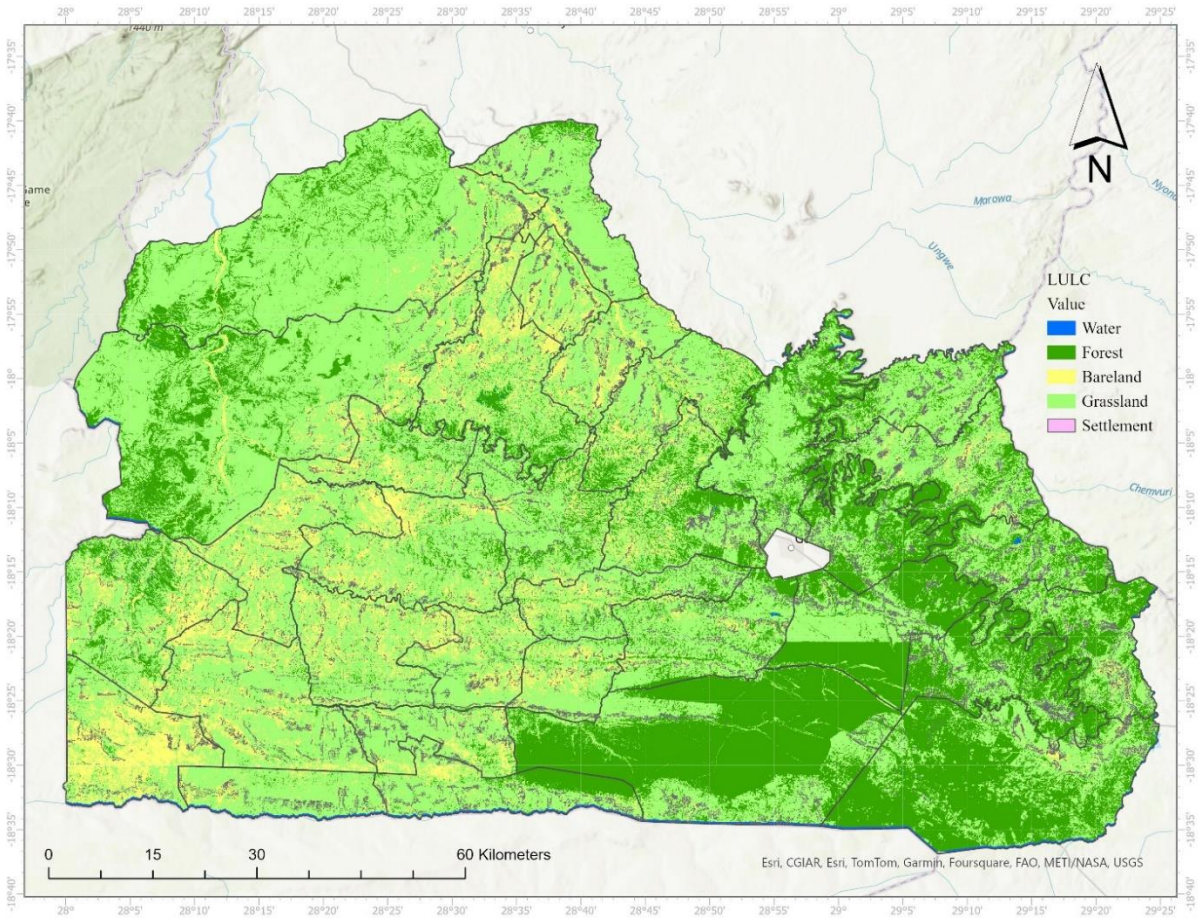

Figure 14: Map showing land use and land cover in Gokwe South district

Type 1 Cathedral Mopane Tree Species: This was characterised by Combretum-Terminalia-Colophospermum mopane which have grown to heights of over 10m, with instances of 80-90% canopy cover. The grass cover, mainly being thatching, ranges from 10-30%.

Type II Mixed Acacia_Combretum Tree Species: This vegetation cover is characterised by trees from 3-8m in height, with a canopy cover ranging from 40-60%. Species include Acacia nigrescens, Diospyros, kirkii, Commiphora spp, Fidherbia albida, Tamarindus indica, Ziziphus mauritiana. The distribution of trees and grasses is quite sparse in some areas, with grass cover being as low as 5%. This vegetation type is associated with the red sand soils present in the project area.

Type III Mopane_Acacia_Dichrostychs Woodlands: This is mainly associated with white stony sands. Generally, there was little to no grass cover and trees had stunted growth, literally brush, with 20 to 50% canopy cover. This vegetation cover is mostly dominated by the Dichrostyachs cinerea, Colophospermum mopane and Ziziphus spp tree species.

Type IV Riverine: This is characterised by diverse vegetation, which includes Terminalia, Acacia, Combretum, Ziziphus, Syzygium, Ficus, Acacia nigrescens, Diospyros, kirkii, Commiphora spp, and Grewia trees species and many other associated with the abundance of water. This vegetation type presented the greatest diversity of tree species. Vegetation cover had a range of 60-80% cover. This vegetation type is associated with colluvium and alluvial deposits.

4.5. VEGETATION COVER

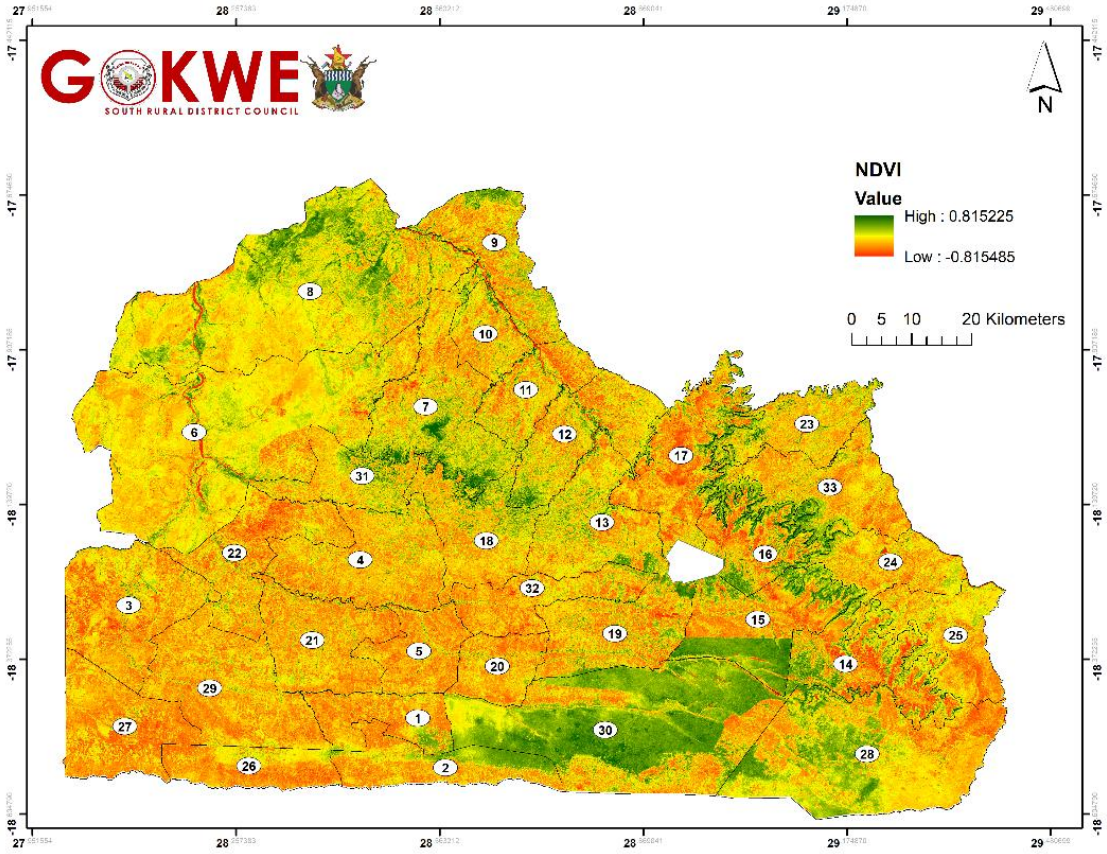

Figure 15: Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) for Gokwe South District

The NDVI values range from -0.815225 to 0.815485 with values closer to 1 representing areas covered with healthy vegetation. The NDVI values close to zero may indicate Bare soil (for example mined out areas), dry vegetation, vegetation with shaded leaves and rock out crops whereas negative NDVI values may represent water bodies.

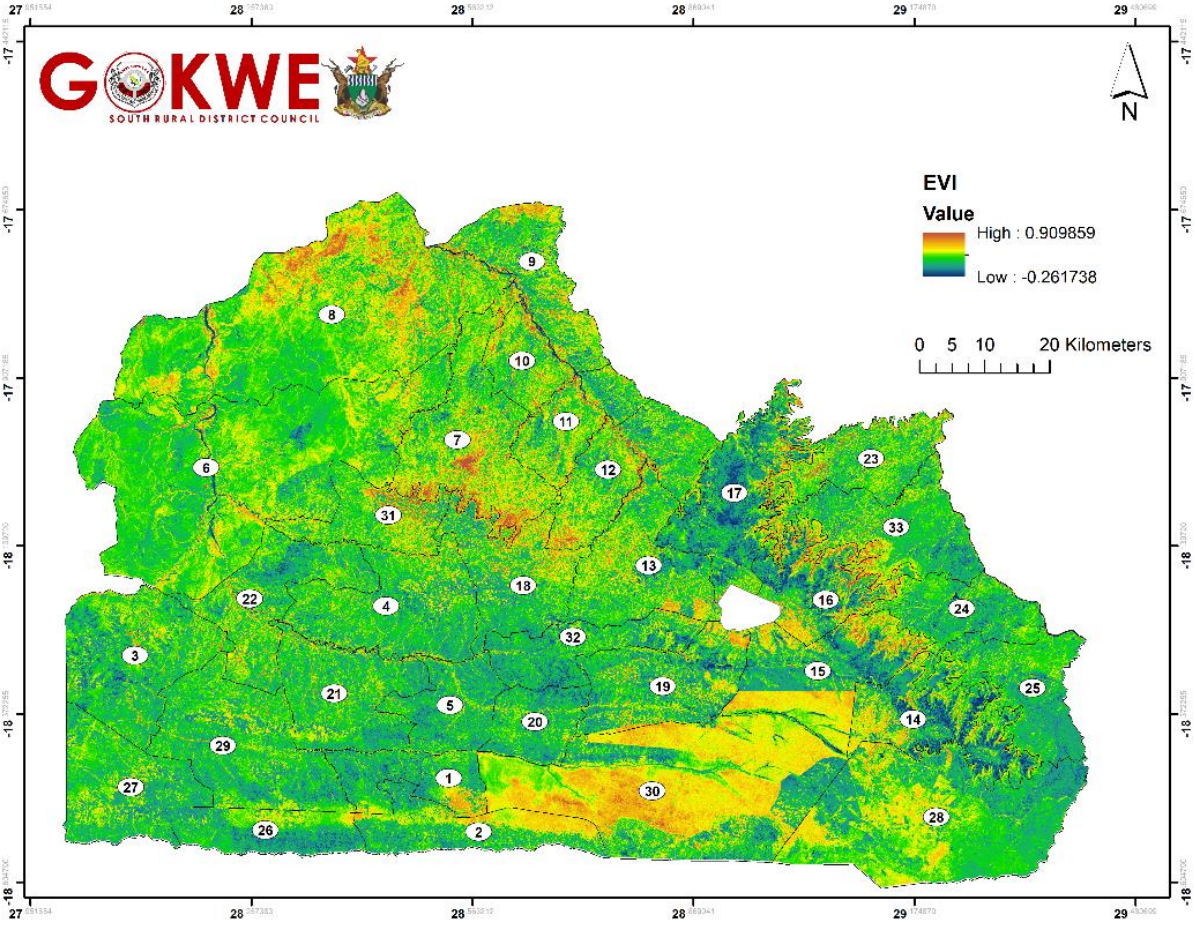

Figure 16: Enhanced Vegetation Index for Gokwe South District

Based on the Enhanced Vegetation Index (EVI) range of -0.261738 to 0.909859 for Gokwe South RDC, here's an interpretation of the vegetation cover. This wide range indicates significant variation in vegetation health and cover across Gokwe South RDC. Values closer to 1 represent areas with dense, healthy vegetation cover. These could be forests, woodlands, or well-managed croplands. Values around 0 or lower (down to -0.261) indicate several possibilities: Sparse vegetation: Areas with low plant cover, like grasslands or recently grazed pastures. Bare soil: Recently ploughed fields or areas with minimal vegetation. Rocks: Rocky outcrops with little to no soil or vegetation.

Unlike Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), EVI does not have a strict upper limit. However, values exceeding 0.7 generally represent dense vegetation.

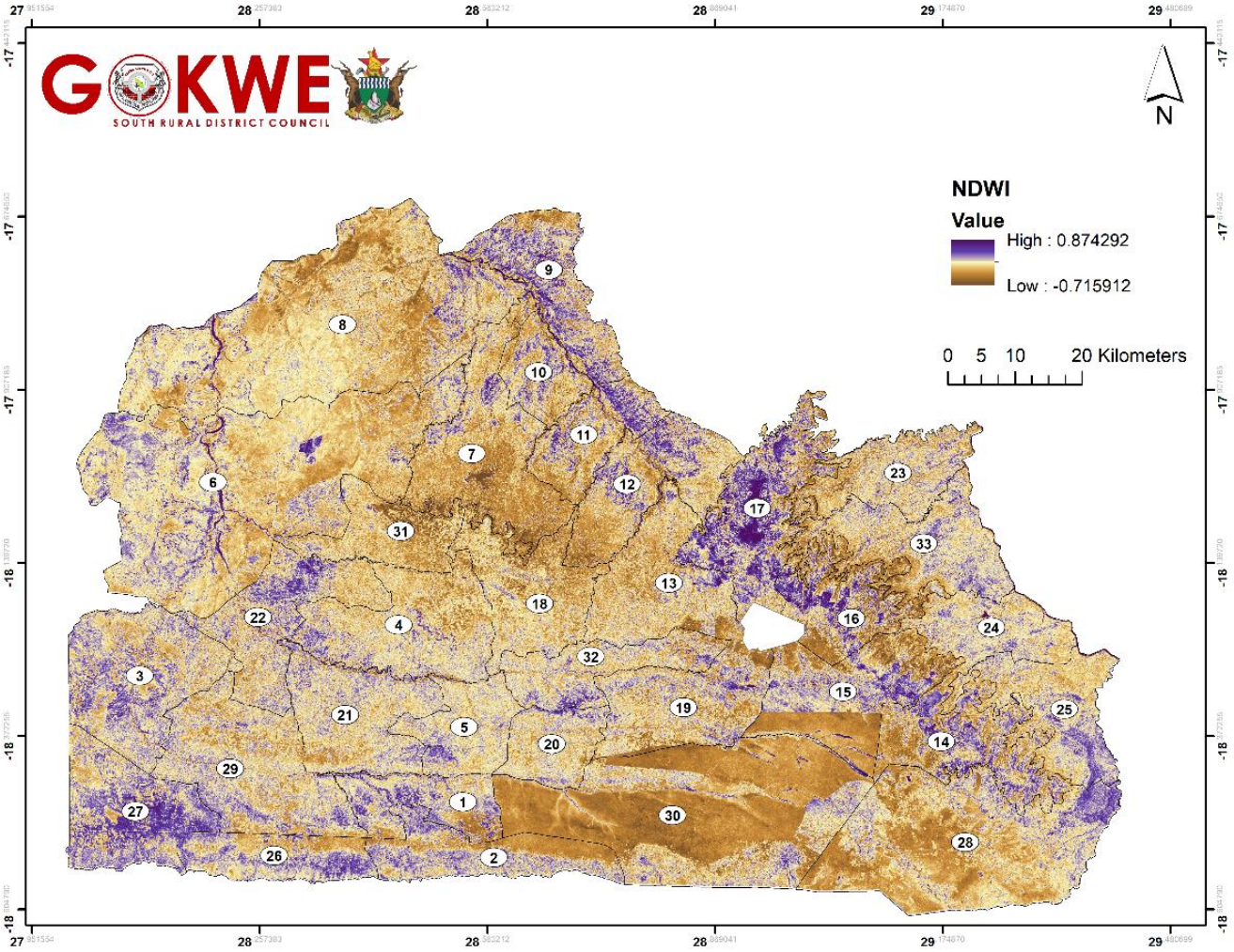

Figure 17: Normalised Difference Water Index for Gokwe South District

Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) in the district indicates open water bodies like lakes, rivers, or dams. Values near Zero: Represent areas with low to moderate moisture content, potentially bare soil or sparsely vegetated areas. Negative Values: Suggest very low moisture content or dry soil. The range (-0.71592 to 0.874292) suggests a variety in water presence across Gokwe South RDC. High positive values likely represent permanent water bodies. Values closer to zero indicate areas with low to moderate moisture content, potentially bare soil or sparse vegetation. Very Dry Areas: Negative values could represent very dry soil or seasonally dry wetlands.

4.6. FLORA DIVERSITY

- *Trees*

Most of the trees within the project site are a regrowth suggesting the area at one time had been cleared). A total of eighty-seven (87) tree species were identified which can be categorised into 3 levels of growth, cathedral (old age), relatively mature and shrub level (Table 6). The cathedral belts of Mopane, which form thickets with 60-80% tree cover, are relatively mature tree species with sparse distribution within the project site. The most common tree species recorded in the study area are Colophospermum mopane, Ziziphus spp, Combretum spp and Acacia spp.

Table 6: List of Tree Species found in Gokwe South District

Scientific name	Common name	Vernacular Name
Acacia albida	Apple-ring acacia	Musangu
Acacia ataxacantha	Flame acacia	Muchanga
Acacia nigrescens	Knobbythorn	Gakaunga
Acacia robusta	Broad-pod splendid acacia	Mumhuwa
Acacia tortilis	Umbrella Thorn	Muhunga
Adansonia digitate	Boabab	Muwuyu
Afzelia quanzensis*	Pod Mahogany	Mukamba
Artabotrys brachypetalus	Purple hookberry	Mukosvo
Azanza garkeana	Snot Appel	Mutowe
Baikiaea plurijuga*	African Teak	-
Balanites maughamii	Y-thorned tortwood	-
Baphia massaiensis	Jasmine	-
Berchemia discolor	Bird plum	Munyii
Boscia matabelensis	-	Chonzwe
Boscia mossambicensis	Broadleaf shepherds-tree	-
Brachystegia allenii	Escarpment brachystegia	Mutunduru
Brachystegia boehmii	Mfuti	Mufute
Brachystegia glaucescens	Mountain Acacia	Mubosha
Brachystegia spiciformis	Msasa	Musasa
Burkea Africana	Burkea	Mugaranyenze
Cassine chlechteriana	-	
Cleistoclamys kirki	Purple Cluster	Muhodzongwa
Colophospermum mopane	Mopane	Mupane
Combretum apiculutum	Glossy combretum	Mudziyaishe
Combretum celastroides	Jesse-bush combretum	
Combretum elaeagnoides	Grey jesse-bush combretum	Muswati
Combretum imberde	Bastard yellowwood	Muchiri
Combretum microphyllum	Burning Bush	Mupfurura
Combretum mossambicense	Shaving-brush Combretum	Bondorokoto
Combretum obovatum	Spiny White-leaved Combretum	-
Combretum zeyheri	Large fruit combretum	Muchenja
Commiphora caerulea	Blue-bark commiphora	-
Commiphora glandulosa	Common commiphora	Mubwabwa
Commiphora karibensis	Angularstem cockwood	-

Commiphora ugogensis	River corkwood	-
Courbonia glauca	Blue bush cherry	Katunguru
Croton megalobotrys	Feverberry	Gubvunga
Croton menyhartii	Roughleaf croton	-
Dichrostyachs cinerea	Chinese lantern	Muparanga
Diospyros mespiliformis	African ebony	Muchenje, Mushuma
Diospyros senensis	Peeling-bark	-
Diplorhynchus condylocarpon	Horn-pod tree	Musikanyimo
Dyospyros kirkii	Jackal berry	Muchenje
Ficus bussei	Zambezi fig	-
Ficus ingens/ Ficus natalensis	Fig	Mushavhi
Fluggea virosa	Snowberry	Muchagauwe
Friesodelielsia obovate	Monkey's fingers	Muchinga
Garcinia livingstonei	African mangosteen	
Grewia flavescens	Donkeyberry	Mumhudzungwa
Guibourtia coleosperma	Bastard Teak	-
Hyphaene petersiana	Fan palm	Muganda
Kigelia Africana	Bologna sausage	Marete
Kirkia acuminate	Bastard Acuminata	Mubvumira
Lannea discolor	Live long	Mugang'cha
Lannea schweinfurthii	False marula	Musototo
Lonchocarpus capasa	-	-
Monotes katangensis	Red-fruited monotes	-
Oncoba spinose	Fried-egg bush	Mushwawo
Oxytenanthera abyssinica	African Bamboo	Mushenjere
Philenoptera violacea	Rain tree	Mupanda
Psuedolanchnost/ylis maprouneifolia	Duikerberry	Mudyamhebwe
Pteleopsis anisoptera	Four-winged pteleopsis	-
Pteleopsis myrtifolia	Two-wing pteleopsis	Musunganyemba (m)
Pterocarpus angolensis	African teak	Mukwa
Pterocarpus lucens	Small-leaf bloodwood	-
Ricinodedron rautanenii	-	-
Schrebera trichloclada	Woodenpear	Mukakata
Sclerocayra birrea	Marula	Chisomo
Strophanthus kombe	Tail Flower	-
Syzygium	Water berry	Mukute
Tamarindus indica	Tamarind	Musika
Terminalia brachystema	Kalahari-sand terminalia	-

Terminalia prunioides	Lowveld Terminalia	Muchanana
Terminalia sericea	Assegai wood	Mukonono, Mususu
Terminalia stenostycha	Rosette Terminalia	Mukononomukuru
Trichilia emetic	Banket Mahogany	Mutsikiri
Trichilia emitia	-	-
Xanthocercis zambesiaca	Nyala-tree	Muchetuchetu
Xeroderris stuhlmannii	Wingpod	Murumanyama
Ximenia caffra		Mhunengeni
Xyalia torreana	Hairy xylia	Tsari
Ziziphus absynnica	Large jujube	Musawu
Ziziphus mauritiana	Catch thorn	Muchecheni
-	-	Mutsiga
Key		
Endangered species	(*)	

- *Grasses and Herbs*

Gokwe South district is a savanna grassland which has been a disturbed by communal activities. It should be noted that where cathedral tree species exist, grass cover increases from 0-30% to 60-80%. Generally, the project site has low to no grass and herb cover. A total of 10 grass and 4 herb plant species were identified in the project area (Table 7). None of the grass and herb species in the project area are red listed, endangered or endemic species.

Table 7: List of Grasses and Herbs

Scientific name	Common name	Vernacular Name	Type
Grasses			
Sporobolus pyramidalis	Cats Tail Grass	Dindindi/Mupungapunga/Tsinde	Grass
Mellenis repens	Natal Red-Top	Mbawa /feda	Grass
Pogonarthria squarrosa	Cross Grass	Minyangwe/Nyakatswatswa	Grass
Panicum repens	Torpedo Grass	-	Grass
Panicum maximum	Buffels Grass	Chitsetserere	Grass
Aristida spp	Bristle Grass	-	Grass
Hyparrhenia spp	Thatching Grass	-	Grass
Pennisetum clandestinum	Kikuyu Grass	-	Grass
Eragrostis spp	Love Grasses	-	Grass
Sporobolus spp	Dropseed Grass		Grass
Herbs			
Bidens pilosa	Black Jack	Sina/Nama/Guza	Herb
Tagetes minuta	Stinking Roger	Mbanda/Hanya/Muhungunira	Herb
Helichrysum stenopterum	-	-	Herb

Amaranthus hybridus	Pigweed	Bwamanga/ Mowa guru/	Herb

4.7. HYDROLOGY AND WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Gokwe South district is located in Zambezi Basin within the Sanyati Hydrological Catchment. The lower parts of the District experience flash floods, this is in area of Wards; 6, 9, 22, 8, 10, 11, 12, 23, 33, 24 and 25 partly due to backwater effects when the downstream Munyati drainage records high storage.

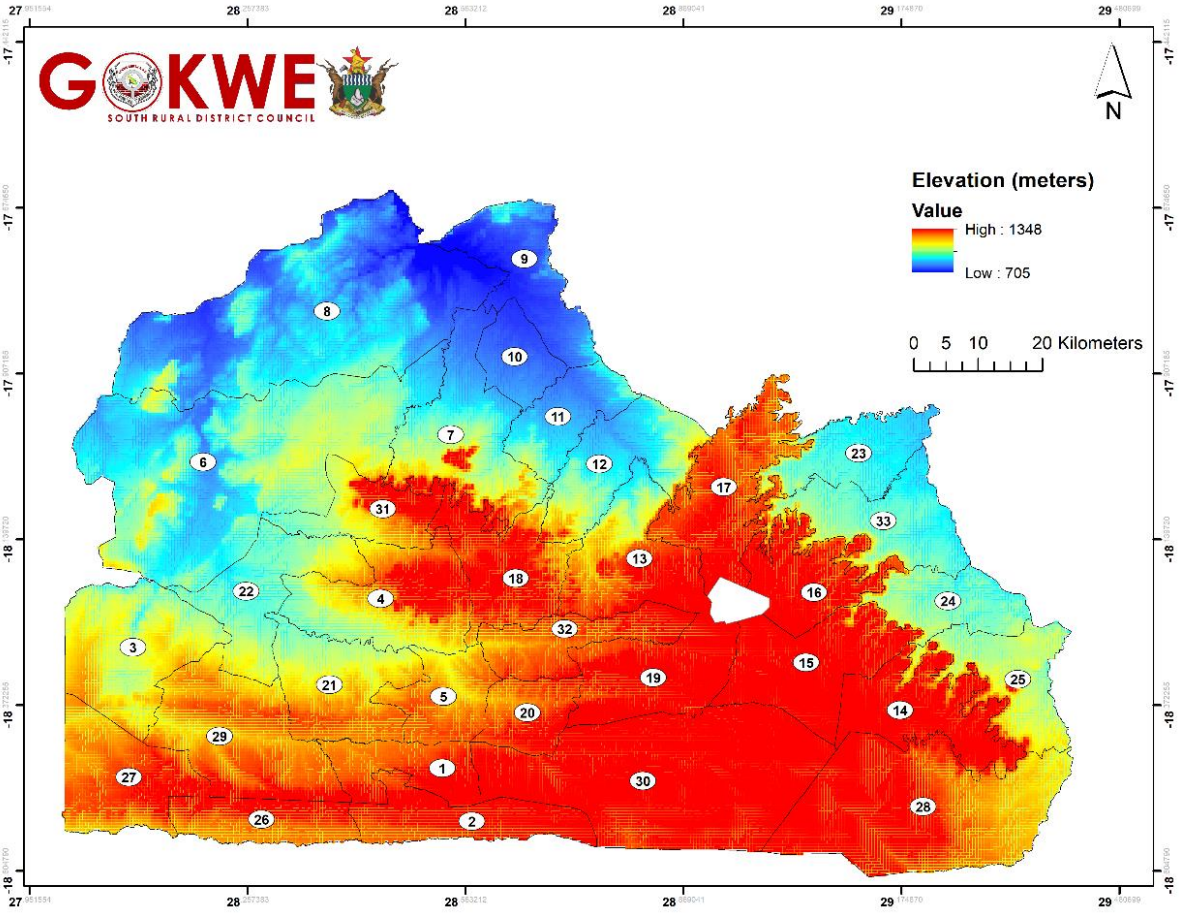

Figure 18: Elevation map for Gokwe South District

GSRDC receive low to moderate rainfall amounts, approximately 450–800 mm/year, and is classified as one of the moderately dry agro-ecological regions in Zimbabwe. The main drainage pattern in the project area is dendritic and most rivers generally flow in a Western and North-Western direction (Figure 18). The drainage pattern follows a generally gently sloping relief.

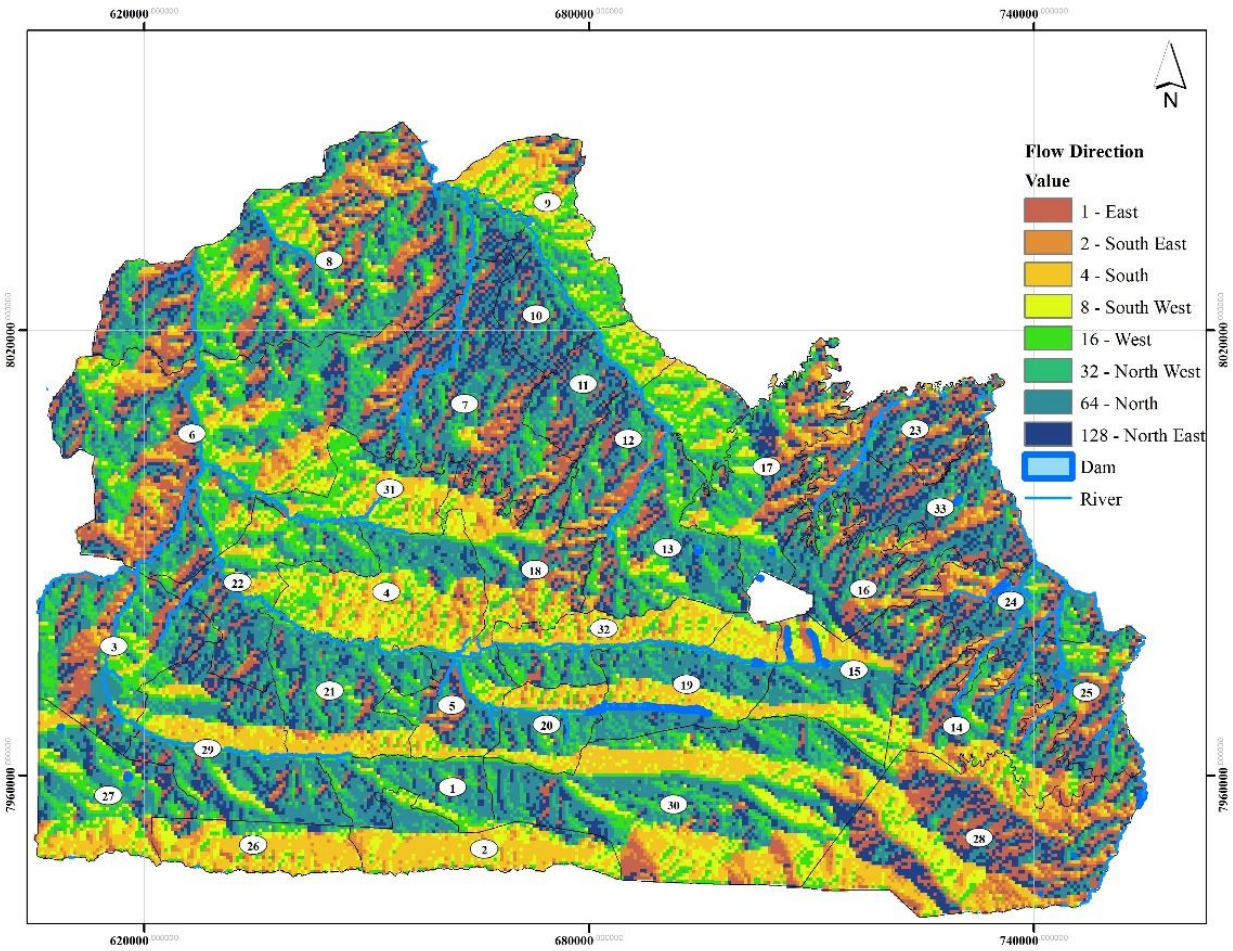

Figure 19: General groundwater flow direction in Gokwe South District

4.7.1 Suitable waste disposal facility site by Spatial multi-criteria evaluation

The spatial multi-criteria evaluation (SMCE) technique was used to determine locations suitable for siting a landfill for general waste within the boundaries of Gokwe South RDC. SMCE is a decision-aid and a mathematical tool allowing the comparison of different alternatives or scenarios according to many criteria, often conflicting, to guide the decision maker towards a judicious choice.

Factors taken into consideration include; ecosystems services (biodiversity and vegetation cover as measured by the Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)), soil type and soil characteristics, slope and hydrology as well as economic factors such as distance from utilities such as roads were considered as factors in SMCE. In terms of social factors, distance from settlements was considered.

On hydrology, wetland areas that are protected under the Ramsar convention were considered as well as the topographic wetness index and the depth of the water table. The Ramsar convention is concerned with the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world. Topography is a first-order control on spatial variation of hydrological conditions. It affects the spatial distribution of soil moisture, and groundwater flow often follows surface topography (Sørensen, et al., 2005). Topographic indices have therefore been

used to describe spatial soil moisture patterns (Sørensen, et al., 2005). One such index is the topographic wetness index (TWI) developed by Beven and Kirkby (1979).

Slope angle was also considered. Slope is important to ensure the stability of the landfill and reducing the transportation of material from the landfill into the drainage system. Slope was generated from an Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER) digital elevation model (DEM). TWI was derived from the same DEM. Soil type and soil characteristics were mapped during this study.

The biodiversity map was generated based on data collected during the fieldwork of this study whilst the Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) was derived from readily available long term remotely sensed datasets of the district. The main purpose was to choose a site where there would be minimal ground water pollution, little loss in biodiversity, protection of wetlands, balancing competing land uses, aesthetics and value of settlements as well as Environmental protection in general.

Rules and the Criteria Tree

To meet the aforementioned objectives, rules were designed based on literature, the outcome of the stakeholder consultation and expert knowledge. In the SMCE decision (criteria) tree of the expert system, the following rules were set:

Hydrology: No wetland area should be selected as suitable for the landfill. The landfill should be more than 70m from wetlands. The wetness index should not be greater than 10. The water table should be greater than 6m from the ground surface.

Economic: The landfill should be within 3000m of the serviced road in order to minimize transporting distances, which may be costly.

Slope: Slope less than 5 degrees should be selected as suitable to ensure landfill stability and minimize the possibility of material being transported into river systems and water bodies.

Settlements: The landfill should be greater than 500 meters from settlements to avoid accidents involving children playing on the landfill and avoid disturbing aesthetics in settlement areas.

Ecosystem Services: Areas with low to very low biodiversity and NDVI values below 0.45 and excluding areas with NDVI above 0.45 were selected.

Soil Characteristics: The soil was ranked according to loss of agricultural land, site clearance, compaction, soil erosion and runoff, contaminant adsorption capacity, suitability as borrow material, dust emission from roads when dry, change in landform and aesthetics, soil pollution due to seepage of leachate through base of Landfill, attenuation of leachate from landfill and trafficability when wet to come up with soil-based suitability classes for the landfill.

Input maps and data

The input maps were grouped into constraints and factors. Constraints are binding criteria so no compensation is allowed. Areas in an input map (added as a constraint) that did not satisfy a constraint condition, obtained a composite index value of 0, no matter how well these areas performed in any other criterion (factor). Built-up areas and wetlands were used as constraints. Factors allowed for compensation. Poor performance in one criterion would be compensated for by good performance in another criterion. A factor could either be a benefit (the higher the value, the better), or a cost (the higher the value, the worse).

The input maps that constituted factors were grouped into physical, hydrological, socio-economic and ecological visions. The visions were ranked according in order of priority where (1) physical was 0.52, (2) hydrology 0.27, (3) socio-economic 0.15 and (4) ecology 0.06. The input maps were standardised, i.e. all values in all digital maps were made to range between 0 and 1. Each map under each vision was weighted against the other based on order of importance.

Physical factors were weighted as follows:	
Slope	25%
Soil	75%
Hydrological factors were weighted as follows:	
Depth of water table	60%
Wetness index	30%
Distance from wetlands	10%
Socio-economic factors were weighted as follows:	
Distance from the road network	40%
Distance from built-up areas (settlements)	60%
Ecological Services were weighted as follows:	
Vegetation Cover	40%
Biodiversity	60%

These standardised and weighted maps were used to produce a general waste landfill suitability map. The weights were based on expert opinion.

SMCE Results

Error! Reference source not found. shows land suitability for landfill location. The values range from 0 to 1, where 0 is not suitable and 1 is highly suitable. The map was produced as a result of the rules that were entered into the expert system. The areas in red should not be considered for locating the landfill whilst the yellowish to green areas can be considered

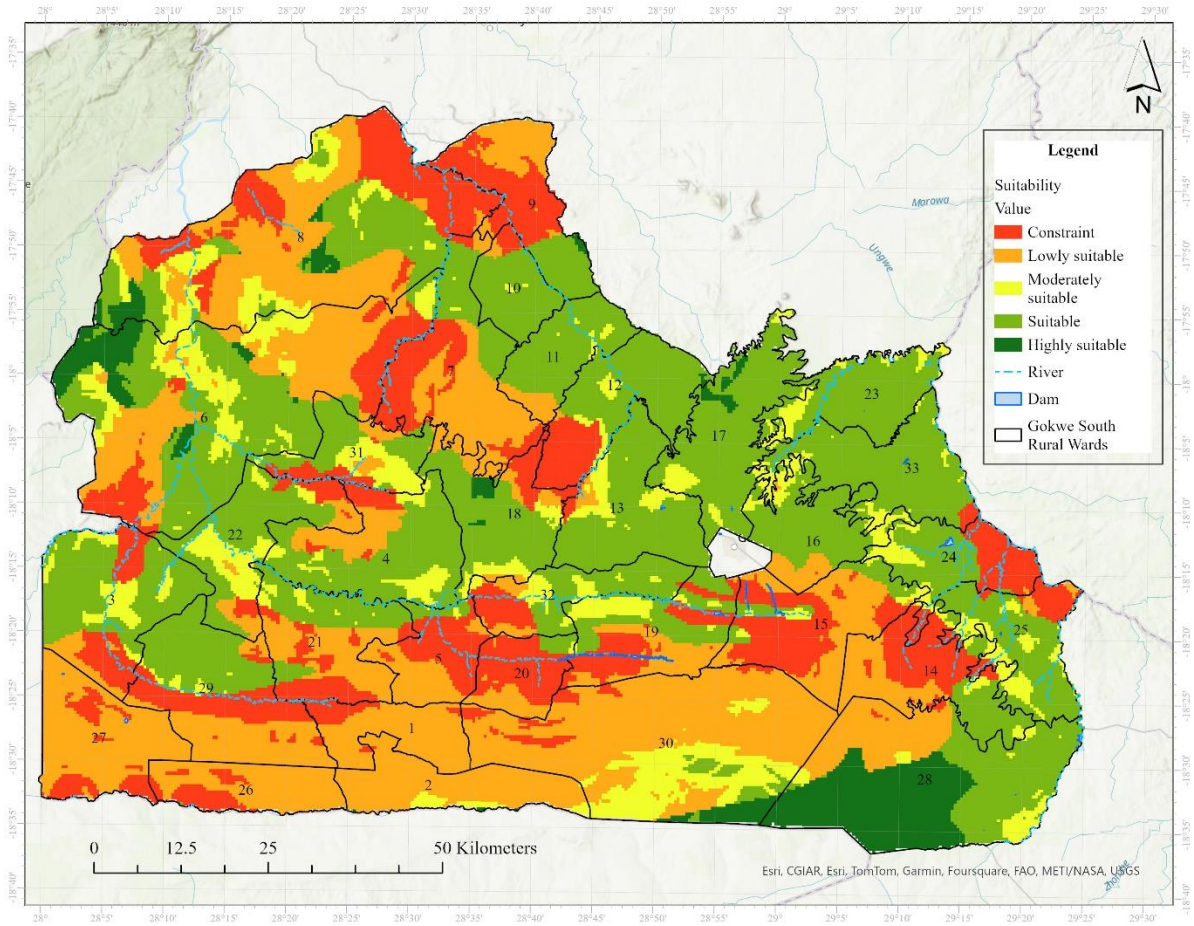

Figure 20: Suitable landfill site selection for Gokwe South RDC

CHAPTER 5: LAND USE AND LAND OWNERSHIP

5.1. LAND UTILIZATION ISSUES IN GOKWE SOUTH

Various land utilization issues impact the district's landscape and economic activities. These issues are crucial to consider in the formulation of the Master Plan to ensure sustainable land management and equitable development. The following subsections outline key aspects of land utilization in Gokwe South District.

5.1.1 District land uses

GSRDC has three major land uses: agriculture (communal farming area arid small commercial farming area), forestry land and wildlife area (game reserves). Figure 21 illustrates the distribution of different land uses in Gokwe South District in the form of a map. The key land uses are Water, Forest, Bareland, Grassland and Settlement.

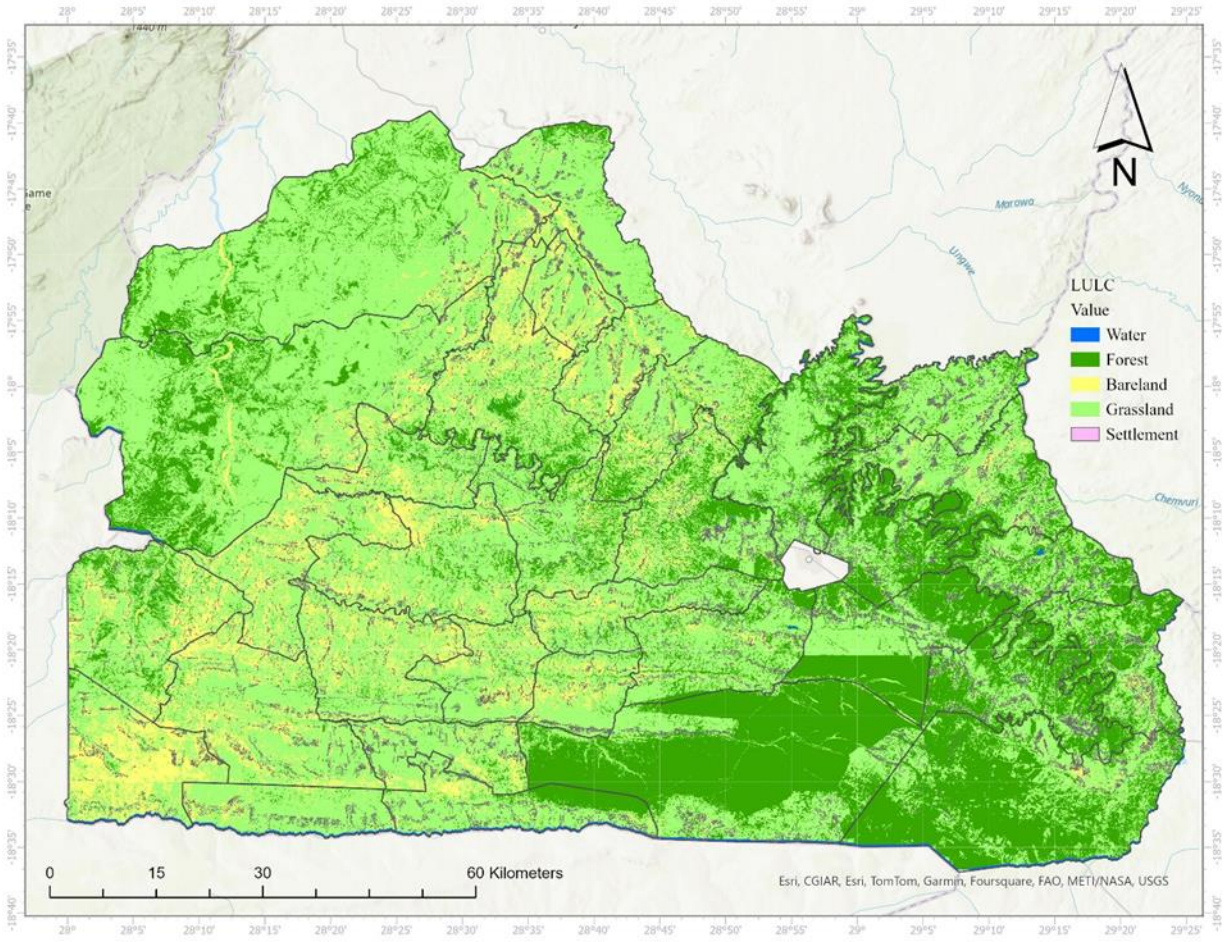

Figure 21: Distribution of different Land Uses in Gokwe South

In terms of the major land uses found in the district, their operations are governed by different pieces of legislation. The major challenge under such a situation is to try to coordinate activities in such a manner that will comply with the provisions of the different pieces of legislation. Table 8 is a summary of major land uses in the district in square kilometres.

Table 8: Summary of major land uses in the district

Land Use	Area square km
Game reserve	1718
S.C.C.F.A	554
Communal	8138.41

Forestry	1067
Total	11477.41

5.1.2. Communal land

It can be seen from the Table 8 that the bigger part of the district falls under the communal agricultural land use and this is where the majority of the population is found and where population densities are high. It is also important to note that the communal areas lie in areas with different climatic conditions, and this results in different agricultural potential for different areas, for instance the southern and eastern part lie in Natural Region III whilst the northern and western parts lie in Natural Region IV.

The district has different land utilizations. The first and foremost is agricultural use mostly cropping. About 45-50% of the cultivatable land is used for crops. Different crops are grown in different areas as indicated in the map showing major and second major crops grown in the communal land. Although most communal farmers are now shifting to cash cropping. The use of good crop management, moisture conservation techniques, pest and disease controls has significantly improved agricultural production.

Nevertheless, it can be said that some parts of the district are overpopulated and overgrazed. Areas that are overpopulated and overgrazed are Ndhalambi II, Chirisa I, Nemangwe IV, Ngomeni, Njelele O and Njelele III Population density in these wards varies from 33 to 40 people per square kilometer. The problem of overpopulation and overgrazing has been worsened by the absence of planned settlements, natural increase and in-migration. It is also in these particular wards that the agricultural potentials is quite good hence, attracting a big number of people in search of land to resettle. An assessment of people in need of resettlement throughout the district reviewed that a considerable number of people registered to be resettled.

As a result, a lack of proper land use plan, grazing is uncontrolled resulting in soil erosion and minimum benefit from grazing land. There is also an increase in siltation of major rivers, streams and dams apart from the reduction of livestock production/ gains. There is need to promote grazing schemes as currently there are only two grazing schemes in the whole District, that is, Batanai in Ngomeni Ward and Kuwirirana in Nemangwe Ward I.

It is therefore paramount that land re-organization which will incorporate grazing schemes be initiated to ensure that communal land is used effectively and sustainably. The introduction of land use planning within the district has been made difficult by the following factors:

- An inherent fear of losing land by some farmers once land re-organization is initiated.
- Fear of being resettled where it is noticeable that there is over population.
- The need to maintain the status quo,

Gokwe South District has very few irrigation schemes because of the limited number of medium to large scale dams. There are presently four irrigation schemes in the district, two of which are

from Artesian Wells located in northwest of the district that is Nemangwe belt. Table 9 shows the existing dams in Gokwe South District.

Table 9: Summary of the size, location and use of small and medium sized dams in Gokwe South District

Name of Dam	Location	Capacity	Uses
Sai	Ward 22	34 560	Livestock
Mangidhi	Ward 6	65 420	-
Gwanyika	Ward 21	14 040	-
Sokwela	Ward 19	-	-
Mutange	Ward 24	-	Livestock and irrigation
Bova	Ward 17	-	Livestock
Muketiwa	Ward 17	-	-
Chemahororo	Ward 15	-	Livestock and irrigation
Nyikavanhu	Ward 11	41 055	Livestock
Gandwa	Ward 12	7 737	-
Muzaraevetu	Ward 17	22 448.16	-
Marope	Ward 13	-	-
Ganye	Ward 13	-	-
Hehungwe	Ward 21	20 038.40	-
Masekwe	Ward 5	14 850	-
Nyamacheni	Ward 33	-	-
Ganyungu	Ward 33	-	-
Furunga	Ward 22	-	-
Mandizha	Ward 31	-	-
Banda	Ward 31	-	-

The dams were constructed through efforts of the central government, local government, NGOs, donors and local communities. The inadequacy of financial resources has witnessed a diminution in the number of dams being implemented.

5.1.3. Small-scale farming area

This zone is found in the southeastern part of the district (Chemagora Area) and lies in Natural Region III. Theoretically, unlike in the communal farming area, individuals can own land in this area. However, the area has been invaded by informal settlers at the expense of the original allotees thus, settlement in the area now resemble a communal setup.

Livestock production, that is, ranching is the main activity within the commercial farming area although cash cropping in particular maize cultivation is also practiced. There is a considerable number of farms in the area. Each farm has its own water supply point i.e. a borehole. However, it is noticeable that the number of major dams is very minimal. Most of the dams are tank dams which are not perennial and as such the farmers rely on boreholes.

Chemagora Area, has also an abundance of indigenous timber in particular Mukwa and is being exploited on commercial lines by private companies under the supervision of forestry commission. The revenue from the exploitation of timber accrues to individual farmers. The farms also supply firewood to the Growth Point and areas outside the district.

5.1.4. Wildlife and Tourism: Geographical Distribution

Wildlife is found in the following areas:

(i) Chirisa game reserve: Wildlife activities here are controlled by the department of National Parks and Wildlife which administers the National Parks and Wildlife Act. Chirisa Game Park forms the western boundary with Matebeleland Province. It is about 1, 718, 00km^2.

(ii) Communal areas surrounding Chirisa game reserve

(iii) Mafungautsi forest

5.1.5. Overall comment on land uses in Gokwe South

An attempt to categorise pieces of land by use as done above is at times misleading and could be problematic when it comes to drawing up appropriate proposals for the different land uses. For instance, it can be seen from those communal areas next to Chirisa Game Reserve (Sai wards 2 and 3, Masuka ward, Nemangwe 4, Jiri and Huchu wards), Jahana ward. Some of the areas were degazetted and are now communal lands. In addition, Mafungautsi forest have wildlife, a use which does not always co-exist with communal farming activities and practices in the said area. In other words, there is conflicts between land uses in Gokwe South.

5.2. PROTECTED AREAS AND FORESTS

In Gokwe South, the conservation of natural resources, including protected areas and forests, plays a crucial role in maintaining biodiversity, preserving ecosystems, and promoting sustainable development. Among the notable protected areas and forests in the district are Mapfungautsi forest and Chirisa Protected areas (Figure 22).

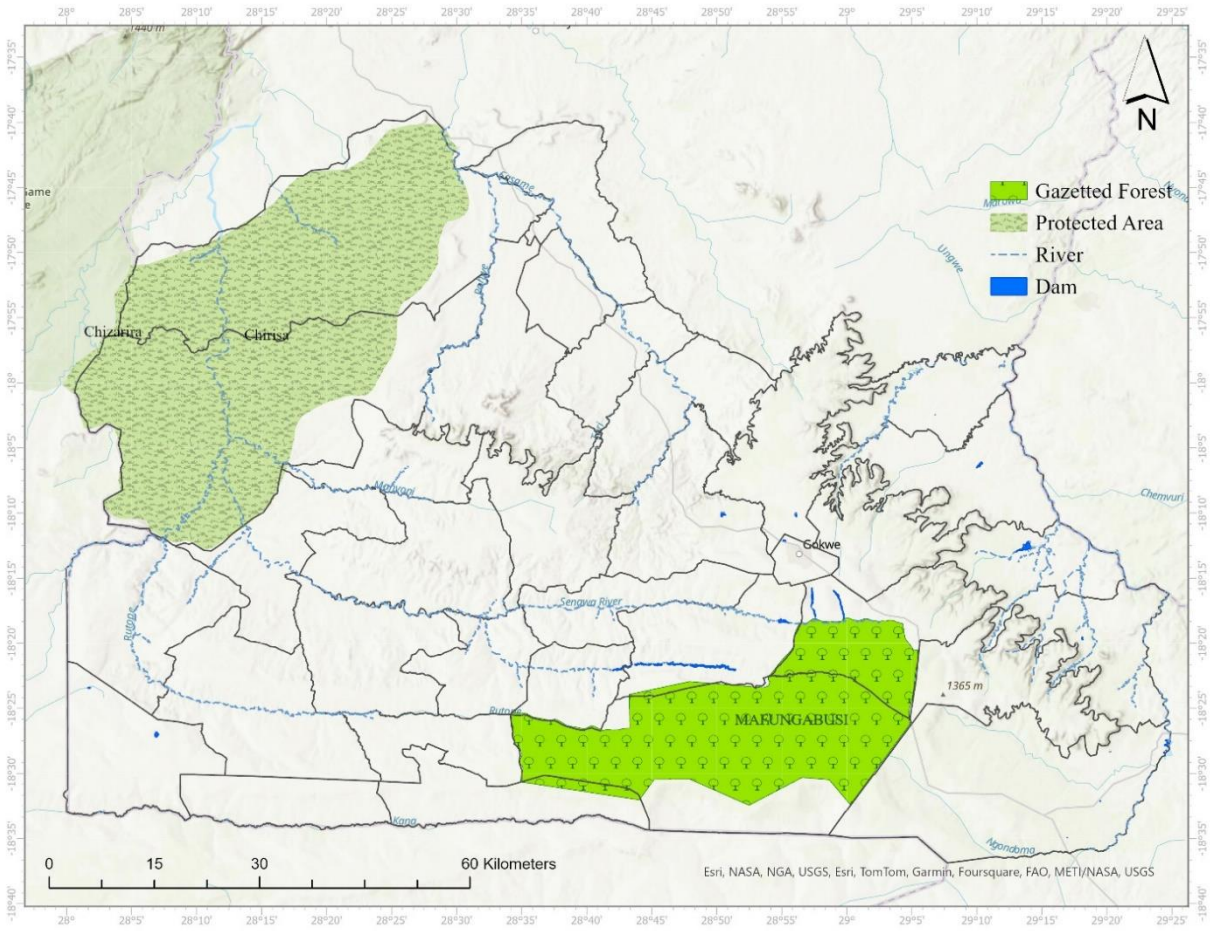

Figure 22: Map of Protected areas in Gokwe (Mapfungautsi Forest and Chirisa Protected areas)

5.2.1. Chirisa Protected area

Chirisa Protected area, contribute significantly to the ecological integrity of the district. These protected areas boast diverse landscapes, ranging from woodland savannas to rugged terrain, harboring a rich array of wildlife species, including elephants, lions, and buffalo. These natural habitats - Chirisa Protected area support ecotourism initiatives, offering opportunities for wildlife viewing, birdwatching, and wilderness experiences. Additionally, it contributes to the region's resilience to climate change by preserving biodiversity and maintaining ecosystem services.

In the past, threats such as illegal logging, poaching, and habitat degradation have posed challenges to the conservation of these protected areas and forests. However, concerted efforts by local communities, conservation organizations, and government agencies are being made to address these threats through community-based conservation initiatives, law enforcement measures, and sustainable land management practices. In the year 2020, there was a management plan for the Chirisa safari area which covers from 2020 to 2030. The plan tries to enhance and expand monitoring and guide research, develop the mechanisms to protect and conserve key habitats, improve the conservation status of key large mammal species and to address land use issues outside the protected areas. Apart from a draft management plan for the Sengwa Wildlife Research Area compiled in 2002, and some internal, on-station documents, the Chirisa Safari Area has not had a formal management plan since it was gazetted in 1975.

The plan is actioned through four interlinked management programmes:

- Ecological Management,
- Tourism Development and Management,
- Outreach and Collaborative Management
- Operations.

- ***Exceptional Resources and Conservation Targets***

The exceptional resources for the conservation area are classified into four categories - Environmental, Scenic, Social and Cultural. These focus on the geologic and scenic values of the Safari Area which are strongly associated with its wilderness qualities. The Safari Area has numerous springs and rivers and forms an important regional catchment area, owing to its elevated position above the Zambezi Valley. The conservation targets for the Safari Area, their key ecological attributes, and the threats facing them were defined at ecosystem, community and species level and these were instrumental for defining the Safari Area purpose and the subsequent objectives in the four programmes.

- ***Safari Area Purpose***

The purpose statement summarises the importance of Chirisa Safari Area, clarifies the reasons for its existence, and provides the overall goal that protected area managers are working towards. All protected areas in Zimbabwe have a generic purpose as defined in the Act. This was used as the base to define the specific purpose of Chirisa Safari Area, shown below.

Conserve vegetation, wildlife, landscapes and drainage systems associated with the Karoo sediments that underlie the area to allow income generation for conservation through visitor use

Subsidiary purposes for the Chirisa Safari Area include

- protection for the large rivers (Sengwa, Lutope, Manyoni and others), the numerous springs and scattered wetlands found throughout the area
- protection for the ridges, escarpments and plateaus that are a distinctive feature of the region
- provision of facilities and opportunities to the public for camping, hunting, fishing, photography, viewing of animals, bird-watching or such other pursuits that may be permitted therein.

- ***Zoning Scheme***

The zone plan for Chirisa SA is a subset of the wider Conservation Area Zone plan developed for both Chirisa SA and Chizarira NP. It was developed to provide a framework in which to balance the aims of conservation of the Safari Area's exceptional resource values and developing the Safari Area as both a hub of trophy hunting and as a tourism destination. The conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem and hydrological processes and the Safari Area's wilderness character is one of the primary management objectives throughout the Safari Area.

5.2.2. Mapfungautsi Forestry Area

Mapfungautsi forest, located within the boundaries of Gokwe South, stands as a vital ecological asset of the district. This forest ecosystem serves as a sanctuary for various flora and fauna species, including rare and endangered ones. Its preservation is essential not only for biodiversity conservation but also for mitigating climate change and providing ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and water regulation. Furthermore, Mapfungautsi forest holds cultural significance for local communities, often revered as sacred sites or sources of traditional medicinal plants. The forest is a catchment for major rivers in GSRDC such as Sengwa, Lutope, Ngondoma and Mbumbusi rivers which also feeds into Chirisa Safari area.

This area is mainly covered by Mapfungautsi forest and is 1,067.00km^2 in extent. It is situated in the southern part of the district and is administered by Forestry Commission. It is an area where controlled exploitation of timber on a commercial basis occurs and is a central watershed for several rivers in Gokwe South. The forestry also supports a considerably big population of wildlife and offers excellent opportunities for grazing of cattle for such conflicts. The following are the uses being done:

i. Licenced/ permitted uses

- harvesting of commercial timber by concessionaires. This has however been suspended to allow timber to regenerate.
- grass cutting by communal area residents.

ii. ***Sanctioned uses with no permits required***

- Grazing of livestock in the forest area. Some people in wards surrounding the area even advocate for the opening of the area for settlements.
- Collection of dead wood for firewood.

iii. ***Unsanctioned Harvesting***

- Poaching of wildlife
- Cutting of live trees for construction poles and other uses.

The Forestry Commission embarked on a Community Based Natural Resource Management Scheme within the Forestry area as part of a resource sharing project with the local authority. The project was conceived during the initial preparation of the Forest Resources Management and Development Project II prepared by the Forestry Commission with active support from the FAO/ World Bank Cooperative Programme (C.P.). The objectives of the project were:

Long term

- Encouraging improved management and control of forest resources within the Cas and private sector to ensure sustainable production of forest produce.
- Integrating and providing complimentarily between agricultural production and forestry development to ensure sustainable production in both subsectors.
- Conserving forests and the environment as well as increasing the production of wood for multipurpose promoting tree planting and woodland management in the communal area not only for exotic species but also for indigenous species.

Short term

- To guarantee the conservation and management of Mapfungautsi State Forest by involving the neighbouring communities in the decision making and profit sharing derived from sustainable forest resource development and utilization programmes.
- Develop appropriate models for forest grazing, access and utilization of other forest resources leading to the conservation of Mapfungautsi forest area as a water catchment and state forest and without compromising the environmental agenda.
- For improved grazing management, the project should see the opening up of the periphery of the forest area to grazing by the surrounding villages. The villages will be organized into grazing committees (Resource Management Committees) and each committee will be allocated an area which will have an external boundary fenced and paddocks made according to the grazing management adopted by the RMC.

The project also aimed at including a training component as part of skill building. This was to be achieved by the development of a Resource Education Centre within the area at Lutope Forest Camp and was to incorporate training of locals, students and pupils from different institutions. Thus, the plan was for the sustainable management of Mapfungautsi forest.

5.3. POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The main regulators of natural resources in Gokwe South are:

The Rural District Councils (RDCs): The RDC is responsible for NRM in the district through district development committees. The Rural District Councils Act authorizes RDCs to develop NRM by-laws and they convene district environment committees headed by an environmental or natural resources officer. The **district environment committee** is mandated to set up ward and village level environment committees that are meant to identify community-based environmental resource monitors.

Forestry Commission (FC): is responsible for overseeing management of resources in state protected forests as well as communal area forests. It offers community-based training in forestry techniques. The commission has officers only at district level.

Environmental Management Agency (EMA): carry out monitoring of resource degradation and enforce laws. The Forestry Commission issues permits for wild fruit harvesting and is meant to fine people who break laws related to forests. The RDC encourages communities to select volunteer resource monitors who are meant to undergo training to raise awareness and report abuses.

The ZPWMA: is responsible for conservation of wildlife and habitats in parks and wildlife estate as well as oversight role in conservation of wildlife outside parks estate.

Traditional leaders: are legally and culturally in charge of natural resource management governance at community level.

The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement also plays a role in NRM mainly through Agritex, DLVS, DRSS and the Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA). Agritex and DLVS have officers at ward level and recommend sustainable use of natural resources with respect to cropping and livestock management. ZINWA is responsible for monitoring and regulating use of water abstracted from underground and surface sources.

Opportunities

- Protecting areas with high carbon stocks secures the benefits of carbon sequestration in the area and undertaking Carbon Credit Schemes such as REDD project (Carbon Projects).
- Protecting the current area of forested land and potentially reforesting would have benefits for improving water security.
- Available legal framework has a strong foundation to manage forest areas.
- Conservation partners and NGOs working in the district may assist in reforestation projects.

Community based forest management

- By ensuring increased stewardship of resources by community.
- Provide necessary net benefits to the community e.g. plough back revenue to communities generated from natural resources.
- Adopt and accommodate traditional knowledge system in forest management.

Collaborative governance

- Increases transparency in management of forest resources.
- Benefits all community stakeholders
- Leaves no one behind.

Participatory decision making

- Increases sense of ownership
- Leaves no one behind in forest conservation issues.
- Reduces cost of managing forest and community self regulates members.

Contribution of GIS and remote sensing in forest management

- GIS and RS can be used to map forest cover changes overtime providing status of forest in the district.
- GIS and RS can be used to detect areas where land degradation is prevalent to inform areas that need priority action.
- It can be used to map burnt areas and improve fire management efforts to suppress fires.
- It can be used to provide information on land use planning and settlement planning.
- It can be used to collect historical and real time data for management purposes.

Forest inventory

- Provide data on presence or absence of endangered plants and wildlife.
- Provide status of forest resources and help monitor change over time.

Forest Resources Management and Development Project II prepared by the Forestry Commission recommended that sustainable management and conservation strategies for Mapfungautsi forest, Chirisa, and Chizarira Protected areas will be crucial for ensuring their long-term ecological resilience and socio-economic benefits to Gokwe South. This includes strengthening law enforcement, promoting community involvement in conservation decision-making, implementing sustainable land use practices, and enhancing ecotourism opportunities. By prioritizing the protection and sustainable use of these valuable natural assets, Gokwe South can uphold its commitment to environmental conservation, biodiversity preservation, and sustainable development. Community engagement and participation in conservation efforts should also be prioritized in promoting stewardship of these natural resources while enhancing livelihoods and fostering environmental awareness.

5.4. GRAZING SITES AND PASTURES

Livestock farming is a fundamental component of the agricultural economy in Gokwe South; thus, people rely heavily on grazing sites and pastures for animal husbandry. Grazing sites and pastures are often communal or state-owned lands, subject to traditional land tenure systems or government regulations. Access and rights to these lands are governed by customary laws, which vary across communities. However, increasing population pressure, land fragmentation, and competing land uses pose challenges to traditional grazing practices and land tenure arrangements. This leads to conflicts over land ownership and access rights, particularly between indigenous communities and external stakeholders.

Climate change poses additional threats to grazing sites and pastures in Gokwe South, manifesting in prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall patterns, and increased frequency of extreme weather events. These environmental stressors compromise pasture quality and availability, exacerbating food and water scarcity for livestock. The district also faces challenges related to veld fires, which pose risks to ecosystems and livelihoods.

5.5. ECONOMIC ZONES OR INDUSTRIAL SITES

Nearly all the small urban centres in Gokwe South are surrounded by agricultural hinterlands and therefore, the establishments found in the centres of the district support the farming

communities. Gokwe Town Centre is the only exception to the above statement because it has grown into reasonably large urban centre. It therefore has a more complex economy which supports the district economic activities as well as those at the centre. The centre offers a wider range of goods and services and has a big catchment area. Gokwe South as a district does not have its own independent centre that offer all these services. Manoti as a district service centre is devoid of all commercial services. Gokwe South district have rural service centres that can act as economic hubs for the district and they need to be assessed whether they can be upgraded to district service centres and such centres include Manoti, Sesame and Bomba.

5.6: COMMERCIAL AND RETAIL LAND SPACES

Commercial and retail land spaces play a crucial role in facilitating trade and commerce in Gokwe South, providing essential goods and services to local communities. However, inadequate access to markets and retail outlets hinders economic activities, particularly for small-scale farmers and entrepreneurs in the district. Limited transportation infrastructure and poor market linkages constrain market access and reduce opportunities for income generation in Gokwe South District. Figure 23 and Figure 24 shows a map of the distribution of business centres in Gokwe South (both formal and informal) that offer partial commercial and retail land spaces, some BCs have approved layout and gazetted boundaries, some operate without the pre-requisite legislative approval and some are illegal.

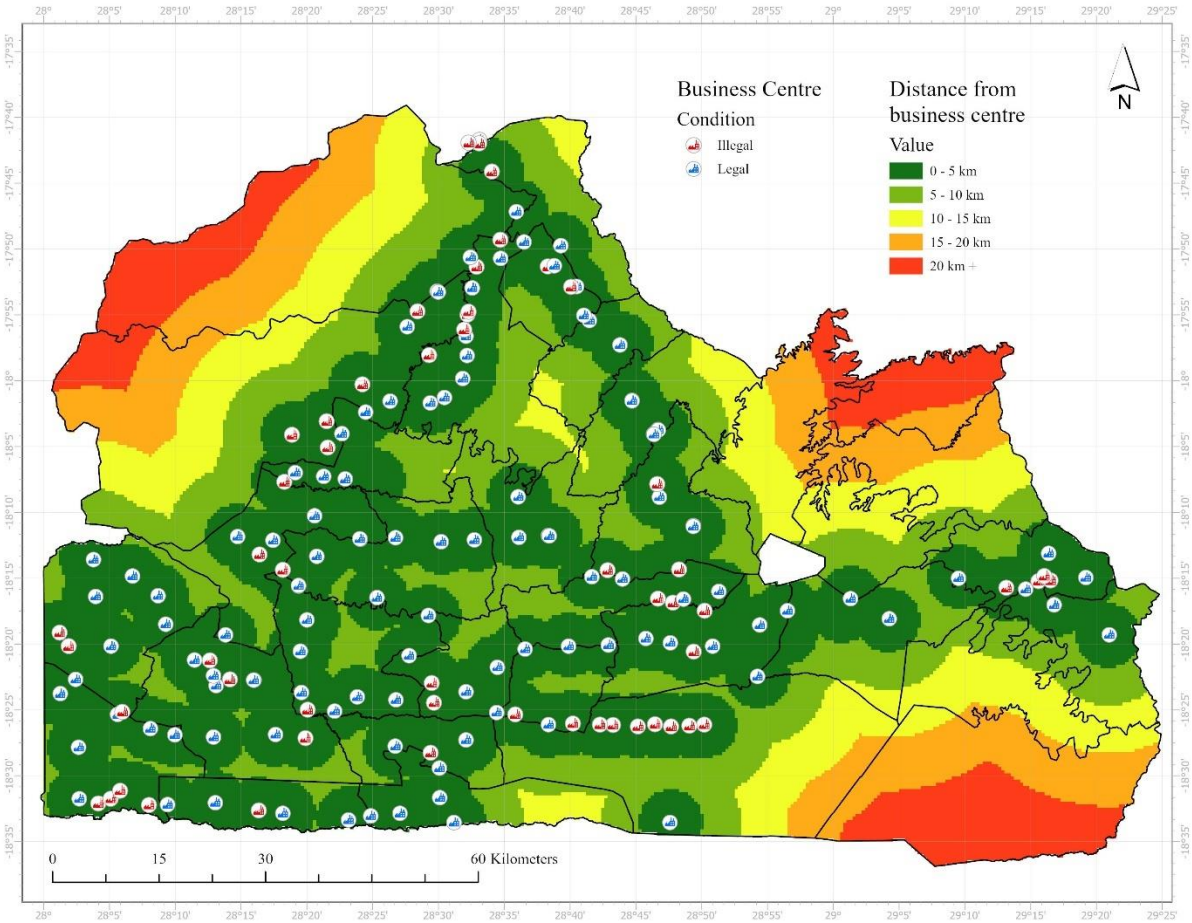

Figure 23: Distribution of Business Centres in Gokwe South (formal and informal)

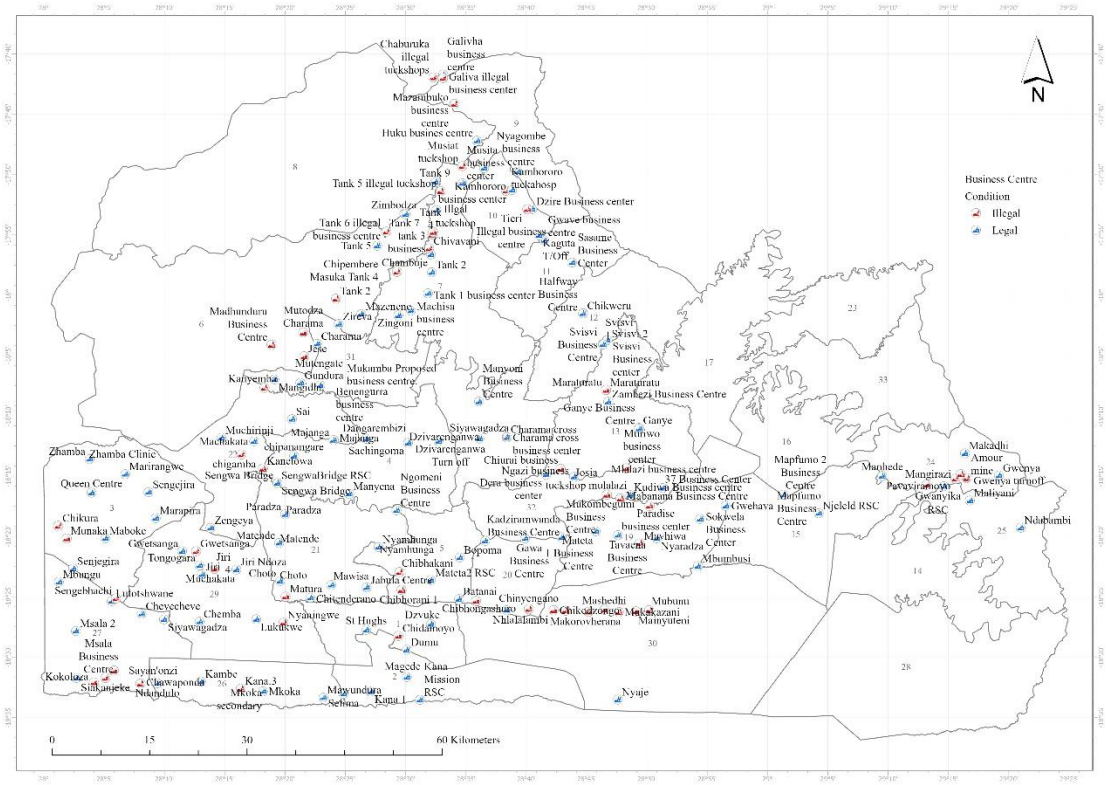

Figure 24: Business centres with names

Table 10: Gokwe South Rural services centres that offer partial commercial and retail spaces

Item	Status	Business Centre	Business Centre
1	Layout plans approved	Nyarupakwe	Njelele
		Sengwa Bridge	
2	Without approved layouts-drafts	Bomba	Sesame
		Gwanyika	Kana
		Masakadza	
3	With Special development orders and boundaries	Sesame	Gwanyika 2
		Njelele	Nyarupakwe
		Manyoni	Sengwa Bridge
		Kana Mission	Manoti
4	BCs Without approved layouts	Mapfumo	Ganye
		Mazalayedhwa	Tamosa
		Zambezi	Blue Gum
		Charama Cross	Gawa
		Chemvuri	Chevecheve
		Gamba	Kambe
		Krima	Machakata
		Machengere	Manyoni
		Marope	Masikati
		Mkoka	Msala
		Nyaje	Chidama

5.7: Gokwe Town Centre

Manufacturing and processing – Existing major industries at Gokwe centre include a sawmill, a steel factory, furniture manufacturers, electrical components manufacturer, fence makers, brick making enterprises. Small to medium scale manufacturers include scotch cart makers, welders, carpentry shops, builders, and so forth.

Industry related to agriculture is a growing sector in Gokwe, and currently includes a large milling operation, poultry and egg producers, with market gardens providing a range of fresh fruit and vegetable close to the town.

Commerce: Gokwe Town is serviced with large scale wholesalers, supermarkets, butcheries, bakeries, a DMB, sales depot, restaurants, food take-aways, a hotel, bottle stores, general dealers, hardware stores, clothing shops, shoe shops, sports shops, chemists, jewellery shops, hair salons, vehicle spare parts shops, and garages/filing stations. In short, Gokwe town provides all the commercial services one would expect of a small but growing centre.

Services: Most of the major services and utilities are provided in Gokwe. Gokwe town has electricity provided by ZESA, and there are plans to extend electricity provision to other centres in the district. The town has relatively good access to household water. There are also plans to augment town supplies with water from Sengwa dam and Kudu dams.

Agriculture marketing is well catered for. There are grain marketing depots at Gokwe Centre, Sesame and Manoti; Cotton marketing depots at Manoti, Chodha, and Nemangwe, with numerous smaller collection depots; and Cold Storage Commission depots at Masoro and Lutope.

Such developments as banks, the post office, the government office complex and the district hospital have enhanced the importance of Gokwe Centre as the administrative and commercial hub in the district. A number of wholesalers and small-scale engineering services and other industrial activities have been established over the years. Among such developments are the milling company, carpentry, welding, G.M.B and C.M.B depots, farmers' cooperatives and several transport depots and in some cases as at Manoti and Sesami by cotton and grain collection depots.

The establishment of economic zones or industrial sites has the potential to drive economic growth and create employment opportunities in Gokwe South. However, challenges

such as inadequate infrastructure, including road networks, electricity, and water supply, constrain industrial development in the region. Limited access to markets and financial services further impedes the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Addressing these challenges requires strategic planning, investment in infrastructure development, and supportive policies to promote entrepreneurship and attract investment in key sectors such as agribusiness, manufacturing, and renewable energy.

5.7.1. Potential for human settlement development (physical features, aesthetics, order, habitable, safety and healthy, accessibility)

The expansion of human settlements in Gokwe South is influenced by demographic trends, migration patterns, and socio-economic dynamics. Gokwe South experiences population growth driven by natural increase and migration. As a result, there is a growing demand for settlement land and infrastructure to accommodate the rising population. Identifying suitable sites for human settlement development is crucial for addressing the settlement needs of the district.

Manoti as the District service centers in Gokwe South serve as hubs for economic activities, social services, and governance functions. The district service centre and the several rural service centres form an integral part on the provision of goods and services to the rural population. In the case of Gokwe South which has a relatively well-developed agricultural hinterland, these Centres have offered marketing facilities for cotton and grain products, and banking facilities in the case of Gokwe DSC. This has reduced the costs incurred by farmers in marketing their produce. These Centres also form the starting point of rural people entering the urban economy by offering other investment opportunities other than agriculture. The strategic location of these centers, coupled with accessibility to transportation networks, makes them attractive for residential development. Key issues that are considered if one is to be given a settlement permit for households by GSRDC are in the preamble of the regional and Country Planning Act RTCT Act, (chapter 29: 30).and these issues are to conserve and improve the physical environment, in particular promoting health, safety, order, amenity, convenience as well as efficiency, and economy in the process of development and improvements of communication.

5.7.2 Potential for tourism

Gokwe South boasts significant potential for tourism development, characterized by its rich natural landscapes, cultural heritage, and diverse ecosystems. The district is endowed with

scenic beauty, including rivers, mountains, wetlands, and wildlife reserves, which offer opportunities for eco-tourism, adventure tourism, and recreational activities. The presence of iconic landmarks such as rivers, waterfalls, and rock formations can attract nature enthusiasts, photographers, and adventure seekers to the region. Figure 25 is a map of Gokwe with gazetted forest and protected areas showcasing potential for different kinds of tourism (Cultural Heritage, Eco-tourism Potential, Adventure Tourism, and Community-based Tourism).

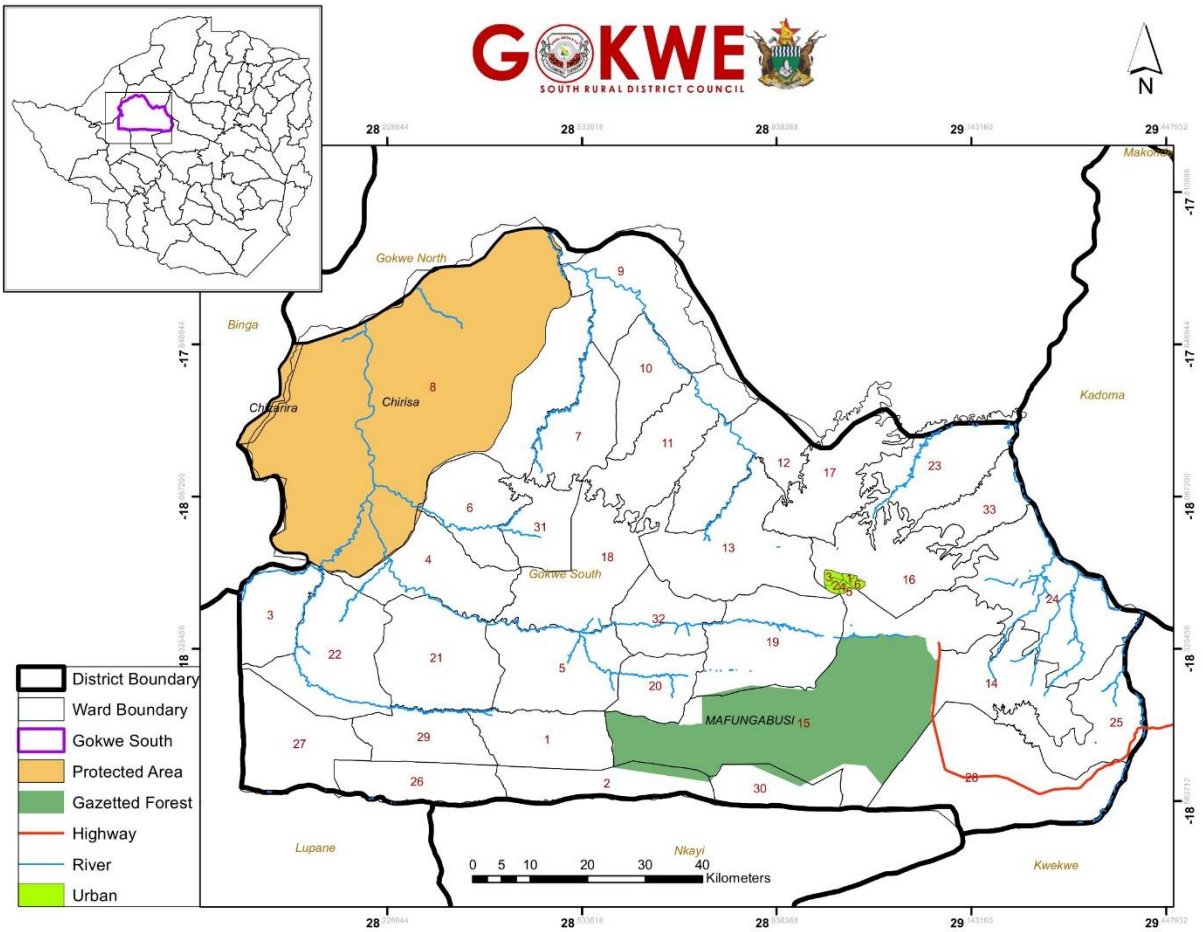

Figure 25: Map of Gokwe with gazetted forest and protected areas showcasing potential for different kinds of tourism (Cultural Heritage, Eco-tourism Potential, Adventure Tourism and Community-based Tourism)

Cultural Heritage: The region is home to vibrant cultural traditions, indigenous knowledge systems, and historical sites, which provide unique insights into the local way of life, folklore, and ancestral practices. Examples of traditional practices in Gokwe that promote tourism includes cultural tourism initiatives, including cultural festivals, heritage trails, and

community-based tourism experiences, can showcase the richness and diversity of Gokwe South's cultural heritage to domestic and international visitors.

Eco-tourism Potential: Gokwe South's pristine natural environments, biodiversity hotspots, and conservation areas offer opportunities for eco-tourism ventures focused on sustainable wildlife viewing, birdwatching, and nature-based experiences. Protected areas such as national parks, game reserves, and community conservancies serve as ecologically sensitive zones for promoting responsible tourism practices and wildlife conservation efforts.

Adventure Tourism: The region's rugged terrain, water bodies, and outdoor recreational facilities provide a playground for adventure enthusiasts interested in activities such as hiking, camping, fishing, boating, and rafting. Adventure tourism operators can leverage Gokwe South's natural assets to create unique and memorable experiences for thrill-seekers and outdoor adventurers.

Community-based Tourism: Engaging local communities in tourism development initiatives empowers them as stewards of their cultural and natural heritage while generating socio-economic benefits and fostering sustainable livelihoods. Community-based tourism projects, homestay programs, and cultural exchanges can promote authentic interactions between visitors and residents, contributing to mutual understanding, cultural appreciation, and socio-economic development.

The following is a presentation of some areas of potential tourism development in the district:

Chirisa Safari

The continuation of "business as usual" for the Chirisa Safari Area would probably result in its ongoing decline and that it would eventually cease to function as a protected area. Therefore, the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA) sought to find innovative ways to facilitate the recovery of Chirisa Safari Area. In the event of agreements being reached with operators and investors they would be expected to follow the basic concepts outlined in this management plan. It was concluded that external investment in the Chirisa Safari Area would be needed to ensure the recovery of the Safari Area. The possibilities include direct philanthropic investment into the northern part of the Chirisa Safari Area and possibly a long lease of the Sengwa Wildlife Research Area to a reputable operator with strict lease conditions

detailing expected responsibilities on the part of the lessee and lessor to maintain the integrity of the area.

Sikombela and Nyaradza Detention Camps

Sikombela (Figure 26) and Nyaradza Detention Center have the potential to be repurposed as a unique site for tourism. The Sikombela Restriction Camp, where the former President Robert Mugabe and other founding Zanu PF Officials were detailed during the liberation war, was declared a national monument. Other Zanu Pf Officials detailed at the camp in 1994 were Cde Simon Muzenda, Edgar Tekere, Enos Nkala, Eddison Zvobgo and Ndabaningi Sithole. It is at this restriction camp where the Sikombela Declaration – a dossier outlining war strategy – was drafted by senior Zanu officials. The camp is located about 5km from Kwekwe-Gokwe Road in Midlands Province. The Sikombela Restriction Camp consists of six distinct rectangle barrack floors of concrete measuring approximately four metres by eight metres in size each. The barrack floors are in two rows which are about 38 metres apart in each row and the floors are 15 metres apart.

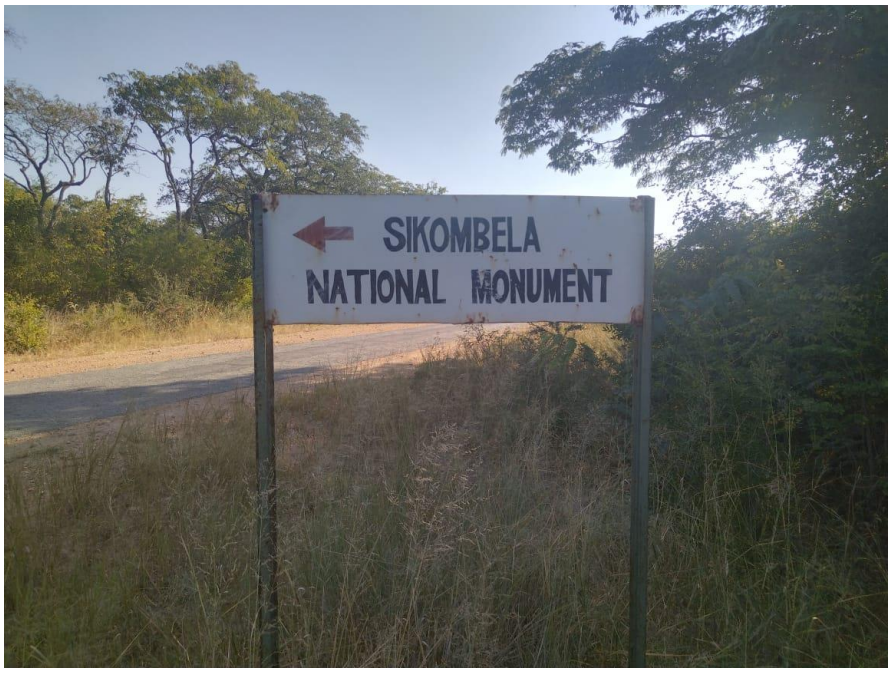

Figure 26: Sikombela National Monument

The Centers have historical significance within the national context. By showcasing the evolution of law enforcement practices and the justice system, visitors can gain a deeper understanding of the past and journey towards modern governance. Guided tours of Detention

camps can be structured to educate visitors about the legal framework, procedures, and operations of the facility. Visitors can learn about the rights of detainees, the role of law enforcement officers, and the complexities of maintaining order within the community. Repurposing the Detention Camps for tourism can contribute to the preservation of its historical and architectural heritage. Renovation efforts can highlight the unique features of the facility while ensuring its suitability for visitor engagement and safety without altering their original nature.

Figure 27: Nyaradza Detention Camp

Dzvoritsvo falls

Dzvoritsvo Falls, located in the landscapes of Gokwe, Zimbabwe, is a hidden gem for adventurers and nature enthusiasts alike. These falls offer a mesmerizing spectacle of natural beauty and tranquility. Flowing gracefully amidst lush vegetation and rugged terrain, Dzvoritsvo Falls cascades down rocky cliffs, creating a breathtaking display of cascading water and mist. The falls, with their pristine waters and picturesque surroundings, provide a serene escape from the hustle and bustle of modern life, inviting visitors to immerse themselves in the wonders of nature.

Figure 28: Dzvoritsvo falls

Dzvoritsvo Falls holds significant cultural importance to the local community, serving as a sacred site steeped in myth and legend. According to local folklore, the falls are believed to be inhabited by ancestral spirits who watch over the land and its people. As such, the falls are revered as a place of spiritual significance, where rituals and ceremonies are conducted to honor the ancestors and seek their blessings. Beyond its cultural significance, Dzvoritsvo Falls also offers recreational opportunities for visitors seeking adventure and exploration.

Sengwa Gorge

Sengwa Gorge, is a natural wonder renowned for its rugged beauty and awe-inspiring landscapes. Carved over millennia by the meandering Sengwa River, the gorge offers a stunning display of towering cliffs, verdant vegetation, and cascading waterfalls. This geological marvel serves as a haven for outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers, offering a range of recreational activities amidst its picturesque surroundings. Visitors can embark on scenic hikes along the gorge's winding trails, immersing themselves in the tranquility of the wilderness and soaking in breathtaking views of the rugged terrain. Sengwa Gorge is also a hotspot for birdwatching, with its diverse ecosystem supporting a rich array of avian species. Bird enthusiasts can spot a variety of native and migratory birds, from majestic raptors soaring overhead to colorful songbirds flitting among the treetops.

Figure 29: Sengwa Gorge

In addition to its natural beauty, Sengwa Gorge holds cultural significance for the local community, with ancient rock art sites scattered throughout the area. These rock paintings offer glimpses into the lives and beliefs of the indigenous peoples who once inhabited the region, providing a fascinating glimpse into the area's rich cultural heritage. As a cherished natural treasure of Gokwe, Sengwa Gorge invites visitors to connect with the splendor of the natural world and immerse themselves in the wonders of Zimbabwe's wilderness. Whether seeking adventure, relaxation, or cultural enrichment, Sengwa Gorge offers a memorable experience that will leave a lasting impression on all who visit.

While there is great potential for tourism development in the District, infrastructural limitations and environmental concerns, including deforestation and degradation of sacred sites, pose challenges to realizing the full tourism potential. Investing in infrastructure development, promoting sustainable tourism practices, and strengthening marketing efforts are essential for harnessing the tourism potential of Gokwe South and stimulating economic growth in the region. Unlocking the tourism potential of Gokwe South requires concerted efforts to conserve natural resources, preserve cultural heritage, enhance infrastructure, and promote sustainable tourism practices. Collaborative partnerships between government agencies, private sector actors, local communities, and civil society organizations are essential

for harnessing the region's tourism assets and creating inclusive opportunities for socio-economic growth and environmental conservation.

CHAPTER 6: POPULATION, INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

6.1. INTRODUCTION

This section of the report focuses on analysing various aspects of the population in the Gokwe South rural district area. It explores factors such as population size, historical growth patterns, distribution, density, demographic characteristics, and overall structure. The data used in this analysis is derived from Government census returns conducted in the years 1992, 2002, 2012, and 2022. It is important to note that the availability of data specific to the Gokwe South district is limited to the 2002 Census onwards. This is due to the establishment of the Gokwe South District as a result of the implementation of the Rural District Councils Act of 1988, which came into effect in July 1993. However, the total population of Gokwe South in 1992 was calculated from the ward data obtained from the 1992 census.

6.2. POPULATION TRENDS IN GOKWE SOUTH

6.2.1 Past Growth Trends

Figure 30 below illustrates the population growth in Gokwe South from 1992 to 2022, showing a consistent trend of growth. In 2002, the population increased to 275,917 from 239,704 in 1992, representing a notable growth of approximately 15.1% over ten years. Between 2002 and 2012, the population further rose to 305,982, indicating a growth rate of approximately 10.9%. The most recent census data from 2022 records the population as 317,554, reflecting a growth rate of approximately 3.8% over the ten years from 2012. Although the growth rate seems lower compared to previous censuses, it's important to note that population growth rates can vary due to factors like birth rates, migration patterns, and economic conditions. The overall trend suggests a steady expansion of the population over time, primarily attributed to immigration from neighboring provinces of Masvingo and Mashonaland.

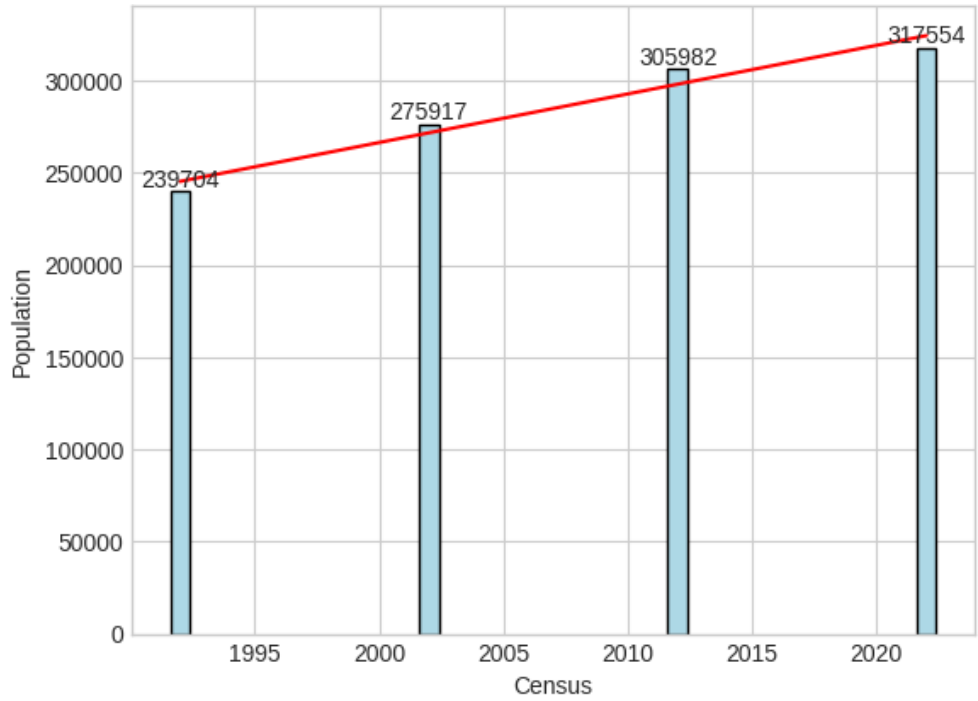

Figure 30: Gokwe South Population Growth Trends: 1992- 2022

Figure 31 below shows the population projections for Gokwe South from 2022 to 2030 indicating a steady annual growth rate of 3.18%. The population is expected to increase from 317,554 in 2022 to 407,926 in 2030. Possible factors for the projected rise in population include natural increase, economic opportunities and infrastructure development.

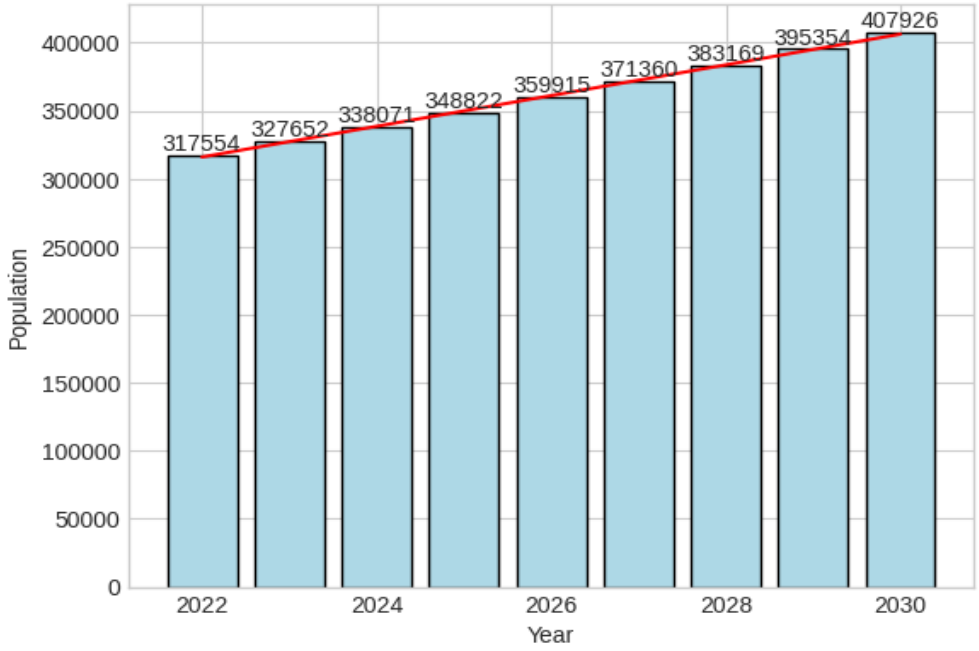

Figure 31: Gokwe South Population Projections: 2022- 2030

6.2.2 Population Distribution

The Gokwe South District, covering an area of 11,124 square kilometers, exhibits a population density of approximately 28.55 individuals per square kilometer. Table 11 below displays the population distribution of Gokwe South wards from 2012 to 2022, revealing various trends and observations. The percentage growth in population across the 33 wards shows significant variation, with some experiencing positive growth while others witnessing a decline. Certain wards demonstrate positive growth rates, indicating an increase in population during the period. Ward 15 stands out with the highest growth rate of 52.56%, followed by Ward 28 (49.83%) and Ward 25 (16.88%). Conversely, some wards experienced a decrease in population, with Ward 5 showing the highest negative growth rate of -9.71%, followed by Ward 29 (-9.08%) and Ward 22 (-8.10%). A few wards have minimal changes in population, nearly stagnating with growth rates close to zero. For example, Ward 10 has a growth rate of 0.01%, and Ward 33 has a slightly negative growth rate of -0.08%. Many wards demonstrate moderate positive growth rates between 1% and 10%, suggesting a relatively stable increase in population. This gradual growth may be attributed to factors such as natural increase or limited migration.

Table 11: Gokwe South Ward Population Distribution: 2012- 2022

Ward	2012	2022	% growth
Ward 01	10511	10706	1,86
Ward 02	7903	8022	1,51
Ward 03	3321	3071	-7,53
Ward 04	8197	8038	-1,94
Ward 05	11778	10634	-9,71
Ward 06	7139	7350	2,96
Ward 07	6375	6401	0,41
Ward 08	8831	9859	11,64
Ward 09	18471	18179	-1,58
Ward 10	11661	11662	0,01
Ward 11	12451	12892	3,54
Ward 12	10913	10084	-7,60
Ward 13	13428	13912	3,60
Ward 14	10095	11134	10,29
Ward 15	13334	20343	52,56
Ward 16	10087	9939	-1,47
Ward 17	6322	6061	-4,13
Ward 18	9305	10152	9,10
Ward 19	13666	13955	2,11
Ward 20	6558	6326	-3,54
Ward 21	9809	9054	-7,70
Ward 22	7263	6675	-8,10

Ward 23	14553	14242	-2,14
Ward 24	18765	19962	6,38
Ward 25	10959	12809	16,88
Ward 26	6322	6518	3,10
Ward 27	9501	9953	4,76
Ward 28	3331	4991	49,83
Ward 29	6953	6322	-9,08
Ward 30	4231	4472	5,70
Ward 31	4242	4053	-4,46
Ward 32	4628	4708	1,73
Ward 33	5079	5075	-0,08
Total	**305982**	**317554**	3,78

Table 11 reveals an interesting trend in urban growth. The significant growth of populations in Wards 15, 28 and 25 suggests a migration of people towards urban areas within the district, potentially driven by employment opportunities, services, and infrastructure development. The negative growth rates in wards 5, 29 and 22 indicates a potential outmigration from these rural areas, possibly due to factors like limited economic opportunities, insufficient services, or social factors. The wards with growth rates close to zero indicate minimal population changes. This could indicate a stable population with factors like balanced birth and death rates or minimal migration.

6.2.3 Population Structure

Figure 32 below shows the population distribution by gender in Gokwe South bwetween 2012 and 2022. The population of Gokwe South in terms of gender has remained relatively constant with slight fluctuations. The population of females increased by 0,5% whilst the male population decreased by 0,5%.

Figure 32: Gokwe South Gender Distribution: 2012-2022

Figure 33 below shows the population pyramid for the Gokwe South population structure in 2022. The Gokwe South population pyramid reveals several key points. Firstly, it indicates a growing young population, as seen by the wider base of the pyramid with a relatively larger proportion of children (age 0-9 years). This suggests potential future population growth as these cohorts enter their reproductive years. However, the wider base also signifies a higher dependency ratio, with a larger proportion of the population in dependent age groups compared to the working-age population. This higher dependency ratio can impact economic productivity and place a greater burden on the working-age population to provide for and support dependents. Adequate educational infrastructure and healthcare services are necessary to support the growing population and address the challenges posed by the higher dependency ratio.

The significant number of individuals in the working-age groups (20-49 years) implies a sizable labour force, which can have positive implications for economic development and attracting investments. The narrowing of the pyramid at older age groups underlines the importance of addressing the healthcare and social support needs of the aging population. These trends have implications for sectors such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure planning, and necessitate the development of policies and programs to support the well-being of both the young and aging populations.

6.2.4. Youth

As of 2024, there are approximately 130 000 youth in Gokwe according to the District Youth Officer responsible for Gokwe South. Of the 130 000, using the national female to male ratio of 52 / 48 67 600 are female and 62 400 are male. There is an information gap in statistics as migration patterns are not measured but through sample qualitative data, evidence on the ground show that most youth migrate from Gokwe South to urban areas and to other countries especially south Africa. Migration in this age category is economically driven as they migrate in search of greener pastures.

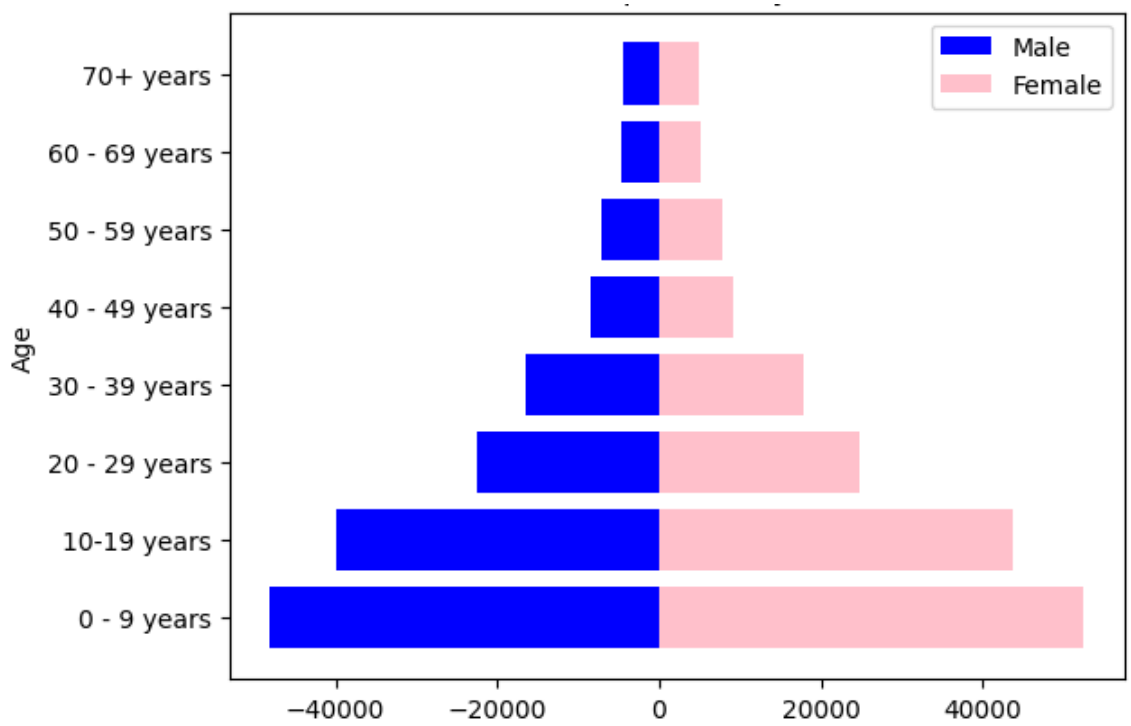

Figure 33: Gokwe South Population Pyramid: 2022

6.2.5 Households

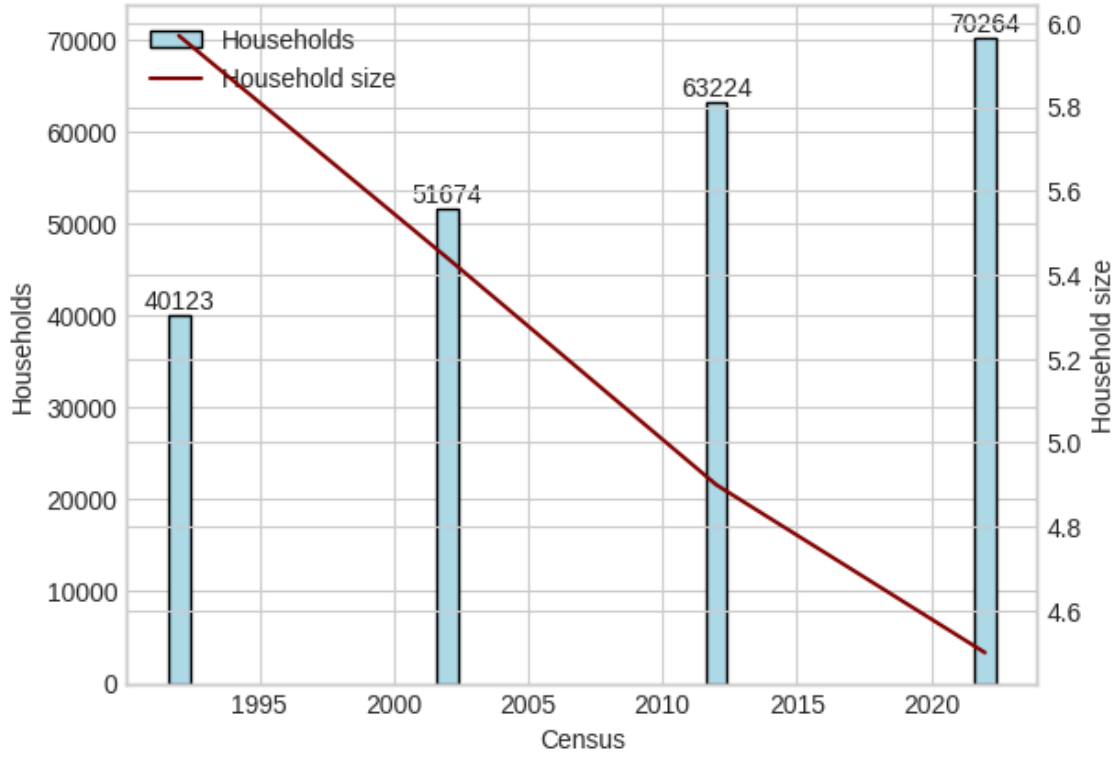

Figure 34: Gokwe South Household Distribution: 1992- 2022

Figure 34 below shows the Gokwe South household distribution between 1992 and 2022. Over the years, there has been a consistent increase in the number of households in the Gokwe South

rural district, from 40,123 in 1992 to 70,264 in 2022. This indicates significant population growth. Concurrently, the household size decreased from 5.97 in 1992 to 4.5 in 2022, reflecting a trend of smaller family units or fewer individuals per household. Several factors may contribute to these changes, including population growth, socioeconomic factors such as improved education and employment opportunities leading to smaller family units, shifts from extended to nuclear family structures, urbanization and migration, and cultural and social changes such as delayed marriage and increased contraception use. It is worth noting that Gokwe South's average household size remains higher than the national average in Zimbabwe, which stands at 4.

Table 12: Crude Birth and Death Rate and Rate of Natural Increase for Gokwe South: 2002-2012

Census	Crude Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Rate of Natural Increase
2002	**36.15**	**16.19**	**2.0**
2012	**33.6**	**10.2**	**2.3**

Table 12 illustrates the crude birth and death rate and rate of natural increase for Gokwe South between 2002 and 2012. Data on crude birth and death rates is only available for the two Censuses, 2002 and 2012. Gokwe South experienced a 7.1% decrease in the crude birth rate, dropping from 36.15 to 33.6. This suggests a potential shift in reproductive behavior and family planning practices within the population, possibly influenced by factors such as increased education and awareness about family planning methods and the importance of child spacing. During the same period, there was a notable 37.5% decrease in the crude death rate, declining from 16.19 to 10.2. This significant decrease indicates improvements in healthcare services, access to medical facilities, and overall health conditions in the region. Factors like better healthcare infrastructure, increased availability of quality healthcare services, and advancements in medical treatments likely contributed to this positive change.

CHAPTER 7: SOCIO-CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

This chapter describes the socio-cultural and economic aspects of the district, with particular reference to activities such as Education, Training, Health, and Livelihoods. An analysis of these sectors and subsectors is critical for the preparation of the master plan for Gokwe South.

7.1. EDUCATION

Similar to most services in the district like health and agriculture, the pre-independence era witnessed a major disruption to education activities and statistics indicate that less than ten primary schools were operating prior to 1980. With regards to secondary schools, non-existed at all and children had to seek for places outside the district. This certainly disadvantaged many pupils as the number of secondary school vacancies was so limited not also to mention that fees were not within the reach of poorest and vulnerable groups.

At independence in 1980, there were only three schools which were in the district, that is, Kana mission primary, Gokwe primary and Gwehava primary schools. The post-independence period saw a major change in the education sector as a massive reconstruction and development programme was initiated. A common feature of this accelerated education development programme was the opening of new schools with or without the basic infrastructure that is, makeshift buildings for both tutorials and housing facilities were permitted hence the poor superstructures at some schools even to this date.

Nevertheless, it is remarkable to note that the district has made major strides in the provision of education as 144 primary (of which 8 are satellite schools) and 60 secondary schools are currently operating (of which 11 are satellite schools). Most of the schools are under the authority of the Rural District Council albeit administratively, the local authority has become marginalized in the running of schools. Figure 35 is a Map of the schools in Gokwe South.

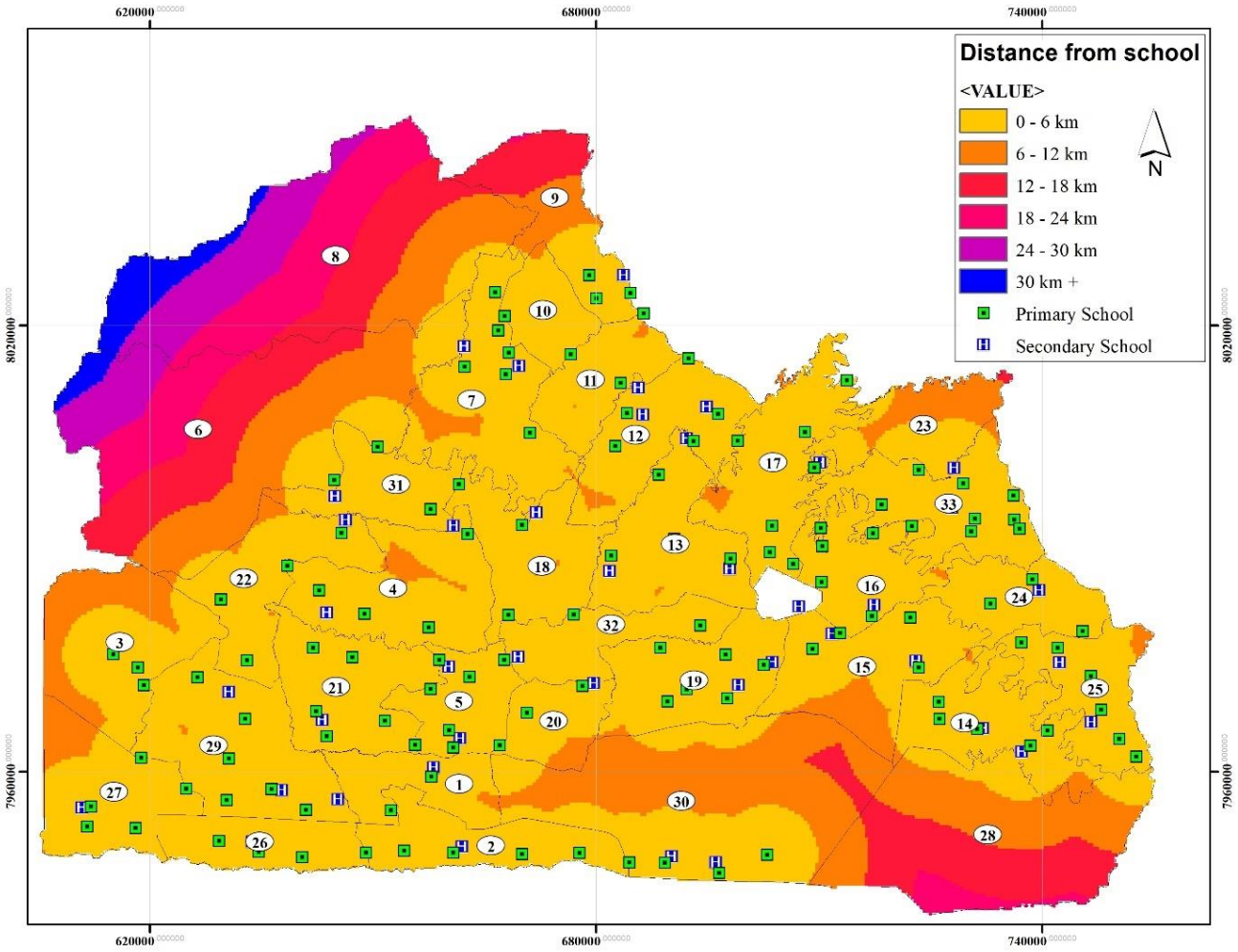

Figure 35: Schools Map

Satellite Primary schools in Gokwe South

- Nyagombe primary school
- Pokwe primary school
- Kapfunde primary school
- Mudzimundiringe primary school
- Mushavi primary
- Muroorwa primary
- Masekesa primary
- Vision Kunashe primary

There are 60 secondary schools in Gokwe of which 11 are satellite schools

Satellite Secondary Schools

- Guluka

- Dengwe
- Ndabambi
- Maboke
- Charama
- Mateta 1
- Muchirinji
- Zhamba
- Marirangwe
- Katsunga
- Qhubekani

For a school to be regarded a satellite, it is devoid of the following:

- 2 classrooms by 2 blocks
- Standard teachers' houses
- Toilets (ablution facilities)
- Source of safe and portable water

There are 2 registered boarding schools in Gokwe that is, Cheziya High and Logos Girls. The rest are not registered but offer affordable and decent boarding facilities. These high schools include:

- Mateta High
- Rujeko High
- Nemangwe High
- Ganye High
- Hovano High
- Manyoni High
- Dzivarengamwa High

Most schools in Gokwe South exhibit poor performance as compared to its urban counterpart. Performance is better in urban schools due to better infrastructure, quality teachers and competitive staffing. Resources in most urban schools are available, and this can be attributed to a higher level of levy payment by urban pupils as compared to their rural counterparts where levy payment is erratic. As a result, infrastructure in rural schools is substandard as most

schools rely on levy for infrastructure development. Most GSRD schools have high enrolment as depicted by its child to teacher ratio. In addition, the distance factor is also a major challenge as most pupils especially in secondary schools walks a distance of more than 20 km to the nearest school and this prompts students to look for "bushy" boarding houses in close proximity to the nearest schools. These students are not monitored and they end up prone to drug abuse, sexual intercourses which will end up to unwanted pregnancies, thus causing early marriages.

According to the Ministry of Primary and Secondary education standards, the following are used as maximum distances that any pupil must travel to the nearest school.

a) ECD pupil – maximum 3km
b) Primary school pupil (excluding ECD pupil) – maximum 5km
c) Secondary school pupil – maximum 7kms.

Gokwe South has a shortage of over 6 000 teachers including primary and secondary. The challenge stems from the centralized recruitment methodology carried out at Headquarters wherein deployment does not consider the origin of the teacher. Ultimately the teacher uses the initial deployment as an entry point and later apply for transfer. As a corrective measure, the district proposes a localized policy that gives first preference to the locals and bond them for a minimum of 4 years.

The issue of the operational education curriculum was discussed with stakeholders in the district and it was found to be relevant but they have the notion that it must be supported by the required resources. For example, the competence-based curriculum requires specialist rooms/ workshops for practical subjects such as computers, fashion fabrics, music and most schools in the district (both secondary and primary) do not have these facilities. There are initiatives by the government to help disadvantaged schools on infrastructure development for example, the school's development grant given to schools especially those struggling raise funds through levies. Complementary funds are also advanced to the district schools by the Government or Local Authority which helps schools to build science laboratories for example schools that benefit from the funds include Mutangi, Chisina, Gomoguru and Gukure secondary schools.

In terms of helping students in GSRD, government-initiated BEAM programme which helps on levy payments for vulnerable students. In the same token, Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED) on the other hand, play an important role on assisting school children

by paying school levies, uniforms and stationery for the students. As a result, most parents prefer CAMFED as it caters for all the resources necessary for learning as compared to BEAM which offers levies only. In addition, delay in disbursements of BEAM payments and the payment in RTGS (as RTGS is eroded in an inflationary environment) have a negative bearing on schools, as levies are vital to the development of school infrastructure.

Challenges that affect education in the district include:

- Some Apostolic sects do not value education such that most pupils drop after primary schools and thus causing early marriages.
- Long distances to the nearest secondary school.

The study revealed that policy interventions such as the "no expulsion stance for non-payment of school fees" has a negative bearing in that most students will end up defaulting. Although this is a pro poor and all-inclusive initiative, the Government should put in place a mechanism to force parents to pay school fees.

Ministry of Education works hand in gloves with the Department of Social welfare on identifying pupils with disability including Albinos and they then help them in paying school fees, up to tertiary level. The challenge with most parents in the district is that they look down upon children with disabilities and they regard them as useless. This negative perception causes parents to neglect them and some children will end up not being educated.

Most of the schools in Gokwe have enrolment above carrying capacity for example St Pauls primary, CZM primary, Cheziya High, Logos secondary, Mateta 1 Secondary. During the peak period of cotton when prices were high, children resort to agriculture than going to school since the short-term benefits was good as compared to education. Currently artisanal mining has a negative bearing on schooling. 144 schools out of 204 (including secondary schools) in Gokwe do not have electricity and some do not have water supply.Schools such as Kapfunde primary, Gwetsanga primary, Ngomeni (primary and secondary), Mwambani primary etc are critically in need of water and some of the staff resort to buy water from the Community. Majority of the schools have inadequate infrastructure (buildings and furniture) to an extent that many pupils end up studying under trees and in classrooms without benches and floors. All primary schools do not have necessary staff houses and classroom blocks. Table 13 shows schools in Gokwe South district which have poor access to water.

Table 13: Schools with poor access to water - Gokwe South District

Name of School	Enrolment			Grading Status	Distance from Provincial Office	Current Alternative Water Source
	M	F	Total			
Bluegum Primary	478	428	906	P3	242 km	Community wells
Kapfunde Primary	258	281	539	Satellite	285 km	River 4 km from the school
Musita Primary	306	372	678	P3	268 km	Community well
Nyaje Primary	501	532	1033	P3	247 km	Well within the school, very low yield during the hot season
Mangisi Primary	252	268	520	P3	275 km	Well within the school
Mawisa Primary	193	189	382	P3	285 km	Well within the school
Chehanga Primary	261	229	490	P3	295 km	Borehole was solarized and dried up. Depending on wells in the riverbed
Lukukwe Primary	312	303	615	P3	315 km	Borehole was solarized and dried up. Depending on the borehole at the nearest secondary school
Msala Primary	170	166	336	P3	358 km	Well within the school
Chibasa Primary	238	227	465	P3	285 km	River 2 km from the school
Masuka Muroorwa Primary	215	217	432	Satellite	310 km	Solarized but pump broke down and could not be retrieved from the well. Depending on community well 2 km from the school
Ngani Primary	405	341	746	P3	252 km	River 2 km from the school
Boyi Primary	249	251	500	P3	245 km	River 1,5 km from the school
Mapfungautsi Primary	702	719	1421	P3	202 km	Zinwa water whose supply is very erratic
Gwarusonde Primary	274	286	560	P3	245 km	Community well 2 km from the school
Gwenya Primary	224	252	476	P3	260 km	Community borehole with a very low yield and community scramble for water
Mateta 2 Primary	422	445	867	P3	265 km	Well with low yield during the hot season
Nyaradza Primary	678	662	1340	P3	230 km	Community borehole 2 km from the school
Sizanani Primary	250	288	538	P3	250 km	River 1 km from the school
Tachi Primary	168	147	315	P3	270 km	Open well within the school
Chamatendera Primary	168	183	351	P3	272 km	Well on the river bed
Gadza Primary	180	187	367	P3	320 km	Community borehole 2 km from the school
Kaguta Primary	280	299	579	P3	262 km	Well dried up after solarisation. Depending on river 1 km from the school
Nyaradza Secondary	217	264	481	S3	231 km	Community borehole 2 km from the school
Marirangwe Secondary	71	64	135	Satellite	335 km	Well fitted with bush pump, low yield
Mbungu Secondary	189	231	420	S3	365 km	Seasonal well within the school
Zhamba Secondary	94	83	177	Satellite	365 km	River 2 km from the school
Chevecheve High	318	269	587	S3	242 km	Community wells
Mapfungautsi Secondary	106	96	202	S3	250 km	Community borehole 2 km from the school
Defe High	226	224	450	S3	290 km	River 2 km from the school
Tare St Boniface Secondary	189	191	380	S3	242 km	River 1 km from the school
Mateme SDA Secondary	134	181	315	S3	205 km	Seasonal well within the school
Mkoka Tichakunda Secondary	250	246	496	S3	325 km	Seasonal well. Nearest clinic.

Zimbodza Primary	242	261	503	P3	295 km	Wells in the community. Connected to ZINWA piped water system which not yet functional.
Pohwe SDA Primary	347	352	699	P3	282 km	Wells in the community.
Mateta 1 Secondary	54	48	102	S3	236 km	Community borehole.
Charama Secondary	66	63	129	S3	402 km	Seasonal community well
Ndabambi Secondary	43	48	91	S3	255 km	Seasonal community well

7.1.1 Proposed schools in Gokwe South

A number of schools have been proposed for development in Gokwe South District (Table 7.2 - Those that were assessed, passed and pegged by the Department of Physical Planning and Council), and (Table 14- Proposed schools in Gokwe South - Proposed Not Pegged).

Table 14: Proposed schools in Gokwe South- Those that were assessed, passed and pegged

Name of school	Ward
Kumbula primary	5
Mushavhi Primary	27
Ndandulo Primary	26
Dhumu primary	26
Chehanga secondary	21
Guyu Secondary	12
Nemangwe primary	11
Chivanganye Primary	8
Nemaringa Primary	8
Masvisvi Primary	8
Gundura Primary	6
Charama Secondary	6
Tachi Secondary	26
Mateta Secondary	19
Ndhlalambi Secondary	19
Kumbula Primary	5
Ndandulo Primary	26
Musala Secondary	27

Proposed schools in Gokwe South - Proposed Not Pegged

Name of School	Ward
St Cathbert Secondary School	24
Manoti primary	1
Towerlight Secondary	31
Madome Primary	30
Simbe Secondary school	16
Qubekani secondary school	17
Chivanganye Primay School	8
Chitave Primary School	31
Katura Primary	16

Mangisi Secondary school	31
Nemaringa primary	8
Masvisvi primary	8

7.1.2 Higher education, technical and vocational education

Institutions of higher learning are still at infancy in Gokwe South district. The coming in of Zimbabwe Open University, Catholic University and Kwekwe Polytechnic (in process) brings relief to the district. However, these higher learning institutions offers limited courses which are exclusively of commercials in nature. There is also a vocational training centre in the district which is under Ministry of Youth which offers basic technical courses such carpentry, building, welding. Kwekwe Polytechnic wanted to take/ to absorb the vocational college but it is in the process. Those who need variety of tertiary courses can get them from Kwekwe (Kwekwe Polytechnic) and Gweru (Gweru Polytechnic, Midlands State University). Gokwe Centre also have tertiary institutions and these are Shingai Training Centre run by the Roman Catholic Church and LAMA Commercial College which is owned by a private individual. The institutions offer courses such as Dressmaking, Typing, Bookkeeping, Business Management, Secretarial. A pool of school leavers within the district joins the labor market each year but unfortunately, they cannot get employment because employment opportunities are hard to come by due to lack of requisite skills and talents which accords them with the opportunities to be absorbed in the labor market whether be it the formal or informal sectors. All in all, training is an integral component of human resource development and it is noticeable that the district is still lagging behind in that area

7.2. *HEALTH*

The study recognized that the causes of poor health in the district are complex but the major influences include poverty, poor housing, lack of employment opportunity, stress, inadequate social support and the physical environment. Some of these factors indeed present a barrier to the adoption of health like styled behaviors as advocated by health educators and authorities whilst others limit the potential benefits of adopting such behaviors. These variables need to be considered when developing policies and strategies to improve health conditions in the district.

7.2.1 District Health Profile

Remarkable strides have been made with regards to provision of health facilities in the district since 1980 from only one district hospital, three mission clinics, and two council clinics by then. Currently, there are 41 functional clinics in Gokwe South including those in the centre, of the 41, some do not offer all services for example Sesha Clinic is for HIV services,

Population Services Clinic if for family planning. There are 4 government rural health centers which are Nyaje, Gwanika, Svisvi and Mateta. The Clinic which serves a higher population in the district is Musita which serves 31000 people.

The challenge which is faced in the district are the distances travelled to the next health facility for example, Nyaradza Clinic to Mateta 2 the distance is so unbearable. Traveling to health centres is made difficult by poor roads and other physical barriers (gullies and rugged terrain) and those that are unaccessible include Chamatendera and Hikira areas. Some clinics are virtually inaccessible during rainy season due to the presence of rivers in between settlements such as Sengwa, Pohwe excetera. Some clinics in the district are still under construction such as Lukukwe, Charama Cross, Manhede, Mutimutema and some are completed such as Katena but lacks resources such as linen, beds, medical kits. Most of these clinics are Community initiative which are funded from devolution and plough back funds from the Council and such clinic projects are Chitapo, Ndavambi, Nyaradza. What is important to note and celebrate is that the district is now in the pre-elimination stage for malaria and most health facilities are now giving mosquito nets to communities. Areas that are still being affected by malaria in the district are those that borders Matebeleland (Nkayi, Lupane) th Musala, Zhamba and Kana. Figure 36 shows the distribution of Clinics in the District, while Table 15 shows Gokwe South Wards and Health Facilities.

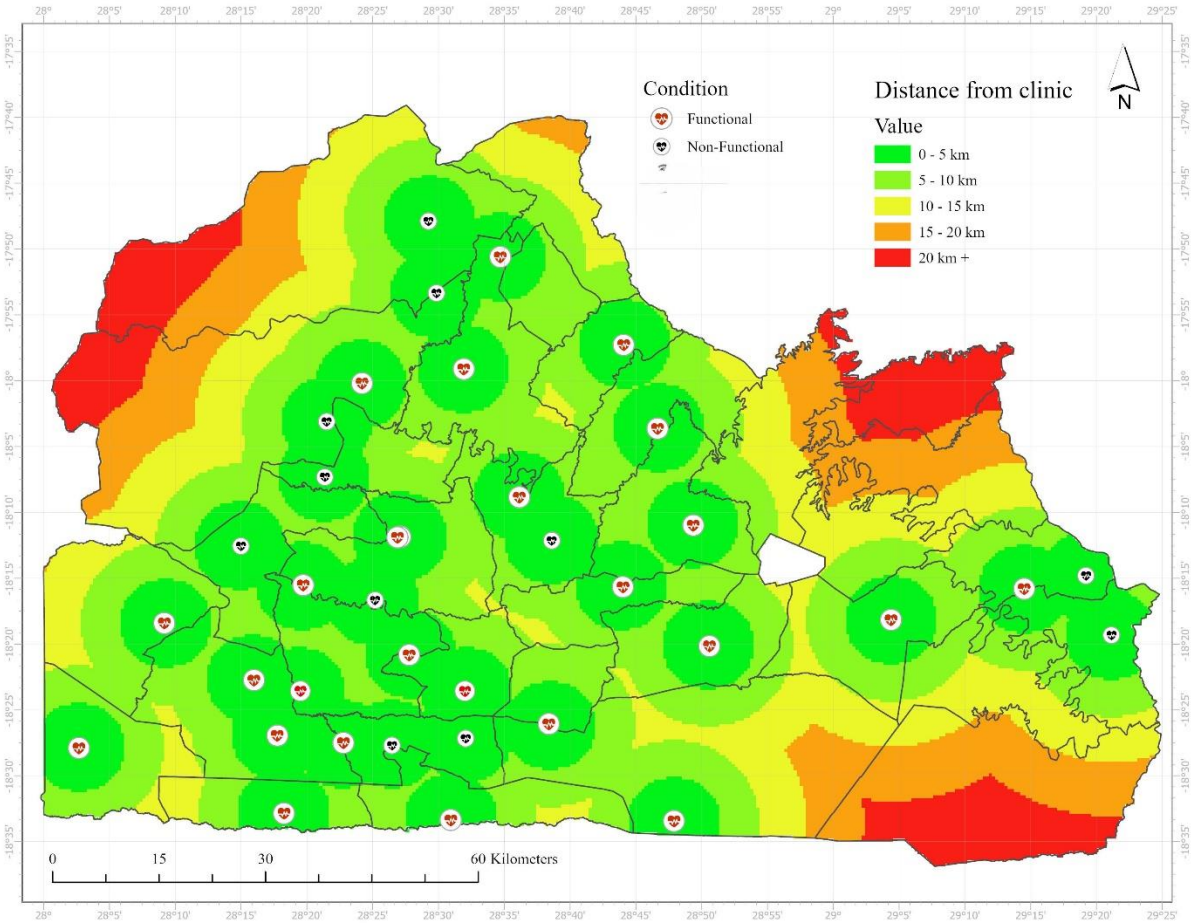

Figure 36: Distribution of Clinics in Gokwe South District

Table 15: Gokwe South Wards and Health Facilities

Ward Name	Ward Number	Health Facility
Muyambi 1	1	Manoti
Chirima 1	2	Kana
Sai 3	3	Sai
Sai 4	4	Zhamba
Ngomeni	5	Mateta
Sai 2	6	Mangidhi
Huchu	7	Huchu
Masuka	8	Masuka
Nemangwe 5	9	Msita
Nemangwe 4	10	
Nemangwe 3	11	Sasome
Nemangwe 2	12	Svisvi
Nemangwe 1	13	
Njelele 3	14	Chemahororo
Njelele 2	15	Njelele
Njelele 1	16	Chitapo
Jahana	17	Jahana
Sai 1	18	Manyoni
Dhlalambi 1	19	Nyaradza
Dhlalambi 2	20	Dhlalambi
Jiri 1	21	Jiri Ndoza

Jiri 2	22	Katema
Chisina 1	23	Tongwe
Chisina 2	24	Gwanika
Chisina 3	25	Krima
Mkoka	26	Mkoka
Msala	27	Msala
Chemagora	28	
Muyambi 2	29	
Chirima 2	30	Nyaje Matema
Sai 5	31	Chitave
Dhlalambi	32	Gawa
Chisina 4	33	Mtange

Accomodation is a challenge in most rural health facilities and this was compounded by the additional staff introduced by the Ministry of Health like the Orderly and Primary Counselors at each health centre. The other challenge that is being faced in the district is the issue of drugs and medicines that are in short supply such as Magnesium Sulphate, Diaspharm, Niphedipine and Intravenous Fluids). The establishment for the rural health service centres that is currently in use is that of 1980 where a clinic is supposed to have 1 by Environmental Health Technician, 2 by nurses, Nurse aid and general hand and the notion was that Nurse was everything (universal). Due to the increase in population in the district, the nurses are being overwhelmed by the numbers that they are currently serving and this shown in Table 16.

Local arrangements shows that some clinics in the district have been allocated more nurses which are not on establishment and those rural service centres include Musita (was allocated 4 nurses), Sesame (4 nurses) and Manoti (an additional of 3 nurses). Also on establishments, there are village health workers and these are the first point of contact and are important in that they quickly identify problems and keep register for all people in the community in which they operate. In Gokwe South district, Village Health workers are now few and they do not have resources such as bicycles to man their respective area of responsibility. Instead of working with 100 households, they are currently responsible for more than 600 households. Table 16 shows the catchment of the clinics/ other health facilities.

Table 16: Hospital/Clinic - Catchment Total Population

Hospital /Clinic	**Catchment Total Population**
Chemahororo	13004
Cheziya	13164
Chitapo	9468
Chitave	10728
Gawa	10909
Gwanika	10512

Gokwe Hosp	0
Huchu	6791
Jahana	7297
Jiri	9346
Kana	8706
Katema	9346
Krima	12643
Mangidhi	4877
Manoti	20120
Manyoni	10042
Masuka	10078
Mateme	3901
Mateta	10349
Mkoka	7297
Msala	12787
Msita	26185
Mtanke	5852
Ndabambi	7851
Ndhlalambi	9748
Njelele	12881
Nyaje	6415
Nyamhunga	13004
Nyaradza	13540
Sai	6863
Sasame	13799
Svisvi	6864
Tongwe	19145
Zhamba	4985
Ganye	6864
Mapfungautsi	13164
District Total	**361225**

Communication is a challenge at most rural health service centres in the district and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) helped a lot on installing WIFI services, computers and solar power in some of the clinics and these clinics include Jiri, Musala, Mangidhi, Manoti, Zhamba and Sasame. Those that do not have either of the above are Nyaradza and Masala (without computers), Mukoka, Manyoni and Mateme (without solar)

7.2.2 Prospects for Development - Clinics

Clinics pegged and approved

- Ndandulo Clinic -ward 26
- Choto Clinic- ward 21

- Charama Clinic -ward 6

Clinics Not Done

- Muchirinji Clinic-ward 4
- Kombo Clinic- ward 31
- Mateta Clinic- ward 19

7.2.3 Common Diseases in the District

Common diseases in the district range from Acute respiratory Infection, Diarrhoea, Eye diseases, Skin diseases and Injuries and this is shown on Table 17.

Table 17: Common Diseases in the District (2019-2023)

Diseases	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
All other diseases	63511	46377	52006	49437	61923
Acute respiratory Infection	30810	15965	22862	30386	34836
Eye diseases	13792	-	-	-	-
Other skin diseases	9419	8912	9207	6624	10337
Injuries	9619	8016	8118	7041	8958
Diarrhoea	9365		5803	6961	8151

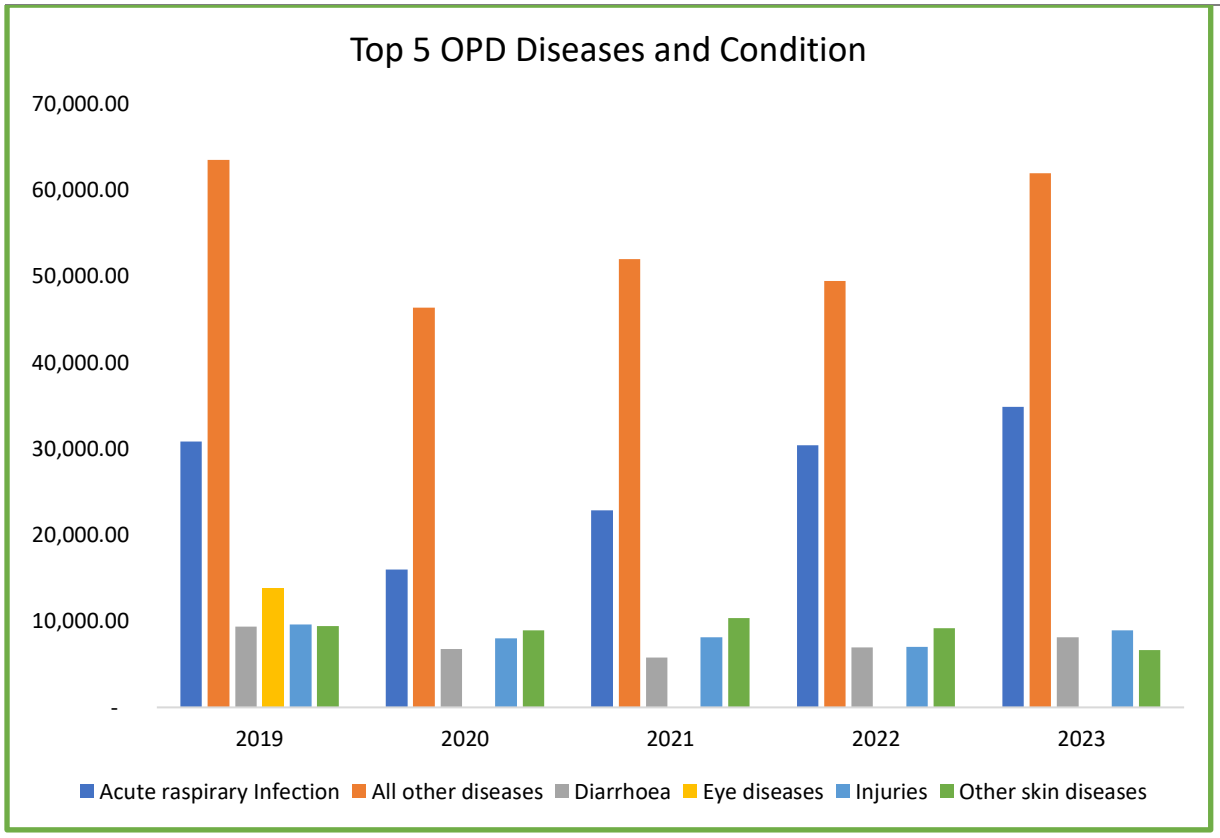

Figure 37: Top 5 OPD Disease and Condition between 2019 and 2023

7.2.4 Delivery Maternal Birth or Death - Gokwe South District

Table 18 is a summary of Delivery Maternal Births and Deaths - Gokwe South District (2019 -2023) at home and in institutions.

Table 18: Delivery Maternal Borth and Death - Gokwe South District (2019 - 2023)

Delivery Live Birth/ Deaths at home/ institution	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Delivery Maternal Deaths at Home	5	2	2	4	1
Delivery Maternal Deaths in Institution	6	7	2	1	3
Delivery Live Births at Home by others	1517	1397	922	817	787
Delivery Live Births at Hospital/Clinic	8295	7314	6624	7119	7256

7.2.5 Alcohol and Drug Abuse

There are collaborations with various stakeholders e.g. ZAPS (Pharmacy department in the Ministry of Health) do awareness campaigns on drug abuse. There are few cases on drug abuse and some are not reported. In case of drug abuse, no case has gone to rehabilitation centers. Table 19 shows statistics of number of drug abuse cases in a period from 2022-2024.

Table 19: Alcohol and drug dependence (2019-2023)

Issue	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Alcohol Dependence	45	37	18	25	34
Drugs dep Induced psychosis	144	112	137	103	255

7.2.6 Sexual Abuse

There are high cases of rape in GSRDC especially to children below 12 years but most cases are not reported and some end at the chief's courts where one can benefit something from the act such as cattle, goats etc. Currently, the department of social welfare is working using Presidential Powers (temporal powers) Act to gazzette statutory Instrument 2 of 2024 in compliance with a Constitutional court that had declared a section of the law that sets sexual consent age at sixteen (16) as unconstitutional. This started in January 2024 and will operate for 6 months and by then the criminal law and codification will have been revised. There is a gap in the law which says if one engages in a sexual act with a girl aged 13 to 16 years it is not rape but having sexual intercourse with a minor. Currently, most people are utilizing that law to abuse the girl child. Reported sexual abuse cases were 10 in January and 8 in February 2024.

7.2.7 Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus (HIV) and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STIs)

In 2019, Zimbabwe adopted the ambitious Joint UN Program on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) Fast Track strategy for ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.There are also NGOs advocate for accelerated, comprehensive, and coordinated global action on the HIV/AIDS- Health Ministry also brought Zimbabwe's integrated HIV Testing Services strategy fully online, including the scaling up of index testing for newly diagnosed people living with HIV and rolling out of HIV self-testing.on Health interventions -these they provide HIV testing and Cancer screening, CAPNEK-TB & HIV testing, SESHA – STI infections such as HIV, SESHA-HIV, then ALPHA – HIV prevention to young girls, National Aids Council-on HIV. There is a programme which is called DREAMS.

The table below shows the rising trend in HIV infections from the year 2021 to 2023. This is mainly attributed to the rapid testing which previously was not highly promoted. However, sexually transmitted diseases are on the rise as shown in the Table 20

Table 20: Sexually Transmitted Disease in Gokwe South

YEAR	2021	2022	2023
HIV	250995	265129	254202
Genital Ulcers	397	437	528
Urethral / Virginal discharge	1976	2271	3378
Other forms of STI	665	542	542

7.2.8 Gender based

7.2.9 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Gokwe District lags behind in terms of water and sanitation and the district stands at 42% and 40 % respectively. The vast majority of people in Gokwe walk very long distances to access water. Not only do people have to travel far to collect water, most households also obtain water from unprotected sources including wells, rivers and dams. Meaning majority of households use water with potential health risks. Majority of the wards in the district still need additional water points. The majority of the people use the bush as toilets with only a few having access to Blair latrines. Coverage of ablution facilities is still low in the district and it stands at 42%, translating to approximately 21 out of 50 households in a village with proper waste disposal facilities. The same percentage applies for households and schools. Most schools without water reticulation are using the Blair toilet system. Sanitation in the rural areas is measured through ODF (Open Defecation Free) which is a state of achieving zero open defecation and only 5

villages in GSRDC have achieved this to date. These are Qhochiwa, Chitoro both in ward 1. Resultantly this situation will have negative consequences on the population's health and well-being. In short, the general sanitation condition throughout the district is poor and this is an issue which needs urgent attention. In terms of hygiene the study revealed that most households still do not have pits for household solid waste disposal and hygienic household dishes drying stall (Chitara).

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

- **TERTIARY EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

There is no definite tertiary enrolment and employment history data of youths in Gokwe South but estimates show that the majority of those who are 18 years and above are not formally employed nor are they still in school. The Ministry of Youth which has the mandate of catering to the welfare of the youth is incapacitated in the district due to lack of resources and financial constraints. They offer very little in terms of skills training and job placement. Ward officers train entrepreneurship courses in all the 33 wards including nurse aid courses.20 out of the 33 wards have isles colloquially known as 'mukando'. Non state actors such as Angel of Hope is the only visible organizations that is bringing in relief through training life skill courses in conjunction with the Zimbabwe Open University. The Ministry of Youth has a vocational training centre at Gokwe Centre that has a capacity of training 300 people but at the current moment the college is having 130 students. This low enrolment is caused by people in the district who are failing to raise school fees due to recurrent droughts, poverty and decline in cotton prices. However, youth from Gokwe South lack the most basic of education to enrol at the vocational training centre and in some instances, they do not have the funding to cover tuition and resources needed to undergo training. The drop in cotton price, which is the major cash crop grown in Gokwe, has affected household income and is ultimately affecting the youth. Apart from the Vocational Training Centre, here are no other tertiary institutions in Gokwe South.

- ✓ **SOURCES OF INCOME**

The majority of the youth who are economically productive engage in farming activities and a few are into mining. Young women to evade the economic challenges enter into early

marriages. Vending is also common amongst the youth. The lack of opportunities and limited educational background limit the scope for the youth.

ACCESS TO FUNDING

Most of the youth in Gokwe South cannot access funding because they are not formally employed neither do they have collateral to use for borrowing purposes. Institutions such as the Empower Bank priorities Civil servants

Women and Gender Based Violence

The RDC worked with development but not also limited to budgeting, land allocation, provision of social safety nets and service delivery partners in the district to develop a gender policy document in September 2020 aimed at addressing gender inequalities in the district. The policy seeks to identify harmful laws, cultures and traditional practices that infringe on women's and girls' rights and that impede the gender equality objectives and lobby for their elimination, develop and strengthen policies, legal provisions and programs to ensure attainment of a 50/50 representation of men and women in politics in key decision-making positions. The policy also aimed at promoting affirmatively women with disabilities, poor communication network in the district limit women's access to ICT. With the new thrust on eLearning and virtual form of engagements, women who do not have access to ICT are even more marginalised. Rape cases are still very high in the district but some of these rape cases go unreported. In addition, some of the perpetrators are merely fined at the chief's court and go without the deserving legal prosecution due to poverty. In Jan 2024 there were 10 reported rape cases and 8 cases reported in February 2024.

Food security and social welfare

The Ministry of Social Welfare has embarked on a food deficit mitigation strategy (drought relief) where the government is giving food to people in the communities to alleviate hunger and poverty. In 2024, the number of people who benefited from the programme stood at 118 604 people. The Social Welfare Department also offers harmonized social cash transfer of US$20 to beneficiaries paid out per every 2 months. However, payouts are erratic. There are also sustainable livelihood projects which were implemented at Mutangi where a dilapidated garden was resuscitated through constructing a perimeter fence, ablution facilities and renovation of water pipes.

Disabled people apply for loans for projects as well as assistive devices in the form of hearing aids, wheelchairs etc. Assistance to the disabled from the government is often channeled through registered Pharmacies with vendor numbers yet most pharmacies in Gokwe do not have vendor numbers. Ultimately the disabled people and their guardians are forced to travel long distances to access help through recognized channels. Department of disability assists with school fees up to tertiary level and in 2023 they assisted 3 people. The challenge is there are a lot of assessments that are done which starts at District level then one is referred to Gweru school of psychological services and the child should be physical thus most parents resort to avoiding this route because they cannot afford. The challenge is lack of knowledge by the parents.

The department of Social Welfare plays an important role in the district by processing papers for BEAM students and payments will then be done in Harare. The department also helps on medical assistance for vulnerable people for example there is an order book for the payment of medical bills to government hospitals, in case of illness, the assessment is done quickly at district level and issued to the beneficiary. CAMFED, CARITAS, Judicial Services, MEDRA and National Aids Council in partnership with the Ministry of Social Welfare does awareness campaigns on various areas which includes HIV and AIDS, issues to do with rape, disabilities excetera and in 2024 the Ministry of Education had road shows in district schools and Rural Business Centres.

Pensioners are also a vulnerable group of society. A cushioning allowance for pensioners is paid out through the National Social Security Authority (NSSA). This amount is paid partly in USD and in the local currency is not sufficient in most cases to cover the living expenses of the pensioner in question. Most of these pensioners are forced to travel long distances to collect money. This amount is only payable to those who were previously employed and contributed towards the pension fund. The rest of the elderly people are not covered since the district source of income has always been predominately individual farming.

7.3. CULTURAL AND HERITAGE

Gokwe South is rich in cultural heritage, with a diverse and unique traditions, rituals, and historical landmarks that reflect the region’s vibrant history and identity. There are cultural shrines in Chief Gumberu area and they have a lot to share about their culture for example the sacred pools is where a new Chief is ordained. These sacred places are all over the district and some of the places are Murume mukuru mountain and chidoma hill in Chief Gumberu, Kasikana mountain and Doraushe pool in Chief Njelele, Dundo shrine in Chief Nemangwe,

mamvuramachene mountain in Chief Jiri, Malende area in Headman Musala and Vukomohwavanyangavo mountain in Chief Sai. Preserving and promoting cultural heritage is vital for maintaining community cohesion, fostering pride, and attracting visitors interested in immersive cultural experiences. Several key aspects contribute to Gokwe South's cultural and heritage landscape:

7.3.1. Traditional Practices and Rituals

The region is home to various indigenous communities, each with its unique customs, ceremonies, and belief systems. Traditional practices such as Njore, Mukweverera, mbira music, dance, storytelling, and spiritual rituals are integral to the cultural fabric of Gokwe South, providing a window into the rich local traditions and values.

7.3.2. Historical Landmarks

Gokwe South boasts numerous historical sites, including ancient ruins, colonial-era buildings, and archaeological artifacts that bear testimony to the region's past. These include Sikombela National Monument and Nyaradza Detention. These landmarks serve as repositories of collective memory, preserving narratives of resilience, resistance, and cultural exchange that shape the region's identity and heritage.

7.3.3. Cultural Festivals and Events

Throughout the year, Gokwe South hosts a vibrant calendar of cultural festivals, ceremonies, and community celebrations that bring people together to commemorate shared traditions and heritage. Events such as harvest festivals, initiation rites, and cultural parades showcase the diversity of Gokwe South's cultural heritage and provide opportunities for cultural exchange and dialogue.

7.4. ECONOMY, LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES AND SOCIAL WELFARE

7.4.1 Economic activity in Gokwe South

Gokwe South District has a relatively diversified economy beyond agriculture production including timber, exploitation, mining, wildlife utilization and tourism. In the small urban centres, particularly Manoti District Service centre, commercial and small-scale industrial activity are cropping up. Financial services such as Mukuru is a positive step on promoting the growth of the centre. Parastatals such as the GMB and CMB, and utilities such as ZESA play important roles in the service sector of the economy and this has been established in Manoti.

7.4.2 Agriculture activity in the District

Agriculture is the major economic activity that supports the economy of the district with 50-80% of all income coming from food production. Major crops are maize, sunflower, groundnuts, millet and cotton as a cash crop. Cattle are an important part of in the agricultural economy, although off-take rates tend to be very low. People also practice subsistence horticulture in gardens where vegetables are grown. Some wards are doing horticulture at a large scale especially in wards 15, 16, 13 and 19. Many people plough along and in rivers and the crops are prone to flooding and washed away during rainy season. Figure 38 shows a garden in Sengwa river.

Figure 38: Garden in Sengwa river

While agriculture is the dominant economic activity, women are usually the major source of farm labour as they engage in the farming activities in the fields, horticulture and rearing of livestock, mainly goats and cattle (Figure 39).

Figure 39: Cattle in Sengwa River

Horticulture

Vegetable production is done in all parts of the District where there is enough water. At times this practice leads to stream bank cultivation and siltation of the rivers. Fruit production is at subsistence level done in the District (bananas, mangoes and oranges being common). These come from unimproved varieties grown mainly in the vlei gardens and around home steads. There are a number of Nutrition Gardens in the District supported by NGOs like CARITAS.

Nutrition Gardens in the District by CARITAS

- Manyena power point (Solar powered)- Manyena Nutrition Garden. It also serves the primary school and it's in Ward 4.
- James Community Water point- it's a bush pump only
- Patsika Dova Community water point with a garden (ward 4)
- Paradza water point and Nutrition garden (ward 21)
- Changwara water point and community garden
- Choto Solar powered water scheme (no garden)
- Gombiro water point and community garden
- Sahi primary and secondary – piped water scheme
- Chegama and Lumumba Secondary- piped water scheme which is solar powered

- Karova primary and secondary with piped water scheme

Due to bad economic conditions, lack of financial support and lack of infrastructure maintenance some irrigation schemes are now deserted (Figure 40).

Figure 40: Deserted Sengwa Irrigation Scheme in Gokwe South

Cotton

Cotton is the single most important cash crop in the district, and marketed output has grown rapidly in recent years. However, regulated market by the government e.g. no external buyers affect the price of cotton as the price became lower thus affecting their livelihood. Most famers rely on government inputs so if they delay affects time and yields.

Poultry

From time to time farmers embark on commercial poultry production, otherwise the bulk of the birds are indigenous type and raised under free range conditions.

Aquaculture

There are ponds in the area at different operational levels with most of these being located in Njelele where surface water is available.

Apiculture

There is a great potential for this activity in the District especially in the area around Mafungabusi forest. There are a few commercial hives to date in the District producing honey of low quality.

Support services

Mukuru offers financial services and allows the receiver to receive money from the sender especially remittances from Diaspora.

An assessment of the potential of Agricultural output in the District

There exists room for improved crop production in the District through the following ways:

- Improved fertility through use of fertilisers
- Better disease and pest management
- Timely crop growing
- Moisture conservation especially in low lying areas,
- Irrigation
- The above management effort can double current yields.

7.4. 3 Other livelihood and economic activities

Owing to high levels of unemployment and the bulging youthful population, most of the young men resort to sand and gravel extraction, artisanal mining, brick-making and selling commercial firewood.

Construction materials

There are significant deposits of good quality materials suitable for large scale building and civil engineering projects such as riversand, pitsand, timber. However, most of these materials are currently exploited on a very small scale for local building projects.

Fine aggregate: There are several sites, within 40km of Gokwe Growth Point, where good quality river sand exists in large deposits. Most of this lie along the rivers Svisvi, Tari and Sesame – adjacent to the tarmac road and are virtually untouched. These sands have been

analysed by government agencies and the private sector and are suitable for concrete, motor and plaster.

Coarse aggregate: A large deposit of basalt exists within 10kms of Gokwe. This has also been analysed and found to be ideal for roadstone and concrete. It has never been exploited. Also there is gravel in Nemangwe area which is currently being poached.

Timber exploitation

Gokwe South District is one of few areas where significant stands of indigenous hardwood remain. Commercial species include mukwa (Plerocarpus anolensis) mukamba, or pod mahogany (Afzelia quanzensis), mukusi or teak (Baikiaea plurijuga), and mugaranyenze (Albizia antunesiana). The timber exploitation is, in theory, strictly controlled and the timber campanies are limited in the volume of timber they can extract. However, it is very difficult in practice to supervise the timber companies all of the time, and the local authority and forestry Commission have to rely, to an extent, upon the good will of the companies involved. By its own admission, the company working in the communal area has exceeded its quota and is not supervised effectively by the Forestry Commission.

Gold

There are a number of gold mining operations in particular areas around Chisina. Apart from small-scale gold miners, alluvial gold panning is carried out in the district mainly in the eastern parts of the district along the following rivers: Gwanyika, Chevecheve, Mtanke and Sendekwa.

CHAPTER 8: INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

8.1 Introduction

Public Infrastructure assets are the foundation of a country's economic development. Maintaining such assets in good condition is critical. Infrastructure wears out with time and use. Neglected infrastructure will result in the degradation of the assets with negative effects on the economy, leading to greater costs of reconstruction over time. The goal of maintenance is to preserve an asset, not to upgrade it. It includes minor repairs (routine maintenance) and improvements (capital maintenance) to eliminate the cause of defects and to avoid excessive repetition of routine maintenance efforts. Most roads in the district are 100% funded by the government through Zimbabwe National Roads Administration (ZINARA) and Public Sector Investment Programmes (PSIP) from Ministry of Finance and the responsible authorities for the maintenance of roads in the district are Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (RIDA), Ministry of Transport and GSRDC.

8.1.1 Infrastructure and Utilities Overview

Infrastructure in the district has significantly deteriorated and this stemmed from numerous factors:

- Inadequate levels of public expenditure for routine and periodic maintenance of major infrastructure
- Lack of an integrated approach in infrastructure investment planning compounded by substantial loss of skills
- Low investment in infrastructure by both public and private sectors
- Inadequate funding for capital and operating expenditure
- Limited foreign and domestic investment (District Economic Development plan, 2022-2025). The deterioration in infrastructure is evidenced by a lack of road equipment, and poor service delivery at various institutions such as the Ministry of Transport, RIDA and GSRDC. Currently, most road maintenance is being funded by ZINARA and the government through Emergency Road Rehabilitation programmes (ERRPs) which started in 2019.

8.2 Road Network

This section examines the road networks in the district and their relationship to their settlements. It also examines the importance of a reliable transport network to the various economic activities in the district. The degree of intra-district/ interdistrict exchange (trade) and the movement of people depend among other things on transport networks especially the quality of the roads. In dealing with the subject, the following aspects are worthy to note that:

- GSRDC has great territorial extent.
- The majority of the population is peasant and relies on public transport systems for transporting their agricultural inputs/outputs and for other personal trips.

The road network in Gokwe South consists of the following hierarchies:

i. State roads (surfaced) - Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure Development (MTIP)
ii. State roads (gravelled) - (MTIP)
iii. Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (RIDA) secondary roads
iv. GSRDC tertiary roads

8.2.1 Surfaced State Roads

These roads are managed and maintained by the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure Development (MTID) and are as follows:

- The Kwekwe- Gokwe- Sengwa (Gokwe -Siabuwa) road forms the major stretch of 133 km surfaced road in the district. It has good bridges and is under use throughout the year. The road which was completed in 1991 was mainly used for the transportation of coal from Sengwa (Gokwe North) and also cotton from Sesami Depot (Cotton Company of Zimbabwe), apart from being used by buses and other vehicles. The road is of regional importance since it is used by tourists to Chirisa safari area and other motorists. Currently, there is pot hole patching at 60 km peg and the other section is in a bad state - it is damaged with tar removed especially from Masakadza Rural Service Centre to Mutimutema Rural Service Centre. This road calls for urgent rehabilitation, especially on Tare Bridge and Mutimutema Sengwa Bridge which are at risk of being damaged by floods. Also, bush clearing is highly needed in this stretch.
- Kwekwe -Gokwe road with a 68 km stretch from GSRDC boundary. The road is a tarred section which is now old enough to be resurfaced. The road is pot hole free and currently, there is bush clearing being done.
- Muzvezve- Sikombela with a stretch of 38.2 km. It is a tarred section; pothole infested and needs rehabilitation.

8.2.2 State Road (Gravelled)

There are several stretches of unsurfaced state roads in the district and the details are as follows:

- **Sanyati – Kuwirirana-Nemangwe road**. The first 25 km section in Gokwe South is tarred and the other section to Gokwe North is gravelled. The road links Gokwe South and Gokwe North and as such is used by quite a large number of vehicles. Currently, the road is not being used due to part of Sesame bridge which was swept by torrential rains.
- **Empress- Masoro Copper Queen** 87.5 km stretch road. The gravel road is in bad state and needs gravelling and a proper drainage system.
- **Gokwe – Mateta- Manoti stretch**. This is a 46 km stretch gravel road which is currently under repairs. The contractor (Nester construction) has covered 40km. This road links Gokwe Centre to Manoti District Service Centre. At Manoti, there is a grain and cotton collection point as well as having commercial and service industrial enterprises.
- **Lutope- Kana stretch**. The road has 6.8 km in Gokwe South and it needs rehabilitation. Along the stretch, there is a Lukugwe bridge which calls for urgent construction. The road also requires for bush clearing.
- **Gokwe – Nkayi 47.5 km stretch**. This road links the district with Matebeleland North Province and is used by some buses to Bulawayo. It is also used by transporters to ferry cotton and maize from Manoti District Service Centre and of particular concern is the low-level bridge on the Mbumbuzi River which easily gets flooded during rain seasons.

➢ Gokwe – Chodha stretch. The road covers 40 km in Gokwe South and requires rehabilitation. In some sections, the road requires reconstruction due to the special type of soils which are 'plastic' in nature, thus untrafficable during the rainy season.

8.2.3 RIDA Primary Roads

The RIDA primary and secondary roads form the majority of the district roads and they are all gravel roads. Annexure 8.11 shows a map of the road network of existing primary/ secondary roads in Gokwe South district. The following details of the roads for RIDA are summarised in Table 21

Table 21: Existing RIDA Primary/Secondary Roads in Gokwe South

Road No	Road Name	Lengths (km)	Location in district
C101	Gwehava-Sai- Choto	106 km	Central and Western
C82102	Charama Plateau	43 km	Western
C82103	Zireza-Huchu-Masakadza	51 km	Northern and Western

C82104	Lutope- Manoti	17 km	Southern and Western
C82105	Manoti-Mbungu	45 Km	Southern and Western
C82106	Western boundary road	78 km	Southern and Western
C82109	Gwanyika plateau	59 km	Eastern
C82110	Njelele- Masoro	17 km	Eastern
C82123	Dzvuke - Manoti	24 km	Southern and Western
C82125	Masuka- Defe-Mutimutema	42 km	Northern and Western
C82127	Somdaka - Mutange	27 km	Western
C82128	Nyaradza- Kana turn off	40 km	Western
SA101	Sikombela road	29 km	Southern
SA103	Gwababe Turn off	18 km	Southern
C82106	Magedhe- Mawundura	24 km	Western
C82107	Choto-Mbungu Road	58 km	Southern and Western

8.2.4 New Works

Table 22 shows new works at Gokwe -Nyarupakwe, Sungwiza- Mutimutema, Gababe- Nyaje Dzvuke-Manoti, Manyoni-Sasame Mission, Gwanyika Plateau Link Road, Magedhe-Maundura(Western Boundary)

Table 22: New Road Works

Gokwe -Nyarupakwe	C82108	27 km
Sungwiza- Mutimutema	C82119	44 km
Gababe- Nyaje	C82122	28 km
Dzvuke-Manoti	C82123	25 km
Manyoni-Sasame Mission	C82126	28 km
Gwanyika Plateau Link Road	SA102	5 km
Magedhe-Maundura(Western Boundary)	C82106	54 km

8.2.5 Comment on The Existing RIDA Roads

Most roads covered by RIDA are not trafficable and they require extensive rehabilitation. Most bridges have been swept away by floods for example Pohwe Bridge and Lukugwe Bridges. The soils in the district are Kalahari sands that can easily be eroded and some sections have cotton black soils which are slippery mostly during the rainy season for example sections of Gwehava -Sai- Choto Road. The 12 km Gwehava-Sai-Choto to Dera Road requires urgent rehabilitation and funding for the project has been availed from ZINARA and Emergency Road Rehabilitation Programme (ERRPs). Figure 41 shows the current status of most roads.

Figure 41: Status of Roads in Gokwe South

8.2.6 Prioritisation

The roads which require urgent attention are:

- The road from Chipanangare to Sengwa Bridge, a 5 km section stretch requires reconstruction.
- Lutope to Manoti stretch, 10 km section which needs rehabilitation.
- Manoti Mbungo road – a 20 km stretch road which entails rehabilitation and has Kalahari soils.

- The sesame bridge that links Gokwe South and Gokwe North.
- Gwanyika plateau road where the road was completely cut off by a gulley at Mamvuramachena bridge.

8.2.7 Works in Progress

Currently, construction works have commenced on the Pohwe bridge that links Mutimutema and Defe Dopota which was washed away by rains, and an experienced Builder was engaged in the District by RIDA. Also, works for the casting of piers and assembling of openings has started at the Dabengwa bridge along Masuka -Mutimutema road. Manoti-Lukukwe –Binga road was awarded a contract in 2022 through ERRP and the excavation works and footing for the bridge has commenced.

8.2.8 GSRDC Tertiary/Access Roads

It is the responsibility of the RDCs to construct, repair and maintain infrastructure such as roads, bridges, reservoirs, furrows and culverts (RDC Act, 1998) and organise contractors or agents such as RIDA, Ministry of Roads and Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA). GSRDC are responsible for access roads to schools, clinics, dip tanks, Rural Service Centres and any other developmental project in the district. Table 23 shows the district road maintenance schedule for the year 2024 for Gokwe South RDC.

Table 23: District road maintenance schedule for the year 2024

Type of road	**Length** (km)	**2024 works (km)**	**% 2024 coverage (F/B)**
Surfaced road	nill	nill	--
Gravel road	53.0	53.0	100%
Earth road	570	57.5	11%
Total Network	623	110.5	18%

8.2.9 Cost of Road Maintenance

Table 24, Table 25, Table 26 and Table 27 shows that the Council budget is for routine maintenance only, no major works such as reconstruction and opening of new roads are to be done in the year. The research reveals that the budgeted cost for the routine maintenance road network is 18% of the actual district road network. This typically shows that a greater percentage of roads are not being maintained for the year 2024 and from the research, the budget is the same for the previous years. Most schools and clinics, dip tanks and other

developmental projects do not have access roads and motorists rely on tracks used by scotch carts which make the district not accessible and trafficable. The other parts of the district such as the Charama area do not have roads at all.

Table 24: Cost of roads maintenance

Average cost		
Activity	**unit**	**rate**
resealing	m^2	Null
base construction	m^2	Null
double seal surfacing	m^2	Null
routine maintenance grading	km	2 100 000.00
regravelling	$/m^3/km$	16 800
asphalt pothole patching (150mm reclaim)	m^2	Null
culvert construction	$/m^3$ of concrete	1 820 000

Table 25: Summary of provincial/national outputs - Routine maintenance

Road Authority	**Required**	**quantity**	**cost**	**Q1 output**	**Q2 output**	**Q3 output**	**Q4 output**
General maintenance	yes	110.5km	1 496 011 440.00 ZW	5.5km	35km	35km	35km
Major drainage control	no	null	-	-	-	-	-
Bridge maintenance	no	null	-	-	-	-	-
Safety maintenance	no	null	-	-	-	-	-
Maintenance management	yes	3	32 677 944 ZW	5.5km	35km	35km	35km

Table 26: Periodic maintenance

Road Authority	Required	**quantity**	**cost**	**Q1 output**	**Q2 output**	**Q3 output**	**Q4 output**
Resealing	no	null	**null**	-	-	-	-

Overlay	no	null	**null**	-	-	-	-
Fog spray/ slurry seal	no	null	**null**	-	-	-	-
Shoulder regravelling *(paved road)*	no	null	-	-	-	-	-
Regravelling *(gravel road)*	no	3.1km	-	-	-	-	-
Reshaping *(gravel/earth roads)*	-	null					
Major bridge repairs	N/A	null					

Table 27: Rehabilitation and new construction

Road Authority	Required	**quantity**	**cost**	**Q1 output**	**Q2 output**	**Q3 output**	**Q4 output**
New paved road construction	no	null	**null**	-	-	-	-
New gravel road construction	no	null	**null**	-	-	-	-
New earth road construction	no	null	**null**	-	-	-	-
Road reconstruction\ rehabilitation	no	null	**null**	-	-	-	-

8.2.10 General Overview of District Road Maintenance and Financing

All maintenance units in the district such as the Ministry of Transport, RIDA, and GSRDC are incapacitated to do road maintenance and construction works as machinery and equipment is minimal or non-existent at these institutions for example the Ministry of Transport do not have a single machinery to execute the works. Institutions such as RIDA and GSRDC that have 1 or 2 equipment operational are not sufficient to cover even 10 % of the district, RIDA has one set of equipment operational, and the other three sets, that is three towed graders and 3 tractors are on break down and also GSRDC has 2 motorised graders of which only 1 grader is functional, 2 by 15 m3 tippers which are functional and unfunctional front- end loader. This equipment is insufficient to perform both periodic and routine maintenance for the district's roads making effective and efficient service delivery unachievable. All RIDA maintenance units such as Manyoni and Sengwa have become an eyesore as it is now scattered with old equipment.

Comprehensive registers for the assets of these institutions, such as buildings and road equipment are not being followed due to lack of funds. Maintaining an asset register, backed by a condition report on each asset, is of vital importance, to reduce maintenance costs and increase the life span and quality of the infrastructure Unfortunately, infrastructure asset registers are either rarely maintained by institutions or do not exist. Funds for road maintenance come from the Central government and past experience, especially with RIDA roads, allocations were more or less evenly spread over the roads. The funds have proved inadequate to cover all the roads in any given year. Therefore, the lack of resources such as equipment and material resources has hampered the smooth routine maintenance schedule in the district. Procurement of resources for road maintenance is still centralized and disbursements of funds are erratic and they come in local currency which can easily eroded by inflation since construction projects take months to be completed. In some cases, the approved budgeted cost will be far less than the actual costs for example Pohwe bridge was budgeted for US$239 000 yet the amount allocated was 387 million payable at the interbank rate, however the challenge is that most contractors use the black market rate on charging their services.

Annexures 1 and 2 show the approved roads and bridges to be maintained and constructed for the year 2024. From both the PSIP and Zinara funding, GSRDC has received funding for I road and 1 bridge. The approved funded road is the Gwehava – Sai-Choto Road for a 10 km stretch and the Lukugwe bridge on Manoti-Mbungu Road. This is far less from the roads that need to be maintained, reconstructed and constructed in the district and this is shown by the state of the district roads above. The study reveals that the PSIP rate to maintain a 1

kilometre stretch is far less from that of ZINARA and this can cause variations in completing a project.

8.3 ***DISTRICT AND RURAL SERVICE CENTRES***

This section deals with infrastructure in small and intermediate urban settlements in the district. The main reason is that the District Service Centre (Manoti) and several Rural Service Centres form an integral part of the provision of goods and services to the rural population in the district. In the case of GSRDC which has a relatively well-developed agricultural hinterland, these centres have offered marketing facilities for cotton and grain products, especially for centres such as Bomba, Mutimutema, Sesame and Manoti. These centres also form the starting point of rural people entering the urban economy by offering other investment opportunities other than agriculture.

8.3.1 Status of Registered Rural Service Centres

Most of the RSCs in the district are not being maintained and the quality of most buildings has declined and this is depicted by Picture 2. Some informal business people have built illegal buildings which are substandard on registered and unregistered business sites. The services that are supposed to be provided by the GSRDC are not present at some RSCs and DSCs such as water and sewarage reticulation, bus stops, public toilets, and market stalls. The market stalls and bus terminus at RSCs face vandalism and some are not being used for example market stalls at Bomba RSC. Manoti is the only exception as it has since been upgraded and has since grown reasonably into a District Service Centre. Most RSCs suffer due to absent/inadequate basic infrastructure, thus the inability to meet modern sustainable solutions for rural areas. Manoti DSC has a more complex economy which supports the district's economic activities, offers a wide range of goods and services and has a big catchment area for it links with Matebeleland province. Figure 8.2 shows the Status of RSCs in GSRDC.

Figure 42: Status of RSCs in GSRDC

There are a total of 236 Rural Service centres and 1 District service centre in GSRDC,183 are registered and 55 illegal. On those that are registered, three (3) Rural Service Centres have approved layouts, and some have special development orders and some have unapproved layouts (drafts). Table 28 shows the DSC/ RSC with approved layouts/special development orders.

Table 28: DSC/RSC with approved layouts/special development orders

Dsc/Rsc With Approved Layouts/Special Development Orders			
1	Njelele RSC	16	Mapfumo
2	Nyarupakwe	17	Ganye
3	Sengwa Bridge	18	Mazalayedwa
4	Sesame	19	Taonesa
5	Nganyika	20	Zambezi
6	Manyoni	21	Blue Gum
7	Kana mission	22	Charama
8	Manoti	23	Gawa
9	Chemvuri	24	Chevecheve
10	Gomba	25	Kambe
11	Machakata	26	Krima
12	Machengere	27	Manyoni
13	Marope	28	Masikati
14	Mkoka	29	Msala
15	Nyaje	30	Chidoma

Source: Fieldwork 2024

8.3.2 Provision and Maintenance of Services and Infrastructure at DSC AND RSC

Table 29 shows a variety of social and infrastructure services that should be provided by GSRDC to facilitate social and economic development of the district. In a nutshell, due to lack of finance from both the Central and local government, these are seldom unachievable.

Table 29: Social and Infratructural Services to be provided by GSRDC

Social Services	Infrastructural Services
Education	Building schools and Vocational training centres
Health	Constructing and repairing clinics, mobile clinics
Social	welfare Building orphans, vulnerable children and the elderly cottages
Housing	Providing accommodation for government workers, and repairing council houses.
Environment	Building public toilets, providing bins and ensuring refuse removal
Protective Services	Building shelter for keeping fire extinguishers, feet control and disease combat instruments
Sport and leisure	Building golf courses, tennis courts, swimming pools and stadia, beerhalls
Physical	Constructing and maintaining roads, bridges and public halls.
Water	constructing dams, canals, reservoirs
Utilities	Ensure the provision of electricity, transport services, postal and telecommunications

Source: Adopted from Mushuku, A et al (2012)

8.4 Rural Health Centres and Police Station

There are 40 clinics in Gokwe South. Of the 40 centres, 24 are functional and 16 are still under construction. Most Clinics are still under construction and some are Community initiatives such as Chitapo Clinic, Ndavambi, Nyaradza and the plan do not meet the Ministry of Health standards and the infrastructure is not in line with NDS1 which fosters building of World class infrastructure for sustainable socio-economic development. accommodation. Poor road conditions between rural villages and health facilities were indicated by respondents as an obstacle when seeking healthcare. Figure 43 shows Clinics at Various Levels.

Figure 43: Clinics at various levels

8.4.1 Rural Health Service Centres under construction

The district has the shortage of health facilities due to population increase and the following RHCs have been proposed in the district (Table 30):

Table 30: Proposed RHCs in the District

Clinic	Ward	Status	Stage
Ndandulo	26	Pegged/Assessed	Not yet constructed
Choto	21	Pegged/Assessed	Under construction
Charama Cross	18	Pegged/ Assessed	Under construction
Muchirinji	4	Not yet assessed	Nothing yet
Kombo	31	Not yet assessed	Nothing yet
Mutimutema	8	Pegged/assessed	Built, foundation level
Dopota	8	Pegged 2014	Nothing on ground
Dzvuke	1	Pegged/Assessed	Nothing yet
Zimbodza	6	Pegged/Assessed	Built, roof level
Kaguta	7	Not yet pegged	Nothing yet
Kufa	9	Not yet pegged	Nothing yet
Bengwe	10	Pegged/Assessed	Nothing yet
Sidhinga	13	Not yet pegged	Nothing yet
Village 13	15	Not yet pegged	Nothing yet
Gwehava	19	Pegged/Assessed	Resource mobilisation
Nyaradza	19	Pegged/Assessed	Built, no staff houses, no borehole
Mateta 1	19	Pegged/Assessed	Resource mobilisation

Muchirinji	22	Pegged/Assessed	Nothing yet
Ngwenya	25	Pegged/assessed	Under construction
Ndavambi	25	Pegged/Assessed	Built, no staff houses
Mwambani	27	Pegged/Assessed	Built, no staff houses, no borehole
Chemowa	28	Pegged/Assessed	Nothing yet
Chidoma	28	Council motion	Nothing yet
Lukukwe	29	Pegged/Assessed	Built, no staff houses, no borehole
Ngondoma	30	Not yet pegged	Nothing yet
Mapiwa	30	Not yet pegged	Nothing
Mutodza	31	Not yet pegged	Nothing
Nyamacheni	33	Pegged/Assessed	Built, roof blown, no borehole
St Hills	1	Pegged/Assessed	Built, no borehole, no staff houses
Tachi	2	Pegged/Assessed	Under construction, slab level
Gadziramwanda	21	Pegged/Assessed	Under construction
Manyena			

8.4.2 Police Stations

The district has a shortage of police bases and as a result cases are not reported or attended to timeously. There is only one (1) established police station in GSRDC with cells for detainees and staff accommodation. The police bases are substandard, built with substandard material without Council approval since they are regarded as temporary bases. In areas such as Nyaje people have to travel approximately 60 km to the nearest Manoti police camp. Table 31 shows proposed police stations.

Table 31: Proposed Police Stations

Place	**Ward**
Huchu tank 3	7
Krima	25
Nyarupakwe	33
Tachi	2
Gomoguru	14

8.5 Dip Tanks

The infrastructure for dip tanks in the district is in bad state. Most of the district's dip tanks do not have roofs such as Lutope 1, 2 and 3 whilst others such as Nyaje are leaking and rely on indigenous untreated poles instead of conventional treated gum poles. Gukure dip tank sets an example of a desirable conventional dip tank with modern infrastructure and solar-powered borehole. Overall, dip tanks are maintained once per year. Figure 44 shows some of the district's dip tanks.

Figure 44: Some of the Diptanks in GSRDC

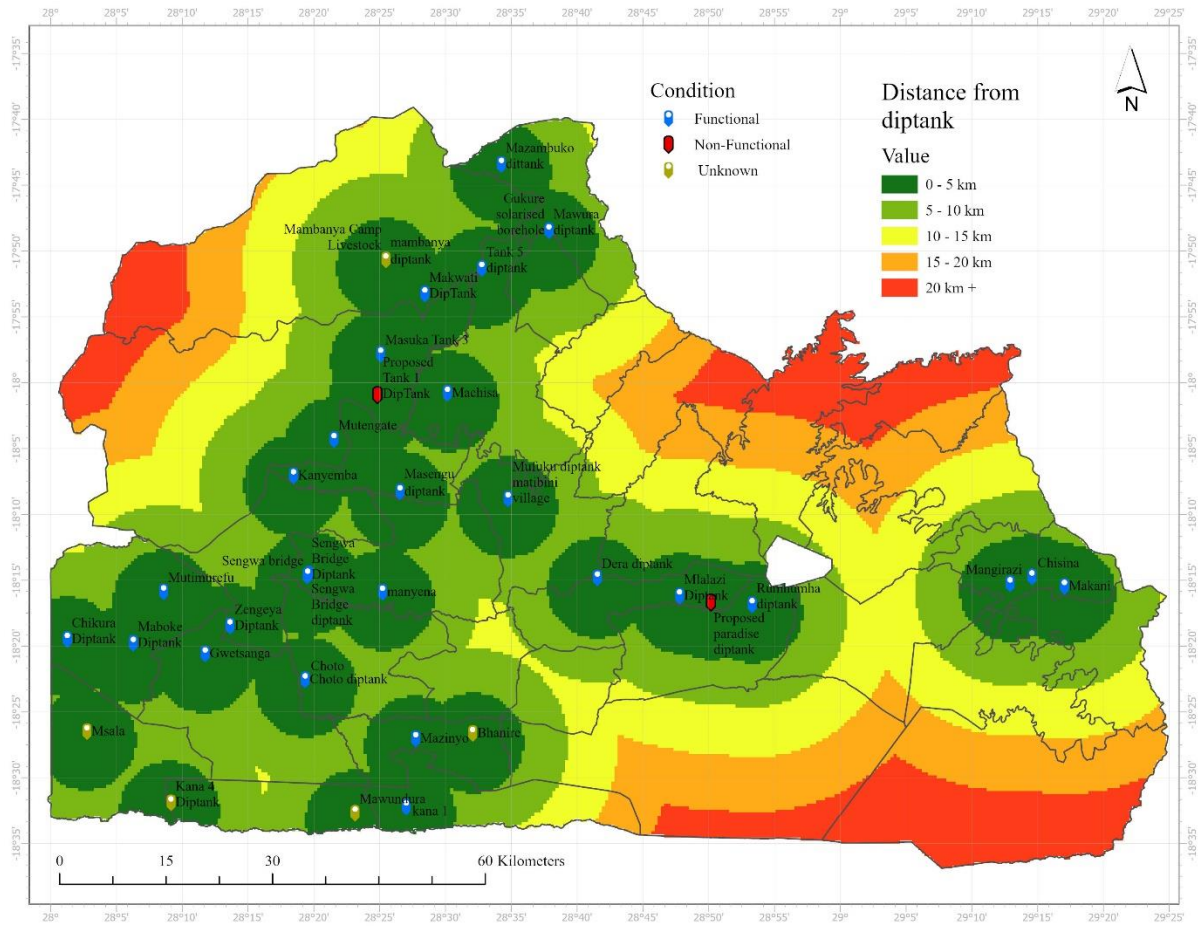

Figure 45: Diptanks with names in Gokwe South

8.6 Water Infrastructure

RIDA, Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) and GSRDC are responsible for excavation and maintenance of district boreholes, however, due to lack of district's budget and

funds, there are few boreholes that were drilled in the district. This has been worsened by boreholes and irrigation schemes which were pegged but are not yet drilled and kick-started respectively. Due to a lack of finance, the stick button was passed on to Village Development Committees to take over the operation, maintenance and financing of repairs and rehabilitation of the boreholes. The Village Development Committees faces a myriad of challenges as the committee is technically crippled and runs short of funds, thus the maintenances are not satisfactorily done and the conditions of the boreholes are getting worse year by year. The above scenario forces villagers in the district to dig private wells to get water from rivers such as Sengwa, Pokwe, and Lutope for domestic use, irrigation and livestock. Currently, Gokwe south district has 2 gazetted dams Mutange and Sengwa 2 and un-gazetted dams we have Sesame, Sikamba and Sengwa 1. Mutange dam has the largest capacity and the capacities are as follows (Table 32).

Table 32: Mutange and Sengwa Dams

Dam	Full Supply Capacity(Ml)	10% Yield (Ml)	
Mutange	5200	3360	
Sengwa 2	1820	667	1491

GSRD has very few irrigation schemes as a result of a limited number of medium to large-scale dams. The water supply within the district is mainly dependent on borehole systems, which are either bush pumps or solar-powered boreholes. These are either communal or those that feed the ZINWA's supply stations. The Rural Service Centres with reticulated water supply are Manoti, Bomba and Njelele. There is also Huchu water supply system which draws water from the Charama aquifer. The water system which is currently under repair has 9 tanks which supply wards 6 to 8. The reason for the repair is that water is not reaching tanks 5-9 and the communities around that area have untold suffering from water challenges and the shortage is worsened by the fact that there is only one functional borehole for the system and the pump is diesel driven.

The GSRDC have weir dams for the supply of water to livestock. Some of the weir dams have been washed away by flooding, some quickly dry up in summer, and this is triggered by persistent droughts which are experienced in the district. Many boreholes in the district are not functional and people rely on water from wells and rivers. Figure 46 shows the current status of boreholes in the various wards of the district.

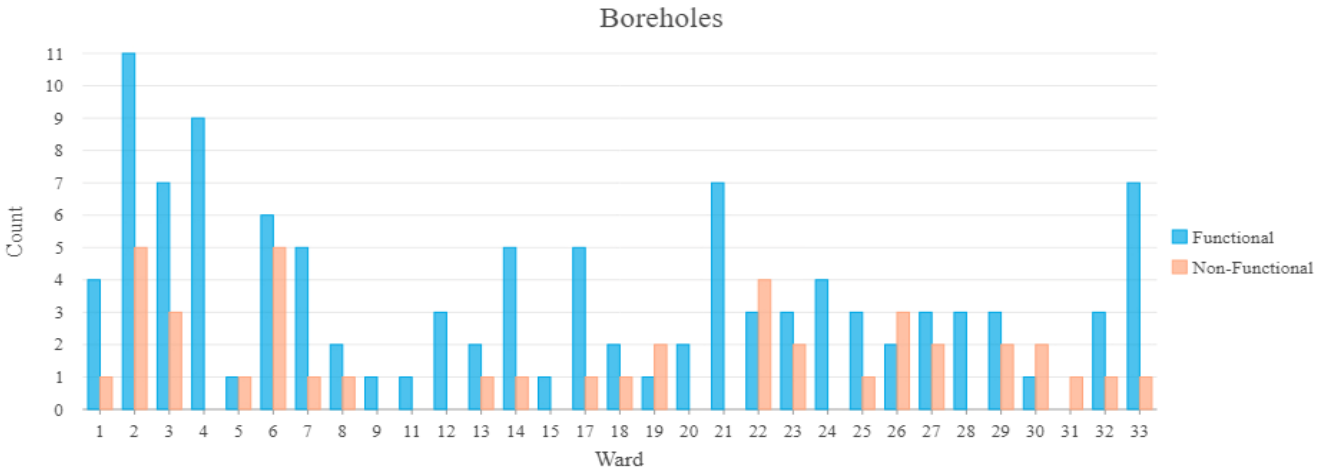

Figure 46: Status of boreholes in the various wards of the district

Figure 46 shows the community and institutional boreholes including rural service centres which were drilled in the district, some wards such as wards 2, 4,21 and 33 have more functional boreholes than other wards. The boreholes that are not functional are due to lack of borehole parts, damages to pipes and broken pumps. Of those that are functional, some face the problem of decreasing yield due to the draw down of the water table. The number of users per borehole is too high in relation to the water yield. Some villages do not have water sources at all and people have to walk long distances to access water. One borehole in ward 13 serves 17villages (Marumisa, Chiwara, Frankson, part of Manyika, Patrick Sibanda, Matare, Dhlana, Karara, Macloud, Majaji, Makwekwe and others). The water situation in GSRDC remains dear and is crippled mostly by budgetary constrains.

8.7 Energy

In the power sector, the deterioration of generation capabilities coupled with the degrading of the transmission and distribution network has resulted in unreliable power supplies and severe electricity shortages and GSRDC is not an exception. Electricity in the district is connected to some of the government institutions, Rural Service Centres and a few individuals who have money to pay for their own connections. However, few institutions are connected in the district with over 89% of the schools not electrified. Most people in the district use firewood for energy. Because of depleting forests, villagers travel long distances to access firewood or resort to buying. There is a plan to construct 132 KV substation at Machakata and also adjacent to it, there is a plan to establish a solar project which can improve the energy supply in the district.

8.8 Communication

Gokwe South district, when it comes to digital technology, has a poor information and communication technology infrastructure. The boosters which were installed in the district by network providers such as Econet, Netone and Telecel are outdated, and ride on low connectivity technologies 2G, and 3G. Weak mobile communication networks translate to a lack of internet connectivity. Some areas do not have connectivity at all such as Musala, Ngomeni and many parts of the district. This has a negative effect to the communities and in particular farmers, health centres and schools in terms of information sharing. A weak connectivity level means that even where gadgets and relevant expertise are available, learning can hardly take place. The multiplicity of the challenges has a negative effect on the capacity of learners from Gokwe to leverage ICTs for learning. On clinics, the donor community made a major stride in installing outdoor internet antennas for accessing the internet and most clinics have internet connections. However, some clinics such as Chemahororo and Mangidhi still have challenges with mobile network connectivity. At Chemahororo clinic health workers go to a small hill nearby for network connectivity if they want to make or receive mobile phone calls. This is a distracting factor as the health workers at those centres face challenges in communicating with the district hospital and the rest of the world. Figure 8.6, 8.7, and 8.8 shows network connectivity in GSRDC.

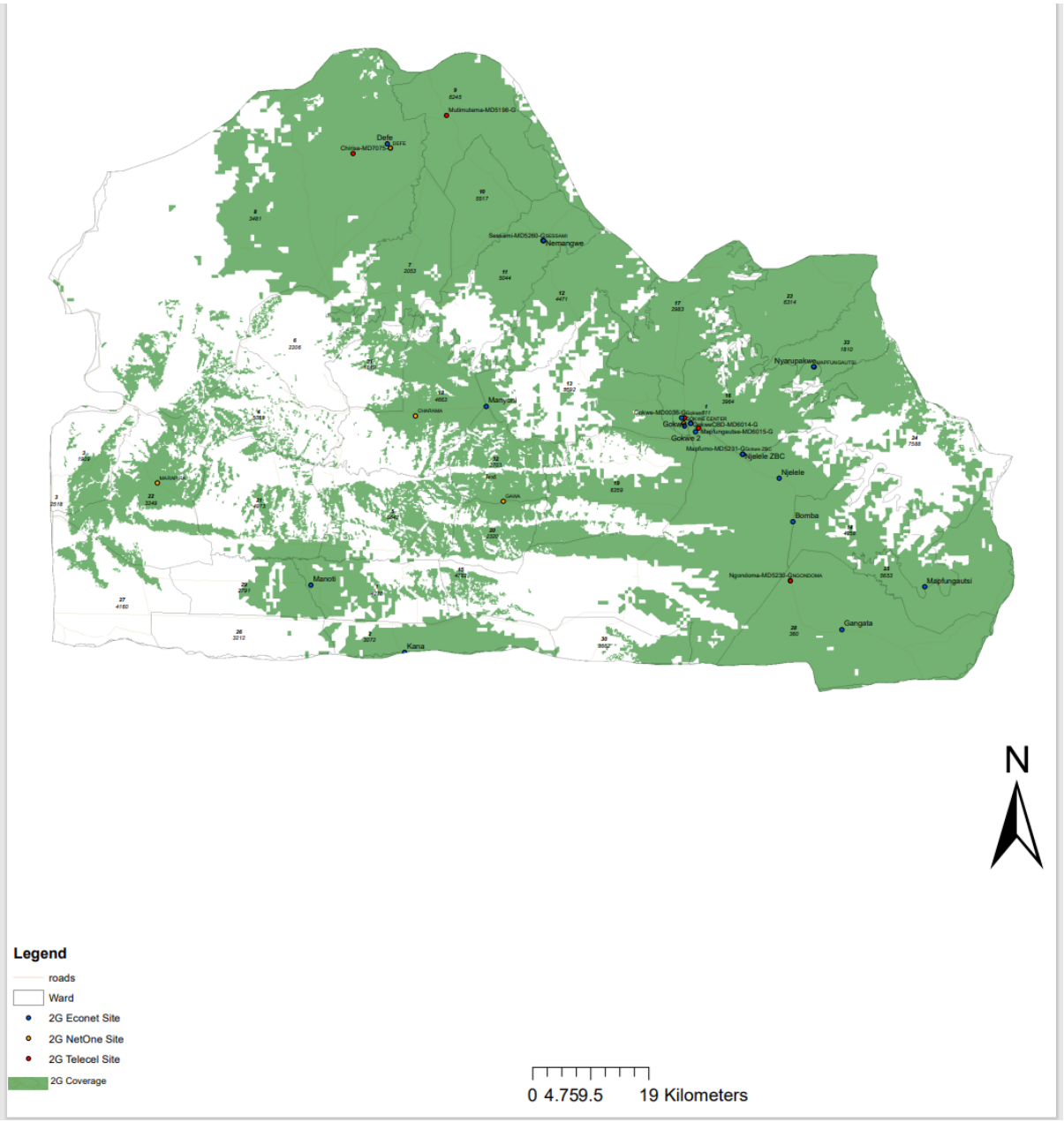

Figure 47: Gokwe South 2G Combined Coverage

Figure 48: Gokwe South LTE Coverage 2024

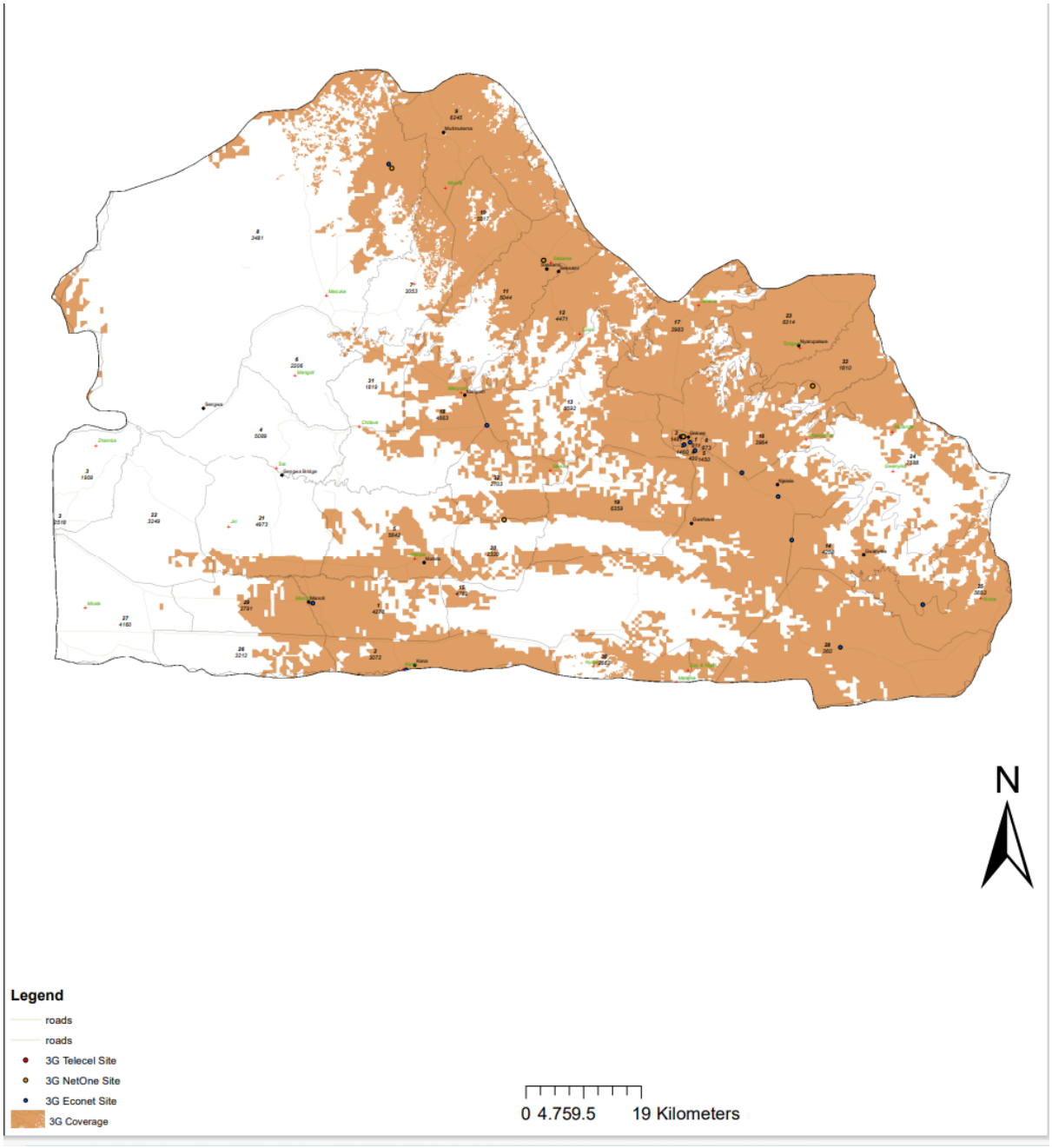

Figure 49: 3G Gokwe South Combined Coverage

8.8.1 Nework Defined

2G, 3G, 4G, and 4G LTE are different generations of mobile telecommunications technology. Each generation represents a significant advancement in mobile communication technology, with a focus on faster data transfer, improved voice quality, and enhanced multimedia capabilities.2G, or second generation, refers to the early days of mobile technology when phones were primarily used for voice calls and text messages. 2G networks use a technology called Global System for Mobile Communications (GSMC). 3G, or third generation,

introduced faster data speeds and allowed for mobile internet access and video calls. 3G networks use technologies such as Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) and Wideband Code Division Multiple Access (WCDMA). 4G, or fourth generation, further increased data speeds and enabled new features such as high-definition video streaming and mobile gaming. 4G networks use a technology called Long-Term Evolution (LTE). 4G LTE, or Long-Term Evolution, is a standard for wireless communication of high-speed data for mobile phones and data terminals. It is based on the GSM/EDGE and UMTS/HSPA network technologies, increasing the capacity and speed using a different radio interface together with core network improvements.

8.9 Transport

GSRDC has some of the worst roads in the country. The mode of transport used by most patients is donkey-drawn scotch carts. Most of the roads are gravel and not tarred. The gravel roads lack proper maintenance and are not trafficable. This makes travelling within and outside the district difficult. Transport operators are less interested in operating in Gokwe South because of the bad state of the roads and as a result transport fares are high relative to other areas. Poor road network is causing much suffering to people in Kana, Mbungu and Ndandulo in Gokwe South as no buses are plying these routes. Figure 50 shows GSRDC Roads.

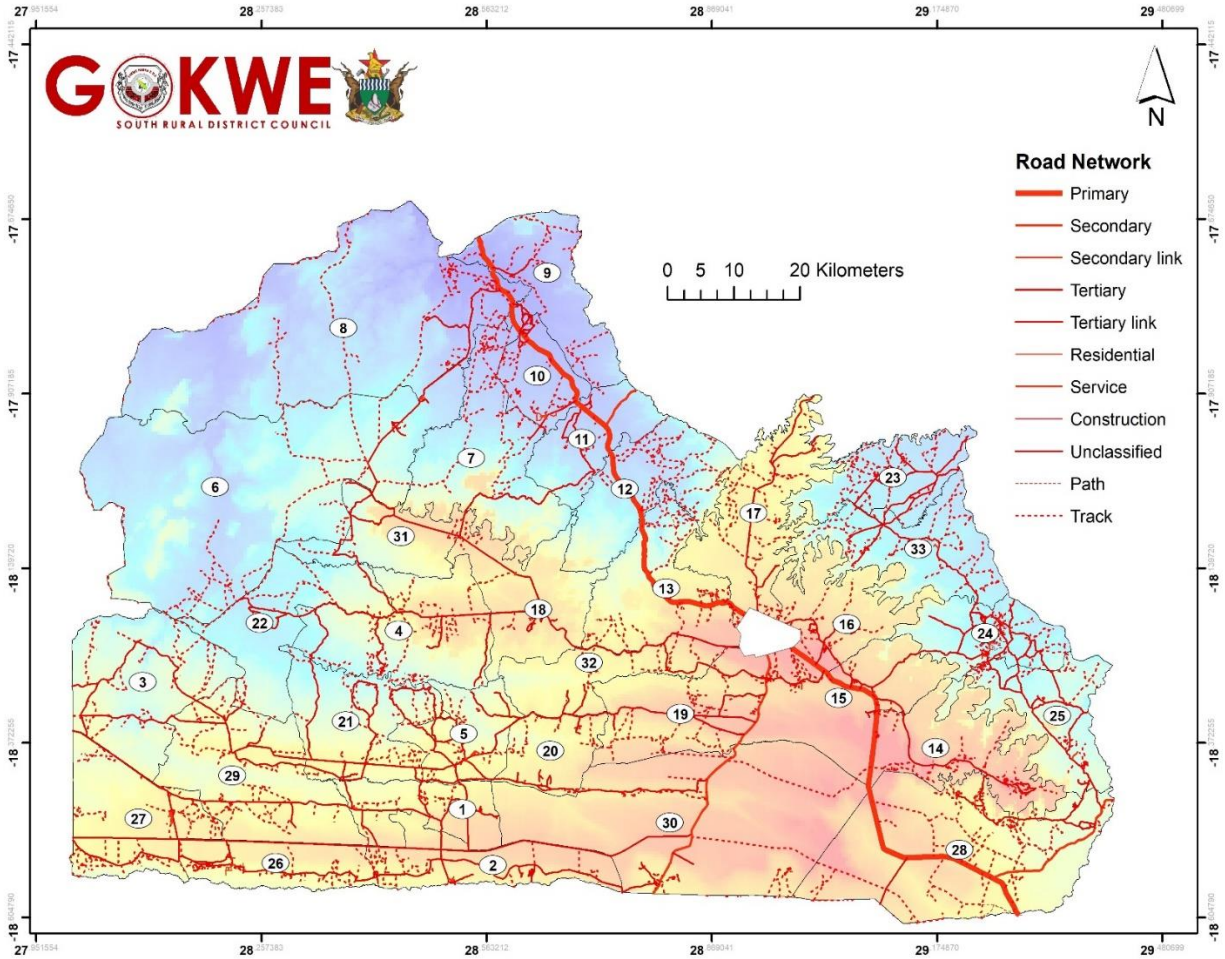

Figure 50: GSRDC Roads

8.10 Sanitation

The GRDC is responsible for pollution control and good sanitation in the district, this entails ensuring the environment is clean especially on public places such as District service Centres and Rural Service Centres. According to the Solid Waste Disposal Regulation of 2007 read in conjuction with Section 61 of the RDC Act Chapter 29:13, the RDCs and the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) is encouraged to work in a group like environmental sub-committee set up at ward level. The committee's task is to disseminate information on pollution control and enhancing sanitation at district level yet the two institutions seem uncoordinated in their activities. There is poor/no water supply and no sanitation services rendered at these centres by the Council. On cleaning and refuse collection, the district relies on the presidential decree which sets the 1st Friday of every month as a cleaning day. In adherence to the decree, any centre in the district is chosen as a point of the clean-up. Many schools in Gokwe South lack the necessary physical resources and basic infrastructure necessary good for sanitation. Some schools in the district such as Kaguta-Chematendera Primary, Kapfunde Primary,

Ngomeni Primary and Secondary, Katsunga Secondary, etc do not have sources of potable water as a result hygiene conditions at most schools are despicable. Toilets used by pupils seldom get cleaned due to lack of water exposing children to high risk of contracting cholera, diarrhoea, bilharzia and typhoid. However, there has been significant progress with more boreholes being sunk in the district through the presidential borehole scheme and the work of NGOs. Some boreholes are solarized but they are not sufficient to cater for the rising population growth. Projects inclusive of Manyena and Patsikadova water points in Ward 4, Paradza Water point in Ward 21, Choto water points and Cheza have solarised boreholes.

Most people in the district use Blair toilets and on the assessment done by Mhazo and Maponga (2022), one village was assessed on the 26th of October for certification as open defecation (ODF) and it passed. However, Gokwe South RDC still have high ODF due to certain cultural practices and beliefs hence increasing the risk of open faecal content-related diseases. For instance, the Shangwe people believe that a daughter-in-law cannot use the same ablution facilities as the father-in-law. Culturally, this is a taboo and the parties will opt for open defecation in the bushes.

8.11 Schools

The lack of proper educational infrastructure such as classrooms and teacher accommodation, is a norm in GSRDC. It reduces the quality of learning in schools and most importantly the motivation for pupils to excel. Council records show that all 123 primary schools and 43 secondary schools have inadequate accommodation for teachers as depicted in Annexure 1. In some secondary schools such as Chidoma, Gukure and Machakata teachers as many as 3 share 1 house with a common kitchen and different bedrooms or rent in nearby villages and this contributes to low teacher motivation. The study shows that schools require major physical infrastructure replacements and repairs eg replacement of roofs, windows, doors, painting, new floors, and ablution facilities. As a result of poor infrastructure, students drop out and teachers are frustrated to the point of seeking greener pastures outside the district. Figure 8.10 shows the type of infrastructure for classroom blocks and staff houses for teachers in Gokwe. Infrastructure must be disability friendly e.g. pathways should be widened to accommodate wheelchairs and ramps to be constructed on classrooms and it is now a policy of the Ministry that all new infrastructural projects should take that into consideration.

Figure 51: Type of infrastructure for classroom blocks at Zambezi and staff houses for teachers in Gokwe

8.12 Recreation and Sporting Facilities

RDCs are mandated to provide recreation and sporting facilities, such as tennis courts, golf courses, football pitches, netball pitches and swimming pools for the communities, especially at District Service Centres as well as Rural Service Centres. The study shows the lack of these facilities in communal areas of the district. Communities use district open spaces to create substandard informal grounds which they use for recreation. The only recreational centre in the district is the community hall which is now dilapidated. Figure 8.11 shows the community hall at Manoti DSC.

Figure 52: Dilapidated Manoti Community Hall

CHAPTER 9: ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

This chapter seeks to discuss management framework of GRDC. It looks at the institutional structures and the finances of Council and how these factors affected the development process.

9.1 GOVERNANCE.

Post – Independence, several reforms have taken place in the system of Local Government in Zimbabwe as one of the post-independence objectives has been to redress the disparities in economic development created by the previous system hence democratization of the whole local government system has been a key issue to strengthen participation by the lower tiers in decision making. Local authorities operate through the Committee structure and is composed of elected Councillors who are accountable to their electorate. Alongside but not independent of local government structures including Ward Development Committees (WADCO) that are the structures of traditional leadership.

9.2 ADMINISTRATION STRUCTURES OF COUNCIL.

The functions of an organization determine its organizational structure and the administrative structure of GSRDC that is the legislative and executive structures are moulded based on the statutory or permissive functions that the Council performs. The structure also reflects a parallel set up that is the Councillor's side and the executive side but despite this, neither can operate without the other. The structure has undergone several reforms in the past years to ensure that it takes into account the integrated approach that is being advocated for in rural development.

9.3 COMMITTEE STRUCTURE OF COUNCIL.

Local authorities have committees meant for specific purposes or tasks. These must be constituted and regulated in the manner prescribed by the Act under which each is required to be set up. These statutory/mandatory committees are different from discretionary/permissive committees such which Councils can elect to set up through their general enabling power.

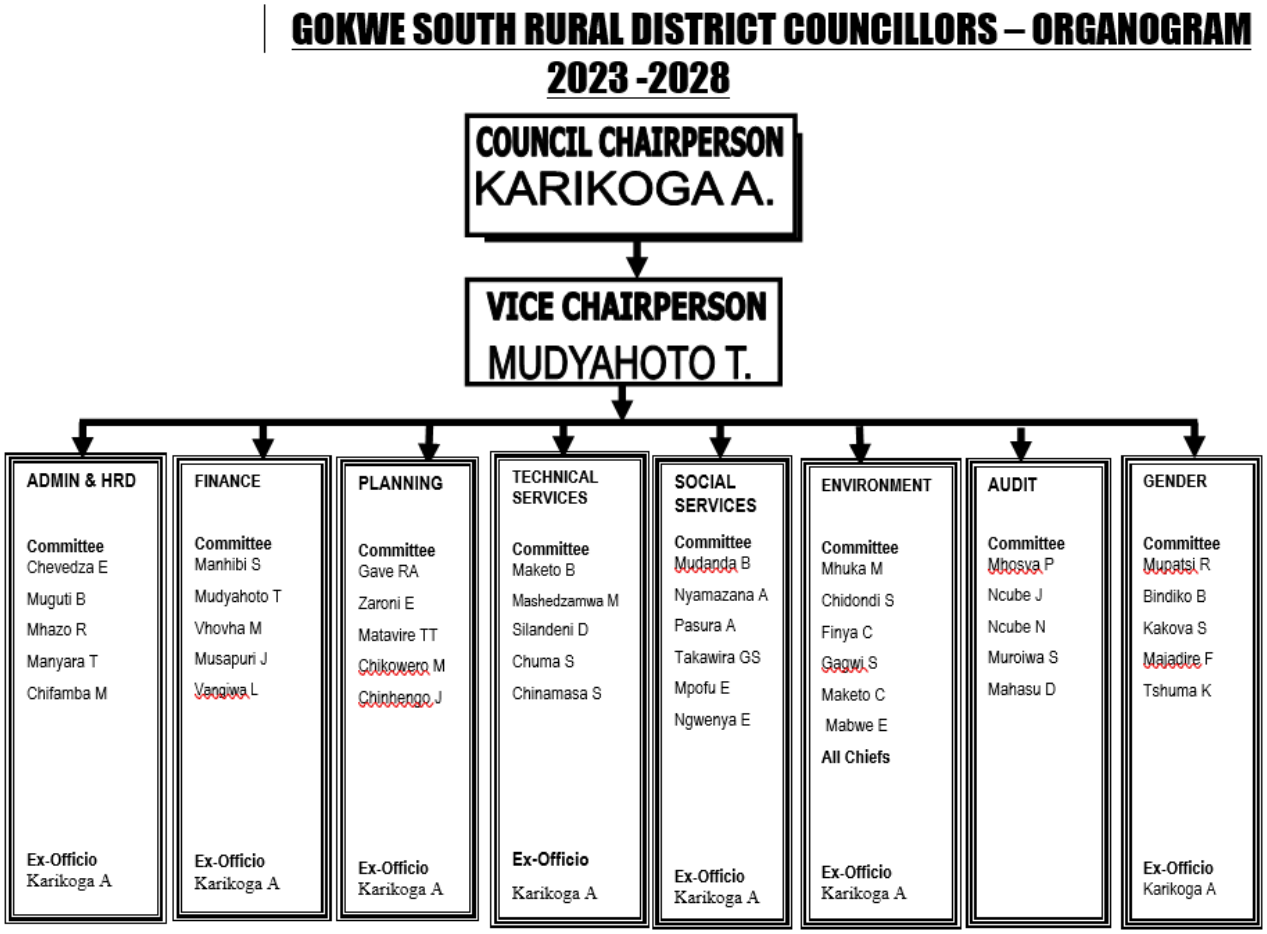

Figure 53: Gokwe South RDC Organogram

Part VIII of the Rural District Council Act Chapter 29:13 specifies that every Council shall appoint committees. GSRDC has the following committees.

- Administration and Human Resources
- Finance
- Planning
- Technical services
- Social services
- Environment
- Audit
- Gender

Recommendations by these Committees are forwarded to Council and adopted as Council resolutions.

9.3.1 RDDC COMMITTEE

This is mainly composed of technocrats and acts as the technical arm of Council with special responsibility to consider development plans submitted to Council and make recommendations to Council as to matters to be included in the short, medium and long term plans of Council. These incorporate all stakeholders that are in the districts including Government Departments, agencies and the Local Authority.

9.3.2 WARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

At grassroot level, development issues emanate from Village (VIDCO), WADCO to Ward Assembly. Identification of projects and the listing of projects that require attention comes from the villages and the ward Councillor forwards these projects to Council through a motion paper.

9.4. MONITORING OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES BY COUNCILLORS.

The ultimate responsibility of decision-making lies with the Councillors, the democratically elected representatives of the people of Gokwe South District. Each Councillor is responsible for villages that forms a Ward and there are variances in population sizes between Wards due to geographical factors. Some Wards have very large geographical areas and this can impact negatively with regards to effective communication between the Councillors and their electorates.

The RDDC mainly holds four meetings a year. Major matters of policy are the responsibility of the Full Council which may also question the recommendations of

Committees but much of the detailed work is dealt with by the Committees who deal with specific services or resources. Every department of Council is answerable to one of the Committees and as such Councillors in their Committees receive report backs from officers on Council's activities i.e., implementation of policy etc.

Decisions are taken by the committees, but members are advised by senior official in the relevant departments and the day-to-day work of the Council is carried out by Council staff.

9.5. EXECUTIVE STRUCTURES OF COUNCIL

The Council has a myriad of functions to perform albeit under certain controls. As a creature of Central Government, the relationship between the two is one of principal and delegate. Nevertheless, the population of GSRDC has seen Local Authorities having more power and responsibilities. Council departments are coordinated by the CEO who is the Council's Chief Legal Advisor and Head of the executive team. All communication comes through the CEO.

The Departments are as follows: -Put Organogram

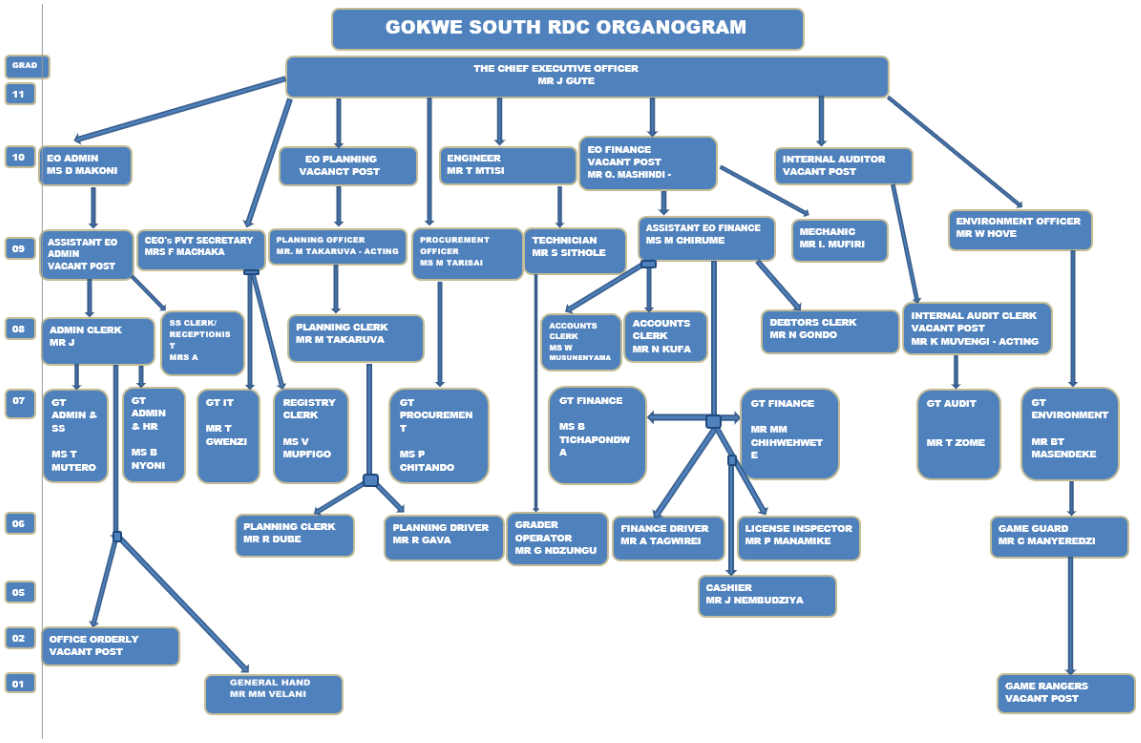

Figure 54: Gokwe South RDC Departments

9.6. NETWORKING

Coordination between Council and other Ministries /Departments NGOs and the private sector is of paramount importance if the district is to achieve its developmental objectives. It is apparent that this coordination is achieved through the RDDC and its sub-Committees as previously indicated. At district level, the DDC is the Chairperson of the RDDC, coordinates development activities at district level, the Local Authority and the DDC have influence but no control over heads of ministries or departments who will remain responsible and accountable to their respective ministries and provincial heads. The result is that meetings can be poorly attended, information requested may not be submitted and assistance with regards to technical know-how may not be rendered due to differences in priorities. The continuation by each department or development agency therefore depends on the intensity of its preference to a particular project/program. The same problem replicates itself at the lower tiers i.e. ward and village.

9.7: IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY.

Whilst the issue of finance, that is limited financial resources in both local revenue or central government grants may be the major factor encumbering the district's capacity in terms of service delivery. It is also noticeable that the human resources gap is also a contributing factor.

The above issue has therefore to be urgently addressed if the local authority has to deliver its service efficiently and effectively.

9.8: STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

GSRDC uses the following statutory instruments in the day to day running of the Local Authority:

- Constitution of Zimbabwe 2013
- Rural District Councils Act Chapter 29:13
- Regional Town and Country Planning Act Chapter 29:12
- Environmental Management Act Chapter 20:27
- Roads Act Chapter 13:18
- Traditional Leaders Act Chapter 29:17
- Mines and Minerals Act Chapter 21:05
- GRDC has 40 by-laws
- There are Council resolution books for reference purposes

Budget consultations are undertaken every year prior to the approval of the Budget by the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works.

9.9.1: ADMINISTRATION ISSUES

- The managerial and technical skills gap in the executive structure of Council.
- There is need for capacity building in all critical areas for the Local Authority to deliver its services efficiently and effectively.
- Attitudinal change in all actors in the development process need to take cognizance of the changing environment in which they operate.
- Another area in that has a manpower deficit is the field of engineering and planning as evidenced by vacant key posts of the Engineer and District Planner
- Capacity gaps, Staff and Councillors are not capacitated enough to deliver as per the expectations.

9.9.2 Financial streams for the Master Plan

THE FINANCE FUNCTION

This function is very important in measuring the financial performance of the local authority and it must be adequately staffed with skilled personnel. Finance is the pillar of every local authority; hence it is a critical factor in the debate for local government reform. The internal audit function is also crucial in making sure that there are checks and balances on financial transactions and operations.

It is usually noticed that financial resources are not adequate to meet the needs of our local authority and most instances recurring expenditure is greater that capital expenditure. With the rising in district population there is pressure on existing infrastructure and social amenities. Modern day accounting and billing systems can be used by Gokwe South Rural District council for budgeting, billing and managing client account accounts in an efficient way. Annual budgets must be revised especially in an inflationary environment. Our currency, the ZWL was highly exposed to inflationary and foreign exchanges pressures making it difficult for the council to sustain its budgetary requirements.

The current revenue streams for the council are:

a) Grants from International Organisations e.g Unicef WASH Grant
b) Transfers from Government e.g Devolution
c) Sales, e.g Ivory Socks, Gravel

d) Fees

e) Licences and Permits

f) Taxes and Levies

g) Penalties and fines

We have reviewed the income and expenditure report for the year ended 31 December 2023.

GOKWE SOUTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Budget Allocation Amount	Actual Amount	Balance Amount	%ntage Attained
INCOME CLASSIFICATION				
MONIES APPROPIATED BY PARLIAMENT	2,935,632,200	1,253,300,990	1,682,331,210	43%
TAXES	1,014,453,300	1,205,086,281	- 190,632,981	119%
USER/SERVICE CHARGES	1,434,990,900	1,314,059,172	120,931,728	92%
INTEREST ON MONIES INVESTED BY COUNCIL	33,073,110	271,097	32,802,013	1%
INCOME FROM IGP'S (Income Generating Projects)	-	-	-	
INCOME RECEIVED FROM PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACTIVITIES	21,805,000	-	21,805,000	0%
INCOME FROM NATURAL RESOURCES (Communal Land)	-	-	-	
OTHER INCOME (Note Listed Elsewhere Above)	236,827,500	101,332,087	135,495,413	43%
OTHER FINANCING	-	399,735	- 399,735	
	5,676,782,010	**3,874,449,362**	**1,802,332,648**	
EXPENDITURE CLASSIFICATION				
CURRENT EXPENDITURE	1,938,347,999	2,710,415,369	- 772,067,370	140%
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	3,738,296,800	691,043,140	3,047,253,661	18%
	5,676,644,799	**3,401,458,509**	**2,275,186,290**	
SURPLUS	**137,211**	**472,990,853**		

Figure 55: GSRDC Income and Expenditure for year ended 31 December 2023

The income and expenditure report above extracted from the Gokwe 2023 Financials shows that service charges and taxes are the major local revenue contributors for the year 2023. However, the budget amounts from central government were not remitted as per council's plans. Negative variances on budgeted income have a serious bearing on services delivery. Of the total amount that was expected to be received from government only 43% was transferred to council during financial year 2023. During the same year the council did not budget any inflows from income generating projects and nothing was actually received for period.

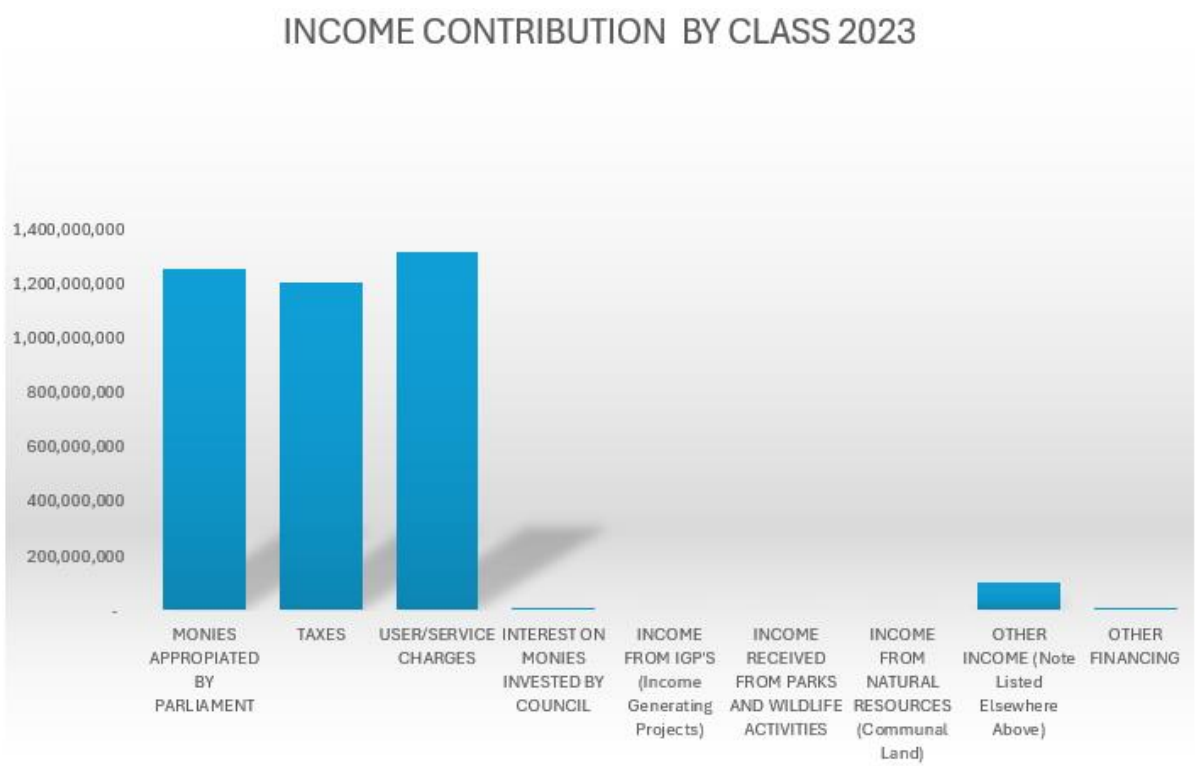

Figure 56: Income Contribution by class 2023

From the 2023 budget it is very clear that the Gokwe South RDC planned to receive 52% of its income from the central government. However, in terms of actuals the council generated 68% of the receipts for year. There are no loans budgeted for and there were no loans that were received during the period under review. Loans are known to be used, world over, for local authorities' capital projects and they go a long way in financing infrastructural development. The council managed to surpass its budget in terms of taxes for the same period.

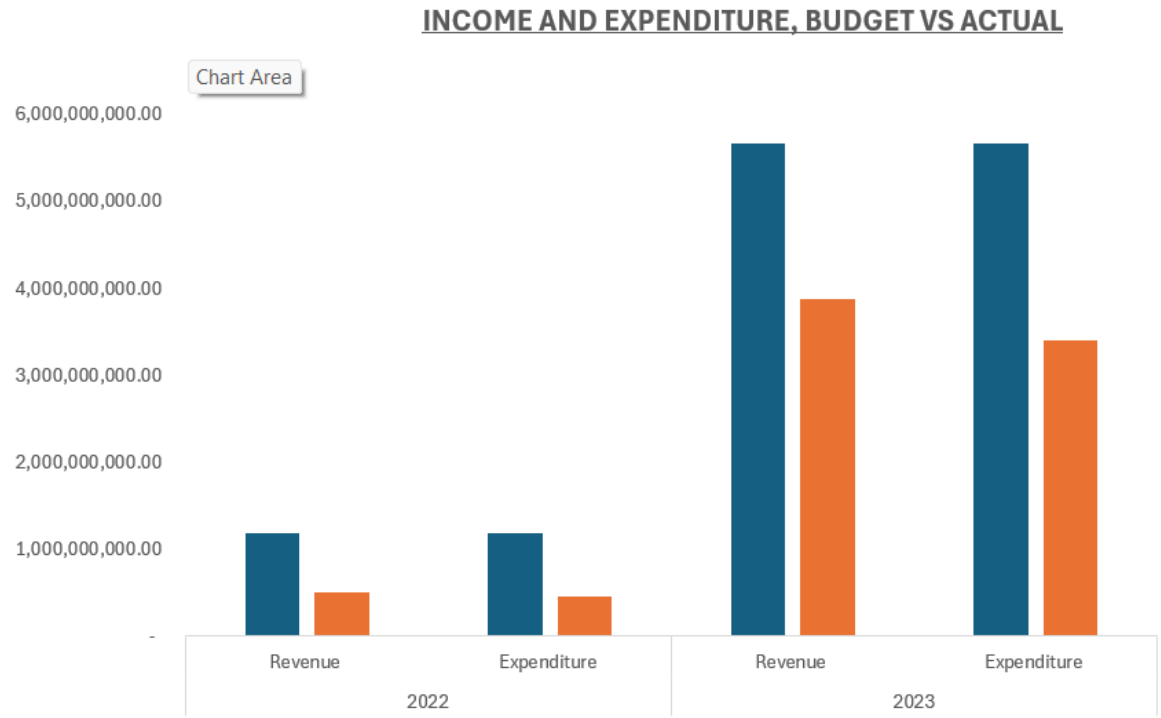

Figure 57: Income and expenditure, budget vs actual

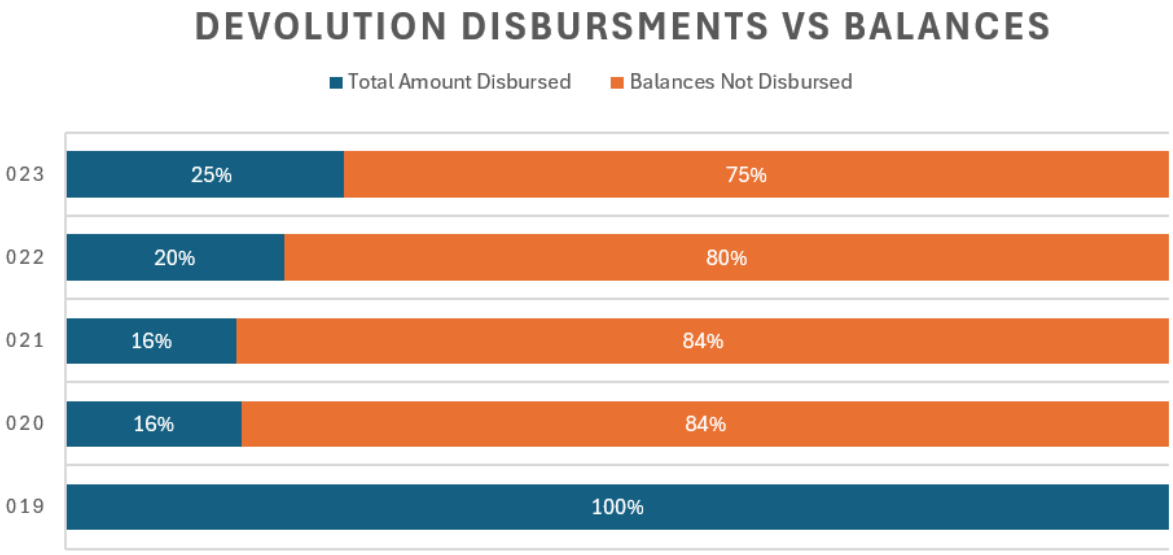

Figure 58: Devolution Disbursements vs balances

Above is a graph which shows the amount disbursed against balances on devolution funds from the central government for the year 2024. If disbursed amounts reach 50% of that will go long way on financing capital projects for the council.

In terms of expenditure, recurring expenditure (at 80%) was far much bigger than capital expenditure which consumed 20% of the total budget. Usually the financing gap is closed by

funds from other development agencies like NGO whether on recurrent or capital expenditure side

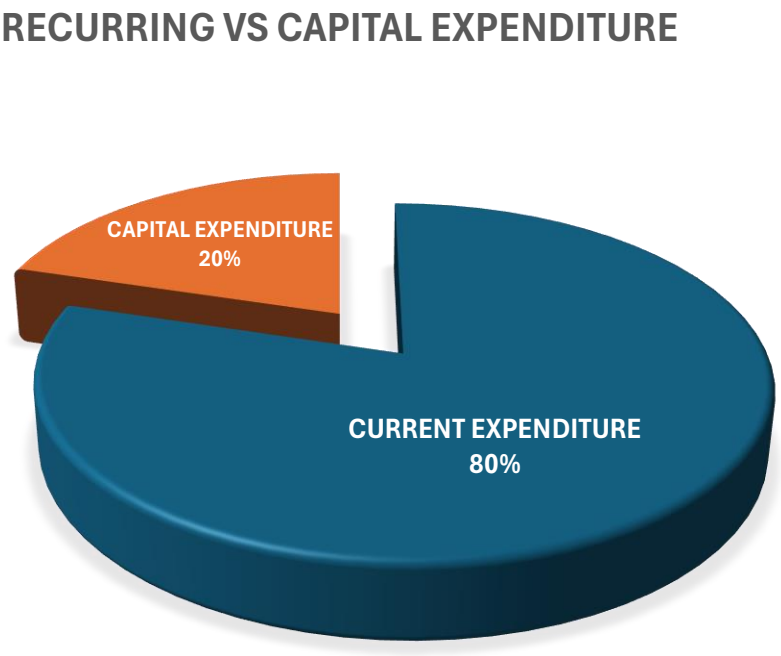

Figure 59: Recurring vs Capital Expenditure

REFERENCES

Anderson I. P., P.J. Brinn, M. Moyo and B Nyamwanza. (1993). Physical Resource Inventory of the Communal Lands of Zimbabwe – An Overview, NRI Bulletin 60. Chatham, U.K: Natural Resources Institute.

Bliss. N. W (1961). Topography compiled by the Department of Surveyor-General, Salisbury.

DWD, Borehole Completion Reports and Maps

Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW), 2010. Guidebook for Evaluating Exploration Project EIAs. Eugene OR 97403, United States of America

Feresu S.B. (ed.) 2010. Zimbabwe Environment Outlook: Our Environment, Everybody's Responsibility. Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Management, Harare, Zimbabwe.

Fiorentino S, Glasmeier AK, Lobaoc L, Martin R, Tyler P, 2024. 'Left behind places': what are they and why do they matter? Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society 17: 1-16

Government of Zimbabwe, 2023. The National Forest Policy. Harare: Harare: Government of Zimbabwe

Government of Zimbabwe, 2020. Zimbabwe National Human Settlement Policy. Harare: Government of Zimbabwe

Government of Zimbabwe, 2019. National Renewable EEnergy Policy. Harare: Government of Zimbabwe.

Government of Zimbabwe, 2018. "VISION 2030: Towards A Prosperous & Empowered Upper Middle Income Society by 2030". Harare: Government of Zimbabwe.

Government of Zimbabwe, 2016. Zimbabwe Climate Policy. Harare: Government of Zimbabwe

Government of Zimbabwe, 2009. National Environmental Policy and Strategies. Harare: Government of Zimbabwe. Hoare R.E., E.F. Robertson and K.M. Dunham. (2002). Structure and condition of Zambezi Valley Dry Forests and Thickets. Zambezi Society.

Interconsult A/S, (1985), National Water Master Plan for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation, Hydrogeology Vol. 2

Mazvimavi D, Madamombe, E and Makuririra H. (2007). Assessment of environmental flow requirements for river basin planning in Zimbabwe. Journal: Physics and Chemistry of the Earth (32) Pg. 995-1006

Mhazo, A.T and Maponga, C.C, The political economy of health financing reforms in Zimbabwe: a scoping review, International Journal of Equity in Health, 2022, Volume 21, Issue 42.

Murwira A. (PhD) and K. S. Schmidt-Murwira (PhD), (2005). GIS and Remote Sensing based Flood Warning System for Muzarabani: Zambezi Catchment Manual.

ALIMOS MUSHUKU, BERNARD CHAZOVACHII, LEORNARD CHITONGO AND TENDAI P MAMHOVA THE DELIVERY OF SOCIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURAL SERVICES BY RURAL DISTICT COUNCILS: IN SEARCH OF CHALLENGES FACING CHIVI RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL, ZIMBABWE International Journal of Politics and Good Governance Volume 3, No. 3.2 Quarter II 2012

National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe, Guidelines for Planning Authorities and Developers.

Nyamapfene K, (1991), Soils of Zimbabwe

Stagman J. G, (1978), An Outline of the Geology of Rhodesia, Geological Survey Bulletin No. 80

Partridge MD, Pérez-Silva R, Schreiner S, 2020. Employment and wages in the places left behind. In JE Glick, SM McHale, V King (Eds.), Rural families and communities in the United States(pp. 47–85). Springer.

Pike A, Béal V, Cauchi-Duval N, Franklin R, Kinossian N, Lang T, Leibert T, MacKinnon D, Rousseau M, Royer J, Servillo L, Tomaney J, Velthuis S, 2023. 'Left behind places': a geographical etymology. Regional Studies. Doi: https://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2023.2167972

Timberlake J. (2000). Biodiversity of the Zambezi Basin. Biodivesity Foundation for Africa, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

Worst B. G, (1960), The Great Dyke of Southern Rhodesia, Geological Survey Bulletin No. 47

World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). www.wmo.int

ANNEXTURE 1: ZINARA FUNDED ROAD REGRAVELLING 2024

PROVINCE	DISTRICT	ROAD NAME	SCOPE OF WORK	LENGTH (KM)	ESTIMATED COST (ZWL$)
Manicaland	Makoni	Gowa Kowa - Village 50 West	Road regravelling	10	1,740,000,000
Mash. Central	Shamva	Rusununguko	Road regravelling	10	1,740,000,000
Mash. East	UMP	Sowa – Nyakarowa-Mutata	Road regravelling	10	1,740,000,000
	Chikomba	Range – Masasa - Maunga	Road regravelling	10	1,740,000,000
Mash. West	Makonde	Tsununu	Road regravelling	10	1,740,000,000
	Makonde	Mapfungwe - Kenzamba	Road regravelling	10	1,740,000,000
Masvingo	Masvingo	Rupike - Nyikavanhu	Regravelling	10	1,740,000,000
	Chivi	Chasiyatende - Runesu	Road regravelling	10	1,740,000,000
Mat. North	Lupane	Somgolo	Road regravelling	10	1,740,000,000
Mat. South	Bulilima	Chief -Masendu-Gonde-Matiwaza	Road regravelling	10	1,740,000,000
	Beitbridge	Lutumba-Tongwe-Byo main	Road regravelling	10	1,740,000,000
Midlands	Gokwe North	Chimbandi - Chireya	Road regravelling	10	1,740,000,000
		Nenyunga - Simuchembo	Road regravelling	10	1,740,000,000
Total				**130**	**22,620,000,000.00**

ANNEXTURE 2: BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

PROVINCE	DISTRICT	BRIDGE NAME	ESTIMATED COST (ZWL$)
Manicaland	Buhera	Nyadi	385,000,000.00
Mash. Central	Mbire	Mwazamutanda	327,000,000.00
Mash. East	Mudzi	Kambanje	6,798,000,000.00
Mash. West	Hurungwe	Susuji	265,000,000.00
Masvingo	Mwenezi	Makugwe	625,000,000.00
Mat. South	Beitbridge	Siyoka	2,906,000,000.00
Midlands	Mberengwa	Nyautongwe	445,000,000.00
	Gokwe South	Lukugwe	387,000,000.00
Total		**8 bridges**	**12,138,000,000.00**

ANNEXTURE 3: ROAD REGRAVELLING / PERIODIC MAINTENANCE

PROVINCE	DISTRICT	ROAD NAME	SCOPE OF WORK	LENGTH (KM)	ESTIMATED COST (ZW$)
Masvingo	Chiredzi	Makambe - Matihwa	Road regravelling	12	312,000,000
		Pahklela - Dhavhata	Road regravelling	10	260,000,000
	Gutu	Chimombe - Manjokonjo	Road regravelling	10	260,000,000
	Mwenezi	Furidzi - Mboyi	Road regravelling	10	260,000,000
Mata. North	Binga	Lubimbi-Nswazi	Road regravelling	10	260,000,000
	Hwange	Mbizha-Jambezi	Road regravelling	18	468,000,000
	Lupane	Daluka-Lake Alice	Road regravelling	15	390,000,000
	Tsholotsho	Lubizi - Salankomo	Road regravelling	10	260,000,000
Mat. South	Insiza	Filabusi-Mbondo-Avoca	Road regravelling	15	390,000,000
	Mangwe	Macingwane-Empandeni	Road regravelling	9	234,000,000
	Matobo	Kezi-Mbembeswana-Marinoha	Road regravelling	10	260,000,000
	Matobo	Matankeni-Tudi 2	Road regravelling	15	390,000,000
Midlands	Gokwe North	Tiki - Nyamhara	Road regravelling	10	260,000,000
	Gokwe South	Gwehava - Sai - Choto	Road regravelling	10	234,000,000

	Gweru	Chinamasa - Gambiza	Road regravelling	9	202,600,000
	Mberengwa	Vutsanana- Ingezi	Road regravelling	10	260,000,000
	Total			**310**	**8,242,600,000**

ANNEXTURE 4: BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION - PSIP BUDGET : 2024

PROVINC E	DISTRICT	BRIDGE NAME	ESTIMATED COST (ZW$)
Manicaland	Buhera	Chadzire	400,000,000.00
	Chipinge	Gombati	150,000,000.00
Mash. Central	Muzarabani	Msingwa	200,000,000.00
Mash. East	Mutoko	Nyamuzizi	500,000,000.00
Mash. West	Hurungwe	Piriwiri	450,000,000.00
Masvingo	Bikita	Lower Musaizi	300,000,000.00
Mat. North	Bubi	Upper Mbembesi	300,000,000.00
Mat. South	Matobo	Simukwe	450,000,000.00
Midlands	Mberengwa	Murongwe	350,000,000.00
TOTAL			**3,100,000,000.00**