

CSO Comments on FP072 UNDP Zambia (BM19, March 2018)

Strengthening climate resilience of agricultural livelihoods in Agro-Ecological Regions I and II in Zambia

We recognize that the proposed resilience project has a good design approach that builds up on already proven initiatives and scales them up with the ambition to strengthen agricultural livelihoods.

We strongly support the space that the project creates for engagement of private sector in further taking forward actions noting that scaling up of adaptation activities relies on this kind of engagement.

Despite that the project demonstrates good country ownership by being anchored on various country strategies and policies, the high government of Zambia co-financing showing commitment by the government as well as presence of stakeholder consultations, we are greatly concerned that the extent of this consultations largely left out indigenous communities in the 16 districts where the project will be implemented, an issue that proposal is silent about despite the intention to integrate indigenous knowledge.

We are therefore opposed to the Secretariats assessment that agrees with what UNDP communicates on non-existence of indigenous people. We have received different communication from civil society in the country that communicates presence of indigenous people in the areas of project implementation whose needs need to be considered in project implementation.

We are further concerned that the project does not deliberately strengthen and encourage the participation of local CSOs in the implementation of the project. Local CSOs can provide a sustainable local partner in the development agenda of the country. I.e Local communities can be involved in the design of tailor made information products through provision of options on what would suite them

We acknowledge the good sequencing of the various components but are greatly convinced that there is need to Strengthen Component 2 by committing to increased efforts towards community-based and centric learning activities and knowledge management to enhance stakeholder engagement in this component.

The project indicates use of crops such as paddies in areas suffering from low rainfall and much aggravated evapotranspirative losses. This will definitely have adverse effects that could be irreversible on the scarce water resources therefore a production system that will not be safeguarding the environment will not be sustainable. We therefore recommend consideration of this activity.