

**APIMONDIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
FOR AFRICA**



CYCLONE IDAI REPORT

ZIMBABWE ASSESSMENT



1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report was compiled for purposes of providing information on the effect of Cyclone Idai on Beekeeping Initiatives in Zimbabwe after the Apimondia Regional Commission for Africa President formally communicated with Apimondia on the natural disaster that occurred in the African Region in accordance with the Regional Commission Mandate / Responsibilities – “Analyzing the needs of the local beekeeping communities and coordinating the relief actions in case of natural or human disasters”.

This report is intended to be circulated to:

- Apimondia;
- Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Climate and Rural Resettlements;
- Manicaland Provincial Government;
- Fambidzanai / CELUCT

2. INTRODUCTION

Apimondia, the International Federation of Beekeepers’ Associations, is the world organisation representing the interests of apiculture. It facilitates links between beekeepers, scientists and all those involved in beekeeping and represents apiculture at international level to many bodies, for example General Agreement on Trade and Tariff (GATT), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO), consumer and agricultural interests.

Apimondia stems from the Standing Committee of the International Apicultural Congresses created in 1893 holding the first congress in 1897 in Belgium. Apimondia in its current status as a federation was founded in the Netherlands in 1949.

Apimondia consists of the General Assembly, represented by its members (currently more than 110 beekeepers’ associations and apicultural institutions from more than 80 countries), the Management Board, seven Scientific Commissions (Apitherapy, Beekeeping Economy, Beekeeping for Rural Development, Beekeeping Technology and Quality, Pollination and Bee

Flora, Bee Health and Bee Biology) and five Regional Commissions (Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania).

Apimondia General Secretariat in Rome, Italy, provides a focal point for locating information on bees and beekeeping and co-ordinates the organisation of Apimondia international congresses and symposia.

The activities of Apimondia are coordinated at regional level (Continent) by the Regional Commissions. One of the major activities of the Regional Commission is analyzing the needs of local beekeeping communities and coordinating the relief actions in case of natural disasters in their respective Regions. In the case of the African Region, Cyclone Idai is one such case where the Regional Commission President, Mr. David Mukomana, formally raised the need for relief for communities in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe as part of these communities affected are engaged in beekeeping activities as their sources of livelihoods. Apimondia gave the greenlight for the assessment to be done and a report provided that will detail the nature of intervention required with the hope of engaging partners to assist in the rebuilding of the beekeeping initiatives in the affected areas.

3. ASSESSMENT VISIT

Based on the Regional Commission Mandate, a formal communication on behalf of Apimondia was sent to the Government of Zimbabwe through the Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Production by the Regional Commission President expressing solidarity with the people of Manicaland - Zimbabwe in relation to the disaster visited on many communities especially in the Chimanimani and Chipinge Districts as well as the intention to visit these affected areas to carry out an assessment of the effect of the cyclone on beekeeping initiatives with the intention of raising assistance.

The Regional Commission managed to get transport logistics organized by Fambidzanai in order for the assessment visit to be undertaken in Chimanimani. The following visits were undertaken to Manicaland Province of Zimbabwe:

Date	Area	Purpose
23 July 2019	Mutare – Manicaland Province	<p>To meet the Provincial Administrator (PA) and discuss about the Cyclone Idai Assessment as part of the Apimondia Regional Commission mandate.</p> <p>The Regional Commission President had the meeting with the Provincial Administrator where he briefed the Province about Apimondia, Regional Commission for Africa and the responsibility to assist in terms of natural disasters such as the cyclone.</p> <p>The PA appreciated the visit and the gesture by Apimondia to conduct the assessment so as to help the affected beekeeping communities as government alone cannot cover all the required intervention thus international help is most welcome.</p> <p>He advised on the need to have the preliminary work done by the District Administrator so as to make the assessment much quicker.</p>
08 August 2019	Chimanimani District Administration Office	<p>To discuss the assessment in the cyclone-hit areas of Chimanimani district; and</p> <p>To facilitate / coordinate the community visits and get officials to visit the communities with.</p> <p>The Regional Commission President met the District Administrator and had a fruitful meeting before handing over the assignment to the</p>

		District Agritex Office for the detailed breakdown of beekeepers affected and in what form.
08 August 2019	Chikukwa Area	To meet the beekeepers and discuss about the visit; and To physically assess the affected apiaries.

4. Areas Visited

The areas visited in the Chimanimani district provide a clear trail of events both the extensive beekeeping activities as well as visible evidence of the extensive damage caused by the cyclone to the infrastructure and beekeeping initiatives. The beekeepers are using both traditional hives as well as the Kenya Top Bar hives.

The detailed information obtained during the respective visits are captured in the table below:

Area	Information gathered	Issues
Chimanimani District Offices	Based on the advice of the Manicaland Provincial Administrator, the Chimanimani District was tasked with making the initial assessment of the extent of the damage. A meeting was held with Mr. Mhlanga and Mr. Majee who provided information relating to some of the areas covered but could not complete the assignment due to logistical challenges. Some of the areas are not	The District Administrator (DA) and the Agriculture Extension Office lamented on the extent of the devastation caused by the cyclone in the district and the extent of fixing that needs to be done. The massive infrastructural damages have strained resources at government's disposal to extent the

	<p>accessible by road and extensive walking is required, thus, part of the information was gathered from individuals.</p> <p>The number of wards within Chimanimani affected are 11, comprising Wards 1; 10 – 16; 21 - 23.</p> <p>The average honey production in Chimanimani is 5 tons per month before the cyclone and was the highest honey producing district Manicaland, if not the whole country.</p> <p>The department also indicated that beekeeping initiatives are still dominated by men as most beekeepers are still using traditional hives and hanging in trees making it difficult for women to actively participate in the sector.</p> <p>The number of affected beekeepers the department has so far managed to identify are 682 with a total number of hives affected being 2, 912. This is a figure provided by the beekeepers who were contacted by the department with a number of communities not yet interviewed.</p> <p>The main areas hit by the cyclone with extensive beekeeping activities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chikukwa • Rusitu 	<p>interventions for other areas such as beekeeping are not given priority. Main focus is rehabilitating roads and provision of the basic necessities.</p> <p>Logistical challenges have seriously affected the department in collecting detailed statistics on all the beekeepers affected in all the 11 wards including the number of hives washed away and damaged beyond repair.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ngangu • Ngaone 	
<p>Chikukwa Area Ward</p>	<p>In the Chikukwa area, a few apiary sites were visited along one of the rivers and the effects are remarkable.</p> <p>The information obtained is that there are at least 164 beekeepers, 50 beekeepers with at least 50 hives whilst the remainder have up to 50 hives.</p> <p>At least 600 hives were swept away in the Chikukwa area with as many as 315 reported either washed away or destroyed in Wards 10 and 11 alone. Some of the hives were damaged and rendered unusable.</p> <p>The average harvest per beekeeper in the area is 15 buckets translating at least 20 tons per annum.</p> <p>Basic training was provided for some beekeepers in the area whilst others have not had the chance to be formally trained.</p> <p>Beekeepers are still using traditional hives (bark and log) as well as Kenya Top Bar hives. Very few box hives are being used in the Chikukwa area.</p> <p>A number of their traditional hives had closures blown away by the high</p>	<p>The following issues were raised by the beekeepers from the Chikukwa area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to massive land degradation caused by the cyclone, there is urgent need for land rehabilitation with tree planting. • The beekeepers are not in a position to replace the hives that were washed away. Most of them were using the log and bark hives which they cannot easily replace as it will mean having to debark trees. • The other issue raised is to do with the need for kits for the beekeepers to be able to do proper apiary management. • Lack of a processing centre locally is leaving them to rely on buyers from other provinces who are not consistent resulting in them

	<p>winds exposing the bees and some colonies absconded.</p> <p>The beekeepers indicated that they are not affiliated to any association and believe are missing valuable information that may be benefitting other beekeepers.</p> <p>Information provided include one family of 6 that lost the parents and 5 children with one child who survived.</p>	<p>resorting to selling locally at very low prices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The other issue raised is lack of funding models for beekeepers to access financing so they develop their beekeeping to commercial levels. • Training was another issue raised. This covers beekeeping techniques, recordkeeping and basic business management.
<p>Ngangu; Ngaone and Rusitu</p>	<p>These areas could not be visited due to logistical challenges. However, the information gathered from Mr. Solomon Chikwee, a beekeeper from Ngangu, is that majority of beekeepers in the said areas were equally affected and require urgent intervention for them to resuscitate their beekeeping operations. He had 250 colonized hives and 150 of the hives at his two apiary sites were washed away and some completely destroyed.</p> <p>Their beekeeping initiatives are similar to the Chikukwa area visited with Ngangu having many apiary sites along the mountains that were hard hit by the rock-falls and landslides.</p>	<p>According to Mr. Chikwee, the issues in Ngangu, Ngaone, and Rusitu are similar with those of the Chikukwa area visited.</p>

5. Cyclone effect in Summary

The damage caused by the cyclone was far reaching, physical, emotional and financial. And many beekeepers are not able to rebuild on their own. Attention is mainly on rebuilding the physical infrastructure whilst sectors such as beekeeping have not received much intervention.

Many hives were washed away to the extent honey combs can still be seen along the riverbanks. The worst affected areas are Chikukwa, Ngangu, Ngaone and Rusitu. The extent of the effect in Chipinge district has not been assessed but reports indicate there are areas prominent for beekeeping that were equally affected.

The main two preferred apiary sites, the river banks and mountain edges were worst hit. Mountain-side hives were hit by the rocks and landslides from the mountain tops that literally flattened everything on the way whilst those hung along the riverbanks were washed away.

6. Beekeeping potential

Beekeeping is one of the major activities in Chimanimani given the massive forests, both natural and plantations as well as the terrain that does not support conventional agriculture activities. Chimanimani is actually one of the highest producer of honey in Zimbabwe. Availability of timber makes production of hives much cheaper and affordable to many households, including plantation workers who are allowed to access timber for their hive production. These forests have provided communities in the districts with alternative source of livelihoods other than working in the timber sector whose salaries are low to sustain their lives.

The potential to convert the district and other surrounding areas that constitute the Eastern Highlands into honey production zone is very high.

7. Recommendations

The visit to Chimanimani district was a painful experience just by mere sight of the extensive damage caused to the road, bridges, riverbanks and numerous scars visible from afar on the mountain terrain. This evidence was more than enough to feel the pain and agony of those families that survived the horror. Beekeepers are included in this group of people who are looking up to the world to identify with them and come to their assistance so as to rebuild their shattered lives.

The visit by the Regional Commission brought hope to the community members who expressed their gratitude to Apimondia for such a gesture. The story only gets to the point of what can possibly be recommended to make a difference to the lives of these beekeeping communities as well as those who lost everything they owned, including livestock and are now looking at beekeeping as the only alternative initiative to start rebuilding their lives.

Thus, the Regional Commission puts forward the following recommendations for consideration:

Recommendation	Description	Action
Provision of Hives	Beekeepers affected do not have the capacity to replace the hives destroyed by cyclone. They desperately need urgent assistance for them to rebuild their livelihoods. Equally, those families whose livelihoods and homes were destroyed and see beekeeping as the alternative source of livelihoods need to be supported with hives, including families who lost their breadwinners from the cyclone.	Sourcing of funds for procurement of hives / timber for the production of hives.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of hives need to be increased • The type of hives need to be modern technology that provide them with increased output compared to the traditional hives predominantly used. 	
Training	<p>A number of beekeepers require training. The training required should cover the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hive production • Beekeeping • Recordkeeping • Basic business Management 	Provision of Training
Provision of Equipment	<p>Beekeepers lack proper protective clothing for them to effectively and safely work with bees. Smokers are also required so the beekeepers do not use the traditional way of honey harvesting.</p>	Provision of bee suits and smokers
Processing Centre and equipment	<p>A processing centre is needed in Chimanimani given the level of beekeeping and honey production in the district.</p> <p>Chimanimani produces the bulk of the honey sold country-wide and this honey is transported to other provinces such as Harare and Bulawayo for processing and packaging, something that can be done in the district in order to value add and sale the honey at better prices.</p>	Processing Centre with honey processing equipment

Environmental Management	There is need for massive land rehabilitation through tree planting. Serious damages to the land, including farming land, need to be attended to so as to bring back the land to good use.	Provision of seedlings and assistance for tree planting and general land rehabilitation.
Access to funding	Beekeepers in Chimanimani appreciate their projects are viable and would like to expand so they operate at commercial level. However, lack of access to loans is hampering their expansion in terms of increasing their hives.	Linkages to financial institutions providing SME micro-financing facilities.
Market Linkages	Beekeepers require a constant market for their honey. Better prices are also ideal so as to motivate beekeepers to engage in commercial beekeeping.	Establishment of markets linkages for the honey

8. Pictures in Perspective

The extent of the scars visible in pictures tell the story that many may not have read. A few apiary pictures were taken to provide a picture the losses. Some apiaries were visited with no sign on hives because they were washed away. Some of the pictures are shared below:



Picture above: A tale of many hives that survived the wash-away but left “hanging by the thread”, empty.



Picture above: Log hive at one of the apiaries... All hives that were hung lower were swept away. Below the hive are rocks / boulders washed off upstream.



Picture above: Bark hive affected by cyclone that had a bit of repairs done, but cannot hold and bees deserted....



Pictures above: The few hives that survived being washed away.



Picture above: Members of Chikukwa beekeepers surveying a site that used to have a high concentration of hives.



Picture above: Part of the river bank that had around 20 hives majority which were swept away



Picture above: Mr. David Mukomana and some of the Chikukwa Beekeepers



Pictures above: Massive debris from the mountaintop in the Ngangu area where a number of hives were sited



Pictures above: Some of the massive areas as wide as 50metres flattened by boulders from the mountain destroyng houses on its path.

9. Special Thanks

The Regional Commission President would like to offer special thanks and appreciation to the Manicaland Provincial government, Provincial Administrator and Chimanimani District Administrator for the support, guidance and permission to visit and conduct the assessment. Without this support, the assessment will have not happened. I would also like to mention the support and contribution of the District Crop and Livestock Officer and his team for the information and support provided.

Special thanks also go to Fambidzanai – the Development Partner who provided transport logistics for the assessment. Their contribution made the assessment much easier and smooth.

Special thanks to Chikukwa Ecological Land Use Community Trust (C.E.L.U.C.T) who provided additional information about the Chikukwa area who have been supporting beekeeping initiative in the area before the cyclone.

This relationship will go a long way in providing hope to the affected beekeeping communities in Chimanimani and Chipinge districts as well as offering a window of opportunity to restore dignity and livelihoods to many families through beekeeping.

10. Report Compiled by:

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