

## Useful Contacts

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**Environmental Management Agency (EMA)** Planning & Monitoring, Bluff Hill Office: 305543, [www.ema.co.zw](http://www.ema.co.zw)

**City of Harare Environmental Officer** Mr C Muzofa [cemuzofa@gmail.com](mailto:cemuzofa@gmail.com), 0772599879

**City of Harare Planning Department** 751477, [end.ai/NfejPk](http://end.ai/NfejPk)

**Conservation Society of Monavale (COSMO)** 0772 376 506, 0772 772 771, [cosmo@yoafrica.com](mailto:cosmo@yoafrica.com), [www.monavalevlei.com](http://www.monavalevlei.com), [Conservation Society of Monavale Facebook Page](#)

**BirdLife Zimbabwe (BLZ)** 481496, [birds@zol.co.zw](mailto:birds@zol.co.zw), [www.birdlifezimbabwe.org](http://www.birdlifezimbabwe.org)

**Ballantyne Park Conservancy Trust (BPCT)** [sue@greenink.co.zw](mailto:sue@greenink.co.zw), [bpark.c.trust@gmail.com](mailto:bpark.c.trust@gmail.com)

**Borrowdale Residents and Ratepayers Association (BRRA)** [madderg@zol.co.zw](mailto:madderg@zol.co.zw)

**Highlands Ratepayers and Residents Association (HRRA)** [westerhout@zol.co.zw](mailto:westerhout@zol.co.zw)

**Marlborough Environmental Action Group (MEAG)** [informeag@gmail.com](mailto:informeag@gmail.com)

**UNDP-GEFSGP** 338836-44, Mrs T Wutawunashe: [twutawunashe@a2ngefsgp.org](mailto:twutawunashe@a2ngefsgp.org), [www.zw.undp.org](http://www.zw.undp.org)

**Community Water Alliance (CWA)** 0775 255 458, [communitywateralliance@gmail.com](mailto:communitywateralliance@gmail.com)

**Combined Harare Residents Association (CHRA)** 776285, 0772 127 397, [info@chra.co.zw](mailto:info@chra.co.zw)

**Harare Residents Trust (HRT)** 790394, 797357, [hretrust79@gmail.com](mailto:hretrust79@gmail.com), [www.hrt.org.zw](http://www.hrt.org.zw)

## Wetland Information (*Website Links*)

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[www.monavalevlei.com](http://www.monavalevlei.com) for wetland conservation information

**Article on Marlborough Vlei LEAP** [end.ai/pcEldo](http://end.ai/pcEldo)

**Harare Wetland Ecosystem Brochure** [end.ai/doTVxR](http://end.ai/doTVxR)

**Harare Wetland Biodiversity Brochure** [end.ai/NnCdiW](http://end.ai/NnCdiW)

**World Wetlands Day Monavale Vlei 2015-05-07 Video** [youtu.be/GOCldgiHAew](http://youtu.be/GOCldgiHAew)

**Wetland Conference** [end.ai/BajPOx](http://end.ai/BajPOx)

**World Wetlands Day 2014** [end.ai/gfxfqd](http://end.ai/gfxfqd)

**The Importance of Marlborough Vlei brochure** [end.ai/sCHUBg](http://end.ai/sCHUBg)

**Harare: our own water source infographic** [end.ai/KmgbGg](http://end.ai/KmgbGg)

# Community Based Conservation and Management of Harare's Wetlands

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More and more residents are becoming concerned about the loss of Harare's wetlands, or vleis, to development, agriculture and commercial trade in ground water, the falling water table, fire and pollution.

Communities living near wetlands may wish to help in their preservation. This brochure shows how communities can work together with local and national authorities and other stakeholders to take care of wetlands in their neighbourhood.

  
**AAGE V. JENSEN**  
CHARITY FOUNDATION



Harare's vleis are the city's **primary water source**.

They are **headwater wetlands** feeding into the streams and rivers which flow into supply dam Lake Chivero, **downstream of the city**

**1. Visit Monavale Vlei, a successfully restored, conserved and managed wetland, to get ideas and guidance for your wetland conservation plan.** This famous wetland, now a Ramsar Site, is managed by The Conservation Society of Monavale and is a model for wetland restoration and conservation. One of the key successes has been the employment of a full time Vlei Scout. This model has been used by The Marlborough Environmental Action Group.

People value wetlands for their intrinsic outstanding natural beauty and biodiversity

**2. Set up a community organization if one does not exist.**

Existing community organizations have followed this process: Call an initial meeting of interested residents and your councillor. Call for an Annual General Meeting within a few weeks; circulate this to the community via flyers, emails or public notices. At the AGM decide on a few issues to be addressed including vlei management (do not take on too much), agree on a constitution (keep it simple) and set date for first monthly meeting of newly elected management committee. Hold quarterly community meetings and notify the police of any public meetings to be held.

Wetlands provide many free services to the people of Harare

**3. Hold a Workshop for Local Environmental Action Planning (LEAP).** Contact The Environmental Management Agency (EMA) and the City of Harare Environmental Officer to organize this Workshop. Invite as many people from your community

as possible and also others who are interested in wetlands from beyond the community including your District Officer, Councillor and Member of Parliament. Keep your plan simple. Simple planning is easier to manage. Register your organization with EMA.

Extract from **LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLANNING HANDBOOK / EMA Dept of Monitoring and Planning**

**1.1 WHAT IS LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLANNING**

Local Environmental Action Planning is simply a participatory planning process for the management of environmental goods and services of an area. It is aimed at correcting negative environmental conditions to ensure a clean, safe and healthy environment. Every activity related to environmental management in an area should conform to the LEAP and the LEAP should feed into the Council's Master plan. LEAP is not done in isolation, it should be in line with existing national policies and programmes; for instance, the LEAP priority should be informed by the current national plan, the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio Economic Transformation (ZimASSET).

**1.2 WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING THE PLANS**

According to the Environmental Management Act (Cap 20:27), Local Authorities are mandated to develop Local Environmental Action Plans (LEAPs) for the areas under their jurisdiction. The process however is participatory; calling for the corporation of all stakeholders in an area, the community, Government Departments, NGOs, local leadership, environment committee and subcommittees, councillors, industry, private companies, religious groups, etc in the development and implementation of the plan. The Local Authority takes the lead in the entire process.

Local Environmental Action Planning Handbook  
(end.ai/TSIESi)

A single plant species, maize, when grown on wetlands replaces 120 + different wetland adapted grasses and plants. This practice has a negative impact on the hydrological fabric of wetlands and their biodiversity, and our water source

When hearing this, a community responded: We never realised we were bewitching ourselves.

**4. Contact other communities involved in wetland preservation for support and ideas.** Marlborough Environmental Action Group; Ballantyne Park Conservancy Trust; Borrowdale Residents and Ratepayers Association; Highlands Ratepayers and Residents Association

It is possible to restore degraded wetlands

**5. Contact organizations which offer funding support to community organizations to take care of their wetlands.** UNDP-GEFSGP, embassies and local corporates (end.ai/vjavOS)

Vleis filter and purify water, recycle nutrients, regulate water flows into streams and rivers, control flooding, recharge and store ground water, halt siltation, prevent erosion, keep the city cool, clean the air, store carbon and much more. These are free services provided to residents.

Vleis are natural resource assets of the City of Harare. Their value is inestimable.