

# Voices OF HOPE

## Zimbabwe

Five years after Cyclone Idai ravaged Chimanimani, Zimbabwe, the scars remain visible. The cyclone's unprecedented force, lasting from March 14 - 17, 2019, left deep gullies, deforested hills, and washed-out roads. It claimed 300 lives, displaced thousands, and impacted over half the population of Chimanimani District.

Cyclone Idai destroyed essential infrastructure, isolating villages, and disrupting markets for crops like tomatoes. The pandemic further exacerbated the situation, leading many to turn to artisanal gold mining, which has resulted in widespread toxic water contamination.

Despite these challenges, efforts are underway to restore and preserve Chimanimani's unique ecosystem, which hosts 30% of Zimbabwe's biodiversity. PWRDF's partner, TSURO Trust, in collaboration with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and Global Affairs Canada, has launched a three-year project focused on nature-based solutions to address both environmental and societal challenges.

Roseline Mukonoweshuro, TSURO's Nature + Project Manager, emphasizes the balanced approach: "It isn't about choosing livelihoods or the environment but, instead, choosing livelihoods and the environment."




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