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LIST OF ACRONYMS

BSAP	Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
CBOs	Community based organisations
CCD	Convention to Combat Desertification
CRDB	Central Rural Development Board
DPM	Deputy Prime Minister
EIAs	Environmental Impact Assessments
ESRA	Economic and Social Reform Agenda
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
FCCC	Framework Convention on Climate Change
FLAS	Family Life Association of Swaziland
IFAD	International Foundation for Agricultural Development
GMDA	Grazing land Management Demonstration Areas
KOBWA	Komati Basin Water Authority
LUPS	Land Use Planning Section
MEPD	Ministry of Economic Planning and Development
MHSW	Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
MHUD	Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
MNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy
MOAC	Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives
NAP	National Action Programme
NDF	National Desertification Fund
NDS	National Development Strategy
NEF	National Environment Fund
NEEP	National Environmental Education Programme
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NPC	National Population Council
NSCD	National Steering Committee on Desertification
RDAP	Rural Development Areas Programme
RSA	Republic of South Africa
SADC-ELMS	Southern African Development Co-operation, Environment and Land Management Sector
SEA	Swaziland Environment Authority
SEAP	Swaziland Environmental Action Plan
SFDF	Swaziland Farmers' Development Foundation
SNL	Swazi Nation Land
SNTC	Swaziland National Trust Commission
SWSC	Swaziland Water Services Corporation
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNISWA	University of Swaziland
UNSO	United Nations Special Office for Combating Desertification

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Preamble

The Kingdom of Swaziland is experiencing formidable challenges of addressing land degradation and desertification problems. These problems are experienced within the context of a rapid population increase, worsening poverty and progressive increase in the utilisation of environment and land resources. Presently, almost half (49 percent) of the total land is vulnerable to desertification. Moreover, more than half (55 percent) of total communal rangelands have experienced a sharp decline in their productivity. The semi - arid portion estimated at 26 percent of the total land area is consistently experiencing drought conditions which render the soil vulnerable to erosion (Downing and Zuke, 1997).

The government of Swaziland, as a signatory to the International Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD), with the assistance of the United Nations Office for Desertification, is making significant headway towards meeting its obligations under the convention. The preparation of the National Action Plan (NAP) is a culmination of several activities undertaken by government towards the implementation of the Convention. The NAP prepares the stage where local partner signatories to the convention are invited to contribute their assistance and initiatives in the implementation of the convention.

1.2 Defining the process

The NAP is one of the essential implementation tools of the CCD and its production is guided by the principles set by Article 3 of the CCD. Collectively, the principles stress the importance of consultation and participation in the implementation of the CCD. The NAP preparation process began with community and regional consultations aimed at sharpening awareness among the various stakeholders. The second stage was the holding of the National Forum to formulate priorities. The writing of the NAP is, therefore, partly a product of the consultative and participatory fora held with local stakeholders.

1.3 Purpose of the report

This document is the National Action Programme which details a strategy and programmes aimed at the implementation of the CCD. The programmes provide mechanisms and windows of opportunities whereby interested partners make submissions of projects designed to address problems of land degradation and desertification. The NAP is important in a number of ways. Firstly, it provides a framework for the implementation of the CCD. Secondly, the implementation of CCD programmes and activities has the potential of addressing other socio - economic problems such as poverty, which is consistent with government's major goal of poverty alleviation. Thirdly, the NAP offers opportunities of highlighting land degradation and desertification issues incorporated within the long - term National Development Strategy (NDS) and the short - term Economic and Social Reform Agenda (ESRA). Lastly, the NAP acts as a framework for the mobilisation of local initiatives, resources and skills crucial in the translation of the convention into action.

1.4 Scope of the report

This document will confine itself to the setting out of the implementation strategy to facilitate the mounting of combating desertification activities within local communities. Essentially, the components have been presented in terms of their objectives, outputs, activities, relevance to other programmes, institutional framework for implementation, time frame, cost estimate, sources of funding. In the selection of the programme components linkages with other programmes were sought. For instance, linkages with programmes on good governance, poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods.

It must be noted that the format of this report is quite a departure from other government reports where stated goals, budgets and resources are known before hand and are within the control of the agencies. The NAP programme goals, budgets and resources will be more or less estimates and approximations since NAP relies on the initiative of the prospective partners who may conduct their affairs and activities within their own budget and time constraints. In essence, this report shall not prescribe to prospective partners how to conduct their affairs. Instead it provides an enabling framework of encouraging, supporting, and promoting desires of its partners through activity and policy decisions within its structures. This report will also not venture into technical matters and activities of any nature in its attempt to facilitate the achievement of partners' desires within the NAP.

1.5 Report preparation process

Since the beginning of the 1990s there has been documentation of issues and concerns related to the environment. There has also been documentation of proceedings of workshops, seminars, conferences/conventions and meetings on environmental issues, particularly on land degradation and desertification. The NAP report is a product of the analysis of most of these documents and it has benefited from insights of various informants \ stakeholders through community workshops, meetings and National Forum.

2.0 DESERTIFICATION IN SWAZILAND

2.1 Introduction

This section intends to expose the desertification problem in Swaziland with an aim of putting the NAP into context. The section opens by defining desertification and present a brief exposition of the environmental state in the country. Lastly, an elaborate, but not conclusive overview on the causes of desertification in Swaziland is presented.

2.2 Defining desertification

Desertification is generally regarded as the degradation of land especially in arid, semi - arid and dry sub - humid climatic regions as a result of human and climatic processes. It is quite common for desertification to be understood interchangeably with land degradation. Locally the two may imply similar processes, while ideally land degradation has to do with a decline or loss of productive capacity of a piece of land due to human activities and habitation patterns.

2.3 Desertification status in Swaziland

The magnitude of desertification in the country is not comparable with other sub - Saharan African countries where large portions of their territories have been rendered unsuitable or unproductive for human occupation. Presenting the extent of desertification in Swaziland is a difficult task especially in the absence of documentation assessing the extent of land degradation and technology used to combat desertification. As a result, the discussion will be confined to a limited number of variables which include soil erosion, biomass productivity, bush encroachment and use of farm chemicals.

It has been estimated that more than half (55%) of all communal grazing land is seriously or very seriously eroded. Although there are differences in the magnitude of soil erosion from one physiographic region to another, the rate of soil erosion and land degradation is increasing in almost all the regions. It has been estimated that severe soil erosion in the Middleveld has doubled in the last 25 years and this trend is likely to continue (Mushala *et. al.*, 1995). Consequently, more than half of the grazing land is degraded and suffer a noticeable decline in productivity. About 55% of pasture land can hardly produce 100 kilograms of dry matter per hectare (Downing and Zuke, 1996). This productivity estimate may be meaningless without a statement on the optimum productivity of pastures. There is also the problem of bush encroachment which is prevalent in the lower middleveld and the lowveld. Intensive use of farming chemicals further encourages land degradation through soil acidification. Currently, the use of soil acidifying nitrogen - based fertilisers is quite high (Central Statistical Bulletin, 1989/90).

2.4 Causes of desertification

Factors causing desertification and land degradation are numerous and they do not operate in isolation. The magnitude of the causes of desertification vary with the level of socio - economic development and resilience of the physical environment. Desertification is fundamentally a result of the depletion and removal of vegetation cover that protects the soil from agents of erosion and the loss of soil moisture to the atmosphere. The depletion of vegetation is commonly attributed to human activities including settlement patterns. Climatic processes, especially drought also contribute to loss of vegetation.

Downing and Zuke (1996) have put causes of desertification into two categories namely; natural climatic causes and socio - economic causes. In this report, the causes are sub-divided into four categories. The categorisation is based on causes that are related to (i) climatic processes , (ii) topography, (iii) human habitation patterns (population distribution in the country) and (iv) human activities.

2.4.1 Climatic Processes

The variability of climatic conditions, especially rainfall quantity, is a major natural cause of desertification. For example, the drought incidence in the first half of the 1990s had adverse impact on land productivity. To a large extent the amount of rainfall received countrywide was inadequate for vegetation to thrive. Considering that the physiographic regions of the country experience different climatic conditions, drought incidences also vary within Swaziland. The magnitude of land degradation also follows a similar pattern.

The effects of drought are largely felt in the lowveld region of Swaziland which is characterised by an unreliable mean rainfall of less than 500 mm per year. This cannot support much vegetation growth especially under the characteristic hot temperature conditions which cause evapotranspiration to be in excess of the rainfall received. Therefore, continuous drought incidences in this region may soon result in complete destruction of the vegetation cover, exposing the soil to erosion agents. Based on climatic conditions, the lowveld region is most prone to desertification and the conditions improves towards the highveld region.

2.4.2 Topography

The general relief of the country varies from high altitudes in the highveld to gentle sloping terrain in the lowveld. Topography often works in conjunction with other factors, especially climatic conditions and the susceptibility of the soil to erosion. The mean annual rainfall amount increases substantially from 500 mm/year in the lowveld to 1500 mm/year in the highveld. Humid conditions in the highveld and upper middleveld promote a vigorous growth of grass and other types of vegetation. On the other hand, the humid conditions also facilitate the removal of loose soil material down slope. The rugged nature and steep slopes of the highveld and middleveld increases the erosive potential of surface run-off. Most types of soils in Swaziland are highly susceptible to erosion, especially the highly weathered ferrosols, with a thin saprolite. A large body of the ferralsols are found in the highveld and upper middleveld. The soils in the highveld and middleveld are also characterised by shallow depths which restricts the growth of vegetation, particularly trees. As a result, the highveld and upper middleveld experience massive gully formations along steep slopes.

2.4.3 Population Distribution Pattern

In reviewing human habitation patterns, it is important to consider the population size, its growth rate and distribution in relation to available land resources throughout the country. There is a considerable increase in population density in the country. For instance, the national population density increased from 21.6 people per km² in 1966 to 39.2 people per km² in 1986 (Census Report vol. 4, 1986). This does not imply that the population is evenly distributed throughout the country. Some areas are more settled than others due to several factors. One of the most important factors is land tenure. With the exception of urban areas, SNL is the most densely populated area of all tenure systems in Swaziland (Table 1). Of the approximately 66% of the total Swazi population in rural areas, a large proportion is on SNL which accounts for only 59% of the total surface area (17 000 km²) of the country.

TABLE 1 POPULATION DENSITY IN SWAZILAND ACCORDING TO AREA AND TENURE

AREA / TENURE	AREA (Km ²)	POPULATION	DENSITY/ Km ²
Swazi Nation Land	10 298.7	683 244	66.3
Freehold Title Deed	5 009.0	76 073	15.2
Gazetted Urban Areas	185.7	138 559	74..6
Company Towns	1 801.6	82 844	46.0

On SNL, where population density is high, there is intensive utilisation of land and environmental resources. This may proceed to reach levels where the resources are depleted beyond a possibility of regeneration. As such, the total surface area of Swaziland cannot support the rapidly growing Swazi population. Since the land resources are finite this creates a disequilibrium between demand for land and its supply. Often, marginal land is brought into cultivation and settlement and large portions of virgin land are cleared of vegetation cover to make available spaces for cultivation and settlement. Land resources in densely populated areas may also be made available through land sub - division (land fragmentation). Intensive land fragmentation results in ever reduced sizes of land holdings. This may continue until the sizes of land holdings become unsustainable. On SNL where farming is undertaken with limited capital and technological inputs, the decrease in land size leads to intensive land utilisation and a reduced fallow period. This continues until the soil becomes unproductive. Consequently, population growth and distribution culminate in land degradation and desertification.

2.4.4 Human Activities

Several human activities cause land degradation. The degradation of land is attributed to unsustainable land management practices in agriculture, forestry, mining and construction. These activities result in either chemical, biological or physical degradation of the land due to loss of soil nutrients, organic matter, flora, fauna and the destruction of the soil structure. Accumulations of trace elements also contribute to land degradation. The degraded land cannot support vegetation growth and this leads to exposure of the soil to erosion agents such as wind and heavy rainfall.

2.4.4.1 Crop Farming Practices

A majority of rural Swazis are subsistence farmers, with comparatively small land holdings. There is low technological and capital input into farming yet the continuous cultivation of the soil restricts the regeneration of nutrients and structure. Incidents of inappropriate cropping and farming practices as well as poor soil / land management systems are prevalent. Likewise, problems of land degradation have been recorded among farming communities on TDL. Incidents of improper application of fertilisers, herbicides and insecticides have been documented in all farming systems in the country together with their adverse effects on the soil nutrient composition and structure.

2.4.4.2 Livestock Farming Practices

Swazis are traditionally and predominantly livestock farmers. Livestock grazing is inevitably the largest land use occupying about 67 percent of the country's total surface area (SEAP vol. 1 :33). Emphasis is normally placed on the quantity of livestock one should raise and not necessarily on the quality of the beasts. This makes pastoral farming more of a social than an economic practice, particularly on SNL. Grazing on SNL is communal and indiscriminate without any control on livestock numbers that can be grazed on the pastures. In 1992 Swaziland, with a livestock population of 700 000, was already beyond the recommended carrying capacity for sustained yield yet her stocking rate of 2.6 hectares per livestock is among the highest in Africa (Osunade, 1994; SEAP, 1998). Consistent with the high stocking rates is overgrazing. As a result of overgrazing, grass in some communal grazing areas fails to grow leaving bare patches of unproductive soil. The destruction of vegetation cover is compounded by night kraaling and the movement of livestock to dipping tanks and watering points. This does not only destroy the grass cover, it also creates rills which facilitate surface run-off and erosion of soil material loosened by livestock trampling. Soil erosion and land degradation in Swaziland is most extensive in communal grazing areas, especially around dipping tanks and watering points. On TDL, the most prevalent problem is bush encroachment which is generally caused by low stocking densities.

2.4.4.3 Road Construction

Improper siting of roads and storm drainage channels also promote land degradation. Roads and their drainage channels encourage surface run-off. If sited without in-depth slope and site analysis, this may prove catastrophic to the environment. Drainage channels of most rural roads are constructed solely to collect rain water from the roads with little concern on how the water will eventually be disposed. Serious gully erosion takes place on land portions along the roads.

2.4.4.4 Indiscriminate Use of Fire

There is a high incidence of uncontrolled use of fires in the country. Fire is sometimes used to facilitate pasture regeneration and also in clearing vegetation for farming and settlements. In most cases the fire is used at a wrong time. For instance, veld burning, which is common in rural communities, is done during the winter season when the grass and soil are very dry. The fire destroys not only the leaves but it penetrates the sub-soil and destroys the root structure of plants. When the rainy season comes the vegetation fails to grow thus denying the soil of the important protection against erosion agents. Failure of vegetation to grow signals the onset of desertification.

2.4.4.5 Deforestation and Afforestation

Deforestation has to do with indiscriminate cutting of trees. Tree cutting incidents are common on SNL, particularly where land is being cleared for cultivation and settlements. This becomes a problem when accompanied by the utilisation of trees for fuelwood and building purposes. Afforestation may be as detrimental as deforestation especially if water-depleting tree species are planted. *Eucalyptus* trees and other types of trees with a high water demand deplete ground water if planted on a large scale and close to water sources. The vertical structure and chemical components of some of the trees used in afforestation programmes may also result in the destruction of the undergrowth which protects the soil from splash erosion. Detailed tree species/site analysis need to be undertaken in afforestation programmes to avoid the negative effects.

2.4.4.5 Poverty

Poverty stricken people tend to rely heavily on the exploitation of natural resources for their livelihood. As such they are the most vulnerable group to the exploitation of natural resources. This is exemplified by the intensive exploitation of indigenous trees for firewood for sale to individuals and butchery owners along the country's major roads. Moreover, a majority (75 - 90%) of rural Swazi households rely on wood for fuel. Depletion of indigenous forests for fuelwood, building, wood carving and furniture - making takes place within poverty stricken communities. Lasschuit (1994), estimates that total wood consumption in rural communities exceeds the total sustainable wood supply by 30 percent. This occurs in a situation where there is lack of management systems for indigenous forests.

2.5 Challenges to Combating Desertification

There are several challenges to be overcome in the implementation of initiatives to combat desertification. These challenges include the rapidly growing population, a declining economy and stagnating food production. Other challenges are unsustainable increases in livestock numbers within rapidly degrading communal grazing areas. Poverty is also a major socio - economic challenge to combating desertification. Persistent application of improper farming systems and land management practices as well as the limited capacity of communities to address desertification and land degradation problems is another challenge that may impede the success of initiatives to combat desertification.

3: EXECUTION OF THE NAP PROCESS

3.1 Introduction

This section specifies the process of the implementation of the NAP. Roles and responsibilities of players in the execution of the NAP are stated. There is also a suggested format of project presentation and project approval criteria. Lastly, there is a section on funding of combating desertification projects and other activities.

3.2 NAP Execution Process

The basic principles of the NAP are founded on consultations and participation. Suggested here is a simple two-staged process for the execution of the NAP which ensures that the principles and priorities set in the First National Forum on Desertification are fulfilled.

3.2.1 The Consultative Stage

The consultative stage began with the appointment of the NSCD which is composed of representatives of the private sector, government departments, NGOs and the university. The NSCD together with the focal point has undertaken a series of activities towards the production of the NAP document.

The activities include;

- (i) awareness raising activities on the CCD,
- (ii) community and regional training workshops and meetings on issues pertaining to the NAP and
- (iii) National Forums on the NAP

Consultation with stakeholders will be an on-going process but the implementation of the NAP will commence after approval by Cabinet.

3.2.2 Participation and Execution Stage

This process commences after the NAP document has received Cabinet approval. Thereafter, prospective partners will be invited to make formal submissions of projects consistent with the proposed NAP programme areas. Projects will be submitted to the Steering committee for approval, funding and other kind of support which may include technical and training assistance. All sectors of the society, including all NGOs, government departments and agencies, associations, communities and individuals are free to submit projects. The project submission format is presented in section 3.5.

3.3 Specification of Roles and Responsibilities

The implementation of the NAP will involve a wide spectrum of stakeholders. The specification of roles and responsibilities is crucial to minimise confusion emanating from overlap and duplication of activities. This enhances efficient co-ordination of activities undertaken by the various stakeholders.

3.3.1 The NAP

The NAP proposes programmes for implementation under the CCD. These programmes also form part of the SEAP policy document. Since the CCD is related to other conventions such as the CBD and FCCC, the NAP recognises the importance of other initiatives within the framework of the relevant conventions.

3.3.2 The National Steering Committee on Desertification (NSCD)

The responsibility of this committee is predominantly decision - making and influencing policy on desertification issues. Its major task is to facilitate and promote the formulation and submission of projects, and to oversee the implementation of projects by interested parties. The committee shall periodically, compile existing projects and suggest a menu of viable projects for execution. In addition, the committee may offer assistance, upon request by prospective partners, in the initiation and design of projects. Using a specified criteria, the Committee shall be responsible for the approval of projects submitted by participating stakeholders.

3.3.3 Participating Partners and Stakeholders

This is a composition of all governmental and non-governmental agencies, NGOs, community groups and individuals interested in combating desertification. The participating partners and stakeholders shall initiate and design their own projects. They shall also be responsible for the execution of the projects once they have been approved. This is an independent exercise undertaken by the stakeholders using the participatory approach. They may solicit assistance from the Committee, but they are not obliged. Specified goals in their projects shall be based on needs and priorities and be in accordance with the overall goals of the CCD and the execution of the NAP.

3.3.4 Participating International Agencies

- **UNDP-UNSO:** Provides strategic guidance, technical backstopping, monitoring and reports to donors on supported projects.
- **UNDP Country Office:** The country office is responsible for the management and administrative follow-up on project implementation, monitoring and reporting for those projects funded by UN agencies.
- **IFAD:** Houses the Global Mechanism which has been established by the Conference of parties and is responsible for mobilising funds to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial resources in tackling desertification issues in affected developing countries.
- **UNEP:** Co-operates with UNDP and the World Bank in the implementation of the Global Environment Facility. The Global Environment Facility provides grants and concessional funds to developing for projects and activities that aim at protecting the environment. UNEP also works jointly with UNSO on cross-cutting issues including information exchange and research.
- **CCD Secretariat:** Responsible for arranging sessions of the conference of the parties. In addition, the secretariat has to compile and transmit reports and facilitate assistance to affected developing country Parties as well as coordinating all CCD activities.

3.3.5 The Focal Point / Secretariat / Co-ordination Unit

A co-ordination unit will be established to serve as the secretariat and focal point for all CCD activities in Swaziland. This shall not be a one person responsibility as it was the case in the preparatory stages of the NAP. The Unit shall be composed of a Programme Manager (currently the focal point) and four Programme Officers (or Programme Assistant Managers). In the proposed structure the Unit will be an interface between prospective participants (stakeholders) mainly at community levels, the Steering committee and SEA. This structure will avoid the creation of numerous ministerial or sectorial committees. The unit shall be accorded all the necessary facilities (including transport) and based preferably in the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Land Use Section or within the SEA structure in the Ministry of Communications, Tourism and Environment. All officers of the Unit shall be full-time public servants with specific minimum qualifications as suggested below. At least one of the officers must be a female to facilitate strengthening of the role of women in the implementation of the convention.

The Programme Manager

- Postgraduate degree in Soil Science, Environmental Science, Environmental Education, Land Use Planning, Physical Geography, Agricultural Engineering and any other relevant qualification.
- More than five years experience in Land utilisation, Land Use Planning and Conservation.
- Must have been involved in CCD or Land Degradation activities.
- Possess a valid driver's licence.

The Programme Officers / Programme Assistant Managers

- First degree preferably in Environmental Science, Land Use Planning , Geography or Sociology.
- Experience in working with communities and NGOs.

- Possess a valid driver's licence.

This unit shall co-ordinate the implementation of the NAP and provide continuity on long-term NAP programme activities. The Unit, shall on behalf of the NSCD, facilitate invitation and submission of projects from stakeholders. The officers shall periodically visit communities and organisations to monitor progress on the implementation of CCD projects and activities and to offer assistance and advise where needed. The Unit shall also liaise with relevant agencies, such as SADC ELMS and UNDP-UNSO for purposes of reporting, information sharing and other matters related to the implementation of CCD projects. The unit shall act as an information centre to facilitate collection and dissemination of information among the stakeholders. The specific roles of the officers are outlined below:

The Programme Manager

The officer shall work full-time on promoting the activities of the Convention with the following duties:

These officers shall work on a full- time basis on CCD activities. They shall work closely with the Programme Manager who shall periodically delegate duties to them. They shall perform the following duties:

- **Execute recommendations of the NSCD.**
- **Be in-charge of the Co-ordination Unit and liaise with other relevant institutions.**
- **Provide administrative support for the execution of the NAP.**
- **Be a secretary (non-voting) in all NSCD meetings.**
- **Make administrative decisions on behalf of the NSCD for decision making.**
- **Compile and present project proposal to the NSCD on the performance on NAP programmes and activities.**
- **Issue invitation of project submission to all stakeholders on behalf of the NSCD.**
- **And any other duties that may be assigned by the NSCD in consultation with the SEA and other relevant departments.**

3.4 Project initiation and submission procedure

A framework for project initiation shall not be suggested because project initiation is solely the prerogative of the stakeholders/prospective participants. The framework below, however, offers some guidelines on the submission of projects.

- Stakeholders in consultation with affected communities identify desertification problems and design projects of their own choice, but consistent with the CCD programmes.
- The project Manager, on behalf of the NSCD, invites stakeholders to submit projects worthy of consideration.
- The stakeholders then make submission of project proposals (see submissions format in section 3.5) to Project Assistants for registration in the Co-ordination Unit.
- The Project Manager compiles the proposals and formally register and submit them to the NSCD for deliberations.
- The NSCD, guided by specific criteria (section 3.6), select and approve projects deserving implementation.
- Approved projects are then forwarded to relevant organisations and agencies (partners for cooperation, funding and technical assistance).
- The relevant agency/partner and the Co-ordination Unit, through the project Assistants, monitor the implementation of projects and submit periodical progress reports for technical appraisal and evaluation.

3.5 Project submission format

It is important that projects are submitted in a uniform format. This allows for a consistent assessment by the NSCD when it comes to projects approval. The format includes the following items:

- **Name of the agency/organisation/individual and (contact) address.**
- **Project title/theme.**
- **Outline of aim and objects.**
- **The geographic location of the project.**

- **Identification of participating communities/villages or individuals in the execution of the work or activities.**
- **Plan of project activities.**
- **Material resources required.**
- **Execution /implementation time frame.**
- **Breakdown of required funds including other sources such as those generated locally by communities, participating partners and from potential donors.**

3.6 Project approval criteria

While the decision to approve or not to approve a project is the prerogative of the NSCD, it may however consider the following factors in its project proposals assessment:

- **Seriousness of the land degradation /desertification problem to be addressed.**
- **Feasibility of the project in terms of resource availability for implementation as well as its potential to address the identified problem.**
- **Contribution of the proposed project activities to socio-economic activities, particularly poverty alleviation.**
- **Consult with the criteria set out in Article 11 of SEAP vol.1.**

3.7 Renumeration and funding

The NAP is produced entirely to guide and ensure the successful implementation of the CCD in Swaziland. The execution of the NAP on long-term and sustainable basis requires the availability of funds not only to support the project initiatives but also to encourage and sustain the momentum of various role players towards the implementation of the CCD in the country. The NAP suggest the creation of a remuneration and funding facility for role players and projects within the NAP structure. These include the NSCD, the Co-ordination Unit, Community committees and NGOs.

3.7.1 The NSCD

While this committee is representative of all stakeholders, it would be false to hope that their participation in committee deliberations would be sustained over a long time without remunerative incentives. A remunerative facility may have to be established on the lines of sitting allowances to encourage and sustain the momentum among the NSCD members irrespective of the organisation from where they are drawn.

3.7.2 The Co-ordination Unit

Officers of the Unit shall work on full - time basis exclusively on activities related to combating desertification. Funds must be made available to pay their salaries consistent with government salary format. Sources of this line of funding may be solicited from co-operating international agencies such as the UNDP. The government may also establish this structure within an existing ministry or department and create the necessary posts and make budget arrangements.

3.7.3 Regional committees

These are involved in the identification and execution of project activities which may include tree planting, stone collection, construction of embankments and many others. Regional committees have an important role to play in assisting communities to identify and execute project activities. They also play a pivotal role in ensuring the success of the NAP within their regions. A line of funding which can be easily incorporated into the entire project budget as personnel or technical costs needs to be explored to cater for the regional committees.

3.8 Potential sources of funding

3.8.1 Government

Government is expected to play the catalytic role in the funding of activities to combat desertification. In addition it is expected to take a lead in the mobilisation of resources from donors and other sources.

3.8.2 UNDP-UNSO

This organisation has played a major role in the mobilisation of funds for the initiation of CCD activities in the country. It is hoped that it will continue to do so even during the implementation phase.

3.8.3 The Global mechanism

This is an institution established by the Conference of Parties to assist developing country parties in their efforts of mobilising resources for the implementation of the convention. It is thus expected to collaborate with government in the sourcing of funds for CCD activities.

3.8.4 UNEP

This organisation has pledged its willingness to support the implementation of the convention through provision of financial and technical support to developing country parties.

3.8.4 CCD Secretariat

As an overall coordinating institution of the convention the Secretariat will be expected to come to the rescue of parties in times of need especially when it comes to resource mobilisation and technical backstopping.

3.8.5 National Desertification Fund (NDF) / National Environmental Fund (NEF)

The Convention recommends that signatory nations create a special fund to provide financial resources for combating desertification activities. The government of Swaziland is in a process of initiating a broad - based national environmental fund to deal with the entire environmental issues not desertification alone, as it is the case with the NDF. The NEF is preferred mainly to avoid excessive logistics and red tape associated with small separate funds serving more or less similar goals. Financing of the NEF would be derived from taxes imposed on commercial projects associated with environmental exploitation.

3.8.6 Private Sector Funding

The private sector recognises its responsibility in the overall development of the country including protection of its environment. However, its willingness to contribute to environment related funds is discouraged by past experiences where such noble funds were initiated only to be abandoned immediately. The private sector need government assurance and guarantee on survival of such a fund to encourage its effective contribution. Moreover, the private sector would like to have a say in the management of the fund.

4.0 RESPONSES TO DESERTIFICATION

4.1 Introduction

Combating desertification goes beyond the recognition of the existence, causes and effects of desertification. There is need to respond to the problem in a positive and sustainable manner. Various institutions whose activities relate to desertification either positively or negatively need to be engaged in the process. These institutional initiatives could be in the form of programmes or projects. Success of the initiated projects or programmes can only be realised if appropriate policy and legislative instruments are in place. This Section examines how the government of Swaziland and other institutions have responded to the issue of desertification. The Section looks at the institutional initiatives in the form of on-going programmes or projects and the policy and regulatory responses associated with these programmes.

4.2 Policy and regulatory responses

Effective policies and legislation are essential for the success of any programme because they guide and facilitate the achievement of the set goals. Several policies and regulations have been drafted over the years. Some of these do address the issue of land degradation in the country. Amongst the policies that were meant to address issues of land degradation is the

- ◆ Forest Preservation Act of 1910. This Act restricts forest clearance and the cutting of trees on Swazi Nation Land and land leased to Government as outlined in Section 3 of the Act.
- ◆ The Natural Resources Act (1951) and the King's Order in Council of 1954 which led to the establishment of the Central Rural Development Board (CRDB) also address aspects of land degradation.
- ◆ Related to the activities of the CRDB is the Swazi Nation Act (1961) which controls land use in rural areas.
- ◆ In 1972, the Control of Tree Planting Act was established. This Legislation gives the Ministry of Agriculture and the Natural Resources Board the mandate to designate tree control areas on agricultural land.
- ◆ Orderly development of urban and rural settlements is controlled by the Human Settlement Act of 1989 as amended in 1992. Although there are extensive policies and regulations regarding the use of natural resources in the country, a number of problems have been experienced. These problems include duplication, poor implementation and lack of enforcement of existing policies. The National Action Programme must solicit means of consolidating duplicated policies and strategies to avoid such occurrences in the future.

Since (1992) the implementation and enforcement of policies and regulations is a mandate of the Swaziland Environment Authority as contained in the SEA Act (1992). Amongst the achievements of the SEA is the formulation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations and Procedures (1996). This policy instrument is meant to address inappropriate siting of infrastructure and mitigate effects on the environment. These regulations and procedures are being revised to emphasise on the social aspects of EIAs. The second achievement has been the preparation and completion of the Swaziland Environmental Action Plan (SEAP). The SEAP defines plans and actions that will ensure sustainable use of natural resources in the country. Within the SEAP, issues that are relevant to combating desertification are mainly covered under natural resource management. Other relevant sectors include the biodiversity, energy and forestry sectors. In 1998, the SEA engaged a national co-ordinator to facilitate the formulation of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP). The BSAP is now complete and awaiting Cabinet approval. In June 1997, drafting of the National Land Policy was launched by the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources and Energy. This policy is still under review. Part of this policy initiative is the drafting and review of the Rural Land Policy to address matters such as rural land tenure and overall resource management.

As a follow-up activity to the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, government initiated the National development strategy in 1994. The main features of the NDS is the incorporation of environmental concerns in the development initiatives of the country. The NDS also highlights or reflects the national policy instruments. In 1997, the Prime Minister's Office initiated the Economic and Social Reform Agenda (ESRA) and is now in its second phase. Under ESRA, policies in the areas of population, water conservation, rural settlement, social welfare, housing and gender are under review or being drafted.

4.3: Institutional initiatives

Issues of land degradation in the country have been cause for concern since the colonial period. Measures to control soil erosion in the country started in the 1940s with the introduction of grass strips by extension workers. A total of 113 780km of grass strips were laid out by the extension workers between 1940 and 1960. In 1951, the Natural Resources Board was established by the Natural Resources Act. This board was commissioned to supervise the use of natural resources in the country, except on SNL. This was followed by the formation of the Central Rural Development Board (CRDB) by the King's Order in Council in 1954. The CRDB was charged with resettlement, the division of all SNL into arable and grazing areas and the management of the nations' natural resources. As a consequent to the formation of the CRDB, local conservation or development committees (Imisumphe) were established. However, due to conflicts with chiefs and basic ingredients of operations these became inefficient (Osunade, 1994 (b)).

In 1970, the RDAP was established with funding from the United Kingdom. The programme was extended in 1976 with bilateral aid from West Germany, Sweden and Canada and multilateral aid from the World Bank, African Development Bank, European Economic Union (EEC) and UNDP. This programme was geared to improve the income and well-being of the Swazi farmers by providing infrastructure, fencing grazing areas,

improving livestock management and land consolidation among other things. Soil conservation became prominent in the RDAP with the introduction of terraces to replace grass strips. According to Osunade (1994 (b)), only 20% of the planned conservation measures were achieved in the RDAP. Of the planned removal of 39 400 ha of grass strips only 2 034 ha were removed and of the 42 800 ha of terraces, a total of 2 003 ha were constructed. In most cases, the established terraces are poorly maintained and have contributed to the problem of soil erosion. This is particularly true in road reserves. On the other hand, although grass strips are also poorly maintained, they have been successfully integrated to the farming systems of the country. Since 1983, farmers have continued to lay grass strips in their farms without anybody compelling them (Osunade, 1994 (b)).

The year 1992 saw the establishment of the Swaziland Environment Authority, a body whose mandate is to oversee all environmental issues in the country. As a result of this initiative, the Swaziland Environment Action Plan has been produced. Whilst, it is still too early to measure the effectiveness of this initiative, it is important to note that without effective public participation the initiative is not likely to yield the desired results. Also of importance in the success of any initiative is to identify and address the key issues in a holistic manner.

Key players in environmental protection have been the Ministries of Agriculture and Co-operatives, and Natural Resources and Energy. With the transfer of SEA and the Swaziland National Trust Commission (SNTC) in 1997, the Ministry of Tourism and Communication, now called the Ministry of Tourism, Communication and Environment became involved. SNTC, established in 1972, is the main institution for the development and administration of national parks and reserves as well as the identification of protection worthy areas. Environmental Education programmes are also being co-ordinated by SNTC. Key departments or sectors in the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives regarding environmental protection are the Land Use Planning Section, Soil Testing Unit, Forestry section and the CRDB. Within the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, the Land Use Planning Section is supposed to oversee that land allocation is according to the capability of the land. The Soil Testing Unit is supposed to ensure appropriate use of chemical fertilisers on land. The forestry section is responsible for afforestation programmes in the country. Key sectors in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy are the Energy section, Natural Resources Board, Water Resources Board, Water Apportionment Board and Rural Water Supply Board. The Energy Sector is supposed to ensure supply and efficient use of energy resources in the country whilst the other sectors have to ensure the availability of clean water supplies and efficient use of water resources.

4.4: Current and on-going programmes and project

The country has engaged a number of programmes and projects that can significantly contribute to the fight against desertification. Downing and Zuke (1996) give a detailed review of on-going Programmes and projects. These programmes and projects are sub-divided into three categories. There are programmes and projects that are implemented by the Central government department (Table 4.1), those that are implemented by parastatals and the private sector and programmes and projects implemented by Non-Governmental Organisations. Key ministries in the central government programmes and projects are the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy. Within the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, the key sections are the Land Use Planning, Livestock, Forestry Sections and the Agricultural Promotion and Extension Programme. There are two sections of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy which have undertaken projects that are relevant to desertification. These are the Energy Section and the Geological Survey and Mines Department.

Noted in these programmes is the lack of or poor participation of communities in the design and implementation of the programmes. Of particular concern is the resettlement programme which was meant to address the issue of land allocations in rural areas. Concern has been raised in a number of areas that whilst people were resettled to make room for grazing and cultivation, in some areas, grazing lands were not properly fenced or allocated. As such, there is a shortage of grazing land and the cattle roam around causing destruction not only on the communal land but also to property (especially trees) and fields. A second area of concern is the apparent duplication of efforts between ministries or departments and within the same ministry or department. Examples include the Rural Development Area Programme, Grazing Management Programme, Intensive Livestock Production Systems Programme, and rural water supply programmes. There is need to consolidate resources in those programmes that are closely related to avoid duplication.

Table 4.1 On-going government programmes addressing the issue of desertification in the country.

PROGRAMME	RELEVANCE	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY	PROGRESS AND LIMITATION
Rational Utilisation of Resources	Database to be used in preparation of land-use plans	MOAC- Land Use Planning Section (LUPS)	LUPS working on plans to re-org; resettlement on SNL but commur in document
Swaziland Environment Action Plan	Outline of strategies to reduce environmental degradation	Swaziland Environment Authority	Formally launched in June, 1998 ; communities and other stakeholde
Rural Development Area programme	Relieve grazing pressure through increased marketing and cattle fattening schemes. Improve soil conservation through establishment of terraces	Agricultural Promotion Extension Programme	Progress is questionable. Minimum overgrazing. Only 20% of target s achieved
Resettlement Programme	Division of SNL into arable and grazing areas and establishment of local conservation committees (Imisumphe)	Central Rural Development Committee	Misunderstanding and poorly defi with chiefs thus inefficient local c
Grazing Land Management Demonstration Areas	Introduction of controlled grazing by a group of farmers within a small block (100 - 300 ha) of the total grazing area with hope that non-members will expand the practice	MOAC - Livestock section	In 1995, only 4 of the original 11 or effective animal production and Shortage of land may also be a lin
Fattening Ranches (Holding grounds)	Relieve pressure hence reduce overgrazing on communal (SNL) grazing lands	MOAC - Livestock section	Mainly utilised by a small sector c empower communities to solve gr
Intensive Livestock Production Systems Programme	Relieve pressure on SNL by identifying appropriate intensive livestock production systems to increase farmer's income	MOAC - Livestock section	Construction / rehabilitation of rural sale yards. Does not quite ad pressure, since the sale of cattle is farmer.
Livestock Sub-sector Review and Vegetation Survey	Development of livestock policy framework and provision of data for inclusion in the national land-use plan	MOAC	On-going
Management of Indigenous Forest and Wattle Plantations	Environmental conservation of indigenous forest products and reduction of deforestation	MOAC - Forestry Section	On-going. Need to establish possi growing trees on buffer zones on indigenous tree
Forest Nurseries	Introduction, improvement and maintenance of nurseries, especially in firewood-deficit areas	MOAC - Forestry Section	On-going Emphasises on fast growing tree s
Earth dam Rehabilitation and construction	To improve water supply in rural areas and mitigate the effects of drought	MOAC - Land-use Planning Section	On-going
	Komati River Basin Development Design and implementation of irrigation schemes, improve water supply and provision of hydro-electric power MNRE - KOBWA On-going Local and Government of RSA		
Development of water supply and sanitation in rural areas	To combat diseases and promote hygienic water consumption and practices To uplift standard of living in rural areas and mitigate the effects of drought	MNRE MHSW	On-going

Source: Downing and Zuke (1996)
Allen (1997)

4.4.1 Private Sector Initiative

Within the private sector, the Swaziland Sugar Association and SAPPI Usutu have displayed a keen interest on initiating programmes with a positive impact on the fight against desertification. SAPPI Usutu initiated the "Tiphilise Ngelihlatsi project to encourage neighbouring communities to grow commercial tree as an income-generating project whilst combating soil erosion. This project was formally launched this year, on August 19, 1998. In as much as this programme may contribute to combating desertification, there is need for a thorough analysis of its environmental impacts, especially with reference to soil processes and possible depletion or pollution of water resources. Downing and Zuke (1996), also note that the Swaziland Sugar Association has played a key role in drought relief programmes. The water Strategy Planning Committee of the SSA and key government department have initiated a project on sediment transport for the estimation of erosion in critical catchments. This project will not only sustain water supply but fish populations within the catchments.

4.4.2 Non-Governmental Organisations

Regarding Non-governmental Organisations, several are NGOs engaged in programmes and projects that address issues of desertification in the country. Some of these programmes are outlined by Downing and Zuke (1996) and the report on the workshop on NGO involvement in the NAP process for the implementation of CCD (Anon). The different NGOs and their programmes are shown in Table 4.2 below. Apart from the listed projects, Non-governmental organisations also conduct workshops on environmental awareness, soil management, water management, livestock management, crop production and energy efficient stoves in the different areas of operation. The key organisations in the conduction of these workshops are the Council of Swaziland Churches, Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society, Lutheran Development Service and Yonge Nawe. Yonge Nawe also runs workshops on the Convention to Combat Desertification for other NGOs.

The results of a study by Patrick (1988) on Traditional Leaders, rural development and leadership training in Swaziland indicate that water systems as well as cattle and pasture management are high priority areas in most communities. The chiefs demonstrated little interest on resettlement, dam construction, land reclamation and woodlots. This bias is also illustrated in the on-going government and NGO projects and programmes and there is need to address the issue. For example, of the fourteen (14) on-going projects by government, 4 deal with sustainable land allocation and utilisation, 4 deal with cattle and pasture management and 3 are water related projects. Although some work is being done on the rehabilitation of degraded lands, this has been limited to a few areas. Extended coverage of projects and operation areas can be facilitated by the Co-ordination Unit of the NAP. This unit should suggest possible projects that deserve to be executed and a list of critical areas which are seriously affected by desertification. With the exception of the Swaziland Farmer's Development Service, community participation is not clearly stated in most NGO projects. The National Action Programme emphasises on this important aspect of project development and implementation. NGOs have the responsibility to assist communities in the implementation of other projects rather than concentrating on pre-funded or aid-driven projects.

4.4.3 Research

The university of Swaziland and other organisations have conducted a number of studies on gully erosion in the country. This information is extremely valuable in terms of determining the most affected areas with regard to desertification. However, not much has been done on the rate of sedimentation in our river systems and the destruction of wetlands by sedimentation and trampling. The NAP also encourages further research activities on these topics. Other topics of research include an analysis of resilient plant species and plants that may be used to rehabilitate degraded land and wetlands.

Table 4.2 On-going projects under the auspices of NGOs

PROJECT	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY	RELEVANCE TO CCD AND NAP	AREAS OF OPERATION
Community woodlots	Council of Swaziland Churches	improve fuelwood supply and reduce deforestation	Ndzevane Lubulini
Homestead and Community Gardens and Orchards	Council of Swaziland Churches	Improve nutrition in rural areas and conservation of land. Alternative sources of income	Ndzevane Ncandvweni Mahlabaneni Sinyamantulwa
	Caritas Swaziland		KanDzangu KaLanga Emphilweni Elukhetseni KaShoba
	Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society		Emvundleni KaHhohho Sigcineni KaWelcome Mantambe
	World Vision		Lubhuku Gilgal
	Emanti Esive		Ngonini Mahlabaneni
Improvement of grazing lands	Caritas Swaziland	reduce soil erosion	KanDzangu KaLanga Emphilweni Elukhetseni KaShoba
Protection of grazing lands	Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society	reduce overgrazing and soil erosion	Ndlalambi Mantambe
	SFDF		Sigwe hills
Rotational grazing	World Vision	reduce soil erosion and improve	Gilgal

		pastures	
Feedlots	Lutheran Development Services	Reduce grazing pressure and encourage sale of livestock	Mbutfu*
	SFDF		Mbutfu* Lulakeni Matsanjeni
Donga / Land Reclamation	Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society	Combat soil erosion and rehabilitate the land	Mantambe
	World Vision		Malindza
	Yonge Nawe		Zikhotheni Kukhanyeni Mahlanya Lwandle
Drying and Processing of food products	Caritas Swaziland	Food security, Disaster relief and alternative source of income	Mpholonjeni
Grain Storage	Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society	Food security	KaWelcome Mantambe Sigcineni
Rain water Harvesting	Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society	Improve clean water supply and mitigate the effects of drought	KaWelcome Mantambe Sigcineni
	Lutheran Development Service		Zandondo Zindwendweni Mbutfu* Nsubane Nsalitje*
Domestic Water supply/ Spring protection	Yonge Nawe		EVusweni
	Emanti Esive		Zindwendweni Nsubane Mkhaya KaNzameya
Terracing	Lutheran Development Services		Zandondo

			Zindwendweni Mbutfu* Nsubane Nsalitje*
Introduction of ostriches	Swaziland Farmer Development Foundation	Control grass growth and bush encroachment	Mgamudze
Sunflower oil extraction	Emanti Esive	Alternative sources of income	Mbekelweni
Candle making			Endlembeni
Poultry keeping			Etibondzeni
Retail shop			Mahlabaneni

* Collaborative effort between Lutheran Development Services, Swaziland Farmers Development Services , Yonge Nawe, Caritas Swaziland and Umtapo

Source: Anon (1997).

5: EMERGING ISSUES

5.0 Introduction

The establishment of the NSCD facilitated the initial phase of consultation and awareness raising on the National Action Programme to Combat Desertification. A working document was also compiled for the NAP (Ndlovu, 1997) and used as a basis for group and plenary discussions during the First National Forum held in September 1997. The forum identified and prioritised fourteen issues that need to be addressed for the effective implementation of the NAP. Relationships to other on-going programmes and responsible institutions for the implementation of the activities were also identified at the National Forum. Below is a detailed description of the key issues that were recommended and prioritised by the Forum. It will be noted that some of the issues have been re-arranged to accommodate overlaps and for effective implementation of the NAP. The issues have been developed into the programme areas expounded in Section 6.

5.1. Proper Institutional Framework for dealing with Desertification

Within the country there are several institutions that deal with land issues. These are the Central Rural Development Board, Land Development Section, Land-use Planning Section (all under MOAC) and Natural Resources Board (under MNRE). With the exception of the NRB whose mandate is the management of natural resources in urban areas, all the institutions are responsible for various land issues in rural areas. The responsibilities of these institutions includes; the implementation of the resettlement programme, design and implementation of small irrigation schemes, construction of rural roads, construction of earth dams, land use planning and land allocation according to capabilities. Considering the integrated nature of the responsibilities of these institutions the forum felt that they should be merged(except for the Boards) to form a Land Management Division within (MOAC). It was proposed that the Land management Division should provide technical expertise to the CRDB and NRB and other agencies on all land use related activities. A co-ordination unit for all CCD activities also needs to be established within the Land Management Division. To effectively do this, the Division will need a larger resource base. In rural areas land allocations are the responsibility of local conservation committees (Imisumphe). These committees must work in consultation with the proposed Land Management Division and CCD Co-ordination Unit. to avoid irregularities in the allocation of land.

5.2. Chieftaincy and Chiefdom Boundary Disputes

Disputes within and between Chiefs in the country are noted to hamper development and the implementation of projects and programmes in affected areas. The origins of chieftaincy disputes encompass the complex system on the choice of a successor following the death of an appointed chief to poorly demarcated boundaries between chiefdoms. Basically, there are two forms of disputes in the country; (a) disputes over the rightful chief and (b) disputes over boundaries. The debate on who is the rightful chief is a long standing issue. In 1970, King Sobhuza (II) appointed a commission to address this question. Unfortunately the report of this commission was never publicised (Patrick, 1988). The forum suggested that chiefdom boundaries must be clearly demarcated and documented. The need to document the roles and responsibilities of chiefs was also emphasised including documentation and dissemination of information on the criteria, laws and procedures pertaining to the choice of successor to the wider public. A register of all chiefs must be kept and up-dated on a continuous basis. This can be done through consultations with the chiefs and other traditional community authorities countrywide. Traditional authorities have an important role to play in the enforcement of policies and programmes hence the success of any process depends on a speedy resolution of the Chieftaincy disputes.

5.3 Awareness and Capacity Building

Noted at the forum is that Swaziland has a paucity of soil and water conservation experts. The few conservation experts are based at the headquarters of the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives. There are no field officers that can promote soil conservation in rural areas. Existing extension workers and veterinary officers are mainly trained on crop production and livestock production and disease control respectively. The forum felt that trained soil and water conservation specialists should be posted to all four regions of the country. Suitable course modules on soil and water conservation also need to be developed for extension officers and community training at the Tinkhundla centres and chiefdoms. Environmental education also needs to be integrated in the formal education curricula. The training materials have to emphasise the importance of both "scientific" and indigenous knowledge techniques for combating desertification as outline in Article 19 paragraph 1(d) of the convention.

5.4 Community participation at grass-root level

Communities must be sensitised on the consequences of land degradation and encouraged to participate actively in land management programmes at grass-root level. This approach is also emphasised in the convention (Article 3 (a) and it is the recipe for a long-term solution to combating desertification. Grassroot (local) communities have to participate at project identification, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. To achieve this, the NAP process will accommodate the ideas of local communities, the youth and other relevant organisations.

5.5 Reclamation and rehabilitation of degraded lands

Land degradation in the country is so severe that crop and livestock productivity levels are affected. It is estimated that over 55% of communal grazing land on Swazi Nation Land, can hardly produce 100 kg of dry matter per hectare per year. The severity of land degradation is demonstrated by the widespread gullies, rills and sheet erosion. With increasing population and demand for more land by competing land uses, the problem of soil erosion has grown worse (Osunade, 1994). As a result of soil erosion, sediment yield in the drainage systems of the country have increased resulting in diminishing water supply and fish populations. For example, Pitman (1977) as quoted by Osunade (1994), notes that sediment yield is about 8 tonnes /ha/yr in the highveld and middleveld , 10 tonnes/ha/yr in the lowveld the yield and 4 tonnes/ha/year in the Lubombo region. With the use of agricultural chemicals, soil pollution is also inevitable. To solve these problems, an effective soil and water conservation unit must be established. This unit must facilitate the return of eroded land into production and encourage the implementation of soil and water conservation measures in rural areas.

5.6 Sustainable utilisation of land resources

The manner in which land resources are utilised in the country is not sustainable. Land is improperly allocated to different land uses and in some cases there is no land for grazing purposes. Part of the cause for improper land allocation, is the country's land tenure system and the rapid population growth rate. In 1994/95, it was estimated that only 100400 ha is available for settlements and cultivation for a population of 595 000 people on SNL. This encourages the occupation of marginal lands and further degradation of the land. Concerning grazing, most rural areas in Swaziland are overstocked and this also contributes to land degradation through overgrazing. It is important to revise land allocations and explore strategies to control livestock and human population numbers in the country. Sufficient technical capacity needs to be developed and engaged to assist in the preparation of land-use capability plans for all catchments. These plans must be drafted in consultation with all stakeholders, including communities. Women have an important role to play as farm managers hence they should be actively involved in all the activities and project stages. There is also a strong need for the management of catchments and monitoring of water conservation structures in the different river systems.

5.7 Research and Technology Development

Although it is known that the middleveld and lowveld are highly degraded due to overgrazing and poor land management, there is need for intensive research on land degradation issues in the country. The soil erosion potential of the country needs to be established before prioritisation of soil conservation strategies. Research on the most effective and appropriate technology to combat desertification is also a must for the success of the programme. Proposed research activities should include an examination of the underlying causes of desertification and poverty and how best to address these. The effectiveness of existing soil and water conservation structures also needs to be evaluated and reviewed.

5.8 Proper Siting And Construction Of Infrastructure

Improper siting and construction of infrastructure contributes to land degradation in Swaziland. There is need to prepare detailed land use capability maps and to encourage the use of land according to its capabilities. Operators need to be encouraged to conduct Environmental Impact Assessments and implement comprehensive monitoring and mitigation plans prior to the siting and construction of infrastructure. The EIAs must not only concentrate on the physical environment but also the socio-economic environment too. In the selection of possible resettlement areas where the need arises, the local conservation committees (Imisumphe), Land Management Division and the CCD Co-ordination Unit should be activity involved.

5.9. Indiscriminate Land Clearing and Veld Fires

There are no regulations and guidelines on the cutting of trees, land clearance and indiscriminate veld burning in the country. As a result, deforestation and bush fires are on the increase in Swaziland and this situation needs to be addressed urgently. The environmental impacts of these activities are manifested in severe soil erosion and water depletion. People cut trees for woodfuel, building purposes and craft. There is need to develop and encourage the use of alternative energy sources in the country. Accessible alternative building materials need to be explored to reduce the effects of tree cutting. Furthermore, strategies for commercial wood cutters (e.g. for craft and building purposes) also need to be examined with local traditional authorities. This may include the imposition of penalties to be enforced by local traditional authorities where legislation has been flouted.

5.10. Improvement of Livestock Management Practices.

A livestock policy has been adopted by Swaziland. This policy is meant to deal with land issues. Within the NAP, effective strategies on land management need to be developed in line with the adopted livestock policy. Critical areas include a review of the number and location of dipping tanks, promotions of small ruminants and other alternative meat production systems, promotion of cattle sales and the use of alternative feeding schemes (e.g. feedlots) as well as the review and improvement of government sisa and fattening ranches. Sustainability of the programmes will depend on information dissemination, capacity building and awareness. As such, periodic workshops, seminars and information leaflets are a necessity. These should not be conducted for extension officers only but should involve local community members too.

5.11. Drought Mitigation and Poverty Alleviation

Whilst recognising and appreciating the importance of donor relief food distribution, these can also promote dependency syndrome amongst the affected communities. It is essential that people are assisted to develop themselves using available resources and techniques rather than work for food. Alternative means of livelihood need to be explored and early warning systems strengthened. Acquired information must be dissipated to communities on a timely basis in order to avoid disasters or mitigate the effects of drought. Food storage capacities also need to be improved to ensure food security.

5.12. Land Policy

To address the issue of land degradation vis-à-vis land allocation in the country, a land policy is essential. The policy must be formulated with the involvement of all the people concerned, starting from the chiefdoms to industrial and government sectors. This legislation also has to control the irreversible conversion of agricultural and forest land into non-agricultural and degrading uses. As part of the exercise all existing legislation and responsible sectors on land issues need to be reviewed and merged where feasible.

5.13. Settlement and Resettlement

The current practice of constructing homesteads with little regard for land use capability and future land development in the country will eventually result in severe land shortages, especially for crop production. Coupled with this is the possibility of future costly resettlement and infrastructural development programmes. To avoid such an occurrence there is need to develop clear criteria and policies for settlements in the country. It would be ideal to implement the village type of settlements or other suitable settlement models in the country. This exercise must also involve the revival of the Central Rural Development Board and a close liaison between the board and the Land Use Planning Section (MOAC). The Senior Planning Officer must sit in the board and facilitate the transfer of information between the board and the technical wing (Land Use Planning Section).

5.14. Population Policy

Considering that rapid population growth contributes to land degradation through increased pressure on land resources, a national population policy is essential. Recognising that there are a number of factors that influence decisions on the size of families, the policy must be drafted in consultation with communities and publicised in schools, chiefdoms and through media campaigns. Public ideas on the types of measures and incentives to be put in place have to be accommodated for the success of this policy. It is essential to realise that without an effective population policy, the NAP process and other related programmes will not achieve the desired outputs.

6: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME

6.1 Introduction

This section presents the implementation strategy and description of programmes to be undertaken in the implementation of the NAP. The programmes described here are a reflection of the priorities set out in the National Forum held In September, 1997 at Mphophoma. This section also sets out the underlying principles and guidelines for the implementation strategy. This includes a definition of the programme approach. Finally a detailed description of the programme areas is presented. The presentation on programme areas includes information on the objectives; outputs; activities; relevance to other programmes; institutional arrangements and the time frame for implementation. In discussing the relevance of the programme components or areas, linkages with other programmes especially poverty alleviation, sustainable livelihoods, good governance, NDS and others are highlighted.

6.2 The Guiding Principles

The principles form the basic guidelines for the implementation strategy. These principles are based on the following facts and assumptions:

- **NAP programmes and projects emphasise popular participation, or “people –led,” to promote their ownership among communities and enhance their execution and sustainability.**
- **NAP provides an enabling environment allowing communities to help themselves achieve their stated goals.**
- **It is essential to adopt a programme approach in the NAP to facilitate the full integration of CCD activities within other national policies for sustainable development. adoption of this approach also conforms with its increasing usage by governments.**
- **The implementation of the NAP emphasize building of partnerships between the various stakeholders and government.**
- **The implementation of NAP programmes and projects is based on self- initiative and on the learning –by – doing approach. The experience accumulated is carefully documented and fed back into subsequent stages of programme/ project implementation.**

6.3 The Programme Strategy

The programme approach shall be used in the implementation of the national priorities on combating desertification. In this approach the NAP goals will be articulated within the several programme areas described in Section 6.4. According to the UNDP (1997), the programme approach is a process which allows government to articulate national priorities and realise sustainable human development objectives through a coherent and participatory national programme framework”. While government takes the lead in human development issues the programme approach allows donor agencies to support one or more areas or components of a national programme framework in line with their comparative advantage. The programme approach encourages integration of all available resources, irrespective of origin, in addressing community / local and national priorities. In essence, it is a coherent set of interrelated policies, strategies and investments to achieve specific and time bound national development objectives. It outlines all requirements / resources as well as the implementation and management arrangements. Several benefits may be derived from the programme strategy. Most importantly, it offers a medium of amplifying environmental protection issues highlighted in the NDS and ESRA. In these programmes government has highlighted drought and land degradation as priority problems in the country. Moreover, the programme strategy acts as a tool for mobilising resources and thus enable the translation of the convention into action.

6.4. Detailed Description Of Programme Areas

The programme areas described below are derived from the CCD priority areas identified in the preceding section. Where information is available, all the programme areas will be presented in the following format: objectives, activities, outputs, relevance to other programmes, institutional framework for implementation, time frame and cost estimates. It is important to show the linkages and relationships of these programme areas with programmes developed by other sectors in the country. Such information can facilitate the implementation

process particularly with reference to the sharing of resources and technical information. Knowing the relationships can minimise the duplication of efforts where duties and responsibilities overlap.

6.4.1 Institutional Arrangements

- Objectives:**
- (a) To develop an effective and properly constituted institutional framework for the implementation of the NAP.
 - (b) To Establish an Environmental Fund for the implementation of the NAP.
- Outputs:**
- (a) A properly constituted institutional structure for the implementation of the NAP to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.
 - (b) Regional committees and a gazetted board dealing with desertification issues established.
 - (c) National Environment Fund established and implemented.
- Activities:**
- (a) Integration of the activities and merging of the Rural Development Office, Land Development Section and the Land Use Planning Section to form a Land Management Division.
 - (b) Creation of a CCD unit to co-ordinate activities for combating desertification within the Land Management Division.
 - (c) Strengthening of the Land Administration Board
 - (d) Establishment of environmental / desertification committees in all regions and Tinkhundla centres.
 - (e) Expedite the creation of a National Environment Fund.
 - (f) Conduct workshops and engage consultants to support and popularise the National Environment Fund.

Relevance to other Programmes.

This programme area is relevant to government's programme of decentralisation of functions and responsibilities to Tinkhundla centres. It accords well with objective 3 of the programme on "Strengthening Capacity for Good Governance" and Article 22, paragraph 2(c) of the Convention to Combat Desertification.

Institutional Framework For Implementation:

Since the responsible institutions are within the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, implementation of this programme must be co-ordinated by these two institutions in consultation with the Swaziland Environment Authority.

Time Frame

Short-Term (1 to 2 years)

6.4.2 Chieftaincy and Chieftdom Boundary Disputes

- Objectives:**
- (a) To assist in the acquisition of long-term solutions to land disputes within and between chiefdoms.
 - (b) To facilitate the implementation of proposed programmes and projects to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in the affected areas.
- Outputs:**
- (a) Documented criteria in the appointment of chiefs.
 - (b) Codified customary laws and procedures pertaining to the appointment and demotion of chiefs and strategies on the resolution of chieftaincy disputes.
 - (c) Delineated and documented chiefdom boundaries.
 - (d) Adequate information on the roles and responsibilities of chiefs and related traditional community structures.
- Activities:**
- (a) Review and documentation of customary law and procedures pertaining to the appointment (and demotion) of chiefs and the resolution of chieftaincy disputes.

- (b) Delineation and registration of areas affected by chieftaincy disputes.
- (c) Mapping and gazetting chiefdom boundaries.
- (d) Establish a committee to study and codify duties and responsibilities of chiefs.
- (e) Formulate and enact legislation framework guiding appointment and removal of acting chiefs (time perspective).
- (f) Mount community seminars at chiefdom level to explain roles and responsibilities of chiefs.

Relevance to Other Programmes:

This programme will benefit from the proposed committee/commission to draw chiefdom boundaries as well as the on-going codification of traditional and customary law.

Institutional Framework For Implementation:

The commission on codification of traditional and customary law co-ordinated by the Ministry of Justice has a major role to play in this programme. The surveyor general's office which is responsible for all mapping activities in the country will also contribute in mapping the chiefdoms and their boundaries in the country.

Time-frame:

medium-term

6.4.3 Promotion of Awareness And Capacity Building

Objectives:

- (a) To stimulate awareness among communities on issues of combating desertification.
- (b) To increase the local capacity of handling land degradation problems.
- (c) To facilitate the co-ordination of activities on combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

Outputs:

- (a) Increased awareness of land degradation and desertification issues among community members.
- (b) Land degradation/desertification co-ordination unit created.

Activities:

- (a) Review of school curricula to include environmental issues.
- (b) Prepare and distribute environmental pamphlets and other materials to various academic institutions and libraries/information centres.
- (c) Hold periodic technical workshops for community groups, NGOs and public and private agencies.
- (d) Establish community fora/media for information dissemination and discussion of desertification issues as well as formulation of strategies.
- (e) Create a unit to co-ordinate activities and disseminate information on combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.
- (f) Mount training sessions for community groups and individuals on desertification issues.
- (g) Identify an institution and upgrade it to mount and handle courses on desertification.
- (h) Co-ordinate research activities on desertification.
- (i) Facilitate liaison between land degradation control practitioners and communities.

Relevance to Other Programmes:

This programme is in accordance with Article 19 of the CCD. It also accords well with the activities of the National Environmental Education Steering Committee. The SNTC is currently implementing the National Environmental Education Programme(NEEP) which is of immediate relevance to this programme. The programme will also benefit from projects and programmes mounted by NGOs, such as Yonge Nawe that cover a broad spectrum of the Swazi society.

Institutional Framework For Implementation:

Implementation of this programme will be co-ordinated by SEA and involve NGOs as well as public and private agencies. The Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives will house and facilitate implementation of this programme.

Time frame:

Medium to long-term

6.4.4 Promotion of Active Participation of Communities in Land Management Programmes

Objective: To improve participation of communities at grassroots level in land management programmes

Outputs: Communities actively involved in land management programmes.

Activities:

- (a) Encourage active involvement of communities (including youth and women) in the formulation and implementation of programmes.
- (b) Mount continuous education campaigns for community members and groups for them to appreciate the desertification/land degradation problems.
- (c) Support existing environmental action groups and encourage the formation of new action groups.
- (d) Promote the formation of special area action groups such as river basin or land management associations.

Relevance to Other Programmes:

This programme is in accordance with CCD principles set out in Article 3 of the convention. This programme is also relevant to components of the programme on sustainable livelihoods, specifically the "participation and information for sustainable livelihoods".

Institutional Framework For Implementation:

The SEA in partnership with NGOs, CBO and community traditional structures will be responsible for implementation of this programme. The MOAC, land management division, will be responsible for co-ordination at national level.

Time frame:

Short to medium-term

6.4.5 Reclamation and rehabilitation of degraded land to promote sustainable utilisation of land resources

Objective: To reclaim and rehabilitate degraded lands and promote sustainable utilisation of land resources.

Outputs:

- (a) Degraded land reclaimed and used for production purposes.
- (b) Land allocation and utilisation driven by its capability and sustainability.

Activities:

- (a) Apply scientific and indigenous technology to reclaim/rehabilitate degraded land.
- (b) Evaluate, improve and/or strengthen existing conservation systems.
- (c) Develop and adopt new land management systems where applicable.
- (d) Prepare and implement integrated land use programmes.
- (e) Complete the national forestry policy and legislation to culminate in the formulation of a national forestry action plan.
- (f) Identify areas that are prone to erosion as a mitigation measure
- (g) Maintain a balance between socio-economic integration of environmental consideration in policies, strategies and programmes in compliance with environmental standards.

Relevance to Other Programmes:

This programme fits well into the various on-going activities by communities and NGOs on the reduction of gully erosion and filling of gullies.

Institutional Framework For Implementation:

Relevant sections in the MOAC and MNRE will co-ordinate and facilitate activities of NGOs and CBOs.

6.4.6 Formulation of a National Forestry Policy And Exploitation of Forest Products Framework

Objectives:

- (a) To formulate and implement a national forestry policy.
- (b) To encourage sustainable utilisation of forest products and encourage forest regeneration and growth.
- (c) Upgrading of the Forestry Section into a division

Outputs:

- (a) National Forest Policy
- (b) Framework for the utilisation of forest products
- (c) Framework for afforestation projects
- (d) Forestry Section strengthened

Activities:

- (a) Complete the National forest policy
- (b) Formulate procedures for forest clearance and tree cutting.
- (c) Establish local committees to manage and regulate the use of forest resources.
- (d) encourage growth of indigenous and commercial trees/forests.
- (e) Raise public awareness and knowledge on forest management.
- (f) Increase number of staff and mount periodic forest inventories.

Relevance to Other Programmes.

Several programmes aimed at encouraging forestry and forest management are proposed in SEAP. For example, promotion of small scale forest industries, expansion of forest plantations in highveld areas and provision of extension services to improve indigenous forest management.

Institutional Framework for Implementation

MOAC forestry section in conjunction with Tinkhundla, NGOs and CBOs., PSMP which is already approved by the Ministry of Labour.

Time Frame

Short-term

6.4.7 Research and Technology

Objectives:

- (a) To make available applicable information and technology to combat desertification.
- (b) To analyse the current environmental situation in Swaziland.
- (c) To provide necessary information to influence policy and decision making on desertification and drought mitigation issues.

Outputs:

- (a) Production/ publication of information on applicable technology for combating desertification.
- (b) Production of information kit on combating desertification.
- (c) Availability of information on climatic variations and improved early warning systems.

Activities:

- (a) Document previous and on-going research activities on land degradation and desertification.
- (b) Compile critical research areas on combating desertification.

- (c) Review less successful previous programmes to identify shortfall and potentials for success.
- (d) Document scientific and indigenous techniques to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.
- (e) Identify indigenous plants for the rehabilitation of degraded land and determine their propagation methods.
- (f) Examine and document potential strategies for the restoration of wetlands.
- (g) Document land resources and their utilisation.
- (h) Encourage and fund research and technology development on desertification related issues.
- (i) Analyse and review institutions and regulations on strategies to combat desertification.
- (j) Analyse current weather records and review current warning systems.
- (k) Mount research on multi-purpose and fast growing tree species.
- (l) Review and evaluate the efficiency of existing conservation systems.

Relevance to Other Programmes

This programme accords well with any research oriented programme in any institution in the country.

Institutional Framework For Implementation

All sectors involved in research (i.e. UNISWA, MNRE, MOAC, Private research institutions. The activities may be co-ordinated by the SEA and the proposed Land management division of the MOAC.

6.4.8 Proper Location of Construction Sites And Physical Infrastructure.

Objectives:

- (a) To minimise land degradation caused by improper siting and construction of infrastructure.
- (b) To minimise the effects of material acquisition on land and water resources.

Output:

Proper siting and construction of infrastructure.

Activities:

- (a) Conduct and enforce Environmental Impact Assessment regulation and procedures before the construction of any infrastructure.
- (b) Monitor plant operators/operations to ensure adherence to environmental regulations and concerns.

Relevance to Other Programmes

This programme is relevant to the Environmental Impact Assessment regulations and procedures which were gazetted in 1996. Currently, the Swaziland Environment Authority has engaged consultant to review these regulations to emphasise on the socio-economic aspects of EIAs.

encies, **Institutional Framework for Implementation**
MNRE and other related government Ministries.

6.4.9 Development of Alternative Energy Sources

- Objectives:**
- (a) To develop and adopt alternative energy sources.
 - (b) To reduce sole reliance on wood and other forest products for energy.
 - (c) To promote efficient use of energy resources.
- Outputs:**
- (a) Availability of alternative energy sources.
 - (b) Utilisation of other energy resources other than forest products.
- Activities:**
- (a) Investigate and promote the use of alternative sources of energy such as biogas, solar and wind power.
 - (b) Intensify the rural electrification programme.
 - (c) Facilitate through the provision of resources the establishment of community and individual woodlots as sources of energy.
 - (d) Encourage the use of fuel/ energy efficient stoves and other energy conserving techniques.

Relevance to Other Programmes

This programme fits well into the rural electrification programme, promotion of small scale forest industries, use of alternative energy sources and energy conserving stoves in rural households.

Institutional Framework

SEB, UNISWA, MOAC (Home Economics Department and Forestry Section), MNRE and SEA.

Time frame

Short-term

6.4.10 Improvement of Livestock Management Practices

- Objectives:**
- (a) To increase farmers' income from livestock production.
 - (b) To minimise damage caused by livestock on grazing land.
 - (c) To establish the carrying capacity of national grazing areas.
 - (d) To promote zero grazing
- Outputs:**
- (a) Better management of rangelands.
 - (b) Improved livestock quality and marketing thereby increasing the income of farmers.
 - (c) Sustainable livestock numbers.
- Activities:**
- (a) Provide incentives and develop strategies to encourage destocking.
 - (b) Promote supplementary feeding and the utilisation of alternative feed systems including crop and industrial residues.
 - (c) Adopt and implement the Dipping Chemicals Bill.
 - (d) Conduct workshops, seminars and field demonstrations on the potential and management of livestock.
 - (e) Develop and promote marketing and management schemes to encourage quality and availability of livestock products to consumers.
 - (f) Encourage the diversification of livestock production and other meat production systems such as poultry and fisheries.
 - (g) Improve siting and number of dip tanks and watering points for livestock.
 - (h) Mount periodic research on the carrying capacities of grazing areas.
 - (i) Promote the fencing of grazing areas and rotational grazing schemes on communal areas.
 - (j) Review the management and utilisation of government sisa and fattening ranches to reduce stocking rates on communal land.

- (k) Encourage and demonstrate the benefits of Zero grazing among rural communities.

Relevance to Other Programmes

This programme is in line with the SEAP programme to improve the management of rangelands and promote the dissemination of information and communication with livestock owners. It also fits into the objectives of the sisa and fattening ranches programme and the animal health inspection programme.

Institutional Framework For Implementation

MOAC (Animal Health Inspection Unit, Range management division and the proposed Land Management Unit) in consultation with SEA, Tinkhundla, NGOs, UNISWA (Faculty of Agriculture).

Time frame

Short-term

6.4.11 Drought Mitigation and Poverty Alleviation Strategies

Objective: To develop and implement strategies for drought mitigation and poverty alleviation.

Outputs:

- (a) Reduced effects of drought and the improvement of the socio-economic status of the populace.
- (b) Improved water availability for domestic and agricultural purposes.
- (c) Food security for all communities.

Activities:

- (a) Construct earth dams and promote irrigated farming.
- (b) Improve and promote rainwater harvesting techniques.
- (c) Strengthen early warning systems
- (d) Promote alternative sources of livelihood.
- (e) Bring idle farms into utilisation, especially for crop production.
- (f) Increase food storage capacity
- (g) Intensify sustainable plant production systems and appropriate technology transfer to all farmers.
- (h) Encourage the appropriate utilisation of ground water resources.
- (i) Co-ordinate and facilitate the provision of clean water supply to all communities.
- (j) Encourage income generating projects

Relevance to other programmes

This programme is relevant to the broader NDS and ESRA programmes where poverty alleviation is identified as a priority area. It is also related to the UNDP support programme on the promotion of sustainable livelihoods.

Institutional framework for implementation

MNRE (Rural and other Water departments), SWSC, MOAC, DPM office (Disaster Relief Task force).

Time frame

Short term

6.4.12 Land Use Policy

Objective: To complete and implement the draft land use policy.

- Outputs:**
- (a) A comprehensive land use policy that ensures proper allocation of land resources and minimise land degradation.
 - (b) A simplified land policy leaflet for awareness raising among the populace.
- Activities:**
- (a) Set-up a Task force to complete the draft land use policy with the assistance of consultancies.
 - (b) Provide land access opportunities and legal security of tenure to all citizens.
 - (c) Review existing legislation, formulate new legislation where needed and enforce all land legislation.
 - (d) Conduct a national stakeholder workshop to popularise the land use policy and educate all stakeholders.
 - (e) Prepare and distribute information leaflets on the land use policy.

Relevance to other programmes.

This programme is relevant to the SEAP, NDS and resettlement programmes.

Institutional framework for implementation

SEA, MNRE and MOAC.

Time frame

Short-term.

6.4.13 Settlement and Resettlement Policy

- Objective:** To develop and implement a settlement and resettlement policy to guide the development of settlements in rural and urban areas.
- Outputs:**
- (a) A settlement and resettlement policy that ensures proper siting of homesteads and settlements to minimise land degradation.
 - (b) Information leaflets on the policy.
 - (c) A properly constituted settlement or resettlement Authority in rural and urban areas.
- Activities:**
- (a) Appoint a task force and engage consultants to produce a settlement and resettlement policy.
 - (b) Strengthen the Land Administration Board for the implementation of the resettlement policy.
 - (c) Train local/community structures on land allocation and utilisation.
 - (d) Prepare and distribute leaflets on the settlement and resettlement policy.
 - (e) Conduct workshops and mount media campaigns to raise awareness on the policy and its intentions.

Relevance to other programmes

This programme may benefit from earlier resettlement programmes and the National Physical Development plan and ESRA.

Institutional framework for implementation

MHUD, MOAC, SEA.

Time frame

Short-term

6.4.14 Population Policy

- Objective:** To control population growth.
- Outputs:**
- (a) Reduction in population growth rate and sustainable utilisation of land resources.

- (b) Information leaflets on the population policy and population growth control measures.

Activities:

- (a) Implement and Enforce the National Population Policy.
- (b) Facilitate the Activities of the national population council.
- (c) Promote activities and facilities of the FLAS and other NGOs involved in population growth control.
- (d) Set-up a national maximum family size and provide incentives to those whose families are within or below the set maximum.

Relevance to other programmes

Population growth issues are included in the on-going NDS and ESRA programmes. FLAS has a long-term programme on population growth control in Swaziland.

Institutional Framework for implementation

NPC in MEPD, MHSW, SEA, FLAS and UNICEF.

Time frame

short to long-term.

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