



República de Angola
MINISTÉRIO DAS PESCAS E AMBIENTE

**

ANGOLA

**REPORT TO THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP III) OF
THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION**

LUANDA, APRIL 30th, 1999

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AAD -	Angolan Development Action
ADRA -	Rural and Environment Development Action
Pronatura -	Environmental NGO
UNDP -	UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
UNEP -	UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
SADC-	SOUTHERN AFRICA DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
ELMS -	ENVIRONMENT AND LAND MANAGEMENT SECTOR
UNSO -	UNITED NATIONS SAHELIAN OFFICE
FADA -	AGRARIAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND
FADEPA -	INLAND FISHING DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND
FAS -	SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND
PRODECA -	FOOD CROPS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR THE NORTHERN REGION
PRUALB -	ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN REHABILITATION PROJECT FOR BENHUELA AND LOBITO PROVINCE
PRC-	COMMUNITY REHABILITATION PROGRAM
Caritas -	CATHOLIC CHURCH NGO

POINT I: SUMMARY

The Government of Angola has elaborated and is implementing economic and social development programs with a triennial periodicity. In these programs, according to the actual situation, the priorities set by the government are defined.

In parallel, as a result of the peace process, the Government has submitted to the International community the Community Rehabilitation Program (PRC) which aims, among others, to rehabilitate rural infrastructure and resettlement of the war refugees and displaced people.

The Government following the UNCCD recommendations has created the National Coordination Committee, where all the related sectors of civil society, bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies are represented. Despite the crisis that has hit the country, the government has allocated in its 1999 budget, funds to support activities of this Committee, and has furnished the office with the essential means needed to run the project. The government has prepared and submitted to potential donors a project on Capacity Building to assist the National Coordination Body to strengthen its role as leader of the NAP process.

Within the scope of some Government activities some actions have been started, such as approval of the Angola Environmental Law, the Water Law, the Fishing Law, and revision of the economic legislation to fit in the political changes happening in Angola.

In relation to the Environment, the Ministry of Fishing and Environment has considered as priority within its mandate conducting with success an educational and sensitization program on environment, both formal and informal basis. The ministry of Education and Culture, the Civil Society and the media have also supported this program.

The Government of Angola has contacted the cooperating partners and submitted for funding the projects Kalahari - Namib and NAP assistance.

Between 1986 and 1990 the country has suffered a catastrophic drought. In this period, great loss of people and livestock gave birth to the 1st National Forum on Drought and Desertification. As a result, the meeting recommended integrated management programs and a participatory program both on environment and natural resources.

In progress is the revision of the legislation on administrative agencies and the Local Authority and their empowerment to allow participation of the local community.

The NAP will benefit from local and international resources that will be allocated through its facilitation body and the National Desertification Fund (NDF) which will be created under the scope of the implementation of the Convention in the country.

The actual need on cooperation issues cover in the meantime technical assistance for the installation of the National Coordination Committee and to prepare the documents for the 1st National Forum on the NAP.

POINT II: INTRODUCTION

The Government of Angola is committed to the activities of the CCD.

The present report highlights the wish of the Government to join the international efforts to combat desertification particularly in the severely affected sub-Saharan region. This report was prepared following the secretariat's guidelines.

We have encountered delays in following our obligations to the CCD compared to other states of the sub-region or the same region where we belong. The situation that we live today in Angola suggests caution and meditation. Conjugated efforts among the different government sectors have allowed already the creation of a national organization to undertake the elaboration of the NAP.

The program to combat desertification in Angola could immediately benefit from some legal, economic and social facilities made available by the support of international institutions.

POINT III. STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

In its social and economic program, the Government has prepared a triennial 1998 – 2000 short-term stabilization program where a diagnosis on the country's economic situation is made, and reforms proposed to overcome it. Based on the UNDP report the government has considered in its program the urgency of finding ways to eliminate or alleviate the causes that contribute to low indexes for human development. It has been proved that these low indexes are not only due to the war but also to the macro economic distortions and the inflation that do not promote the investment or the recuperation of local production. There is a need for cutbacks, monetary and financial discipline, correct application of financial resources on local production, reforms and modernization of the economic legislation, public administration, and power decentralization.

The Stabilization Program has been launched since 1997 and the PRC since 1996.

In the Development Plan, priority was given to the sectors of agriculture, mineral and extractive industry, rural trade, infrastructure, health, education and water. However, due to the war, defense, security and internal affairs became more important in the distribution and allocation of finances.

Sectors' Strategies related to the rural community problems (agriculture, fishing, education, health, commerce, public works and environment) outlined in detail the reasons for rural exodus and pointed out solutions for the settlement and resettlement programs: improvement of economic environment; promotion and increase of income (through intensification and crop rotation, introduction of varieties with good yields, association of agriculture and forestry); sensitize farmer's on participatory approach in the management of fauna and other forest resources; eliminate endemic diseases (paludism, biliaziose, and sleep disease); and recovery and promotion of First Aid and permanent rural trade.

On the desertification combat per se, measures taken are:

- Food Agriculture production in the north region – PRODECA
- Reconstruction of the basic rural infrastructure – PRC
- Combat poverty
- Endemic control – Caritas/UNICEF/FUNDANGA
- Basic Sanitation – PRUALB e Luanda Govern
- Family Planing

The later covers not only the urban and peri-urban zones but also the rural area.

POINT IV: Institutional measures taken to implement the Convention.

Although the National Coordination Body officially exists, we are still waiting for its publication in the official Gazette. The status foreseen is an organ with the characteristic of a public institution as well as having administrative and financial autonomy.

The Body is composed of the main actors of the process. The actual appointed members come from the different branches of science and have significant professional field experience. In the National Coordinating Body, agriculture, fishing, water, oil, trade, finance, local authority, public works, Agostinho Neto University, Agriculture Research Institute, civil society (PRONATURA, AAD, ADRA) and cooperating agencies (UNDP and CAISSE International) are represented.

Its mandate is the following:

- Coordinate and elaborate the NAP
- Assure the articulation between the NAP and government programs on social and economic development
- Coordinate and supervise the implementation of the NAP
- Evaluate and monitor the implementation of the NAP

The NCB is a multisectoral and multidisciplinary body under the Ministry of Fishing and Environment.

The amount of 50 000 dollars has been allocated for the installation and equipment of the NCB office.

The members of the NCB, despite the absence of an office, communicate between themselves by telephone, fax and e-mail.

National Concerted Plan

Their employers designate the Members of the NCB. The Focal Point sends a proposal to the Minister, and he officially sends letters to his colleagues to appoint the representatives.

Presently, the process is completed and the Members are composed of the following:

- Relation men / women: 13/1
- Relation Government / Civil Society: 10/4

In the meantime, the NCB meets regularly, as necessary.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

A drafted plan entitled "PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR INITIAL SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENT THE NAP PROCESS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CCD IN ANGOLA", awaits only the approval of its inclusion in the year 1999 Budget.

A meeting twice a year will supervise the NCB.

The information system capacity of the NCB is still non-existent. In the country, databases on Water (National Directorate of Water), Meteorology (INAMET), Population (National Institute of Statistic), Food Security (Agriculture, MINARS and TRADE) and others are available.

There has been exchange of information between the national cooperating partners mainly to broadcast documentation on the Convention. Information dissemination outside the country is divers and is done with the assistance of UNDP, UNEP, SADC, CCD Secretariat and others.

With regard to projects to support the NAP, strengthening the institutional capacity of the NCB will be one component.

LEGISLATION

- Since June 1998 Angola has the Law No 5/98 "LEI DE BASE DO AMBIENTE" (THE BASIC LAW OF ENVIRONMENT)

Chapter II (Environmental Management Body) refers to the role of the population and individuals that manage environmental issues and natural resources. Stating their responsibility for the incorrect use and emission of pollutants that endanger the quality of life as well as their obligation to consult the public upon the elaboration of economic projects that may have negative impact on the environment.

Chapter IV (Citizen Rights and Duties) refers to the citizen rights to access information related to the management of the country's environment without harming legally protected third parties, access to environmental education with the aim of ensuring effective participation of the people on the environment, appeal to the legal bodies to sanction fines for violators or suspension in case of continued violation.

Chapter V (Responsibilities, infringements and penalties) refers to the responsibility of the civil society on activities that leads to the environment degradation as well as its obligation to repair damage or pay indemnity to the

government, independently if it is found guilty or not of the damage caused to the environment.

POINT V: Participatory process in support to the preparation and Implementation of the action program

The Ministry of Fisheries and Environment considers its strategy on communication and public awareness to change the people's conscience and attitude towards nature as a priority. Therefore, an educational and public awareness program on the environment, both formally and informally, was implemented.

The formal campaign has been organized by the Ministry of Education with principal aim of training trainers (this program is carried out in school for training future teachers for basic level education) and the reinforcement of ideas (or concepts) on the environment and natural resources into different sciences of nature.

The informal campaign has involved the civil society. It consists of several programs in the State and private broadcasting stations such as "Canal Verde" (LAC), "Pronatura" (RNA), "Quem sabe sabe!" (TPA). Talks, seminars, posters, etc. were organized as well. These programs deal with subjects related to the environment and natural resources and they form the principal source of disseminating (or publishing) the Conventions to which Angola has adhered.

For this year, the civil society, with the support of Ministry of Fisheries and Environment, plans "The Olympics of Environment" in basic level schools. The program consists in assessing the knowledge of students on the environment.

The National Committee Coordination (NCC) strategy is to foresee the translation and promulgation of CCD in the local languages. Four more expressive languages (Umbundu, Kikongo, Tchokwe and Kimbundu) were chosen but financial constraints led to the postponement of this project.

It is planned to sensitize different actors (population groups and local communities) through workshops, seminars and media mobilization, to inform the people on the implementation of the CCD.

Despite of the delay in the NAP preparation, Angola has benefited from consultations with the SADC, UNDP/UNSO and CCD Secretariat in the NAP process during meetings with these organisations.

Designation of the representatives from various social and institutional levels is by appointment.

Point VI: Consultative process in support of the preparation and implementation of the National Action Program and partnership agreement with the developed country Parties and other interested entities

Partners are invited to participate in the Coordination National Committee. Currently, only two cooperating agencies, Caisse and UNDP, have enlisted. Dialogue and consultation exist between Government and partners. For example, with regards to the project proposal to begin the NAP, a meeting with donors was organized for discussions and it was decided that there is an urgent need for financial support.

The means of communication between government and partners are fax, email and telephone.

Presently, the calendar of meetings is not fixed because the formal constitution of the committee is still in progress. Nevertheless, meetings are organized when necessary.

POINT VII: Measures taken or planned within the framework of the National Action Programs to improve the economic environment

NAP is not yet worked out therefore it is still not implemented. Nevertheless, there are experiences to be mentioned.

An exhaustive diagnosis was carried out to assess the vulnerability (or capacity) of Angola to the phenomenon of drought in general and to alleviate its effects due to the severe drought during 1986 to 1990 in South-Center provinces of Angola. This diagnosis could be the starting point to initiate the process in view of the CCD.

In the said experience, a detailed survey of the affected regions was done. Well-prepared and well-trained teams surveyed the affected areas, collected and registered economic, social climate and ecological data. They also conducted a census of the victims. In view of this, a base document was prepared and the First National Forum on Drought and Desertification was called upon. It was held in Lobito, 3-6 October 1990.

In that forum, a document entitled "Declaration of Lobito on Drought and Desertification" was produced. In the said declaration, the participants recommended to the government to adopt an integrated position and participation in the management of environment and natural resources. The

need of promoting economic and social projects was referred in areas of meteorology, renewable energy, water and soil conservation, water resources, agroforestry, environmental education and public awareness as well as the reinforcement of institutions dealing with rural development.

It highlighted ten recommendations to the constitution of multidisciplinary organizations in coordinating programs on environmental issues.

In addition, the forum mentioned projects intervening in rural areas, mainly those related to sand dunes fixations, rural extension, early warning system and the inventory of wells.

In the context of the CCD, negotiation with the European Union on the second phase of the integrated project to combat desertification in Tombwais is in progress. The general objectives were sand dunes fixation and support to the development of communities of farmers in Curoca River.

The government program in point III, promotes the “free market system”, revision of the legislation as well as financial support to rural producers. In the country, there are several financial instruments to support the development of economic activities in rural areas (FADA and FADEPA) as well subsidizing the inputs.

Angola is represented in the Board of Multidisciplinary Scientific Technology Consultative Committee of SADC ELMS by the University of Angola.

The political regime in Angola is changing from monolithic to democratic regime. This change is causing burning revisions in the legislation to make it effective and to guarantee the participation of the population and local communities in running the country. In this way, legislation on local decentralizing of power and the government as well as the law on local finances in progress.

It is thought that by the time of the preparation of the NAP, the legislation will be approved and made effective and this would contribute to the public participation in taking decisions on the NAP.

POINT VIII: Financial allocations from national budgets to support the need to identify and prioritize requirements

Proposed rules of the NCC push for a National Fund to Combat Desertification (NFD). This document as well as the others will establish mechanisms of access to financing and it could set up priorities within the program.

The fund will establish the criteria of involvement and mobilization of partners and to raise extra funds from national and international resources.

Aside from this, an agreement already exists between partners in development with the aim of mobilizing funds for the project of preparatory assistance to the NAP in the country. Consequently, financial assistance was requested from traditional partners. Development has been affected by the evolution of the peace process and this was one of the reasons for the delay in replanning the said requests.

Until now we have satisfactory response from UNDP/UNSO and FAO. Despite difficulties, these UN agencies are ready to assist the government in its efforts to make the Convention effective in the country. Support was used to install a committee in order to create the information base and to reinforce its capacity of leading the process as well as organizing an international seminar for the use of *Opuntia* sp.

We had tried getting an UNSO official to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between UNSO and the Government. However, the UNSO representative is still waiting for the appropriate time to do so.

Presently, we are in need of the following: technical assistance for proper establishment through procurement of equipment for the committee and the secretariat; assistance for the analysis of the present situation and how to handle it; preparation of documents for the First National Forum; and creation of an NGO network.