

**BOTSWANA NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION**

**REPORT PREPARED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE TO
REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD) IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING
SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN
AFRICA.**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Government of Botswana has since independence in 1966 put in place a number of strategies that are geared towards sustainable development. The plans and strategies that are available in the Social and Economic plans are the National Development Plan 8, Vision 2016, National Conservation Strategy, Agenda 21, Community Based Development Strategy for Rural Development, Eco-tourism policy, Rural Development policy and the National Master Plan for Arable Agriculture and Dairy Farming.

The main aim of these plans and strategies is to improve the standards of living of the people of Botswana as well as conserve the environment for future generations. The strategies adopted to improve the standard of living through creating employment opportunities and income generation include, Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency, Arable Lands Development Programme, and Labour-based Public Intensive Works, to mention but a few.

Between 1982 and now the Government of Botswana has invested about P136 million (approximately US\$23 million) into the Arable Lands Development Programme. This programme targets the resource poor farmers to assist them acquire farm inputs to improve their farming productivity. To date 28 106 farming households have benefited from this programme. However, despite Government efforts to achieve food security, Botswana has experienced a decline in food production over the years mainly due to persistent droughts.

In the field of combating desertification plans that were put in place to promote sustainable utilization of natural resources as well as alleviate poverty include, among others, the Tribal Grazing Land Policy, Arable Lands Development Programme and Forest Policy. The Tribal Grazing Land Policy enabled individuals or groups exclusive land rights for cattle ranching. It was assumed that individual tenure would ensure sustainable use of rangeland resources. Though successful in terms of ranch allocation, the policy has failed to solve the root cause of Over-grazing in the communal areas, which was the primary target.

Arable Lands Development Programme was conceived in 1977 to tackle the issues of low productivity in arable agriculture. The programme focused on smallholder farmers especially the poorest of the poor. Its objectives are to increase arable production with a view to reducing the food grain deficit and achieving food self-sufficiency in the long run; enhance rural development and welfare by raising arable incomes through improved agricultural productivity and to improve income distribution by concentrating on resource poor farmers and create productive and remunerative employment in the rural areas.

With regards to forestry, forest inventories were collected for forest reserves and a Sustainable Multiple Use Management Plan was developed. To promote the biodiversity of the country's flora, Botswana established a National Tree Seed Centre to preserve the indigenous genetic data bank through production and distribution of indigenous tree seedlings.

Though, it is difficult to assess the impact of the above-mentioned strategies on the reduction of poverty, reports indicate that between 1985/86 and 1993/4 the proportion of the population living

below the poverty datum line declined from 59% to 47%. Poverty was found to be higher and most severe in rural areas.

The major setback with these strategies is that they are sectorally based and thus poorly coordinated. It is the intention of the National Action Programme to improve coordination in the implementation and monitoring of existing programmes and policies towards eliminating poverty and combating desertification.

The National Action Programme intends to achieve this lofty goal through:

- (i) mobilizing resources for the implementation of the National Action Programme.
- (ii) undertaking research on the processes of drought and desertification and exchange information to ensure better understanding of those processes.
- (iii) facilitating capacity building initiatives for stakeholders involved in efforts to combat desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.
- (iv) establishing alternative livelihoods projects, particularly for people living in marginal and degraded areas.
- (v) promoting awareness and understanding of the causes and effects of desertification and drought.
- (vi) promoting coordination of interventions and approaches on combating desertification and drought among stakeholders.
- (vii) improving drought preparedness at local and national levels.
- (viii) facilitating effective participation of women, farmers, resource users and representative organizations in policy planning, decision-making, and implementation of the national action programme and to
- (ix) controlling land and rangelands degradation

1.0 STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES.

The Government of Botswana has since independence in 1966 put in place a number of strategies that are geared towards sustainable development. This chapter provides basic information on strategies and priorities within the framework of sustainable development policies as articulated in various socio-economic pronouncements, including the national development plans and strategies and their contribution towards the fight against desertification and drought.

1.1 National Plans and Strategies available in other Social and Economic Areas

The Government of Botswana has adopted a five-year corporation plan since independence. These are national development plans, which clearly define the Government priorities during the five years of the National Development Plan (NDP). The main aim of these plans is to improve the standards of living of the people of Botswana. These plans are guided by the nation's four development planning objectives of rapid economic growth, social justice, economic independence and sustained development. For current plan (NDP 8), the Government has adopted the theme of Sustainable Economic Diversification.

1.1.1 National Development Plan 8

There are five broad issues covered in NDP8, namely, economic diversification, employment creation and poverty alleviation; policy reform in the public sector; provision of infrastructure and cost recovery; human capital development and population policy and rural development; agriculture, environment, and land use policy.

The strategies adopted to improve the standard of living through creating employment opportunities and income generation include, Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency, Arable Lands Development Programme, and Labour-based Public Intensive Works, to mention but a few.

Between 1982 and now the Government of Botswana has invested about P136 million (approximately US\$23 million) into the Arable Lands Development Programme. This programme targets the resource poor farmers to assist them acquire farm inputs to improve their farming productivity. To date 28 106 farming households have benefited from this programme. However, despite Government efforts to achieve food security, Botswana has experienced a decline in food production over the years mainly due to persistent droughts.

1.1.2 Botswana's Long Term Vision (Vision 2016)

In 1997 Botswana developed a long term vision which identifies the major challenges that will need to be met in order to realize the Vision, and proposes strategies that will meet them. The Vision takes cognizance of issues of environment, natural resources utilisation, population growth, water development, poverty reduction and sustainable growth, which feature predominantly in the Agenda 21 section of "Challenges and Opportunities".

1.1.3 National Conservation Strategy

In 1990 the Government of Botswana established the National Conservation Strategy Agency (NCSA) to coordinate environmental issues, especially those identified as being directly or indirectly related to pressures associated with rapid economic growth. The primary goal of National Conservation Strategy Act is to conserve the country's natural resources through an effective and efficient management process. This is feasible through community participation as well as integration of the work of the sectoral ministries and interest groups, thereby improving the development of natural resources through conservation. The implementation has been slow because the National Conservation Strategy Agency lacks the organizational capacity to effectively implement the National Conservation Strategy Act. The act also lacks a firm legal basis as it gives the NCSA advisory powers only. As a result, the National Conservation Strategy Agency is unable to take action on important issues such as the non-compliance with environmental legislation.

1.1.4 Agenda 21

In line with principles 16 and 17 of Agenda 21, Botswana has a National Policy on Natural Resources Conservation and Development which calls for a comprehensive evaluation of all the economic, social and environmental implications on major policies, programmes and projects before they are implemented, to foster sustainable development.

The internalization of environmental costs in economic decision making helps bring a system-wide perspective, a long term view which underscores prevention, and a package of ecological practices that reinforce socio-economic development. Currently, the system of Environmental Impact Assessment is being legislated for and is intended to provide for the concept of Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The concept of the Strategic Environmental Assessment has been applied to the NDP 8 through an "Environment Audit" which identified, described and assessed the potential beneficial and adverse environmental consequences of the plan. The audit also identified possible measures to enhance the environmental benefits by providing information to planners, decision makers, affected communities and other interested parties regarding the full range of environmental consequences of the development planning and implementation options.

1.1.5 Community Based Development Strategy for Rural Development

The purpose of the Community Based Development Strategy for Rural Development is to expand rural economic activities and reduce poverty. The strategy seeks to introduce a more effective and sustainable approach to rural development by substantially increasing the role of community participation in identifying their own economic needs and aspirations, and formulating their own action plans to execute. This is a major policy shift that empowers the communities to manage and control their natural resources. It will enable them to concentrate on those activities capable of improving their employment opportunities and incomes, hence reducing poverty.

The strategy envisages a process of generating interest and involvement in developing the roles and capabilities of the main participants, preparing and implementing community action plans

and experimenting with and learning from different approaches. The government also encourages communities to take care of the natural resources within their area of jurisdiction by promoting community based natural resources management.

1.1.6 Eco-Tourism Policy

The main objective of the Tourism policy is to obtain, on a sustainable basis, the greatest possible net social and economic benefits for Botswana from the tourism resources, scenic beauty, wildlife and unique ecological, geographical and cultural characteristics. The specific objectives of this policy are income and employment generation for Botswana, particularly in rural areas in order to reduce urban drift; stimulate the provision of other services in order to strengthen linkages to economic sectors; increase foreign exchange earnings and Government revenues and improve the quality of life for the population through the provision of educational and recreational opportunities. These objectives are to be achieved in an ecologically sustainable way and by an increase in participation by Botswana in the ownership and management of tourism enterprises.

1.1.7 Rural Development Policy

In 1973, the Government of Botswana developed the Rural Development Policy, whose main aim was to speed up development in the rural areas. This policy has recently been reviewed to address the new developments, including the principles of sustainable development as espoused by Vision 2016 and Agenda 21.

1.1.8 National Master Plan for Arable Agriculture and Dairy Farming

In order to improve the performance of the agricultural sector and thus mitigate the effects of poverty, the Government of Botswana has recently approved a white paper on the National Master Plan for Arable Agriculture and Dairy Farming. The main objective of the master plan is to promote sustainable economic diversification through the promotion of both irrigated and rainfed agriculture, dairy farming and public infrastructure. Once implemented, it is hoped the National Master Plan for Arable Agriculture and Dairy Farming will go a long way in promoting agriculture as a viable enterprise.

1.2 National Plans or Strategies in the field of Combating Desertification developed prior to the Convention.

1.2.1 Agriculture

Tribal Grazing Land Policy

In 1975, an integrated approach to planning and management of land resources was started to implement the Tribal Grazing Land Policy (TGLP). Land use planning at that time involved very broad zoning of communal land for various uses. The policy enabled individuals or groups exclusive land rights for cattle ranching. It was assumed that individual tenure would ensure sustainable use of rangeland resources. Though successful in terms of ranch allocation, the

policy has failed to solve the root cause of overgrazing in the communal areas, which was primarily the target.

Arable Lands Development Policy

Arable Lands Development Programme was conceived in 1977 to address the problems of low productivity in arable agriculture, resulting from low-yielding traditional farming practices, particularly by resource poor farmers. The programme focused on smallholder farmers especially the poorest of the poor. Its objectives are to increase arable production with a view to reducing the food grain deficit and achieving food self-sufficiency in the long run; enhance rural development and welfare by raising arable incomes through improved agricultural productivity and to improve income distribution by concentrating on smallholder farmers and create productive and remunerative employment in the rural areas.

In 1996, about 39 541 farming households out of the targeted 44,000 had benefited from the programme. Although there is dearth of information to support the contribution of ALDEP towards poverty alleviation, changes in rural social relationships indicate that ALDEP has elevated the socio-economic status of the poor and empowered them to have control on their production activities.

Forests

The Ministry of Agriculture, in collaboration with private sector initiatives, is responsible for ensuring that forest resources are developed, protected, conserved, and used sustainably to meet national demands. Forest inventories were collected for forest reserves and a Sustainable Multiple Use Management Plan was developed. To promote the biodiversity of the country's flora, Botswana established a National Tree Seed Centre to preserve the indigenous genetic data bank through production and distribution of indigenous tree seedlings.

1.2.2 Energy

The net energy supply in Botswana, like many developing countries, shows that fuel-wood accounts for 69.4%, petroleum 19.2%, coal 5.6%, electricity 5.8%, and solar energy 0.01%. Of this, the rural population, which accounts for 75% of the 1.7 million people, uses mainly fuel-wood and paraffin, and only 3% of them have access to electricity. Consequently the availability of fuel-wood has now reached a critical level in most settlements, especially primary and secondary centres. These shortages negatively affect the resource poor people who solely rely on fuel-wood for their energy requirements. There is therefore, a need to carryout fuel-wood needs assessment to determine its effects on the environment in order to develop proper programmes and projects to address these concerns.

1.2.3 Education

In line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Government of Botswana reviewed its the education system in 1993. The policy takes into account the environmental problems defined in the National Policy on Natural Resources Conservation and Development. It is recognized that for children to appreciate the national and international efforts towards environmental management they ought to be educated on the same, made to participate on environmental activities and be molded into the befitting custodians of the natural resources in the future.

In order to direct the environmental education activities of Botswana the UNDP financed a project for the Government of Botswana to design a National Environmental Education Strategy, which will form a basis for the environmental education action plan. The Environmental Education Strategy acknowledges that young people represent an important target group and should be regarded as a distinct and influential force in promoting environmental awareness.

1.2.4 Trade

For Botswana to develop her economy, it is important that trade policies should take into account environmental concerns. The Ministry of Trade, Industry, Wildlife and Tourism has already initiated measures to address some of the concerns posed by the global trade. Botswana is a member of the World Trade Organization, which is responsible for removal of all trade barriers and ensuring that in the process environmental concerns are accounted for.

1.2.5 Poverty Eradication

The Government of Botswana is in no doubt committed to a strategy of poverty alleviation. On an international level, the Government has endorsed a series of United Nations global declarations for improvement of human conditions. Most notably, Botswana is a signatory to the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action for Social Development whose central goal has been the elimination poverty through the enhancement of productive employment and fostering social integration.

In addition, Botswana is signatory to the international Convention on the Rights of the Child, the international Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, the SADC Gender and Development Declaration, the international Conference of Population and Development and the World Food Summit.

In terms of domestic policy, the country's NDP8 identifies poverty reduction as one of its top priorities. Vision 2016 also sets specific goals for reducing poverty. Following on recommendations of the 1997 Poverty Study, the Government is currently working on a National Poverty Reduction Strategy, and complimentary to this is also reviewing its Rural Development Policy.

Over the years the Government of Botswana has setup a number of schemes to support micro, small and medium enterprises to encourage local entrepreneurs to establish income-generating projects. These schemes include Financial Assistance Policy; Small, Medium and Micro

Enterprise; and the recently introduced Citizen Empowerment Development Agency.

It is difficult to assess the impact of the strategies and priorities established within the framework of sustainable development plans on the reduction of poverty. However, reports indicate that between 1985/86 and 1993/4 the proportion of the population living below the poverty datum line declined from 59% to 47%. Poverty was found to be higher and most severe in rural areas. For example, it is reported that 55% of the rural population was below poverty datum line as compared with 46% in urban villages and 29% in urban areas. It is also reported that there are more female-headed households living in poverty than male-headed households. In 1993/4 some 50% of people living in female-headed households were below the poverty line compared with 44% of male-headed households.

The major setback with these strategies is that they are sectoral-based and as such poorly coordinated. It is the intention of the National Action Programme to improve coordination in the implementation and monitoring of existing programmes and policies towards eliminating poverty and combating desertification.

1.3 Scientific and Technical Desertification Control Activities

There are knowledge gaps in the causes and effects of desertification in Botswana and these calls for strengthening of research institutions so that information that is essential for formulating strategies to combat desertification can be generated.

The causes of drought and floods (El-Nino and La-Nina) are relatively well understood but there is need to predict the weather more accurately. This calls for more synoptic weather stations and more fully equipped Meteorological Stations in order to allow services as indicated in the National Plan 8. Global warming and climate change are a threat to the environment and it is for these reasons that Botswana Government ratified the Vienna Convention, Montreal Protocol and the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change. Collection of data on the emission of substances that deplete the ozone layer is essential.

According to the Botswana Rangelands Inventory and Management Project about 17% of the rangeland is degraded. This information was derived from satellite imagery data reflecting the seasonal status of vegetation. This information says very little about changes in vegetation species composition and thus may have under-estimated the extent of range degradation in Botswana. There is therefore need to monitor the state of rangelands not only through remote sensing but also through observation at various sites.

These issues have been raised by different stakeholders during the awareness campaigns, and thus have been taken on board during the development of the National Action Programme to Combat Desertification. The National Action Programme emphasizes the need to forge partnership agreements with the scientific and technical community in the combat against desertification.

1.4 Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on Science and Technology

Botswana is in the process of developing its National Action Programme and thus has not started the implementation process. However, the development of the National Action Programme took cognizance of the recommendations of the Committee on Science and Technology particularly the establishment of benchmarks and indicators, promotion, use and enhancement of traditional knowledge and the use and need for early warning systems for drought management.

2.0 INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION

2.1 Established and Functional National Coordination Body

With the financial assistance from the United Nations Development Programme, Botswana initiated the National Action Programme at the beginning of 1997. The Ministry of Agriculture was identified as the National Focal Point for the Convention. Due to the breadth of issues to be addressed by the NAP process, a multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral Task Force that includes the public service, donor community, the University and NGOs was established to guide and support the National Focal Point. The Task Force acted as the principal advisory body on the NAP development and implementation process. It also gave guidance and advice on ways and means of promoting participation of local NGOs, Communities and CBOs in the NAP process, and in this regard undertook the necessary reviews at regular intervals to ensure progress. As a Government's arm charged with the responsibility of implementing the Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought, the Task Force used the existing Government structures and resources to fulfill its mandate.

2.2 Institutional framework for coherent and functional desertification control

Negotiations are underway with the United Nations Development Programme to develop a National Land Degradation Policy, which will set the way forward regarding the implementation of the Convention. Currently there is no institutional framework for coherent and functional desertification control.

2.3 NAP as part of the National Economic and Social Development Plan.

The National Action Programme is yet to be approved by Government. The aim of the National Action Programme is to address issues that were raised as priority areas for the NAP during the awareness campaigns and the National Forum. These are poverty alleviation and community empowerment, *inter alia* by promoting viable and sustainable alternative livelihood projects; partnership building and networking between various stakeholders; capacity building of the various stakeholders including Non Governmental Organisations; development of mechanisms for mobilizing and channelling financial resources for combating desertification; technology development and dissemination of desertification information through various means of education; strengthening capacity for research, information collection, analysis and dissemination; sustainable use and management of natural resources; coordination of activities among stakeholders in all efforts to combat desertification and drought; development and

implementation of strategies to rehabilitate degraded areas and conservation agricultural resources. The National Action Programme further seeks to improve the implementation of existing policies, coordination among stakeholders and to ensure stakeholder participation in the formulation and implementation alternative livelihoods programmes to combat desertification.

The process of developing the National Development Plan 9 has started.

The Ministry of Agriculture has mainstreamed the NAP as one of the major programmes to facilitate its funding by the Government.

2.4 Coherent and Functional Legal and Regulatory Framework

There is generally a fairly large body of legislation in Botswana concerned with the environmental protection. The legislation has been apportioned to different ministries and authorities for implementation. Many of these laws are not fully implemented because they are fragmented both in substance and in terms of implementation.

3.0 THE PARTICIPATORY PROCESS IN SUPPORT OF THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME

This chapter entails verification of the extent of involvement of relevant actors such as local authorities, CBOs, NGOs, Private business, Academic institutions, Youth and Women in defining national priorities.

3.1 Effective participation of actors involved in defining national priorities

Following an intensive and wider consultation of various stakeholders, Botswana now has a draft National Action Programme. The overall goal of the National Action Programme is “to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought through participation and partnership with the various stakeholders including the communities”.

The specific objectives, which are set to address issues raised as priority areas by various stakeholders during the consultation process are to:

- (i) mobilize resources for the implementation of the National Action Programme.
- (ii) undertake research on the processes of drought and desertification and exchange information to ensure better understanding of those processes.
- (iii) facilitate capacity building initiatives for stakeholders involved in efforts to combat desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.
- (iv) establish alternative livelihoods projects, particularly for people living in marginal and degraded areas.
- (v) promote awareness and understanding of the causes and effects of desertification and drought.

- (vi) promote coordination of interventions and approaches on combating desertification and drought among stakeholders.
- (vii) improve drought preparedness at local and national levels.
- (viii) facilitate effective participation of women, farmers, resource users and representative organizations in policy planning, decision-making, and implementation of the national action programme and to
- (ix) control land and rangelands degradation

The draft document, which has been circulated among various stakeholders for comments, has been submitted to the Ministry Management for consideration. Negotiations are also underway with the United Nations Development Programme to fund the development of a national policy on Land Degradation, which will assist and serve as guide in the implementation of the National Action Programme.

In addition to efforts on consultation and awareness creation, six thousands (6000) copies of the desertification education kit have been printed and submitted to the Ministry of Education for distribution. Four micro projects have been established and only one is fully operational.

4.0 THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS IN SUPPORT OF THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAP AND THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES AND OTHER INTERESTED ENTITIES

The main thrust of this chapter is to show the degree of participation by the international partners in the preparation and implementation of the NAP and the partnership agreements established with developed country parties.

4.1 Effective support from international partners for cooperation

As already mentioned, Botswana has not yet adopted its National Action Programme and thus, no measures have been taken by Government to sensitise donors about the National Action Programme. Once Government adopts the National Action Programme, arrangements will be made to conduct donor roundtables.

5.0 MEASURES TAKEN OR PLANNED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES, IMPROVE INSTITUTIONAL ORGANIZATION, IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE OF DESERTIFICATION AND TO MONITOR AND ASSESS THE EFFECTS OF DROUGHT

5.1 Adequate diagnosis of past experiences

In the initiation of the National Action Programme process there were no diagnostic measures that were put in place, instead complimentary mechanisms whereby shortfalls of the past experiences were identified, were put in place during the workshops and fora. Hence, one of the intentions of the National Action Programme is to strengthen linkages between existing sectoral initiatives rather than replacing them.

5.2 Established technical programmes and functional integrated projects to combat desertification

The process of integrating the principles of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification is continuing. It should however, be realised that this is a long-term process which cannot be achieved overnight.

5.3 Action Programmes implemented in compliance with priority fields set out in the Convention

Botswana ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1994, Convention on the Biological Diversity in 1995 and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in 1996. However, the implementation of these conventions is at different stages. While the Ministry of Agriculture is in the process of finalising its draft National Action Programme to Combat Desertification this year, the National Conservation Strategy Agency is yet to start the development of a National Bio-Diversity Action Plan whereas the Department of Metereological Services has recently produced the first National Communication for the implementation of the of Framework Convention on Climate Change. Once the three Conventions have their National Action plans finalised, a deliberate action will be taken to improve coordination among the three conventions in order to derive maximum benefits from activities under each agreement while avoiding duplication of effort. The National Action to Combat Desertification is already consistent with the existing initiatives such as the Vision 2016, Agenda 21 and the Community Based Development Strategy for Rural Development.

5.4 Linkage achieved with sub regional and regional action programmes

There are no established linkages with the sub-regional and regional action programmes as of today. However, preparations are underway to formulate a transbountier project between Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. Funds amounting to US\$130 000 has been offered by the Perez Guerrero Trust Fund and the Organization of African Unity respectively for community mobilization and project design. Once initiated, the project is expected to improve linkages between the sub-region and the National Focal Point.

5.5 Effectiveness of measures in local capacity building

Efforts continue to be made to support the activities of the Community Based Organizations in the combat against desertification. Since the last reporting, two seminars were organised for these groups in order to empower them manage their projects sustainably. The United Nations

Development Programme in Botswana funded the seminars.

5.6 Partnership agreements

As the National Action Programme to Combat Desertification is still to be considered by Government, no attempts have been made so far to mobilize donors to support the implementation of the National Action Programme. In spite of that, two Officers have been trained on GEF project development. It is hoped, once the National Action Programme is approved, the two Officers will provide guidance and significant input in the resource mobilization endeavours.

6.0 FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS FROM NATIONAL BUDGETS IN SUPPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AS WELL AS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION RECEIVED AND NEEDED, IDENTIFYING AND PRIORITIZING REQUIREMENTS

This chapter gives a background on the existing financial mechanisms and measures taken in the NAP process to facilitate the access of local actors to the existing sources of funding.

6.1 Adopted Financial Mechanisms

In Botswana, there is currently no direct financial allocation from the Government in support of the implementation of the National Action Programme. However, during the National Development Plan 8 (1997-2002), the Botswana Government approved a budget of about P81 million (US\$13.5 million) towards the implementation of programmes and projects that indirectly address issues of desertification and drought. For the coming National Development Plan 9 (2003-2008) which starts next year, a budget of P12 000 000 (US\$2 000 000) has been presented to Government for the implementation of the National Action Programme to Combat Desertification.

6.2 NAP financing

The Government of Botswana has approved a preliminary budget of about P10 million (approximately US\$1.7 million) for implementation of projects in the context of the National Action Programme for the National Development Plan 9 (2003-2009). However, the Government of Botswana is yet to officially approve the National Action Programme.

6.3 Technical cooperation developed

Same as the above.

7.0 A REVIEW OF THE BENCHMARKS AND INDICATORS UTILISED TO MEASURE PROGRESS AND AN ASSESSMENT THEREOF

7.1 Operational mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation

Mechanisms for environmental monitoring and observation are segmented in various ministries. It is the intention of the National Action Programme to improve coordination of these mechanisms in order to generate user-friendly data for environmental monitoring.