

THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND

**UPDATE OF THE FIRST NATIONAL REPORT
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CCD**

**SUBMITTED TO THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES OF
THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION**

UNCCD NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS.

ACP	-	Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific
ADB	-	African Development Bank. and Land Management Sector.
CANGO	-	Coordination Assembly of Non Governmental
CCD	-	Convention to Combat Dersertification
COP	-	Conference of Parties.
CRDP	-	Central Rural Development Programme.
DANCED	-	Danish Cooperation for Environment and Development
DDC	-	Dryland Development Centre
DFID- UK	-	Department for International Development- United Kingdom
EIA	-	Environment Impact Assessment.
ESRA	-	Economic and Social Reform Agenda.
GMDAs	-	Grazing Management Demostration Areas
GTZ	-	German Technical Assistance Division
FPLP	-	Forest Policy and Legislation
IFAD	-	International Fund for Agricultural Development.
NAP	-	National Action Programme.
NDS	-	National Development Strategy.
NEF	-	National Environment Fund.
NEP	-	National Environment Policy
NEWU	-	National Early Warning Unit.
NFAP	-	National Forestry Action Programme
NFP	-	National Focal Point.
NGOs	-	Non-Governmental Organisations.
NSCD	-	National Steering Committee on Desertification.
PMS	-	Poverty Monitoring System
SADC	-	South African Development Countries
ELMS	-	Environment and Land Management Sector
SEA	-	Swaziland Environment Authority.
SRAP	-	Sub-Regional Action Programme
UNCCD	-	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme.
UNDP/UNSO	-	United Nations Office to Combat Desertification.
UNV	-	United Nations Volunteer
USAID	-	United States Agency for International Development.
WDCD	-	World Day to Combat Desertification.
ZERO	-	Zimbabwe Environmental Regional Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

RECENT AND CURRENT PLANS AND STRATEGIES

Progress has been made in the preparations of a number of policies and the implementation of the strategies outlined in the national report submitted in 1999. A draft environment support document has been prepared for the Swaziland Environment Action Plan. It is currently undergoing a consultative process. It seeks to convert the priority actions of the SEAP into tangible and fundable projects. A draft National Environment Policy is currently being reviewed to be in line with other supporting policies and will shortly be submitted to Cabinet for approval.

The Swaziland Environment Management bill has gone through both houses of Parliament and is awaiting Royal Assent. A bill has been drafted under the National Disaster Management Policy Framework and will shortly be submitted to Cabinet for approval before being taken to Parliament.

The formulation of a Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Plan is now at an advanced stage. A poverty reduction task force was set up to lead the process and is working with all stakeholders such as government ministries and departments, parastatal agencies, communities, households, individuals, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and the donor community. The task force undertook a continuous wide consultation process throughout the country's regions and **Tinkhudla** (Constituencies). To date a lot of useful information and suggestions has been collected, part of which has been incorporated in the draft document. The consultations helped government to assess the poverty in all its manifestation. This was followed by the formulation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Plan, which embodies strategies, policies and projects to reduce poverty in the short and long term. This is in a draft form and will shortly be circulated to all stakeholders for comments.

The government adopted a simultaneous approach to planning and implementation because of its great concern for poverty in Swaziland. While consultations and planning formulation process goes on, implementation of key projects has also started. Government has also set as a requirement that all capital projects to be included in the national budget from the financial year 2002/2003 onwards should be pro-poor.

Government has moved further to mobilize and negotiate with existing sources of external assistance to favour poverty reduction in allocating external aid. Many projects under donor funding are now poverty focused.

Developments in the water conservation and development strategies include the completion of the Maguga Dam. Irrigation development is at an advanced stage and some farmers associations have already started growing sugar cane. This is one of the cross border projects between the Kingdom of Swaziland and the Republic of South Africa. Government has also concluded the planning process of the Lower Usuthu Irrigation Project and it is hoped that with the finalisation of funding arrangements implementation will commence shortly.

The formulation of the population policy has also moved a step forward. A draft policy document is in cabinet for approval and will then be submitted to parliament in the form of a bill. The land policy formulation was long completed but government decided to delay the process until the completion of the constitutional review process. This was to ensure that the land policy is in line with the country's constitution, which is currently being drafted.

A draft of the National Forest Policy is with Cabinet awaiting approval. The consultations on the national forest legislation is intended to be completed by June 2002 and a final draft submitted to Parliament by September /October 2002.

All enabling activities were undertaken and completed with projects under the UNFCCC. The first communication to the COP has been prepared. A national Implementation strategy has been developed and a National Steering Committee has been put in place.

A draft Energy Policy document has been produced and consultations concluded and the document will shortly be sent to Cabinet for approval. Demonstration projects emanating from the policy are being implemented.

ACTIVITIES BY NGO'S

Non Governmental Organisations are engaged in a capacity building programme funded by DANCED through Yonge Nawe. This is to assist the establishment of an NGO consortium on land issues for sustainable development. The consortium has developed a proposal for funding by Global Mechanism (GM) on a community exchange and education programme under the umbrella of SADC-RIOD. National NGOs have also organised themselves and produced a civil society report for the WSSD.

SETBACKS IDENTIFIED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIES AND POLICIES.

At least three major difficulties or problems were identified during the analysis of previous initiatives on combating land degradation. These are:

- a) Shortage of funds to implement strategies and plans on a continuous basis.
- b) Lack of human capacity and/or strategies for utilising available human resources.
- c) Delays in the decision making process.

The above-mentioned problems and lessons were taken into consideration during the NAP process. The following are some of the strategies used to ensure that the NAP addresses them.

- a) Development of project proposal seeking for funding
- b) NAP being a sub-programme of broader national development strategies.
- c) Implementation through a multi disciplinary and multi institutional committee.
- d) Establishment of a National Environment Fund.

THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (NSC)

The National Focal Point as its Secretariat for the day-to-day coordination and programme implementation serves the NSC. Currently the Committee has no specific budget allocated to it but it benefits from resources allocated to the Land Use Planning Section where the National Focal Point is housed. Reviews have been made on the composition of the NSC and new members have been brought in as required. Some members have left and others joined the committee due to job changes and promotions. The effectiveness of the committee has gone down due to lack of funds for implementing projects.

SUPPORTING ORGANS OF THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

The National Focal Point lost the services of a UN Volunteer as the contract had expired. This has created a gap in the capacity of this driving engine for the implementation of the NAP. Government is still working on the empowerment of the capacity of the NFP but this is taking longer than anticipated due to delays in decision making.

OPERATIONAL MODALITIES OF THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

The Ministry of Agriculture is currently developing an information system which the NFP will be part of. A number of sister organisations are also working on their own information systems and these include the Swaziland National Trust Commission, The National Biodiversity Unit and Yonge Nawe. The Steering Committee will benefit from all these systems and attempts are already being made such that these systems would link-up.

REVIEW OF EXISTING LAND RELATED LEGISLATION

A review was conducted on the above revealed a number of shortcomings. Attempts are being made to address the identified problems.

Attempts are also being made to address the problem of capacity. As mentioned before, NGOs have a programme, which is funded by DANCED. A proposal has also been submitted to the Global Environment Facility so that the country could be part of the self-assessment programme. It is hoped that the programme will not end with the assessment and identification of strategies but will go on and support the implementation of such strategies.

MEASURES TAKEN TO ENSURE THE INVOLVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL PARTIES AND INTERESTED ENTITIES.

Consultations are constantly being made with resident donors on regular basis. Special trips are also undertaken by government officials to capitals of donor countries to lobby for support. In addition, a donors' conference is also being planned where a support programme will be presented.

Linkages of the NAP with Sub Regional Action Programme (SRAP) and Regional Action Programme (RAP)

The NAP and the Sub Regional Action Plan (SRAP) are in line with each other as priorities identified in both are similar. Linkages have also been identified with the RAP as most of the RAP programme are what the NAP intends to achieve at national level.

Financial and technical assistance for the NAP process.

Beside the continuation of some of the programmes mentioned in the national report the following assistance has been received:

- a) The UNCCD Secretariat has contributed towards the preparations of documents for the donor conference and also the updating of the national report to COP III.
- b) National NGOs are supported by DANCED on a capacity building programme. They will also be benefiting from a sub-regional programme on community exchange and education programme funded by the Global Mechanism.
- c) Consultations are at an advanced stage with UNDP/UNSO, now the DDC, on the development of a programme document, which they will assist in raising resources for its implementation. The programme is based on UNDP/UNSO (DDC) new focal areas which are:
 - i) Local governance for effective natural resources management
 - ii) Alleviating vulnerability
 - iii) Mainstreaming

The programme preparation exercise is funded by the government of Norway

FUNDS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUIRED.

Funding and technical assistance required for the next three to five years is contained in the programme support document annexed to this report. These can be summarised as follows:

- a) Demarcation of Chiefdom boundaries - US\$55 000
- b) Master Plan on Water Development and utilisation - consultants
- c) Awareness raising and capacity building for communities - 364 000
- d) Community Based degraded land rehabilitation - 1 800 000
- e) Promotion of alternative sources of livelihood - 450 000
- f) Construction of small to medium scale dams - 15 000 000
- g) Community Based woodland and forest management - 600 000
- h) Operationalisation of the National Environment Fund - consultants.

1. STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND POLICIES.

1.1 Previous Strategies/Plans Developed to Address Desertification.

1.1.1 Rural Development Area Programme.

1.1.2 Fattening and Sisa Ranches Programme.

1.1.3 Grazing management demonstration areas (GMDAs)

1.1.4 Establishment of the Central Rural Development Board (CRDB)

1.2 Recent and Current Plans and Strategies.

1.2.1 National Development Strategy (NDS).

1.2.2 Swaziland Environment Action Plan.

A draft environmental support document has been produced and is currently undergoing a consultative process. It seeks to convert the priority actions of the SEAP into tangible/fundable projects.

1.2.3 National Environment Policy (NEP).

The draft policy document is currently being reviewed so that it could be in line with other supporting policies. Thereafter, it will be submitted to Cabinet for approval.

1.2.4 Swaziland Environment Management Bill.

The Bill has gone through both houses of parliament and is awaiting Royal Assent.

1.2.5 Economic and Social Reform Agenda (ESRA).

1.2.6 National Disaster Management Policy Framework.

A bill has been drafted and is currently with the minister for presentation to Cabinet. After Cabinet approval it will then be submitted to Parliament for debate and possible adoption. It is hoped that the process will be concluded within the current calendar year.

1.2.7 Sustainable Livelihood Programme.

1.2.8 Poverty Alleviation Programme.

1. The Government (through its Poverty Reduction Task Force set up to lead this process) has been working with all stakeholders such as, Government Ministries and departments, parastatal agencies, communities, households, individuals, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, and the donor community towards realising the dream.
2. A lot has been achieved in this process but this is only a beginning. The starting point was the formulation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Plan to provide guiding policies and strategies and identifying key projects and measures to be implemented.

Stakeholder Consultations

3. The Government, or any other stakeholder named above, alone cannot successfully fight poverty. It can only be a result of concerted effort from all. Wide consultations and participation in the process was therefore a prerequisite to build consensus and ensure success.
4. The Government has embarked on an ongoing wide consultations process throughout the country's regions and **Tinkhundla** (Constituencies). A lot of useful information and suggestions were collected. It covered the causes of poverty, its scope, nature and proposals for remedy.

Formulation of Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Plan

5. Poverty management cycle involves three or more stages: poverty assessment to determine where we are, setting realistic and achievable targets to determine where we are going, working out the strategies and plans to determine how best we will get there, and putting in place monitoring and evaluation systems to know when we get there.
6. The consultations helped the Government to assess the poverty in all its manifestation. This exercise was followed by the formulation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Plan, which embodies strategies,

policies and projects to reduce poverty in the short and long term. The strategy and action plan will shortly be circulated to stakeholders.

7. The plan identifies the goals for fighting poverty, specific macro and sectoral objectives to be followed at each level and key projects and programmes for implementation.
8. At macro level, the Government identifies three overall strategies namely:
 - i) Rapid acceleration of economic growth based on broad participation.
 - ii) Empowering the poor to generate incomes through economic restructuring.
 - iii) Fair distribution of the benefits of growth through public expenditure.

Further, sectoral policies and strategies on their part translate these broad macro strategies into programmes and projects for implementation.

9. The plan concentrates on key priority sectors such as unemployment, HIV/AIDS and vulnerable groups, agricultural production and food security, access to basic needs, and enhancement of the quality of life through basic education and basic health. Other areas will be added in the full Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action plan.
10. Under each of these priority areas, the plan identifies costed programmes and projects to be implemented as well as policies and administrative measures which should be followed.

Implementation of the Poverty Reduction Action Plan

11. The Government adopted a simultaneous approach to planning and implementation because of its great concern for the poverty in Swaziland. While consultations and plan formulation process goes on, implementation of key projects has also started.
12. Towards this end, the Government has set as requirement that all capital projects to be included in the national budget from the financial year 2002/03 onwards should be pro-poor. The Poverty Reduction Task Force has subsequently identified the following criteria to characterise pro-poor projects.

Strategy A. Impact on increasing incomes of the poor

The project should:

- i) Promote rural production and/or peri-urban production i.e. promote production in these settings.
- ii) Provide mass employment in any setting (i.e. whether in peri-urban or rural areas the project should promise many jobs for the unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled.
- iii) Promote self-employment in any field of human endeavour.
- iv) Provide physical infrastructure in rural and urban areas (e.g. rural roads, feeder roads, transportation facilities etc)
- v) Reduce regional and intra-regional income disparities.
- vi) Provide market outlets for produce or products from rural and peri-urban areas.
- vii) Support mechanisms and access to rural finance (e.g. rural financial credits)
- viii) Support poverty planning and monitoring
- ix) Prevent land degradation and preserve environment
- x) Support communities to cope and develop their capabilities
- xi) Income distribution i.e. by providing subsidises to the poor
- xii) Empower the disadvantaged to support themselves.

Strategy B: Impact on improving the quality of life of the poor:

The project should:

- xiii) Provide or promote basic health (primary health care, preventive and promote health care etc)
- xiv) Provide or promote basic education (e.g. primary and secondary education, adult literacy, and vocational training)
- xv) Provide basic infrastructure such as clean water and sanitation facilities, clean sources of energy such as hydro electricity.
- xvi) Socio-psychological development of children and protection of the elderly.
- xvii) Empowering the poor to meet their basic needs.
- xviii) Provision of safety nets for the survival and decent living of the poor.
- xix) Improve the social status of the disadvantaged groups in the society.

Cross cutting considerations for pro-poor projects:

- The project should be sustainable,
- The project should benefit a sizeable proportion of the poor.
- The project should make meaningful impact on the poor and level out skewness in poverty.

13. The preparation of the development plan is also changing from project to programme approach to give thrust to poverty reduction. The new planning procedure will make it possible to pursue issues like poverty reduction rather than a moribund of projects, which have no clear strategic purpose.

Mobilisation of External Assistance

14. The Government has moved to mobilise and negotiate with existing source of external assistance to favour poverty reduction in allocating external aid. Many projects under donor funding are now poverty focused. Besides ongoing projects, Government is convening a donors' conference in May/June 2002. The purpose of the conference will be to raise new finances for the Poverty Reduction Strategy projects.

Poverty Monitoring System

15. The government has embarked on the development of a poverty monitoring system (PMS) to build a poverty reduction database.

1.2.9 National Early Warning Unit (NEWU).

1.2.10 Water Conservation and Development Strategies.

This programme involves the construction of small to medium sized dams for promoting irrigation farming. This is to bring areas with rainwater shortages into production and for promoting cash crop farming on communal land.

In line with this initiative, Maguga dam construction has just been completed and downstream development in the form of irrigation is in progress. It is a project, which was implemented by the Kingdom of Swaziland in cooperation with the Republic of South Africa. Government has also finished the planning process of the Lower Usuthu Irrigation project and it is hoped that with the finalisation of the funding arrangement implementation will commence shortly.

1.2.11 Population Policy Development.

The population unit was established to work on the development of the population policy. A draft policy document has been prepared and will shortly be submitted to Cabinet for approval before a bill is drafted for parliament. The objective is to encourage smaller families by providing incentives so as to

eventually reduce the national growth rate to a level that can be supported by the economy.

1.2.12 Land Policy Formulation.

The policy has been endorsed by Cabinet and is awaiting the conclusion of the Constitution review process, which is envisaged to be concluded by the end of the current year. This is to ensure that the policy is in line with the national constitution which is currently being drafted. A draft constitution is expected to be in place before the end of the year.

1.2.13 Forestry Policy Development.

Swaziland National Forest Policy and Legislation Project

The Forest Policy and Legislation (FPLP) is a joint undertaking by the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland and the Government of Denmark. The project commenced in September 1998 and will terminate in November 2002. The justification for the project is the recognition that Swaziland is faced with serious problems of deforestation and degradation of her indigenous forests and woodlands.

The overall objective of the Forest Policy and Legislation Project is to conserve the biodiversity and environmental functions of Swaziland's forested areas through attainment of sustainable forest management.

The three (3) outputs from the project are:

- Updated National Forest Policy
- Updated National Forest Legislation
- National Forestry Action Programme.

All three major outputs will be formulated through extensive consultations with communities and other stakeholders.

Status as per April 2002 is that the final draft of the National Forest Policy was completed in November 2001. The draft policy has been submitted to Cabinet and is awaiting approval.

A first draft of the new national forest legislation was produced in July /August 2001. A number of workshops have been conducted with stakeholders to debate and obtain suggestions for approval of this first draft. The projects Management Group expects to have an improved first draft for circulation to stakeholders by

June 2002. It is expected that a final draft Forest Act can be submitted to Parliament by September /October 2002.

The National Forestry Programme (NFP) translates the National Forest Policy and the National Forest Legislation into specific action plans and establishes the timeframe and identifies the main institutions responsible for the implementation. A NFP Drafting Committee was established in February 2002 with representation from all major stakeholder groups. A first draft of the NFP is expected ready by May/June 2002.

1.2.15 Climate Change Project.

All the enabling activities identified in the first report have been undertaken and completed. The first communication to the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC has been prepared and will shortly be submitted. In addition, a National Implementation Strategy has been developed instead of a National Action Plan. A National Committee is now in place. It is will be working on the on the implementation of the strategy.

1.2.16 Energy Policy Formulation

A draft document has been produced and consultations have been completed and will shortly be submitted to Cabinet. Demonstration projects emanating from the draft policy are being implemented. The aim is to test the practicality of the policy provisions.

1.2.17 Livestock Development Policy

1.2.18 Bio-Diversity Strategy and Action Plan

The second communication to the Conference of Parties has been produced approved by Cabinet and has been submitted to the convention Secretariat. A Biodiversity Action Plan has also been produced and is awaiting for approval by Cabinet. The National Action Plan has the following objectives:

- a) To ensure that a viable set of representative samples of Swaziland's full range of natural ecosystems are conserved through a network of protected areas.
- b) To ensure that biological resources of natural ecosystems outside of the protected areas network are used sustainably.
- c) To ensure that the genetic base of Swaziland's crops and livestock breeds is efficiently conserved.
- d) To ensure that risks associated with the use of living, modified organisms (LMOs) in Swaziland are minimised.

Crosscutting goals of the plan are that:

- The institutional, policy and legal frameworks, as well as the human resources needed to implement the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, are developed.
- Public awareness of and support for, biodiversity conservation in Swaziland is enhanced.

1.2.19 Activities by Non Governmental Organisations.

There is a capacity building program for NGOs funded by DANCED. The funding is through Yonge Nawe for establishment of an NGO consortium on land issues for sustainable development. NGOs have also organised themselves to produce a civil society report on the Johannesburg summit. The NGO consortium has also prepared a project document on a community exchange program to be funded by the Global Mechanism to SADC-RIOD. GTZ has funding for SADC-NGO activities. Discussions are underway on how to access and use the funds.

1.3 Major set backs in the plans/strategies

1.3.1 Setbacks

A number of the above mentioned plans strategies programmes or policies have resulted in a positive impact on fighting land degradation/desertification. Others have not been very successful due to problems encountered. Some of these setbacks include:

- a) Shortage of funds to operationalise the strategies and plans.
- b) Lack of human capacity and strategies to utilise available human resources resulting in underutilised human resource.
- c) Delays in the decision making process due to fragmented mandates.
- d) Awareness and lack of information

1.3.2 Possible solutions to these problems

It is important that future programmes and /or strategies should take advantages of the failures and successes of previous ones. The following remedies have been suggested based on an analysis of the problems:

- a) Building and maintaining public, private and NGO sector partnerships
- b) Engaging on capacity building with external support
- c) Engaging on programmes that will ensure optimal utilisation of available capacity
- d) Development of advocacy strategies to enhance decision-making.
- e) Awareness raising

1.3 Attempts by the National Action Program to address identified setbacks

The National Action Programme was developed with a full knowledge of all the mentioned problems. Several measures were incorporated to ensure that the mentioned setbacks are minimised. Some of these measures include:

- a) The development of project proposals to address identified needs.
- b) The fact that the NAP was developed as a sub-programme of the broader development strategies i.e. National Development Strategy, Swaziland Environment Action Plan etc.
- c) Implementation through a multi-disciplinary stakeholder Steering Committee involving a large number of institutions.
- d) The advocacy for a National Environment Fund to ensure sustained funding of community programmes that address desertification and related problems.

2. INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION.

2.1 National Steering Committee on Desertification.

The committee is served by the National Focal Point as Secretariat. Budget for day-to-day activities are part of the allocation of the Land Use Planning where the NFP is located. Members of the NSC change from time to time with new and additional members incorporated when a need has been identified.

Review of existing mechanisms revealed a number of weaknesses especially the involvement of local level actors. It is for such a reason that a number of local level committees have been established to be part of the coordinating system. One major problem is that the effectiveness of the systems that were put in place have not been fully tested due to lack of funds for implementing sizable projects.

The capacity and institution problem is being addressed though the process is very slow. The aim is to have a strong public unit that will effectively link with NGOs and the private sector in the implementation of the National Action Programme.

2.2 Supporting Organs of the National Steering Committee.

2.2.1 National Focal Point and Implementing Unit.

As reported earlier a National UNV supported the National Focal Point for three years. However that support has since been phased out and the problem of capacity within the focal point remains a major issue. It is recommended that if possible such support should be provided to the focal unit.

The Government has continued to look into the issue of improving the capacity of the focal point, however the pace of delivering is very slow due to limited resources. It is hoped that support will be available in the near future once the Public Sector Management Programme is fully implemented.

2.2.2 NGO Focal Point.

2.2.3 NGOs Task Force on Desertification.

2.2.4 Regional Environment Committees.

2.2.5 Constituency Development Committees.

2.3 Communication and networking by members of the NSCD.

2.4 Operational modalities of the National Steering Committee.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives is currently working on the development of an information system. This project will ensure that the system is in place and operational. The National Steering Committee, more especially the Focal Point, will be part of the system's users. The project is aimed at assisting the ministry to improve its information technology with a view to facilitate better administration, management and dissemination of critical technical information amongst its staff and to target groups. A number of other environmental related institutions are currently working on the development of databases and information systems. It is hoped that once all these are in place would be linked.

2.5. Review of existing land related legislation

The review of existing legislation and policies related to desertification /land degradation identified a number of gaps and constraints. Attempts have been made to address the identified constraints through harmonisation and enactment of new laws and policies. The result has been a coherent and functional environmental legislation system.

2.6 Some of the activities undertaken by the committee.

2.6.1 Review of mechanisms available for co-ordination and harmonisation of actions.

2.6.2 Review of existing land related legislation.

2.6.3 Capacity and Institution Building.

Attempts are being made to address the problem of capacity in the environment sector. As mentioned earlier Non Governmental Organisations are being supported by DANCED to address this issue. The Government is also putting some efforts to address the issue of capacity through the ongoing Public Sector Management Programme. A proposal has also been submitted to GEF on the Self Assessment Programme, which hopefully will culminate into a full capacity building programme. The proposal was developed in-cooperation with the Focal Points for the Convention on Biological Diversity and for Climate Change. A two-day visit was made by two consultants from the GEF Secretariat to assist with the development of the proposal.

2.7 National Strategies and Policies in relation to the NAP

3 PARTICIPATORY PROCESS IN SUPPORT OF THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION HAVE THE ACTION PROGRAMME.

3.1 Mechanisms for Information Dissemination.

3.2 Stages of the NAP process.

3.2.1 National Awareness Days.

3.2.2 Workshop for NGOs on UNCCD.

3.2.3 Regional Awareness Workshops.

3.2.4 Community based Meetings.

3.2.5 The NAP Process.

3.2.5.1 Regional training workshops on the NAP.

3.2.5.2 National Forum.

3.3 Mechanism for Sustainability of the Process.

4. MEASURES TAKEN TO ENSURE THE INVOLVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS AND INTERESTED ENTITIES.

The Government has continued to lobby for the involvement of the donor community in programme preparation and implementation. Consultations are made with resident donors on regular basis. In addition, representations have been made by government officials to overseas countries to lobby for support. In addition, a donor's conference is being planned which amongst its priority areas include environmental related and poverty alleviation programmes. It is anticipated that it will take place within the current year. A programme support document on implementation of the NAP has been prepared and has been shared with a number of international organisations for possible support. These include: the Global Mechanism, UNDP/UNSO, SADC-ELMS and SADC-HUB, UNEP/GEF and the UNCCD Secretariat.

4.1 Linkages of the NAP with SRAP and RAP

Though the Sub Regional Action Plan was developed before the National Action Program, the programmes in the SRAP are in the line with the priorities contained in the NAP. The implementation of the SRAP and RAP will be complementary to the achievements of some of the priorities set out in the NAP. However, these programmes have not been fully implemented because of lack of funds. Some of the complimentary programmes of the SRAP include:

- Capacity building, which is a programme that can be collectively implemented by a number of countries.
- A sub-regional project on desertification. Research has been developed with the support from UNESCO and will benefit regional programmes.
- An inventory of potential transboundary projects will shortly be carried out by SADC-ELMS and proposals will be developed for donor funding.

The NAP is also in-line with the Regional Action Programme. The only difference is that the RAP is operating at the regional scale while the NAP adapts the RAP programmes into national and local level projects.

5 MEASURES TAKEN OR PLANNED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME TO CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES.

6 FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE NAP PROCESS.

It was reported in the National report that the NAP preparation process was completed. The document has gone through a number of processes aimed at ensuring that the programme benefits from the Government's traditional donors and also linking it with ongoing initiatives.

An umbrella document was developed, reviewed and revised and the process has resulted into the production of a NAP implementation strategy document. A number of projects have been developed and compiled into a programme support document, which is annexed to this report.

A number of projects and programmes, which were reported on, are still ongoing while others have been completed or about to be completed. The ongoing projects include:

- a) Support by JICA on the study of the state of land degradation and production of a master plan for combating land degradation.
- b) Formulation of a forest policy and legislation funded by DANCED. This project will be completed this year.

Other forms of support include:

- a) The UNCCD Secretariat has supported the preparations for a donor's conference and also the updating of the National Report.
- b) National NGOs will shortly be benefiting from a sub-regional project on "community exchange and education programme funded by the Global Mechanism. Another programme is also being finalised which is funded by GTZ.
- c) NGOs are also benefiting from a capacity building initiative funded by DANCED.
- d) Under the EU-ACP Cotonou agreement some funds have been identified for partially funding the Lower Usutu Irrigation Project under the poverty reduction programme

- e) Consultations are at an advanced stage with the Dryland Development Centre (DDC) formerly known as UNDP/UNSO on the development of a programme which the centre will assist in raising resources for its implementation. The programme is based on the DDCs new focal areas which are; Local governance for effective natural resources management; minimising vulnerability; and mainstreaming.

Funds and Technical Support required

Funding and technical assistance required for the next three to five years has been identified through the preparation of a NAP implementation support document. The information below and the full project support document are annexed to this report.

PROJECT	OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES	COST US\$
Demarcation of Chiefdom boundaries	Improve land management through minimisation of land disputes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demarcation of Chiefdom boundaries • Training of Chiefs and their committees 	55000
Water Development and Management Master Plan	To give a policy direction and plan for a comprehensive water development strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory of water availability and current usage • Identification of potential areas for improvement • Development of Master Plan 	Technical Assistance
Construction of small to medium earth-dams for water conservation	To ensure water availability during drought periods and improve crop production through irrigated farming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of potential sites • Feasibility studies • Design and construction of dams • Irrigation development 	15 000 000
Community based Woodland and Forest management Management	To reduce degradation of forests and woodlands. To provide communities with a source of income		600 000

	Soil conservation.		
Operationalisation of the National Environment Fund	Having the NEF operating and capitalised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soliciting services of a consultant to initiate NEF operation • Consultant to mobilise resources and advice on investment strategies 	Technical assistance
Community based degraded land rehabilitation	To reduce and rehabilitate degraded land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation and implementation of an integrated land use planning • Identify areas prone to erosion • Rehabilitate degraded areas and put them into production 	1 800 000
Promotion of alternative sources of livelihood	Promote and implement alternative livelihood in drought affected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motivation of communities • Training and provision of skills • Support implementation of alternative livelihood projects • Strengthening capacity of NGOs 	450 000
Awareness, capacity building and community participation in combating land degradation	To promote awareness and strengthening institutions and community participation in sustainable land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicize land degradation issues in the media • In-service training • Field trips and mass meetings • Schools projects on land 	364 900

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

Very little progress has been made on the development and adaptation of implementation benchmarks. This is mainly due to the fact that no concrete programmes or projects have been implemented that are strictly addressing NAP elements. This subject will hopefully be worked on with the implementation of the prepared programme support document.