

THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND

**THIRD NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE UNCCD**

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

UNCCD NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	African Development Bank
BSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
CANGO	Coordination Assembly of Non Governmental Organizations
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CCD	Convention to Combat Desertification
COP	Conference of Parties
CRDB	Central Rural Development Board
DANCED	Danish Cooperation for Environment and Development
DDC	Dryland Development Centre
DFID-UK	Department of International Development – United Kingdom
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
ELMS	Environment and Land Management Sector
ESRA	Economic and Social Reform Agenda
EU	European Union
FAO	Food Agricultural Organization
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IUCN	World Conservation Union
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
LDS	Land Development Section
LUPS	Land Use Planning Section
LUSIP	Lower Usuthu Smallholder Irrigation Project
MNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy
MOAC	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
NAP	National Action Programme
NCB	National Coordinating Body
NDS	National Development Strategy
NDDP	National Dryland Development Programme
NEF	National Environmental Fund
NEP	National Environmental Policy
NEPAD	New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development
NFAP	National Forest Action Programme
NFP	National Focal Point
NFPT	National Focal Point Team
NGOs	Non Governmental Organizations
NLP	National Land Policy
NSCD	National Steering Committee on Desertification
RAP	Regional Action Programme
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SCF	Save the Children Fund
SEA	Swaziland Environment Authority
SFDF	Swaziland Farmer Development Foundation
SNTC	Swaziland National Trust Commission
SRAPs	Sub-Regional Action Programmes
TPNs	Tri-Partite Networks

TPTC	Tri-Partite Technical Committee
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNISWA	University of Swaziland
UNSO	United Nations Office to Combat Desertification
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WARFSA	Water Resources Fund for Southern Africa
WDCD	World Day to Combat Desertification

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Focal Point Institution

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2. Status of National Action Programme

Preparation of the National Action Programme (NAP) was completed and the document has since received government approval. Currently several projects articulated in the NAP are being implemented especially in the drought stricken areas of Swaziland. The details below provide the current status of the NAP, particularly its adoption and integration into mainstream national development policies and programmes (Table 1).

Table 1 Details on the Status of National Action Programme

NAP Process	Status to Date
NAP Validation	NAP was validated by Cabinet in 2000
NAP Review(s)	NAP was reviewed with support from JICA in 2000 and 2003
Integration of NAP into National Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS)	Yes. The PRS is in place.
Integration of NAP into National Development Strategy (NDS)	Yes. The NDS was adopted in 1999 same year as the NAP validation.
NAP implementation	Yes.
Existence of final NAP document	Yes.
Formulation of a draft NAP underway	N/A.
Basic guidelines for a NAP in place	No.
o Process initiated	No.
o Process not yet started	Yes.

3. Membership to Sub-Regional Action Programmes (SRAP) / Regional Action Programmes (RAP)

Swaziland, within the auspices of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), is a member to about three Sub Regional and Regional Action Programmes, but nothing much seems to be happening in terms of tangible activities in line with the UNCCD (Table 2).

Table 2 SRAP / RAP in which Swaziland is a Member

Name of SRAP / RAP
I. SADC Action Programme
II. Tri-Partite Technical Committee (TPTC) (Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland)
III. Africa Regional TPNs Development.

4. Composition of the National Coordinating Body (NCB)

Table 3 Composition of the National Coordinating Body

Name of Institution	Govt.	NGO	International	Parastal	Private	Gender
University of Swaziland				✓		F
SNTC				✓		M
Yonge Nawe		✓				F
UNDP			✓			F
Land use planning section	✓					M
SEA	✓					F
Energy Section	✓					M
Usuthu Pulp					✓	M
Extension Division	✓					M
Economic Planning Section	✓					F
Forestry Section	✓					M

The institutions and agencies constituting the NCB have a proportional representation capacities i.e. government institutions make 54.5 percent of total NCB membership while the Private sector and others account for 45.5 percent. Women make up 45.5 percent of the total NCB membership.

5. Number of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Accredited to the NAP Process

A NGOs Coordinating Assembly exists and has designated Yonge Nawe to be the focal point for NGOs in the matters of the UNCCD. Currently, about eight NGOs are accredited to the NAP process and they include the following:

- Swaziland Farmer Development Foundation (SFDF)
- World Vision International
- Lutheran Development Services
- Yonge Nawe - NGOs focal point for UNCCD

- ACAT
- Umtapo Wabomake
- Council of Swaziland Churches
- Save the Children Fund (SCF)

6. Number of Acts and Laws passed related to the UNCCD

	Title of Law	Date of Adoption
i.	Water Act.	2003
ii.	Environmental Management Act.	2002
iii.	Forest Legislation.	2002

7. The Consultative process

Four partnerships have been concluded while two are still being initiated (Table 4).

Table 4 Partnerships for the implementation of the UNCCD

Official Title of Partnership	Name of Partnership Support Agency	Status/Stage	Date of Conclusion
Dryland Development Programme	The DDC	Concluded	2002
Implementation of Dryland Development Program	The DDC and GEF	Initiation	N/A
Master Plan on Improvement of life in degraded areas	JICA	Concluded	2001
Implementation of the Master	JICA	Initiation	N/A
Irrigation Development	FAO	Concluded	2003
Lower Usuthu Irrigation Development	IFAD, EU, ADB	Concluded	2003

8. Projects Currently under Implementation Related to the UNCCD

Ten projects are being implemented within the framework of the NAP process or related to the UNCCD (Table 5). The main focus of the projects includes facilitating and promoting sustainable livelihoods especially in drought prone areas. These projects are implemented either by government alone or in partnership with international agencies involved directly or indirectly with the implementation of the UNCCD.

Table 5 Project under Implementation Related to UNCCD

Project Name	Project Implemented within NAP/SRAP/RAP Framework	Framework of Implementation (Project Objectives)	Time Frame	Partners Involved	Overall Budget Million US\$
Lower Usuthu Smallholder Irrigation	N	Poverty alleviation	5 years	ADB, EU and IFAD	153.0
Rehabilitation and Construction of earth Dams	Y	Poverty alleviation and rural water supply	3 years	GOS, World Vision Int.	1.5
Rural water Supply and Sanitation	N	Rural water supply	3 years	JICA, DFID and GOS	6.0
Development of Comprehensive Agricultural Policy	N	Food security	1.5 years	FAO	0.313
Development of Irrigation Policy	N	Water resources management	8 months	FAO	0.172
National capacity Needs Self assessment	Y	Cross application	2 years	GEF and GOS	0.21
Awareness creation of Conservation Agriculture	Y	Food security	1 year	FAO	0.292
Joint Maputo River Basin Study	N	Water resources management	1.5 years	GOS,GOSA and GOMZ	1.0
Joint Mbuluzi River Basin Study	N	Water resources management	8 months	GOMZ and GOS	2.0
Rural resettlement	Y	Cross application	3 years	ROC-Taiwan	5.5

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Kingdom of Swaziland, has an area of 17 364 km². It lies between latitudes 25°43' and 27°19' S and longitudes 30°47' and 32°08' E in south-eastern Africa. It is a landlocked country, surrounded by South Africa on the north, west and south; and on the east by Mozambique. Despite its relatively small size, Swaziland has great variation in physiographic, hydrology, geology and climate. The population of Swaziland in 1997 was estimated at about 929 700 people though 2001 estimates placed it at about 1 162 000 people (Central Statistical Office, 1999)

The country is experiencing serious land degradation problems compounded by the persistent dry conditions particularly in the Lowveld areas. Such problems were the impetus for the country to be active signatory of the UNCCD where the country has benefited tremendously. To date the country has adopted its National Action Programme to combat desertification. Guided by the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD), the country has formulated and implemented a number of policies and strategies aimed at alleviating socio-economic problems associated with desertification as reported in previous country reports. The success of the policies and strategies has been modest owing to lack of funds and expertise in the implementation of projects and other NAP activities. However, their potential to address the root cause of desertification is undoubted as they seem to respond to both income generation as well as land rehabilitation issues.

1.2 Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is to update the Conference of Parties (COP) on the progress made and constraints experienced in the implementation of the UNCCD / NAP at the national level. This report is submitted so to enable the COP to make informed decisions when planning for future activities and direction in the overall implementation of the UNCCD.

2. REPORT PREPARATION

2.1 The Preparation Process

It is essential to note that the implementation of the NAP process is undertaken by various actors from various sectors of local socio-economic spheres. The preparation of the report has also allowed for the participation of the various key stakeholders from within and outside of government who collaborated with the National Focal Point (NFP) to provide data to the team of consultants. The collaboration of the NFP and the stakeholders was referred to as the National Focal Points Team (NFPT) which engaged the team of consultants in the preparation of the country report. In this way the question of reliability of data, its relevance and acceptability of the report to the various stakeholders was addressed. A large component of the main report was prepared with information supplied or acquired from the NFPT. The preparation process has also benefited from information acquired from a national stakeholder workshop that was held after the completion of the first draft of the national report. However, the data for the country profile was acquired through a desktop research focusing on acquisition of secondary data from various establishments.

2.2 Organization of the Report

The report is divided into three sections including the executive summary, the main report as well as annexure section (the main annexure being the country profile). The report format and size has been designed in a way that it conforms to the provided help guide. It is worth noting that the help guide is bound to yield a report format that is a significant departure from the previous ones both in details and content. The headings of reporting are the same as in the previous reports, but the specific questions to be responded to in the help guide makes the content and details of the current report different. There was, however, adherence to the specific questions raised in the help guide during the preparation of the report. While there was an attempt not to report on issues that were covered in previous country reports, however, some of the questions within the guidelines required presentation of information covered in previous reports. Repetition of some details was also unavoidable as the preparation process tried to adhere to the questions in the guidelines. As an attempt to make the report as concise as possible, some details have been presented in tables to allow for easier review.

3. STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND / OR POLICIES

3.1 National plans and strategies

The intention of this chapter is to provide an update with regard to national plans and strategies that have contributed towards combating desertification. The strategies include those that are already adopted and are operational, and those that are at the planning or formulation stage. Those that have been adopted and implemented include the Sustainable Livelihood Programme, Poverty Alleviation Programme, National Disaster Management Policy, National Early Warning Unit, Water Conservation Programme, Climatic Change Project, the Swaziland Environment Action Plan, the National Physical Development Plan, and the Livestock Development Policy. Other programmes and plans implemented that support CCD objectives include the Rural Development Area Programme, the Fattening and Sisa Ranches Programme, the Grazing Management Demonstration Areas and the establishment of the Central Rural Development Board (CRDB). The current strategies that are in line with the CCD objectives include the National Development Strategy (NDS), the National Biodiversity and Action Plan (BSAP), the National Energy Policy, the Rural Settlement Policy of 2002 and the National Forest Policy of 2002. Recent policies and strategies are formulated based on the long-term plan to 2022, which is contained in the NDS. The NDS recommends strategies for achieving sustainable use of land that include national land use and tenure, community participation and empowerment in natural resource management, as well as management of forest resources and streamlining livestock marketing to relieve the pressure on land. The Livestock Development Policy on the other hand aims at among other things developing and maintaining a high level of range and pasture in the country. It was put in place in 1995, before the country ratified the Convention to Combat Desertification. The BSAP was initiated by the Convention on Biological Diversity, and it is an integral part of the SEAP. The environmental concerns of the National Energy Policy include the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and other sources that do not create significant environmental harm. It takes note of the fact that for rural communities the use of timber for fuel is a significant contribution to deforestation and consequently land degradation. The Rural Resettlement Policy of 2002 is built upon the principle that success to any rural land management depends on the selection of strategies that are appropriate and suitable to a particular area. The policy puts emphasis on the importance of controlling environmental degradation. The principles of the Forest Policy include that the forest resources should be efficiently managed for optimum sustainable economic production. It recognises the high capacity for soil and water conservation of forestlands.

The National Physical Development Plan does not make any particular reference to the CCD, but it does cover the broader issues relating to the physical environment and rural land use. The Environmental Management Act of 2002 intends to promote the management, enhancement, protection and conservation of the environment. Its objectives include the establishment of a framework for environmental protection and the integrated management of natural resources on a sustainable basis. The Water Act of 2003 provides for the development of appropriate policies on water allocation, water pricing, pollution control and water conservation, as well as catchment management approach. The policies in the pipeline that have implications on the CCD include the draft Population Policy and the draft National Land Policy. The draft Population Policy aims at addressing the high population growth in the country. The draft National Land Policy aims to maximise benefits to the entire society from land on a sustainable basis.

3.2 Working relationships between NFP/NCB and implementing institutions

Swaziland signed the Convention to Combat Desertification on the 27th of July 1995, and ratified it on the 7th of October 1996. The Swaziland Environment Authority (SEA) was designated as the national coordinating unit. SEA designated the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) as the CCD focal point, while the Coordinating Assemblies of NGOs (CANGO) was designated as coordinator of NGOs. CANGO designated Yonge Nawe as the NGO focal point for CCD. The National Steering Committee for Desertification (NSCD) was established and the Swaziland National Action Programme (NAP) was formulated in 1998, and adopted by Cabinet in 2000. Table 6 shows the identified implementing agents for some of the identified priority programmes. The implementing agents include several government ministries, NGOs, parastatal institutions, private institutions and communities.

Swaziland, like other countries, relies heavily but not exclusively, on the National Focal Point in the execution of NAP programmes. The NAP works closely with the NSCD. The NSCD works as a decision making body on matters related to the implementation of the UNCCD and NAP in the country. It is important that the NFP and the Steering Committee forge some cordial working relations with government ministries dealing with the implementation of national development policies and strategies. This is to ensure that the programmes aimed at implementing the UNCCD and the NAP are implemented. To this end, the NFP or at least a member of the NSCD is designated to be a member of committees in other development or environmental strategies being developed or implemented by government ministries.

Table 6: Implementing institutions for some priority programmes

Priority Programme	Implementing Institutions
Strengthening school curricula and adult education programmes for environmental protection and land management	Ministry of Education-Curriculum Division, Swaziland National Trust Commission (SNTC), National Environmental Action Programme, NGOS
Coordination of effective dissemination of information relevant to awareness raising and enhancing technical competence	NGOS, Ministry of Agriculture-Extension Services, University of Swaziland (UNISWA), Swaziland Environment Authority (SEA)
Capacity building of communities, NGOs and other implementing agencies through technical workshops and practical training	NGOs, Tinkhundla
Promote and empower community action groups to enhance participation in community planning and decision making	Tinkhundla, NGOS
Promote the interaction and coordination between stakeholders	Tinkhundla, NGOs and SEA
Develop a strategic model for the planning of sustainable land management	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives –Land Use Planning Section (MOAC-LUPS), UNISWA, NGOs, SEA, Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy

	(MNRE)
Land rehabilitation	MOAC-LUPS, NGOs, MOAC-Land Development Section, Communities
Livestock management	MOAC-LUPS, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives –Veterinary Service Department, communities, private ranches, UNISWA, NGOs
Drought mitigation	MOAC-LUPS, MOAC- Home Economics Section, MNRE-Rural Water Supply, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, NGOS
Forest management	MOAC-LUPS, MOAC-Forestry Section, private forest companies, Tinkhundla, NGOS, UNISWA, MNRE-Energy Section, Communities
Biodiversity conservation	MOAC-LUPS, SNTC, MOAC-Forestry Section, private forest companies, private ranches, private nature reserves, Tinkhundla, Communities, NGOs, UNISWA, MNRE-Energy Section, SEA
Develop a natural resources accounting system in Swaziland with particular emphasis on identification of the indicators of land degradation	UNISWA, SEA, Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, MOAC

4. MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION

4.1 Implementation of NAP programmes

The First National Forum held in September 1997 identified and prioritised fourteen issues that need to be addresses for the effective implementation of the objectives of the CCD. These programme areas are as follows:

- Institutional arrangements
- Chieftaincy and Chiefdom boundary disputes
- Promotion of awareness and capacity building
- Promotion of active participation of communities in land management programmes
- Reclamation and rehabilitation of degraded land to promote sustainable utilisation of land resources
- Formulation of national forestry policy and exploitation of forest products framework
- Research and technology
- Proper location of construction sites and physical infrastructure
- Development of alternative energy sources
- Improvement of livestock management practices
- Drought mitigation and poverty alleviation strategies
- Land use policy
- Settlement and resettlement policy
- Population policy

The main objectives of the institutional arrangements programme area was to develop an effective and properly constituted institutional framework for the implementation of the NAP and to establish an environmental fund for the implementation of the NAP. One of the main outputs was to be the integration of the activities and merging of the Rural Development office within Tinkhundla, the Land Development Section and the Land Use Planning Section to form a Land Management Division. To this end the merging of the sections has not materialised. The Environmental Management Act of 2002 did establish a National Environmental Fund, whose objectives include aggregating funds from different sources to ensure sustainable funding of programmes, projects and activities that provide for and promote the protection, conservation and enhancement of the environment and sustainable management of natural resources. The Fund shall consist of sums of money appropriated by parliament as well as donations, grants and gifts received from international, multilateral and bilateral bodies among others.

The main objective of the Chieftaincy and chiefdom boundary disputes programme area was to assist in the acquisition of long-term solutions to land disputes within and between chiefdoms. The intended outputs included codified customary laws and procedures pertaining to the appointment and demotion of chiefs. The process of codifying customary law in the country is ongoing. The Constitution Bill of 2004 makes attempts to lay down procedure of appointing and demotion of chiefs in that it specifies that it is the prerogative of the King to appoint and demote chiefs.

Promotion of awareness and capacity building has been an ongoing process. Consultative workshops and meetings, as well as open days and tree planting days have been held. The activities have been scaled down due to lack of funds. The SEA in partnership with NGOs, CBOs

and community traditional structures is responsible for implementation of the programme area. Yonge Nawe has carried out some training of trainers among participating task force NGOs. The National Forestry Policy was formulated with support from DANCED (National Forestry Policy of 2002). The implementation of practical components is expected to take place in conjunction with Tinkhundla, NGOs and CBOs. The analysis of the current environmental situation to produce applicable information and technology to combat desertification has not been carried out. Project proposals on research and technology development were formulated to support the CCD process in Swaziland. The proposals were in the following critical research areas, each with a budget of some US\$400,000:

- Nature and extent of land degradation
- Improved techniques of range management
- Soil and water conservation technology
- Gully rehabilitation and reclamation techniques
- Water harvesting techniques
- Alternative sources of energy and fuel saving technologies

The proposals have not yet been developed further to attract funding from donors.

The Environmental Audit, Assessment and Review Regulations of 2000, which is a comprehensive legislation that requires the undertaking of environmental assessment procedures when planning addresses the issue of proper location of construction sites and physical infrastructure. Several projects have been undertaken to reclaim and rehabilitate degraded land. They include the Land Reclamation Project at Galile, which involves gully stabilisation by planting Vetiver grass and trees in and around them. The project was originally funded by the CCD, and was included as part of a JICA supported project in 2000. The other project is the livestock and establishing of grass around gullies. The development of alternative energy sources is being covered by the implementation of the National Energy Policy, which is being implemented through the MNRE-Energy Section.

The Livestock Development Policy, which has been in existence since 1995 has objectives, which can address the area of improvement of livestock management practices. Its implementation in full is not upcoming and as such its positive results are not yet evident. The National Drylands Development Programme (NDDP) that is being implemented in the dryland areas of Swaziland is one project that addresses the area of drought mitigation and poverty alleviation strategies. Other projects are the Komati Downstream Development Programme, the Lower Usuthu Smallholder Irrigation Project (LUSIP), the Lavumisa Irrigation Scheme and the Smallholder Irrigation Development Project. The projects facilitate irrigated agriculture in the dryland areas of the country. The Earth Dams Rehabilitation and Construction Programme construct and rehabilitate six to eight small dams a year in the drylands of the country. A Comprehensive Agriculture Sector Policy is being developed together with a National Irrigation Policy. The draft Land Policy intends to address the land use policy programme area. The Rural Resettlement Policy of 2002 has been developed and is in the implementation stage. The existing Resettlement Programme that was implemented by the Central Rural Development Board has not been active, and has achieved very little. The draft Population Policy of 2002 addresses the issue of population growth. The population growth issues are also included in the NDS.

4.2 Linkage achieved with sub regional and regional action programmes

The main objective of the NEPAD Environment Initiative is to improve the environmental conditions in Africa in order to contribute to economic growth and poverty eradication. The NEPAD Environmental Action Plan includes the combating of land degradation, drought, and desertification among its eight targeted thematic priority interventions. The NEPAD Secretariat is making progress in development of a programme aimed at integrating Environmental Assessment into all NEPAD programmes. At a workshop for NEPAD Science and Technology for Southern Africa held in Johannesburg, South Africa in November 2004 a regional project for monitoring and combating desertification was developed, and it will be forwarded to potential donors. Furthermore several priority projects and programmes in monitoring and combating desertification were developed in a NEPAD conference held at Algiers, Algeria in December 2003.

The SADC Land and Water Management Applied Research Programme has its overall objective being to increase the availability of improved and appropriate land and water management technologies to research and development institutions in the SADC region for subsequent dissemination to farmers, particularly smallholder farmers. It has among its programme areas the improvement of regional land and water management professional skills and establishment of regional land and water management research and development information networks. Individual staff members of research and technology institutions have taken part in projects involving regional and international action plans and networks. International networks where some members are actively involved include IUCN (The World Conservation Union) and the SADC Land and Water Management Programme. The other source fund for research on integrated water resources management is Water Research Fund for Southern Africa (WARFSA). Currently there are four projects that are supported by the funds and scientists in the University of Swaziland are conducting all these research projects.

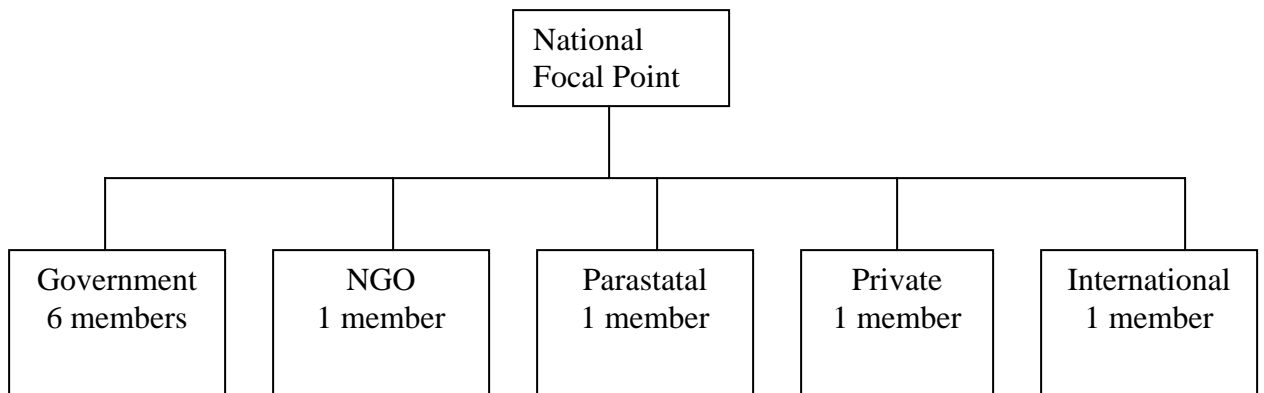
4.3 National Steering Committee

The National Coordinating Body (known as National Steering Committee on Desertification; NSCD) is composed of members from different ministries and institutions as shown in Figure 1. It has a total of eleven members. Six of the members come from government ministries and departments. Two are from parastatals. One member is from an NGO, one from private sector and another one from international organisation (Figure 1). The role of the National Steering Committee is to give advice related to environment and desertification on matters of policy and legislation. There is no full time secretariat for the NSCD. The NFP is not autonomous in terms of resources and decision-making, as it is housed in a government ministry. The promotion of synergistic development for sustainable land management related programme frameworks by the NSCD is only at advisory level. The resources within the NSCD are limited. The resources available are those budgeted for the department housing the NFP. A project for National Capacity Self Assessment is being carried out to determine the specific capacity needs of the NSCD and NFP, and to determine the level at which the NFP is autonomous.

The budget approved to finance implementation of NAP is indirect in that the financing by government is for ongoing projects that aim at fulfilling national requirements, with some

components fulfilling the aims of the NAP. The NSCD can only have the capacity to catalyse, prepare, implement and evaluate the NAP through donor assistance. The composition of the NSCD enhances the programming and implementation of UNCCD projects by having its members representing stakeholders from different institutions. The NFP is also a member of other international committees such as the Biodiversity Committee and the Climatic Change Committee. Members of the NCB are nominated by their respective institutions after the invitation by the NFP to do so. The activities of the NSCD have been reduced due to lack of funds. The NFP has a database of projects undertaken and their status, as well as stakeholders in resource management. The means of internal and external communication between NFP and the NSCD is largely by phone, personal visits and paper. Communication by e-mail also takes place, although to a limited extent as some members of the NSCD do not have access to the e-mail.

Figure 1: Composition of the National Steering Committee on Desertification



5. PARTICIPATORY PROCESS IN SUPPORT OF PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMS (NAP), PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES INVOLVING CIVIL SOCIETY, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NGOS) AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATIONS (CBOS)

5.1 Participation of various actors

The participatory process in the formulation and implementation of the NAP and its related activities as well as the identification of national priorities involves various actors. These include government ministries and departments, parastatal organisations, non-governmental organisations, private organisations and local communities. Various government institutions participate in NAP activities through programmes and projects that are implemented by the central government departments. Other programmes and projects are implemented by parastatals and the private sector while others are implemented by non-governmental organisations.

5.1.1 *Criteria for selecting various actors*

The national scientific community is well represented but unfortunately, no monitoring mechanisms have been developed in this regards.

Various actors in NAP activities are selected on the bases of their involvement or involvement of their institutions in desertification issues. In most cases, heads of the institutions or departments or their appointees participate in the process of national priority identification. Fore example, in the UNISWA, the heads of departments of Land Use and Mechanization and Geography, Environmental Science and Planning departments are the actors who participate in the national priority identification. At community level, local chiefs or their *tinduna* are the people who represent their communities in the process. In this way, participation at all levels is ensured. Thus, the concerns and contributions of local communities are incorporated into the national activities.

The mechanism for continuous consultation is through an annual review process on the state of NAP implementation where all stakeholders are involved. In addition, direct contacts with individual stakeholders on particular issues relevant to them are continuous.

The use of traditional knowledge in the exchange and dissemination of information is taken very seriously and used mostly when dealing with local communities who may not understand the modern systems.

Linkages with educational centres have been established and are working positively as some of them have included desertification issues in their curriculum. For instance, educational institutions and training such as UNISWA, Mpisi Veterinary Training College, KaGesawu (LFTC), Nhlanguano Farmer Training Centre, and Manyonyaneni Farmer Training Centre in Big Bend have all forged linkages in the programmes they offer particularly the farmer training and livestock management programmes.

The National Environment Education Programme (NEEP) is coordination the dissemination of information and provision of such by different stakeholders. This has been done through radio programmes, brochures, newspaper publications. Examples of radio programmes that promote activities of NAP include “*Imvelo Yakitsi*” by SNTC on Swazi radio. Yonge Nawe has a weekly column in the Times of Swaziland, which covers environmental issues.

5.1.2 Participation of government institutions

Key ministries driving the central government programmes and projects include the MOAC, Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy (MNRE), Ministry of Tourism and Communication (MTEC), Ministry of Education and Public Sector Training and Awareness. In the MOAC, the key sections are the Land Development Section, Land Use Planning, Livestock, Ranch and Pasture Management Section, Forestry Sections and the Agricultural Promotion and Extension Programme. In the MNRE, the sections that have undertaken projects that are relevant to desertification are the Water Resources Branch, the Geological Survey and Mines Department and the Energy Section (Table 7). The SEA and the Swaziland National Trust Commission (SNTC) are the main sections under the MTEC that are undertaking projects relevant to NAP initiatives.

5.1.3 Participation of non-governmental organisations

Several NGOs are engaged in programmes and projects that address issues of desertification in the country (Table 8). Their participation is focussed on a number of areas that include: to increase food security by effecting improvements in agriculture productivity based on promotion of environmentally appropriate agricultural practices and food diversity; preservation and storage of food crops harvest; to increase availability of clean water supply by introducing methods of water harvesting and rehabilitation and protecting existing water sources; to reduce environmental degradation in target areas; to promote equal access to development and social services, through the promotion of human rights, gender sensitive programming; and to promote income generating activities within rural homesteads and communities.

The different NGOs conduct workshops on environmental awareness, soil management, water management, livestock management, crop production and energy efficient stoves in the different areas of operation. The key organisations in the conduction of these workshops are the Council of Swaziland Churches, Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society, Lutheran Development Service and Yonge Nawe. Yonge Nawe in particular, runs workshops on the Convention to Combat Desertification for other NGOs and is also is implementing four programmes that are strategically directed at various aspects of NAP initiatives. The programmes are:

- *Environmental and Socio-economic Justice Campaign*: The focus of this programme is on policy, law, compliance and enforcement. Acts on issues that affect socially disadvantaged members of society and threaten the environment and sustainable development. The programme aims to achieve equity and social justice in Swaziland through the empowerment of socio-economic disadvantaged members of society.
- *Information, Education and Communication (IEC)*: This programme informs, educates and communicates issues on the state of the environment and impact on sustainable development. In this regard, Yonge Nawe is committed to providing a proactive information and knowledge service that is both informing and empowering target

stakeholders to take action that contributes to environment and sustainable development in Swaziland.

- *Natural Resources Program*, which includes *Environment and Health project* which focuses on human health and waste management, and *Water Resources Management project* which looks at water as a basic human requirement for human survival. Addresses public interest water use, quality, access, equity and the integrity of ecosystems.

Table 7: On-going government programmes that address the issue of desertification

Programme	Relevance to CCD & NAP	Implementing agency	Progress and limitations
Rational utilization of resources	Database to be used in preparation of land-use plans	MOAC-Land Use Planning Section (LUPS)	LUPS working on plans to re-organise resettlement on SNL
Swaziland Environment Action Plan	Outline of strategies to reduce environmental degradation	Swaziland Environment Authority	Formally launched in June, 1998 with communities and other stakeholder
Rural Development Area programme	Relieve grazing pressure through increased marketing and cattle fattening schemes. Improve soil conservation committees (Imisumphe)	Central Rural Development Committee	Misunderstanding and poorly defined with chiefs thus inefficient local centres
Grazing Land Management Demonstration Areas	Introduction of controlled grazing by a group of farmers within a small block (100-300 ha) of the total grazing area with hope that non-members will expand the practice	MOAC-Livestock section	In 1995, only 4 of the original 11 or effective animal production and shortage of land may also be a limitation
Fattening Ranches (Holding grounds)	Relieve pressure hence reduce overgrazing on communal (SNL) grazing lands	MOAC-Livestock section	Mainly utilized by a small sector of empower communities to solve grazing pressure problems
Livestock Sub-sector Review and vegetation Survey	Development of livestock policy framework and provision of data for inclusion in the national land-use plan	MOAC	On-going
Management of Indigenous Forest and Wattle Plantations	Environmental conservation of indigenous forest products and reduction of deforestation	MOAC – Forestry Section	On-going, need to establish possible growing trees on buffer zones and indigenous tree
Forest Nurseries	Introduction, improvement and maintenance of nurseries, especially in firewood-deficit areas	MOAC – Forestry Section	On-going Emphasis on fast growing tree species
Forest Nurseries	Introduction, improvement and maintenance of nurseries, especially in firewood-deficit areas	OAC-Forestry Section	On-going Emphasis on fast growing tree
Earth dam Rehabilitation and construction	To improve water supply in rural areas and mitigate the effects of drought	MOAC-Land use Planning Section	On-going
	Komati River Basin Development design and implementation of irrigation schemes, improve water supply and provision of hydro-electric power MNRE KOBWA On-going Local and Government of RSA		
Development of water supply and sanitation in rural areas	To combat diseases and promote hygienic water consumption and practices To uplift standard of living in rural areas and mitigate the effects of drought	MNRE MHSW	On-going

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

Table 8: On-going NGO implemented projects that support NAP

Project	Implementing agency	Relevance to CCD NAP	Areas of operation
Community woodlots	Council of Swaziland Churches	Improve fuel wood supply and reduce deforestation	Ndzevane; Lubulini
Homestead and Community; Gardens and Orchards	Council of Swaziland Churches	Improve nutrition in rural areas and conservation of land. Alternative sources of income	Ndzevane; Ncandvweni; Mahlabaneni; Sinyamantulwa
	Caritas Swaziland		KanDzangu; KaLanga; Emphilweni; Elukhetseni; KaShoba
	Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society		Emvundleni; KaHhohho; Sogcineni; KaWelcome; Mantambe
	World Vision		LuBhuku; Gilgal
	Emanti Esive		Ngonini; Mahlabaneni
Improve grazing of lands	Caritas Swaziland	Reduce soil erosion	Kandzangu; KaLanga; Emphilweni; Elukhetseni; KaShoba
Protection of grazing lands	Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society	Reduce overgrazing and reduce soil erosion	Ndlalambi; Mantambe
	SFDF		Sigwe hills
Rotational grazing	World Vision	Reduce soil erosion and improve pastures	Gilgal
Feedlots	Lutheran Development Services; SFDF	Reduced grazing pressure and encourage sale of livestock	Mbutfu
	SFDF		Mbutfu; Lulakeni; Matsanjani
Donga/Land reclamation	Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society	Combat soil erosion and rehabilitate the land	Mantambe
	World Vision		Malindza
	Yonge Nawe		Zikhotheni; Kukhanyeni; Mahlanya; Lwandle
Drying and processing of food products	CARITAS Swaziland	Food security, disaster relief and alternative source of income	Mpolonjeni
Grain storage	Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society	Food security	KaWelcome; Mantambe; Sigcinenei
Rain water harvesting	Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society	Improve cleans water supply and mitigate the effect of drought	KaWelcome; Mantambe; Sigcinenei
	Lutheran Development Service		Zandondo; Zindwendweni; mbutfu, Nsubane; Nsalitje
Domestic water supply/spring protection	Yonge Nawe	Improve cleans water supply and mitigate the effect of drought	Evusweni
	Emanti Esive		Zindwendweni; Nsubeni; Mkhaya; KaNzameya
Terracing	Lutheran Development Service	Control grass growth and bush encroachment	Zandondo; Zindwendweni; Mbutfu; Nsubane; Nsalitje
Introduction of ostriches	SFDF	Food security and alternative source of income	Mgamudze
Introducing oil extraction	Emanti Esive	Alternative sources of energy	Mbekweleni
Candle making			Endlembeni
Poultry keeping			Etibondzeni
Retail shops			Mahlabaneni

(Source: Anon, 1997)

5.1.4 Participation of private sector

Within the private sector, the Swaziland Sugar Association and SAPPI Usuthu are two of the companies that are implementing programmes that address NAP initiatives and implementation. SAPPI Usuthu initiated the *Tiphilise Ngelihlatsi* project to encourage neighbouring communities to grow commercial trees as an income generating project whilst preventing soil erosion. This project is currently gaining momentum in the Swazi Nation Land (SNL) areas in close proximity to SAPPI Usuthu. In as much as this programme may contribute to combating desertification, there is need for a thorough analysis of its environmental impacts, especially with reference to soil processes and possible depletion or pollution of water resources.

Currently, the large sugar cane companies provide extension services to sugar cane farming schemes in SNL areas. Timber and sugar milling companies support out growers in their communities with both technical and financial assistance.

Another example of private sector efforts that benefit local communities is the Lower Usuthu Smallholder Irrigation Project (LUSIP). LUSIP lies in one of the poorest areas of the country. The major constraint for development of the poor farmers in the area is lack of irrigation water, as dry season run-off-river flows have already been fully allocated to existing irrigators. LUSIP will address this constraint by diverting into a 160 million cubic metre capacity reservoir. The Water will be conveyed to some 11 500 hectares of irrigated land for smallholder production of crops such as sugar cane, citrus, banana, vegetables, maize and cotton. This is a big project that will mitigate the impact of drought conditions while alleviating poverty in the area.

5.1.5 Participation of parastatal institutions

The University of Swaziland (UNISWA) is carrying out studies on gully erosion. Swaziland Electricity Board (SEB) is involved in rural electrification programme which is aimed at reducing poverty. The programme also reduces dependence on fuel-wood for energy in rural areas, and hence alleviates the pressure on forest resources. SEB is also involved in energy conservation projects such as the use of Maguga dam for hydropower generation. Swaziland National Trust Commission (SNTC) is involved in mapping and delineating protection worth areas including wetlands for conservation. The National Agricultural Marketing Board (NAMBOARD) is involved in promoting community based garden project for poverty alleviation. Other areas of research which are being promoted by NAP include an analysis of resilient plant species and plants that may be used to rehabilitate degraded land and wetlands.

In 2002, the UNISWA introduced a Master's degree programme in Environmental Resources Management. This is one of the important initiatives of the University to develop local human resources, a major component of capacity building, for implementing desertification programmes in Swaziland.

5.1.6 Participation of local communities

Communities participate through the initiation and implementation of community income generation projects. These projects have covered adequately in previous UNCCD country reports. The projects include *Sisa* ranches, Shewula Trust, earth dams for communities and catchment management projects.

5.2 Gender balance in defining NAP priorities

One of the objectives of National Disaster Management Policy is to deliver disaster management programmes in a gender sensitive way, taking account of the fact that women and children often carry the major burden in times of disasters. Women participation can be demonstrated through projects implemented by *Umtapo WaBomake* (Women Resources Centre) which support women groups in poverty reduction and women empowerment initiatives.

An initiative closely related to this one is the "backyard permaculture gardens". Permaculture is a system of agriculture that mimics nature. That means the garden design is greatly influenced by

the natural conditions prevailing in that particular area and hence it can be replicated anywhere accordingly.

These initiatives occur at the farmer/household level and their impacts are felt first at that same level. The initiatives are very self-help oriented and make full use of indigenous knowledge systems. They are about working harmoniously with the dryland conditions as opposed to fighting the drylands. It must be noted that the permaculture gardens incorporate the water harvesting techniques.

5.3 Extent of progress and limitations

A number of significant events had happened since the introduction of UNCCD to Swaziland. The adoption of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) in Paris on 17 June in 1994 marked the beginning of events towards the implementation of the CCD in Swaziland.

The trend now is that all stakeholders have seen the need for being part of addressing problems facing the country and programme developers are making sure of stakeholder participation. The trend has been demonstrated through the current programs being developed which include Irrigation Policy, Comprehensive Agricultural Policy, and Poverty Reduction Strategy. All these are being driven by stakeholders through committees and stakeholder workshops and meetings.

While a lot of effort has been put in the strengthening of the participatory process in the implementation of the NAP, there are some limitations to the progress made so far. One of the main limitations is lack of adequate financial support. For example, a study by JICA shows that the projects that were initiated to rehabilitate degraded lands and were implemented as pilot projects had limited success due to lack of funding, which has stalled everything. After NAP completion, a number of projects were implemented which aimed at harnessing the involvement of local communities in land degradation projects. This also piloted the formation of Regional Environment Committees and Community Volunteer groups. However, after catalytic funding was used up the programme could not continue.

5.4 Capacity needs

Currently, there is an on-going project on Capacity Needs Self Assessment project funded by GEF through the World Bank, which will provide detailed information on this subject. The results of this project will provide up to date capacity needs of the country for implementing CCD obligations.

5.5 Indigenous knowledge and environmental education related to NAP

The use of indigenous knowledge in the exchange and dissemination of information is taken very seriously and used mostly when dealing with local communities who may not understand the modern systems. According to the study of Fakudze (1998) commissioned by the NSCD, there is ample indigenous knowledge about desertification in general and land degradation in particular. The study showed that there are indigenous knowledge techniques that can be included in the

strategy to combat desertification. These include techniques to harvest wood resources, control erosion in grazing areas, maintain soil fertility and restore wetlands.

The *kunanisa* and Conservation Agriculture programme, which is about developing a seed bank (with farmers) of indigenous and local seed varieties as well as reviving their dominance in the area, is a good example of indigenous knowledge based strategies to combat desertification. The programme has shown that the local varieties are better adapted to the dryland conditions and that, when this approach is combined with conservation agriculture, the synergy between the two approaches yields significant results.

5.6 Follow-up activities

The initiatives and strategies, which are sectoral but address desertification and/or drought mitigation issues, include those that are already adopted and are operational and also those which are at the planning or formulation stage. The four new programme areas are:

- addressing Chieftaincy disputes;
- awareness raising and capacity building;
- promoting active participation by local communities; research and
- technology development.

Funds are being solicited from government, the private sector and external partners for the implementation of the new programmes. A number of proposals have already been prepared and funds are being sourced for their implementation. Other follow-up activities include tree planting projects, zero grazing, gully reclamation, tree planting, rotational grazing.

After the completion of the NAP, a number of reviews were made to come with guidelines on its implementation. One of them included a study by JICA where all stakeholders were involved and made an input on the outcome which was a Master Plan. In addition, a number of pilot projects were implemented which involved most of the stakeholders. Some of the projects and programmes are listed in Table 9.

Table 9: List of some of projects or programmes that support CCD objectives

PROJECT/PROGRAMME	RELEVANCE TO NAP PROGRAMME AREA	PURPOSE/ISSUE ADDRESSED	PROJECT STATUS	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY	FUNDING INSTITUTION
MATSANJENI FEEDLOT PROJECT	4	To demonstrate the advantages of feedlots on range management	Ongoing	SFDC	NSCD
LAND RECLAMATION PROJECT AT GALILE	5	Fencing of dongas to protect them from livestock	Ongoing	MOAC, SEA, Yonge Nawe	CCD
		Donga stabilisation by planting trees and Vetiver grass in and around them	Ongoing	SNTC, NEEP	CCD, JICA
LAND RECLAMATION PROGRAMME	5	To identify suitable lands and their carrying capacities for grazing	Ongoing	MOAC, LUPS	CCD
LAND RECLAMATION PROJECT AT LAWUBA-NEW HAVEN	5	To demonstrate land rehabilitation techniques to communities	Ongoing	CCD Task force	NSCD
LAVUMISA PIGGERY PROJECT	11	Poverty alleviation	Ongoing	LDS	NSCD
NDABAZEZWE HAMMER MILL PROJECT	11	Poverty alleviation	Ongoing	LDS	NSCD
INTENSIVE LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION SYSTEMS PROGRAMME	10	To relieve pressure on SNL by identifying appropriate intensive livestock production systems that increase farmer's income	Ongoing	MOAC – Department of Veterinary Services and Livestock	GOS, IFAD
GRAZING LAND MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRATION AREAS (GMDA'S)	10	To introduce controlled grazing by a group of farmers	Ongoing	MOAC – Department of Veterinary Services and Livestock	GOS, IFAD

6. CONSULTATIVE PROCESS IN SUPPORT OF THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES AND OTHER INTERESTED ENTITIES, PARTICULARLY MOBILIZATION AND COORDINATION OF BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES.

6.1 Participation by international partners

One of the consultative processes with international partners which have been conducted is the National Donor forum which was held in July 2003 and was attended by the following donor representatives; British High Commission, EU Representative, UNDP Resident Representative, World Health Organisation, GTZ Representative, Republic of China (Taiwan), Republic of South Africa.

Local resident donors meet every month to discuss their programs in the country and in these meetings, government officials are always invited to present their cases or requests. The meetings are held every month and are attended by the Ambassadors or Heads of Mission who share the hosting and organisation of the meetings.

The NFP or members of the NCB participate by invitation to present a particular request. The NFP has to request for inclusion in the program of the day if there is a case to present.

The local NAP processes need support from the UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism in facilitating the convocation of the consultative process. The support can be in the form of training by assisting in the development of the skills mentioned above. The communication with the partners is ongoing and is promising to strengthen and may eventually bear fruits. In the past, NFP has not been aggressive because of inadequate capacity to develop GEF proposals for funding.

6.2 Financing of the NAP processes

6.2.1 *International donors*

The national consultative process for the donor involvement was supported by the UNCCD Secretariat and the Dryland Development Centre through the development of forum documents. So far, no final commitment has been made by any donor as a result of the forum though promises are being made. FAO has financed a number of initiatives, which include the Comprehensive Agricultural Sectoral Policy and National Irrigation Policy, Irrigation development in the country and others.

They are very few partners resident in the country and not all of them except UNDP have supported the UNCCD directly but through indirect methods, i.e. projects, which address NAP programs, have been supported without necessarily making reference to the NAP. The GEF has financed a number of projects in the country under the Biodiversity convention and some of them have benefited the NAP. At the moment, the three Rio conventions are jointly implementing a NCSA project financed by the GEF.

Beside financial contributions, external partners have contributed to the NAP process through technical backstopping. A number of consultants were made available to the steering committee during the process. In addition, missions to the country by international organizations were undertaken and they highly contributed to the process.

6.2.2 Local or national donors

At national level, the traditional sources have been mobilised which include Government resources, local NGOs and the local private sector. Significant amounts have been raised and have assisted the communities living in the dryland.

For the sustainable financing of the NAP and access to funds by local level actors, a National Environment Fund is being established. A draft document is already with the Attorney General Chambers where a bill is being prepared for submission to Parliament. The Government has already committed a sum of US\$ 1 million for the initial functioning of the fund once passed by parliament. A donor conference was held on the fund establishment.

All efforts of fund mobilization in the country are the responsibility of the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development. This ministry is the one which knows all the potential donors of the country and their areas of interest. A comprehensive mechanism for fund mobilization will be put in place after the official adoption of the NAP by Government.

Contributions to the NAP process by external partners can be divided into two. There are those partners who have contributed directly to the NAP process while others have contributed by funding the implementation of certain elements of the NAP without necessarily referring to the NAP or UNCCD.

6.3 Financial requirements

Though the awareness and education processes are continuous, there is need for more financial resources to fund the NAP processes, which include consultation, projects and capacity building. The National requirements for supporting NAP implementation are not adequately met and more donors are changing area of focus. With the current NEPAD initiative and SADC drive, it may be possible to improve the resource base for implementing NAP.

It has been estimated that a sum of US\$ 850,000 is urgently required to continue with the programme of support to local community projects. To this effect, a large number of requests have been submitted to the NSCD.

There is also an urgent need to capitalize the National Environment Fund. The estimates have been that a sum of US\$ 5.5 million would be the basic requirement to capitalize the fund. This money will be invested and interest used in the implementation of NAP programmes.

Other resources will be for the implementation of project proposals on capacity building and awareness raising, research and technology development and support of projects on alternative livelihood for communities affected by drought.

No conclusions have been made with partners so far in terms of financing implementation except for FAO, IFAD, ADB and few others who are financing specific projects, which are related to the NAP. In these projects implementation has started. UNDP is acting as *Chief de Fiel* in the mobilisation of resources for NAP implementation in the country..

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

7.1 Diagnosis of Past Experiences

The diagnosis of past experiences is intended to indicate progress made in the improvement of natural resources management since the last reporting period. This is complemented by the country profile (Annexure 1) which provides more quantified data relating to the extent of land degradation/desertification using biophysical, socio-economic and demographic parameters.

A diagnosis of past experiences was undertaken during the preparation of the NAP. This diagnosis may be regarded as exhaustive in the holistic and intensive manner it was undertaken and judging by the amount and diversity of information that was produced. The information proved crucial in informing the NAP preparation process. The results of the diagnosis were taken into consideration in the preparation of the NAP, particularly in the formulation of the NAP programmes.

The NAP has been reviewed with available information acquired from the diagnosis exercise as well as other sources. The NAP would be subject to further (continuous) reviews as new information is acquired. Reviews have been more pronounced on the NAP programmes where some programmes have been reoriented while new ones have been drawn.

The country profile is very crucial in the assessment of progress made in the improvement of natural resources management in the country. However, the only critical element of the profile is its broadness in the reporting format. In its current format, i.e. national focus, the profile runs a risk of being irrelevant as a system of assessing achievements made in the implementation of the UNCCD and NAP programmes. Implementation of programmes is done at local level where the situation may be quite dynamic compared to the national level where changes in development indices are less dynamic. In this way, the country profile runs a risk of not capturing important development taking place at the local levels. That could be a major constrain. The opportunities are abundant, particularly with having sector leaders in government keen on data collection and analysis for their own academic and career advancement. The preparation of this report benefited from such people. However, the country still needs capacity building on data reporting and storage as well as the necessary tools and instruments for data collection, analysis and reporting.

7.2 Established technical Programmes and Functional Projects to Combat Desertification

The intension here is to provide an analysis of resource management and desertification control measures in line with the UNCCD Principles.

Steps were taken to ensure that ongoing projects are adapted and integrated into the NAP. Actually, ongoing national projects have been designed in such a manner that they take into account the programmes agreed upon in the NAP preparation.

The UNCCD Principles have been integrated into relevant ongoing projects which are in line with UNCCD and NAP priorities. Some specific activities have been undertaken to improve the

economic environment and eradicate poverty particularly in the rural areas lying within the low rainfall belt. These projects are notably within the auspices of the NAP and attempting to improve water availability and supporting human sources of livelihood. The projects include the following:

- Improvement of Rural Life in Degraded Lands funded by JICA.
- Support to income generating project for fostering environmental protection.
- Earth dam construction and rehabilitation in low rainfall areas.

Management indicators to ensure that activities do address underlying causes of desertification are very important for all participating countries to have. The country has not yet developed specific indicators for the mentioned purpose. It is paramount for the country to start initiating a process of formulation such indicators.

All the projects mentioned above have been implemented in local communities particularly to address existing community problems related to poverty, water shortage and improvement of rural standards of living.

7.3 Identification of New Actions and Planned Measures

It is important to highlight new measures taken to respond to specific vulnerability issues in a context of poverty eradication. Strategies developed in other countries are being utilized in the implementation of poverty alleviation projects. The country has adopted the strategy of forming Trusts for the management and accruing benefit from natural resources. An example of this strategy is the Shewula Trust in the Lubombo region of Swaziland. The Shewula Trust is a community income generation project based on conservation of natural resources. The other examples of

7.4 Specific Actions to Strengthen the National capacity to Combat Desertification Particularly at Local Level

The question of building of technical and scientific capacity at local level is being addressed in about two ways. The first way is through the provision of extension services to rural communities to train local people on technical aspects of agricultural and non-agricultural production. Extension officers have been provided in the fields of agriculture, home economics and small enterprise development. The second way is through holding of workshops and seminars for the community members.

Capacity building measures are also undertaken within institutional, participatory and consultative levels of the NAP process. The main features of the capacity building process include theory and practical oriented training as well as workshops and seminars.

The success of the NAP process hinges on a vibrant capacity building programme. Capacity building was made a requirement in all levels of the NAP process. In the preparation of the NAP, capacity building was made to be one of the major programmes to be implemented in the NAP process. Unfortunately, capacity building has not been adequately addressed due to financial constraints.

7.5 Effectiveness of Measures in Local Capacity Building

Several requirements have to be available to support a functional capacity building exercise. The requirements for capacity building at local level include the following:

- Provision of communication systems.
- Establishment of local community committees or clubs for addressing land degradation.
- Training for both local (traditional) leaders and opinion leaders in the community.
- Training of committee members tasked with addressing land degradation.

It must be noted that all the capacity building needs highlighted above are reflected in the NAP where activities of addressing the needs have been articulated within the programme of “Awareness and Capacity Building”.

8. FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS FROM NATIONAL BUDGET IN SUPPORT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAM

8.1 Adopted Financial Mechanisms

The intention is to report on further measures undertaken to facilitate access to finance by the local actors in the NAP process. Measures undertaken include the preparation of project proposals that have been submitted to a number of funding internal and international organizations and donors. The project proposals were presented in a national donor forum. Moreover, the issues of funding were raised by the NFP in his presentation when invited to the monthly donor community forum hosted by the various embassies located in the country.

The mentioned measures will remain provisional until a long-term agreement has been concluded with donor agencies for the support of the NAP process. At the moment no such commitment has been forthcoming from the donor community.

Moreover, there is also a need to report on new methods to mobilize finance from internal and external sources. A specific mechanism that has been applied with some degree of success is the incorporation of NAP projects into national and / or local programs that have already attracted funding from elsewhere. The projects include those dealing mainly with water resources development.

Although there has been little participation in the funding of activities to combat desertification, however, avenues and modalities of participation have been created. The establishment of the National Environment Fund was one avenue the government opened for the participation of the various actors in the funding and management of activities to combat desertification.

The NEF and other means of soliciting funds have so far not received any commitment from international partners.

The process of identification of activities that generate income while, at the same time, promoting sound environmental protection is being undertaken. Currently, a number of trials are being made and preliminary results show that small profits are being generated making it difficult for the people to reinvest the little they have acquired. Investments on irrigation farming projects have seen some income being generated while water conservation has also been a benefit to local communities.

8.2 NAP Financing

The government of Swaziland had allocated some funds towards supporting enabling activities for the implementation of the NAP. These funds are, however, inadequate for the proper execution of the NAP process. The government has released fund to support the construction of earth dams and land rehabilitation in the drylands. Moreover, funds have also been released by government to support the national project on promotion of irrigated agriculture in the drylands.

The need of increasing the national budget or allocations to finance NAP process has been presented to government. While promises have been made, there is no tangible move on government's side to increase the budget allocation. Reasons for this include the weak national fiscal position coupled with a runaway national budget deficit. The government is also grappling with other equally important national problems such as HIV/AIDS, food shortage, employment creation and others.

The government has the NEF to allow other stakeholders or actors in the implementation of the NAP to participate. This fund, however, has not been functional since its establishment.

8.3 Technical Cooperation Developed

The plan for requesting multilateral and bilateral cooperation in the provision of technical support was included in the project proposals submitted to international agencies and donors. Response is still being awaited on this.

Technical cooperation support received to date includes:

- DDC technical support in the formulation of the Drylands Development Programme.
- Technical Backstopping by JICA experts in the implementation of a study on "Improvement of Rural Life in Degraded Areas".
- Technical support in form of provision of DFID and JICA experts in the implementation of rural water supply and sanitation projects.
- Technical Backstopping by FAO experts in the formulation of a Comprehensive Agricultural Sector Policy and National Irrigation Policy.

The needs for capacity building are currently being assessed under the GEF Needs Self Assessment Programme. While this exercise is still ongoing one capacity need that has emerged is the improvement of the capacity of implementing institutions including the Land Use Planning Section and Land Development Section of the MOAC. Specifically, the institutions and sections need their capacity to be developed in terms of training of the newly recruited staff and through availing of necessary equipment and reference materials including computers, network facilities, books and documents and others.

9. BENCHMARKS AND INDICATORS USED TO MEASURE AND ASSESS PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAM

There have been studies of different forms of land degradation have been assessed. The last such assessment was done by environmental consultation services, and funded by JICA in 1999. Prior to that Manyatsi undertook another nationwide study in 1997. The absence of monitoring and periodic evaluation of land degradation can be attributed to lack of financial resources and trained personnel. The early warning unit of the ministry of agriculture and cooperatives together with the department of meteorology provides information on expected droughts, and other relevant departments do give advice on mitigation measures to be taken, such as planting of drought resistant varieties for crops. Another institution that utilises such information is the national disaster task force, under the deputy prime minister's office. The task force utilises the information in planning for distribution of food aid. There are no measures currently being taken for harmonisation of existing mechanisms and systems.

Country reports on implementation of the UNCCD were produced in 1999 and 2002. The reports are available from the national focal point, as well as through internet search. The national steering committee on desertification is responsible for evaluation of the impact of the national action plan. It has a mandate to develop a mechanism and establish standards to carry out the monitoring or the implementation of the nap in order to provide specific recommendations on how to move forward based on lessons learned.

ANNEXURE A: UNCCD COUNTRY PROFILE

This UNCCD country profile has been provided by: Mr. Bongani Masuku
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Biophysical Indicators Relating to Desertification and Drought

1. Climate

1.1. Index of aridity ¹	<u>0.63</u>
1.2. Normal rainfall*	<u>863.3</u>
1.3. Rainfall standard deviation*	<u>146.2</u>

Sub-national areas	Mean annual rainfall amount (mm) for the period					
	1950-1959	1960-1969	1970-1979	1980-1989	1990-1999	2003
1. Highveld	1262	1027	1124	1061	1070	1073
2. Middleveld	873	705	837	813	750	840
3. Lowveld	N/A	602	575	693	679	630
2. Lubombo Plateau	N/A	819	789	855	893	910
National Averages	N/A	788.3	831.3	855.5	848.0	863.3

2. Vegetation and land use

2.1. NDVI (normalized difference vegetation index)	<u>0.43</u>
2.2. Vegetation cover (% of total land area)	<u>52.8</u>
2.3. Land use (percent of total land)	

Land use	1990 – 1999	2000 – 2003
Arable crop land (% of total land)	11	13
Irrigated (% of total land)	2	2.8
	Rainfed (% of total land)	9
Pasture (% of total land)	63	52
Forest and woodland (% of total land)	6	6
Other land (% of total land)	20	20

2.4. Surface albedo ²	<u>0.23</u>
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3. Water resources

¹ The country index of aridity, which is calculated as the ratio P/PET (where P=precipitation; and PET=potential evapotranspiration) was computed using countrywide data.

* Period of rainfall record is from 1961 to 2000

Climatic zone maps to be annexed if available in a scale of 1/million.

² Surface albedo map not available due to scale problems. Swaziland appears as a dot in the Southern African map.

3.1. Fresh water availability (million m ³)	<u>4 500</u>
3.2. Fresh water resources per capita (m ³)	<u>3 800</u>
3.3. Agricultural water use (million m ³)	<u>1 734</u>
3.4. Industrial water use (million m ³)	<u>17</u>

4. Energy

Consumption

4.1. Energy use per capita (kg oil equivalent)	<u>51.33</u>
4.2. Agricultural energy use per hectare (millions of BTU)	<u>26.1</u>

Production

4.3. Energy from renewables excluding combustible renewables and waste (% of total supply)	<u>22.1</u>
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Renewables - Consumption by sector

4.4. Industry (% of total renewable consumption)	<u>9.1</u>
4.5. Residential (% of total renewable consumption)	<u>56.3</u>
4.6. Agriculture (% of total renewable consumption)	<u>34.6</u>

5. Types of land degradation

Type of degradation	1990 – 1999		2000 – 2003	
	Million ha	Percent of total area	Million ha	Percent of total area
Soil erosion	0.5	30	0.52	30.1
Burning	0.004	0.23	0.005	0.3

6. Rehabilitation

Lands under rehabilitation	1990 - 1999	2000 - 2003
Rehabilitation of degraded crop land (km ²)	NA	NA
Rehabilitation of degraded rangeland (km ²)	2	3.5
Rehabilitation of degraded forest (km ²)	0.1	0.1

Socio-Economic Indicators Relating to Desertification and Drought

7. People and Economy

7.1 Total human population	<u>1 162 000</u>
• Population urban (% of total)	<u>23</u>
• Population rural (% of total)	<u>77</u>

7.2	Population growth rate (annual %)	<u>2.9</u>
7.3	Life expectancy (years)	<u>38</u>
7.4	Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	
	• With No HIV/AIDS	<u>83</u>
	• With HIV/AIDS	<u>103</u>
7.5	GDP (current US\$)	
	• 1999	<u>935</u>
	• 2003	<u>1 240</u>
7.6	GNP per capita (current US\$)	
	• 1999	<u>1 375</u>
	• 2003	<u>Not available</u>
7.7	National poverty rate (% of population)	
	• Low (food) poverty line	<u>48</u>
	• High poverty line	<u>66</u>
7.8	Crop production (metric tons/yr)	
	• Maize	<u>62 500</u>
	• Other crops	<u>72 300</u>
	• Total Production	<u>134 800</u>
7.9	Livestock production (metric tons)	
	• Beef	<u>2 945</u>
	• Other livestock	<u>Not available</u>

8. Human development

8.1.	Primary education completion rate (% age group)	
	• Passing rate (total grade 7 – passing students)	<u>90.3</u>
	• Completion rate (grade 1 enrolment – grade 7 pupils)	<u>54.05</u>
8.2.	Number of women in rural development (total number)	<u>381 392</u>
8.3.	Unemployment (% of total)	<u>40</u>
8.4.	Youth unemployment rate (age 15-24)	<u>69</u>
8.5.	Illiteracy total (% age 15 and above)	
	• 1986	<u>29.9</u>
	• 1999	<u>18.7</u>

8.6. Illiteracy male (% age 15 and above)

- 1986 28.1
- 1999 17.4

8.7. Illiteracy female (% age 15 and above)

- 1986 31.3
- 1999 19.8

9. Science and technology9.1. Number of scientific institutions engaged in
Desertification-related work (total number)5

(UNISWA, Malkerns Research, Farmer Training Centres, Swaziland College of Technology, Teacher Training Colleges)

10. Data sources

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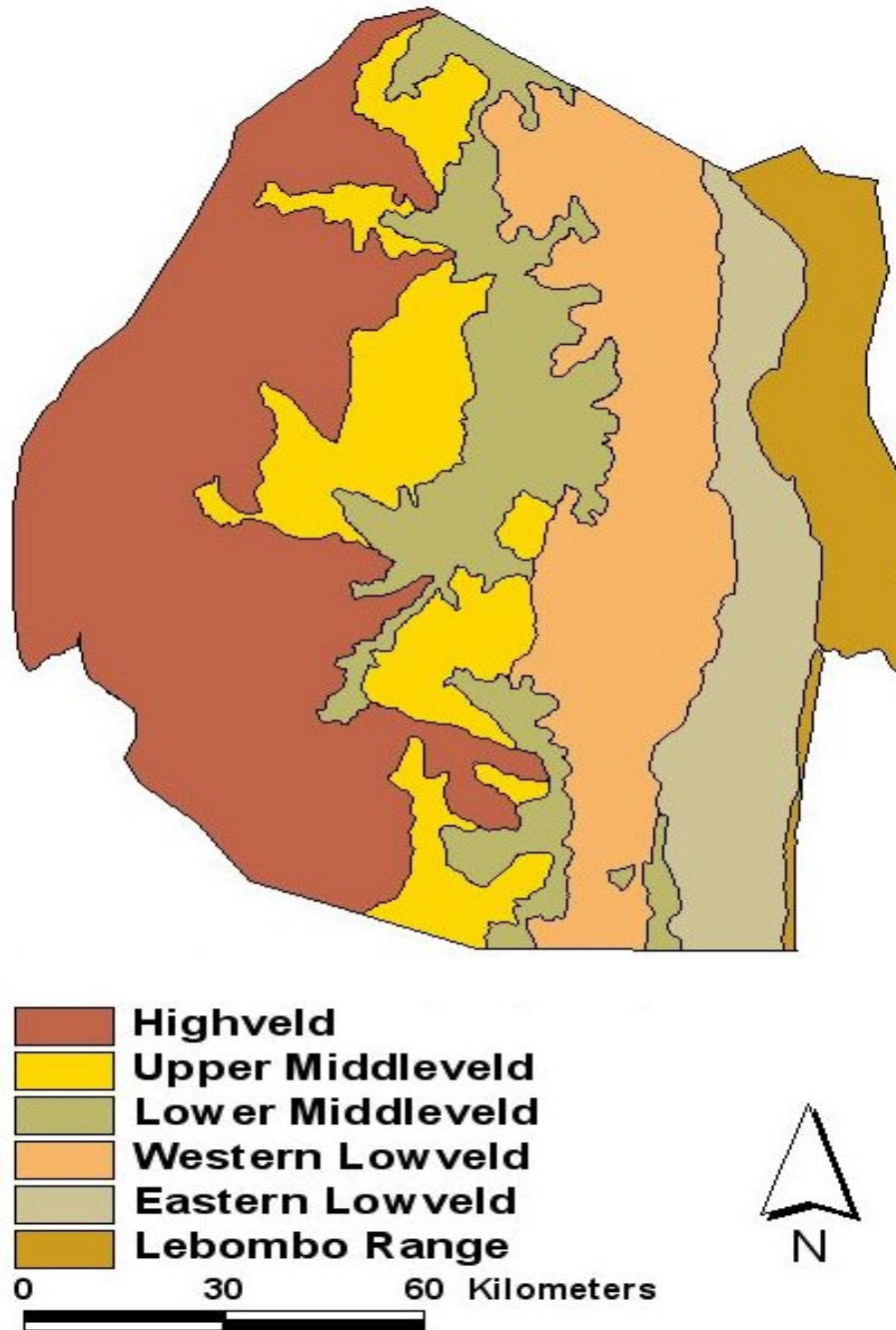
ANNEXURE B: ECOLOGICAL ZONES IN SWAZILAND

Figure 1: Major ecological zones of Swaziland

**ANNEXURE C: ARIDITY INDICES, PRECIPITATION AND POTENTIAL
EVAPOTRANSPIRATION, 2003**

Table 6 Aridity indices for the different ecological zones in Swaziland

Ecological zone	Aridity Index (AI)
Highveld	1.34
Upper Middleveld	0.97
Lower Middleveld	0.56
Eastern Lowveld	0.47
Western Lowveld	0.55
Lubombo	0.80

Table 7 Precipitation, potential evapotranspiration and aridity indices of selected stations in Swaziland

Ecological region	Station	Precipitation	PET	Aridity index
		(mm)	(mm)	
Highveld	Bulembu	1412	1026	1.38
	Mbabane	1437	961	1.50
	Piggs Peak	1245	1036	1.20
	Usutu-D4	1251	984	1.27
Upper Middleveld	Dwaleni	764	954	0.80
	Hluti	737	918	0.80
	Malkerns	955	915	1.04
	Matsapha	924	1107	0.83
Lower Middleveld	Kubutha	820	1347	0.61
	Mayiwane	892	1584	0.56
	Nginini	907	1568	0.58
	St. Joseph	782	1560	0.50
Eastern Lowveld	Big Bend	652	1364	0.48
	Mhlume	781	1528	0.51
	Lavumisa	552	1365	0.40
	Simunye (Mlaula)	710	1431	0.50
Western Lowveld	Mpaka	760	1273	0.60
	Ngonini	907	1563	0.58
	Siphofaneni	626	1347	0.46
	Tambankulu	798	1387	0.57
Lubombo plateau	Lomahasha	695	1428	0.49
	Siteki	844	1305	0.65

* PET = potential evapotranspiration;

Aridity index = rainfall ÷ potential evapotranspiration

ANNEXURE D: MAGNITUDE OF POVERTY ACCORDING TO ECOLOGICAL REGIONS

Table 8 Magnitude of poverty according to ecological regions

Ecological regions	% Below Lower Poverty Line	% Below Higher Poverty Line
Highveld	47	55
Middleveld	57	70
Lowveld	60	85
Lubombo Plateau	50	53

(Swaziland: Poverty Assessment by the Poor (1997).

ANNEXURE E: ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS AND LOCALITIES IN SWAZILAND

E1. Administrative Limits

Swaziland is divided into four administrative regions namely; Hhohho, Manzini, Lubombo and Shiselweni as shown in Table 9 and Figure 3 below.

Table 9 Administrative Regions, their Population Sizes and Geographic Sizes

Administrative Regions	Population Size	% of Total Population	Area (km ²)	% of Total Area
Hhohho	255 455	27.5	3 569.4	20.6
Manzini	280 972	30.2	4 068.4	23.4
Shiselweni	198 978	21.4	3 779.4	21.8
Lubombo	194 323	20.9	5 947.1	34.2
Country	929 718	100.0	17 364.3	100.0

(1997 Swaziland Population and Housing Census Report)

E2. Localities

Table 10 Towns and Cities and their Population Sizes (1997)

Towns / Cities	Population Size	Location (Lat. Long.)
Mbabane	57 900	26 18S 31 7E
Manzini	78 700	26 40S 31 0E
PiggsPeak	4 500	25 58S 31 15E
Lavumisa	1 100	27 18S 31 56E
Siteki	4 100	26 26S 31 56E
Big Bend	9 300	26 48S 31 57E
Nhlangano	6 500	27 06S 31 12E
Mankayane	1 040	26 40S 31 4E
Bulembu	2 400	25 58S 31 6E
Mhlume	7 600	26 2S 31 48E

(1997 Swaziland Population and Housing Census Report Vol. 4)



Figure 2: Administrative regions of Swaziland

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