

THE REPUBLIC  **OF THE GAMBIA**

NATIONAL REPORT
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION
(UNCCD)

THE DESERTIFICATION TASK FORCE OF THE
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (ANR)
WORKING GROUP

Banjul, The Gambia
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COUNTRY PROFILE THE GAMBIA

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Biophysical indicators relating to desertification and drought

Climate

Index of aridity NA
 Normal rainfall 816 mm
 Rainfall standard deviation 219 mm

	Sub-national areas	Mm
1	Banjul	867.70
2	Western Division	860.10
3	Lower River Division	775.88
4	North Bank Division	768.27
5	Central River Division South	788.95
6	Central River Division North	702.27
7	Upper River Division	841.20

Surface Albedo

Vegetation and land use

NDVI (normalized difference vegetation index) NA
 Vegetation cover (% of total land area) 43%
 Land use (% of total land):

Land use	1990 – 1999	2000 – 2003
Arable crop land	41	40.9
	Irrigated	1
	Rainfed	40
Pasture	63	58.1
Forest and woodland	42	43
Other land	5	12

Water Resources

Fresh water availability (million m ³)	400 including fresh water River portion
Fresh water resources (million m ³)	N/A
Agricultural water use (million m ³)	6.3
Industrial water use (million m ³)	N/A

Energy

Consumption

Energy use per capita (kg oil equivalent)	424
Agricultural energy use per hectare (millions of BTU)	N/A

Production

Energy from renewables excluding combustible renewables and waste (% of total supply)	0.02
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Renewables – Consumption by sector

Industry (% of total renewable consumption)	N/A
Residential (% of total renewable consumption)	97.73 (Incl. fuelwood 97.22)
Agriculture (% of total renewable consumption)	N/A

Types of Land Degradation

Types of Degradation (Intensity of Degradation)	1990 - 1999		2000 - 2003	
	000'ha	% of total area	000'ha	% of total area
Closed woodland	12,000	1.1	9,600	0.9
Open woodland	88,800	7.8	56,000	4.9
Tree & shrub savannah	360,800	31.9	441,200	38.8
Agriculture with trees	85,200	7.5	86,400	7.6
Agriculture without trees	241,200	21.3	256,000	22.5
Fallow lands	89,200	7.9	39,600	3.5
Plantations	1,300	.13	1300	.13
Mangrove	59,600	5.3	51,200	4.6
Total				

Some key socio-economic indicators related to Environmental Management

People and Economy

Population (total)	1,360,000
• Population: urban (% of total)	37.12
• Population: rural (% of total)	62.88
Population growth (annual %)	2.77 %
Life expectation (years)	58
➤ Male	56
➤ Female	59

Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	84
GDP Per Capita	\$310
National poverty rate (% of population)	71%
Crop production (metric tons)	649,649
Livestock production (metric tons)	1599.4

Human Development

Primary education completion rate (% age group)	80
Number of women in rural development (total number)	142,178
Unemployment (% of total)	26
Youth unemployment rate (age 15 – 24)	NA
Illiteracy rate (% age 15 and above)	64.5
Illiteracy male (% age 15 and above)	55.5
Illiteracy female (% age 15 and above)	73.1

Science and technology

Number of scientific institutions engaged in desertification-related work (total number)

11 INSTITUTIONS

GAMBIE OCCUPATION DU SOL

Légende

Classes d'occupation du sol à dominante arborée

- Forêt dense humide
- Mangrove
- Mosaïque forêt / savane

Classes d'occupation du sol à dominante agricole

- Agriculture (>50%)
- Agriculture irriguée
- Mosaïque agriculture / végétation sèche

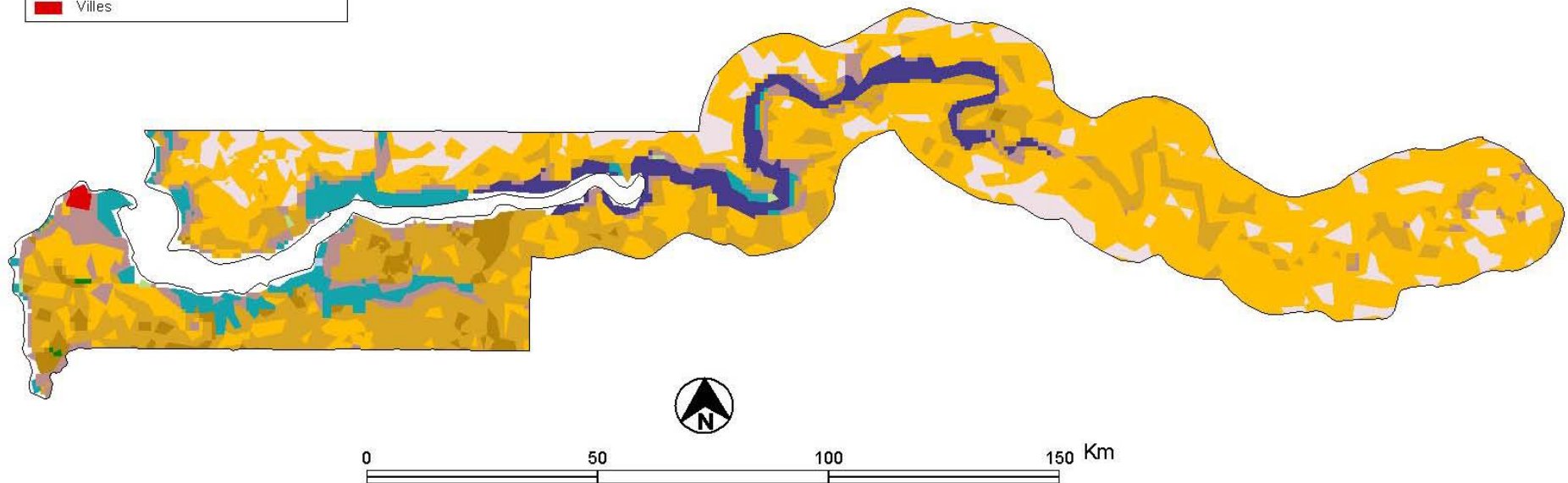
Classes d'occupation du sol à dominante arbustive ou herbacée incluant de l'agriculture

- Savane arborée à arbustive décidue
- Savane boisée décidue
- Savane herbacée et arbustive inondée

Autres occupations du sol

- Eau
- Villes

Types	Superficie (ha)	Pourcentage
Agriculture (>50 %)	114526.55	10.74%
Agriculture irriguée	69547.91	6.52%
Eau	55506.89	5.20%
Forêt dense humide	641.02	0.06%
Mangrove	51122.01	4.79%
Mosaïque agriculture / végétation sèche	519027.08	48.66%
Mosaïque forêt / savane	1485.17	0.14%
Savane arborée à arbustive décidue	223314.56	20.94%
Savane boisée décidue	28974.07	2.72%
Savane herbacée et arbustive inondée	336.08	0.03%
Villes	2133.63	0.20%
Total	1066614.77	100%



Information sur la carte :

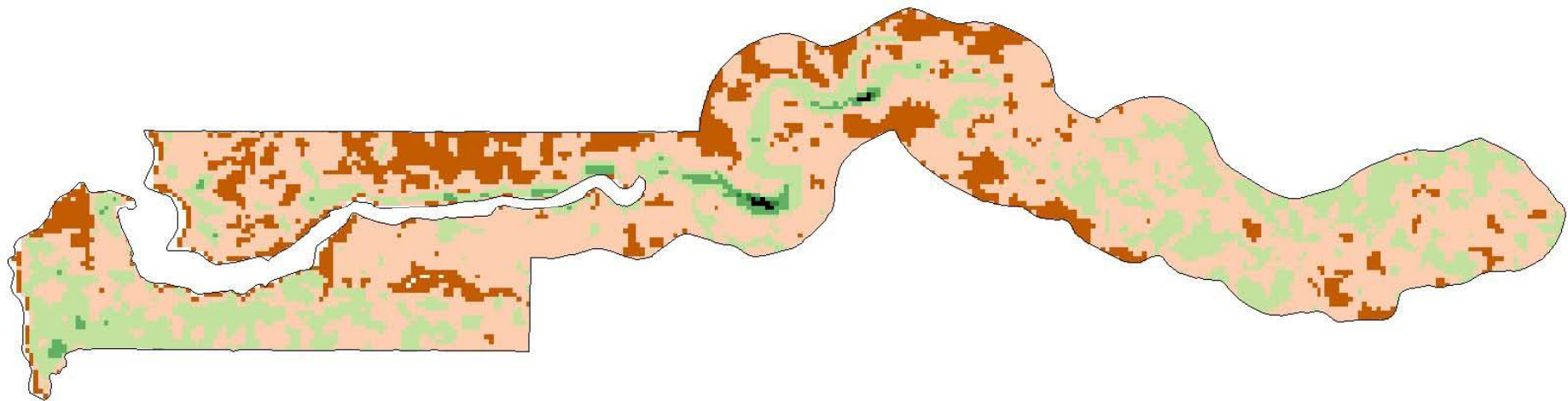
La classification de l'occupation du sol a été obtenue par analyse des données de l'instrument SPOT-VEGETATION acquises en l'an 2000



GAMBIE
IMAGE INDICE DE VEGETATION (NDVI)
AU 30 MAI 2004

Légende

-  Eau / Désert
-  Sol nu
-  Végétation rare
-  Végétation éparse
-  Végétation moyenne
-  Végétation dense
-  Végétation très dense
-  Couvert maximal
-  Nuages



Sources : SPOT-VEGETATION.
Les données VEGETATION sont acquises à l'aide de l'instrument
"VEGETATION" embarqué à bord des satellites SPOT 4 et SPOT 5.



List of Acronyms and Abbreviation

ANR	-	Agriculture and Natural Resources
CBD	-	The Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	-	Community – Based Organization
CCD	-	The Convention to Combat Desertification
CFMA	-	Community Forest Management Agreement
COP	-	Conference of Parties
DAS	-	Department of Agricultural Services
DCC	-	Divisional Coordinating Committee
DKK	-	Dankunku Range Farm
DLS	-	Department of Livestock Services
DOC	-	Department of Cooperation
DOP	-	Department of Planning
ERP	-	Economic Recovery Programme
FAO	-	Food and Agriculture Organization of the united Nation
FCCC	-	Framework Convention on Climate Change
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
GFMC	-	Gambia Forest management Concept
GOTG	-	The Government of the Gambia
GREC	-	Gambia Renewable Energy Center
GTZ	-	German Agency of Technical Cooperation
IITA	-	International Institute for tropical Agriculture
LDF	-	Livestock Development Fund
LEAP	-	Local Environmental Action Plan
M&E	-	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOU	-	Memorandum of Understanding
NAP	-	National Action Programme
NARI	-	National Agricultural Research Institution
NEA	-	National Environ Agency
NEMA	-	National Environ Management Act
NEMC	-	National Environmental management Council
NGO	-	Non- Governmental Organization
NTRP	-	National Team of Resources Person
PSD	-	Programme for Sustained Development
TANGO	-	The Association of Non-Governmental Organization
UNCCD	-	United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCC	-	United Nation Framework Convention for Climate Change
UNSO	-	United Sahel Office
WARDA	-	West Africa Rice Development Association

I. INTRODUCTION

Desertification is an important ecological process, which gradually transforms fragile environments rendering them unproductive for agriculture and other ecological functions. Desertification as a global environmental issue probably has more adverse impact on people's lives the world over than any other natural or man-made phenomena. According to conservative estimates by The United Nations approximately 900 million people worldwide are directly at risk of desertification (UNEP 1994). Although Desertification affects all regions and all continents, the arid and semi-arid regions are most vulnerable.

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification provides a legal framework for cooperation among countries, international donors, NGOs and grassroots communities based on the spirit of partnership. The Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) for short singles out Africa as deserving special attention given the magnitude of desertification and its devastating impacts on the continent. In Africa, it has been estimated that about 32% of the continent's land area is affected by desertification (UNEP 1991).

The Government of The Gambia (GOTG) signed the CCD in June 1994 and later ratified it in January 1996. In order to coordinate and oversee the elaboration of the national action plan to combat Desertification and its subsequent implementation, the Forestry Department was designated as the focal point for the convention. The preparation of the action programme, as clearly stipulated in the relevant articles of the convention, calls for the active involvement of all key actors. In the Gambia, this requirement has been fully observed through the active participation of all stakeholders in the action programme elaboration process.

The National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (NAP), which was finalized in October 2000, reflects the different and diverse sectoral interests in desertification. This 3rd National Report summarizes the major achievements in and/or events related to the implementation of the NAP during the 2002/04 biannual reporting period pursuant to the realization of the objectives of the Convention in The Gambia.

II. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES

2.1 National Plans and Strategies

2.1.1 National Development Plan

The national development plans and strategies have been fully discussed in section 1.1 of the 2nd National Report 2002. It is however important to recognise that, in consonance with the overall orientation of Vision.....2020, the Government's macro-economic policy objectives framework remains the same as follows:

- To improve the overall productivity of the agricultural and natural resource sector;
- To sustainably increase the contribution of the industrial sector by about three fold from its present level of 11% GDP through overcoming the existing bottlenecks in the provision of reliable and adequate energy supply; substantial re-orientation of the manufacturing sub-sector to increase and diversify industrial output; increasing the efficiency and competitiveness of the sea and airports and, media and telecommunications services;
- To improve the contribution of the services sector by creating a strong and efficient financial services system to provide a continuous flow of affordable credit to the private sector, develop and improve the traditional role of the country as an entrepot, and expand tourism by encouraging the construction of more hotels;
- To expand the human resource-base through increased access to education and diversified institution to favour vocation and skill-based training and entrepreneurship development and, provide adequate, efficient and affordable health care services for all Gambians;
- To ensure a totally manageable population that will contribute fully to an accelerated socio-economic development;
- To increase the production of decent housing stock on a regular basis through improving housing development capacity;
- To foster rational use of the environmental resources for the benefit of the present and future generations; and,
- To correct public sector institutional failures to deliver necessary infrastructural and social services for effective private sector functioning through improved cost-efficiency, improved service quality and increased institutional response capacity of the civil service and parastatal organizations.

The foregoing macro-economic policy objectives of Vision 2020 provided the basis for a World Bank supported Public Expenditure Review (PER) and redefinition of sub-sectoral policies and strategies in the agriculture and natural resources sector and other sectors of the economy in 2002 pursuit of the overall goal of the Vision. It embarked upon a comprehensive revision of the GEAP I and SPA I as its key national plans and strategies.

Thus the GEAP was revised into GEAP II and the Government commenced revising its SPA I into SPA (PRSP) II in 2001 in line with the fourth strategic theme of Vision 2020, "Promotion of Participatory Government", to serve as the framework for public sector investment in poverty reduction. To enhance its implementation as a programme based financing instrument as opposed to the sectoral orientation of earlier strategies and project based approach of SPA I, the Government has made it a condition that for any national programme to be eligible for funding, it must be integrated into SPA II. In fulfilment of this requirement, CILSS with the financial support of GTZ commissioned a study in August 2001 to assist the Government to investigate the feasibility of integrating the NAP into SPA II as detailed in subsection 1.1.1 of the 2nd National Report.

The SPA II (PRSP) has five pillars as its objective frameworks, which are:

- Enhancing the Productive Capacity of the poor;
- Improving Access to and the Performance of Social Services;
- Building Capacity at Local Levels for People-Centred Development Management;
- Promoting Participatory Processes and Good Governance; and
- Providing Economic and Social Infrastructure Support to the poor.

The five broad development objectives/pillars of SPA II are to be pursued through eleven key programme areas. These are:

- Programme Area 1: Macro-economic Growth
- Programme Area 2: Employment and income Generating Activities;
- Programme Area 3: Public Investment Programme Support to the Poorest quartile
- Programme Area 4: Access to Basic Social Service Delivery;
- Programme Area 5: Enhancing Food Security;
- Programme Area 6: Improving Public Resource Management
- Programme Area 7: Creation of a Poverty Accounting Framework
- Programme Area 8: Improving Local Level Good Governance
- Programme Area 9: Coordination and Monitoring of SPA II

- Programme Area 10: The Integration of Information, Education and Communication Processes.
- Programme Area 11: Gender, the environment and good governance.

In a similar endeavour, the National Indicative Programme (NIP) which is the framework for EU collaboration under the Cotonou Agreement for the implementation of EDF9 programme of action was commissioned in 2003. The NIP operates in three broad strategic areas. They are:

- Rural development
- Infrastructural Development
- Decentralisation and Good Governance.

The NAP falls mainly under the two broad strategic areas of rural development, and decentralisation and good governance

2.1.2 National Environmental Action Plan

A successor of GEAP I, commonly called GEAP Phase II, has recently been developed and adopted by the Government to form the basis for the continuation of the process of sustainable environmental management and natural resources utilisation for the period 2001 to 2006. GEAP Phase II identifies nine strategic elements as follows:-

1. Improving the performance of the Policy and Institutional framework;
2. Incorporating Environmental considerations into the Economic Decision-making framework;
3. Advocacy and sensitization for sustainable development;
4. Support for decentralization and local government reform for community-based natural resources management and sustainable development planning;
5. Engaging the private sector and parastatals for sustainable resource use;
6. Strengthening the regulatory framework and enforcement of the codes;
7. Sustainable management and protection of the coast and its resources;
8. Improving the performance of Municipal Authorities in Solid Waste Management; and,
9. Developing a self-sustaining environmental management system for The Gambia.

Since the onset of the GEAP process in 1992, participatory approach in national and sectoral policy planning has become the norm especially in environmental management aimed at redressing the downward trend of resource depletion and environmental

degradation. Other important initiatives to consolidate a self sustaining environmental management system include:

- the adoption of a National Agriculture sector policy, among other things to diversify the agricultural base to other areas such as horticulture and agro-forestry for more efficient land use,
- implementation of a Capacity Building for Environmental Management Technical Assistance (CBEMTA) project financed by IDA/World Bank,
- the enactment of a new national policy by Parliament in 2003 (Biodiversity Bill 2003) to map out the way forward for the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (DPWM), to ensure implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and
- the adoption of a Decentralization and Local Government Reform Policy framework in 2002 as Local government Act. The Decentralization and Local Government Reform process has the following objectives:
 - to extend the process of decentralization to the local level by promoting the direct participation of the population in the management of their own affairs, and
 - to promote a spatially integrated approach to development which starts from the people themselves.

These broad objectives of the reform initiative are designed to empower the communities to take control of and be responsible for their environment and natural resource base as well as their own development.

Currently, the GOTG is developing two other strategies aimed at reduction of poverty. These are the Poverty Reduction Strategy Project to be funded by The World Bank, and a second phase of the UNDP- funded Strategy for Poverty Alleviation (SPA) is already underway to support the global national program to reduce poverty in the country.

2.2 National Policies and Strategies in Combating Desertification Prior to UNCCD

In an attempt to deal with widespread poverty and food insecurity as both causes and effects of natural resources depletion and degradation, the Government articulated the following subsectoral natural resources management policy objectives:

- *Traditional Food and Cash Crop Policy Objectives,*
- *Horticultural Policy Objectives,*
- *Livestock Policy Objectives,*
- *Land and Water Resources Policy Objectives,*
- *Fisheries Policy Objectives,*
- *Forestry Policy Objectives, and*
- *Wildlife Policy Objectives.*

2.2.1 National and Local Agenda 21

As a start-up implementation phases for GEAP Phase II, a two year (2001 to 2002) Capacity 21 project assistance amounting to US \$400,000.00 was completed in 2002. The objectives of the Capacity 21 Phase II were similar to those of Phase I which focused on institutional capacity strengthening as detailed in subsection 1.2.1 of the 2nd National Report under section 1.2.1.

2.2.2 National Conservation Strategy

The national conservation strategy is fully discussed in section 1.2.2 in the 2nd National Report. As mentioned above, the GEAP strategy is implemented by the sectoral strategies of the relevant line departments. These are Forestry, Fisheries, Water Resources, Wildlife, Population, Health, Education and Agriculture strategies. The following provides a detailed presentation of these sectoral strategies as redefined in their respective PER documents:

Forestry

The Gambia Forestry Management Concept which was adopted in 1985 and culminated in the the enactment of the New Forestry Policy (1998-2005) which aims at maintaining 30 percent of the total land area under forest cover and to manage at least 75 percent of this area.

The realisation of this broad aim of the policy continues to be thwarted by a host of constraints ranging from recurrent bush fires, low level of information, high population pressure and inadequacy of resources and staff. Consistent with the constraints, the key strategy elements are:

1. Expand community forest management activities
2. Define and adopt sustainable forest management principles for state, community and private forests to ensure sustainable forest produce supply for urban and rural population
3. Develop and promote new strategies for the prevention and control of bushfires
4. Rationalise the exploitation of forest resources by reviewing licenses, permits, royalties, stumpage fees to reflect the replacement cost of the forest produce
5. Support applied forestry research to acquire baseline data
6. Support tree planting in the urban areas
7. Maintain a forestry service with an adequate number of staff at all levels
8. Institutionalise in-country training for state, villagers and NGOs
9. Improve FD's physical infrastructures and equipment
10. Provide adequate funding for the FD

Livestock Sub-Sector Strategies

The Livestock sub-sector's contribution of five per cent to GDP continues to be constrained by frequent outbreak of diseases; poor and inadequate husbandry practices; scarcity of feed, fodder and drinking water especially during the long dry season; and,

inadequate infrastructure such as marketing and processing facilities. The Government will actively encourage improved off-take through improving the traditional systems of production especially of short-cycle species, promoting active community participation in the management and utilization of range and watering facilities, improving the skills of the work force, promoting regional trade and, increasing access and coverage of livestock services. Some specific strategy elements of the livestock sub-sector are:

1. Improving animal access to grazing areas and watering facilities and nutrition especially during the dry season;
2. Instituting controls against bush fires;
3. Providing prophylactic treatments against diseases on regular rather than emergency basis;
4. Improving housing and living conditions and hygiene;
5. Avoiding over stocking by encouraging higher off-take;
6. Slaughtering animals under hygienic conditions and promote quality;
7. Reducing health risks due to animal pollution
8. Modernizing, processing, grading and establishing adequate market outlets;
9. Promoting community participation in range management including efficient management of fodder resources;
10. Exploiting well adapted and proven animals species for breeding and also introduce exotic species;
11. Encouraging Gambian professionals into livestock entrepreneurship; and
12. Establishing a livestock development fund.

Fisheries Strategies

The contribution of the fisheries sub-sector is constrained by a myriad of economic, physical, technical, institutional and social factors. Notable among these are the lack of a fisheries port, well developed distribution and marketing systems, shortage of expertise and skilled manpower, high operational cost and, lack of investment resources. Government policy actions will therefore emphasize efficient and safe fishing methods and operation, protection and sound management of the aquatic environment and the Exclusive Economic Zone, development of shore-based fisheries facilities including credit and marketing structures, strengthening human resources at both public and private levels with special emphasis on women fisherfolks and, encourage sustainable community management of small-scale fisheries infrastructure. Some specific public sector strategy elements in the sub-sector include:

1. Development and implementation of a 5-year plan for fisheries resources surveys in order to establish reliable biomass estimates and maximum sustainable yields;
2. Design and implement a research plan to improve knowledge about fish species, biomass and productivity of the River Gambia.
3. Design and implementation of a 10-year aquaculture development plan;
4. Development of the commercial potentials of high value crustaceans and shell fish such as oysters, shrimps and crabs;
5. Establish viable credit system suitable for the most needy operators in the rural communities;
6. Regulate the behaviour of operators in the industry through imposition of fishing licence fees to reflect resource management costs;
7. Develop a reliable fish distribution and marketing network through the provision of cold storage facilities at major inland markets;
8. Regulate fishing methods, gears and fishing intensity to the regenerative capacity of the resource base, especially for the commercially important species which are highly susceptible to depletion (demersals, shrimps and cephalopods);
9. Encourage and facilitate the development of value-added fishery products particularly by industrial operators; and,
10. Involve resource users in the rational utilization and co-management of the resources through popular participation especially members of the fisheries centre management committees of the coastal and inland community fisheries centres.

Wildlife Strategies

The broad wildlife policy objectives are in line with the thinking of the World Conservation Strategy (WCS) and are pursued through the following strategies;

1. Increase wildlife protected area coverage from 3.5% to 5% of the total land area and reduce regional imbalance in terms of protected area distribution;
2. Adoption of land-use practices around wildlife protected areas to promote the conservation of biodiversity;
3. Encourage and promote greater private and community participation in biodiversity conservation through the provision of appropriate social and economic incentives;

4. Strengthen regional and international co-operation in the development of collaborative activities and periodic review of the wildlife regulatory framework to adequately reflect our international commitments;
5. Review of national policies and laws to enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of wildlife resources;
6. Strengthening the capacity of the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management to be able to carry out its functions of conservation and sustainable use of the Wildlife resource and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of the wildlife resources; and,
7. Increasing public awareness about wildlife and general biodiversity issues.

Water Resources Strategies

While the judicious management of the land resources is the basis for sustainable arable agriculture in the Sahel generally, water is the most limiting factor to increased agricultural and natural resources production and productivity in the Gambia. Thus the Government's primary water resources policy objective is to ensure the rational and sustainable utilization of the country's water resources. In the medium-term the Government policy actions are guided by the following policy objectives:

1. To strengthen the national capacity to better understand the weather and climate as the basis of providing timely weather information to agricultural producers in particular;
2. To provide good quality drinking water in sufficient quantity throughout the country, thereby contributing to improvement of health standards of the population;
3. To make optimum use of both surface and groundwater resources both for agriculture and domestic purposes; and,
4. To promote the rational use of available water resources and improve and maintain their quality.

Education Strategies

Investment in education is key to economic growth with highest social rate of return to investment in Basic education. Education contributes to better income distribution and poverty reduction through enhancing the productivity of the people.

The realization of these potentials of education in The Gambia will in the short-term be constrained by two important factors. These are the unprecedented high rate of population growth and the high cost of education to the poor who cannot afford to send all their children to school. Thus, the strategy to increase access to education constitutes the following elements.

- **Structuring of the School System:** The existing 6-3-3-4 system of school education will gradually be restructured into the 9-3-4 system to incorporate nine-year of education for all Gambian children. Three years of Secondary education to cater for at least half of the graduates of the basic cycle and to provide opportunities for more options and for in-depth learning of both general and special subjects such as science and technology and commerce; and two to four years of study at post secondary level to fill the middle and high-level human resource needs of the country.
- **Maximizing Resources for Education:** The attainment of the educational policy objectives will require improvement in the existing resources (e.g. increasing comprehensive health prevention and promotion programme with the participation of all stakeholders including communities. Local government/governmental agencies, municipalities and NGOs.

Health Strategies

In line with the primary objective of reaching all Gambians with improved health services so that they can live an economically productive life, the strategy of the health policy is decentralization of health services so as to bring decision-making and control of resources as close to operational level as possible. These strategies will be implemented through the following strategy elements:

1. Create and establish six divisional health teams;
2. Strengthening and building the capacity of the primary; secondary (intermediate) and the tertiary health systems;
3. Expansion of the health service delivery system through the introduction of public health centers and increasing basic health care facilities in villages and selected trekking stations;
4. Increasing the number of referral hospitals by upgrading some major health centers such as Farafenni;
5. Strengthening existing mechanism for community participation for effective health care delivery at primary, secondary and tertiary levels; and,
6. Strengthening existing mechanisms for donor coordination in health service provision; and efficiency, safety, reliability, sustainability, equity and environmental effect to enable informed decision-making in the provision of transport and infrastructure.

Traditional Food and Cash Crops Sub-sector Strategies

The traditional food and cash crop sub-sector exhibits a general stagnating trend. This is attributable to a host of constraints the most important of which are erratic rainfall pattern; declining soil fertility; high pre- and post-harvest losses due to pests and diseases; limited access to improved inputs; declining farm labour supply; institutional bottlenecks such as land tenure, marketing, research and extension; and, poor rural infrastructure. The Government will address these constraints through the development of environmentally sound small-scale water control schemes; promotion of greater private sector participation in input and output marketing, promotion of the

development and adoption of improved crop husbandry practices including biological and mechanical technologies; encouraging diversification of the crop-mix; and, improving rural infrastructure especially marketing and processing facilities. In the specific case of cereals within the context of national food security, the Government will adopt a cereal package deal approach. Some key public sector strategy elements in addressing the core problems of declining yields of the traditional food and cash crops are:

1. Deepen and consolidate the integration of agronomic, pastoral, engineering and crop protection research capabilities to yield technological innovation packages that are relevant to the socio-economic, climatic and biological problems of the crop production environment;
2. Improve mobility, organization and programme management of the extension system to be able to provide and sustain a flow of technological and technical information relevant to the crop production problems of the farmers;
3. Intensify training of both extension agents and farmers alike to improve extension skills and technical content of extension messages and increase the capacity of farmers to participate effectively in the management of agricultural institutions;
4. Emphasize the cultivation of drought tolerant, short-cycle crop varieties particularly for upland cultivation;
5. Select and promote salinity tolerant rice varieties for swamps with salinity problems;
6. Select and promote crop varieties with improved and stable yields with tolerance to stresses such as drought, pests, diseases, soil toxicities and consumer acceptability;
7. Implementation of a reliable private sector-managed seed production programme producing seeds that are affordable by small farmers and creation of adequate credit facilities to ensure timely availability of essential inputs;
8. Improving small-scale production by organizing small-scale producers into self-help groups on community basis or associations and to create credit facilities for them to acquired concrete wells and suitable pumping facilities for irrigation; and,
9. Facilitate and encourage the formation of growers and exporters associations that could set up efficient processing and marketing concerns.

Horticultural Sub-sector Strategies

Horticultural production remains constrained at 4.2 percent GDP despite the phenomenal growth potential of the sub-sector. Key among the limiting factors are lack of access to markets both local and international, the inadequacy of processing and marketing facilities and, seasonality of production due to poor production organization and land development. The Government will seek to mitigate these constraints through the development of processing and marketing facilities, intensification of production through better farm organization and multiple cropping, appropriate land development including small-scale water lifting devices and promotion of increased domestic consumption through product quality and nutritive value enhancement. Some priority key elements of the horticultural development strategy are:

1. Establish a programme whereby groups of farmers or growers associations especially women groups with the potential to embark on commercially sustainable horticulture production can be provided with development grant/credit to acquire concrete lined wells with appropriate water lifting devices. Also in view of the quality problem and declining groundwater resources, increasing emphasis would be placed on rain water preservation programmes where possible for horticultural production;
2. Improve the level of professionalism of research and extension workers through appropriate training, as well as train growers on improved production technologies and methods;
3. Encourage the association of growers and exporters to assist government in coming up with ways and means of tackling the problem of limited and high cost air cargo space as well as finding alternative means of freighting;
4. Promote the establishment of a strong operational link between small scale horticultural producers and large-scale horticultural farms and exporters through the creation of out-grower schemes for the mutual benefits of both groups.

2.2.3 Scientific and Technical Desertification Control Activities

These activities are broadly categorized into forestry and wildlife management; agriculture, soil and water conservation; livestock and range management; population and social dimensions of desertification; and, institutional framework. These activities were developed through a process of consultation and participatory approach informed by sectoral analyses and diagnostic studies with particular attention to the principles of the Convention. The relevant strategic programmes are:

- *Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Advisory Programme*
- *Crop Development*
- *Livestock Development*
- *Agriculture and natural Resources Research Programme*
- *Water Resources management*

- *Protected Parks and Wildlife Management*
- *Forest resources Development*
- *Fisheries resources Development*
- *Environmental Management*
- *Rural/Community Development programme*
- *Renewable Energy Development Programme*

III INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION

The 1st national report detailed out the approved institutional set-up for the implementation of the convention. The key elements of this set-up are the Agriculture and Natural resources (ANR) Working group and the Divisional Coordinating Committee (DCC) for each of the five administrative divisions and a Task Force for Beautification (TFB). The ANR Working Group is the National Coordinating Body (NCB) the DCC is the Divisional Coordinating Body (DCB) assisted by its Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment sub-committee whereas the TFB is the DCCs counterpart of the DCC in the two municipalities for the implementation of the NAP. The compositions of the NCB and its subsidiary Taskforce is tabulated below in **Tables 3.1 and 3.2** respectively.

3.1 ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONAL NATIONAL COORDINATING BODY (NCB)

As observed above, the institutional arrangements for the implementation of the CCD are detailed in the 1st National Report. Recently proposed institutional development is a joint working committee for the 3 Rio Conventions as an oversight committee to coordinate the affairs of the various Taskforces, as one of the recommendations from NCSA study of synergy of the 3 Rio conventions. This new structure would then be called the Inter-Sectoral Committee for the Rio Convention (ISCRC).

Table 3.1 Composition of NCB (ANR Working Group)

Name of institution	Government (√)	NGO (√)	CBO (√)	Male\Female
1 Department of State for Agriculture	√			
2 Department of State for Fisheries, Natural Resources & Environment	√			
3 National Environment Agency	√			
4 Women's Bureau	√			
5 National Agricultural Research Institute	√			
6 Department of Forestry	√			
7 Department of Agriculture Services	√			
8 Department of Livestock Services	√			
9 Department of Parks & Wildlife Management	√			
10 Department of Fisheries	√			
11 Department of Community	√			

	Development		
12	Department of Lands & Surveys	√	
13	Department of Water Resources	√	
14	Coordinator Strategy for Poverty Alleviation Coordination Office (SPACO)	√	
15	Soil and Water Management Unit	√	
16	Lowland Development Programme (LADEP)	√	
17	Department of Planning	√	
18	Action Aid The Gambia		√
19	Catholic Relief services		√
20	The Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (TANGO)		√

Table 3.2 Desertification taskforce

Name of institution	Government (√)	NGO (√)	CBO (√)	Male\Female
1 Department of Forestry (NFP)	√			
2 National Environment Agency	√			
3 Finance	√			
4 CONACILSS	√			
5 Department of Agriculture Services	√			
6 Department of Parks & Wildlife Management (NFP CBD)	√			
7 Department of Water resources (NFP UNFCCC)	√			
8 Programme Coordination EDF	√			
9 Department of Fisheries	√			
10 Department of Planning	√			
11 Department of Energy	√			
12 Soil & Water Management Unit of Agriculture	√			
13 SPACO	√			
14 NARI	√			
15 Department of Livestock Services	v			
16 Department of Community	√			

	Development	
17	WISDOM	√
18	ISRA	√
19	Stay Green Foundation	√
20	WABSA	√

3.1.1 Legal Status of the ANR Working Group – (NEMC)

As fully discussed in section 2.1.1 of the 2nd National Report, the ANR Working Group established by NEMA in 1994 as one of the eight technical arms of the NEA, which assist the coordinating role of the Agency.

3.1.2 Resources and Mandate of the ANR Working Group

The ANR Working Group is a multi-disciplinary organ, which has no direct financial allocation. Its expenses for meetings are met from NEA's national budgetary allocations and/or its programme and project assistances. Field level execution of its decisions are met from the resources of respective agencies. Until such time that the proposed Desertification Trust Fund is up and running, the resource requirements of the ANR Working Group will continue to be limited by constraints on the national budgets as thoroughly Discussed in section 2.1.2 of the 2nd National Report.

3.1.3 Cross-cutting Character of the ANR Working Group

As detailed in section 2.1.3 of the 2nd National Report, the ANR Working Group is responsible for all natural resources-related environment conventions and linked to other UN conventions through its counterpart technical arms.

3.1.4 Composition and Mode of Operation of the ANR Working Group

This aspect was dealt with in sections 1.3 and 2.1.4 of the 2nd National Report, where a detailed list of the composition of the ANR Working Group is given. It comprises of governmental and parastatal agencies and NGOs operating in the agriculture and natural resources sector.

3.1.5 Status of Information/Data

The capacity of the ANR Working Group to organize and manage information is fairly good. The NEA houses the Environmental Information System (EIS), though it has not covered all the relevant sectors. A new phase of EIS with the support of UNITAR/ITU was launched in January this year. The Early Warning System is housed in the DOP, while the Dfor, DFis and DWR respectively organize and manage vegetation, fisheries and climate data. All these agencies have access to the internet and web site.

3.2 Institutional Framework for Coherent and Functional Desertification Control

All the public agencies operating in the environment and natural resource sector of The Gambia are required to operate within the broad framework of the GEAP and in a decentralized administrative structure to adequately address the local-specific environmental and natural resource concerns of the individual divisions. Section 2.2 of the 2nd National Report duelled fully on the institutional framework.

3.2.1 Measures Adopted to Adjust or Strengthen the Institutional Framework

Recent institutional developments to adjust or strength the institutional framework in addition or complementary to the measures discussed under section 2.2.1 of the 2nd National Report include:

- The Wildlife Policy and Legislation (Biodiversity Bill 2003) enacted in 2003; and,
- Adoption of a Desertification Trust Fund Bill 2004 which is in an advanced enactment process.

3.2.2 Measures Adopted to Strengthen the Institutions

The GOTG in collaboration with the GM has recently finalised the Roadmap to implement the convention and the National Desertification Trust Fund Bill 2004 for the funding of NAP.

The National Self Capacity Assessment culminating in the elaboration of a National Capacity Building/Strategy Action Plan for the implementation of the 3 Rio Conventions with the support of GEF funds is in the process of finalisation.

In the absence of substantial assistance for full-scale implementation of the NAP, the capacity and institutional building activities envisaged in the NAP cannot commence in earnest. However, within the thematic core programme areas (Forestry and Wildlife Management; Agriculture, Soil and Water Conservation; and Livestock and Range Management), the concerned public agencies and NGOs continue their normal extension programmes in local capacity building through training and conduct of participatory rural appraisals (PRAs).

3.3 NAP as Part of the National Economic and Social Development and Environment Protection Plans

The Gambia Incorporated---Vision 2020 constitutes the overall national development planning framework. Vision 2020 is being implemented by three basic strategic frameworks. These are the SPA II (PRSP), the GEAP and the NIP. Almost all the priority strategic areas of the NAP fall within one or more of these frameworks.

Table 3.3 presents a matrix of mainstreaming of the priority strategic areas of the NAP in these frameworks. The 2nd National Forum adopted a total of 24 strategic issues of which: 7 are in the Forestry and Wildlife Management programmatic component; 5 in the Agriculture, Soil and Water Conservation programmatic component; 4 in the Livestock and Range Management programmatic component; 5 in the Population and Social Dimensions of Desertification programmatic component; and 2 in the Institutional Framework programmatic component. The gap analysis in the feasibility study on the incorporation of the NAP in the SPA II in 2001 revealed that about 18 desertification issues identified by the sectoral studies were not included in the priority issues retained by the 2nd National Forum of 2000, which adopted the NAP. These issues included the lack of concern for the reciprocal impacts of desertification and fisheries developments. In view of the critical importance of this issue in the realization of the objectives of the NAP in the medium-term, the Validation Workshop of the report on 26 September 2001 decided to add this to the already adopted 24 issues in the NAP along with its 4 strategy elements.

Table 3.3: Mainstreaming NAP Strategic Issues into the National Strategic Frameworks

<i>NAP</i>			National Strategic Framework (Yes/No)			
Programme Component	No	Priority Issues	VISION 2020	SPA II (PRSP)	GEAP	NIP
Forestry and Wildlife Management	1	Deteriorating national forest cover	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
	2	Rampant Bush Fire	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
	3	Dwindling supply of forest products in the face of increasing demand	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
	4	Low level of community and private participation in forest management	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
	5	Lack of a coherent and sufficient wild-life policy and legislation	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
	6	Limited protected wildlife	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
	7	Poorly managed protected areas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Agriculture, Soil and Water Conservation	8	Poor land use practices	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	9	Severe upland erosion and sedimentation in the lowlands	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	10	In appropriate crop production practices strategies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	11	Low human and institutional capacity for land use planning	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	12	Poor and deleterious agricultural practices	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Livestock and Rangeland Management	13	Poor planning database	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	14	Lack of suitable husbandry practices for various classes of livestock	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	15	Low level of production of livestock enterprises	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	16	Weak institutional capacity for range management	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Population and Social Dimension of Desertification	17	Low level of information flow, awareness of Fankanta	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	18	Low policy management capacities and skills	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	19	Low domestics food production and security	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	20	Low output of women farmers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	21	Low output of youths in agriculture	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	22	Weak knowledge transfer system	Yes	NO	Yes	Yes
Institutional Framework	23	Lack of effective public participation in Natural Resource Management.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	24	Lack of desertification concern in existing laws and legal management legislation	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Fisheries	25	Lack of concern for the reciprocal impacts of Desertification and fisheries development	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

3.3.1 Making Nap Coherent With Other Environmental Strategic & Planning Frameworks

The strategy and action plan of the three Rio Conventions are the key content elements for implementation of the GEAP and the GEAP itself is the programmes area for implementing the environmental issues of the PRSP. This coherence of the NAP with the other environmental strategic and planning frameworks summarised above is detailed in section 2.3.1 of the 2nd National Report.

3.3.2 Linkages of the NAP with National, Intra-regional And Local Approaches

The linkages of the NAP with national, intra-regional and local approaches are the ANR Working Group, the Divisional Coordinating Committee (DCC) and the local Authorities (District Development Committees (DDC), Ward Development Committees (WDCs), and Village Development Committ[es] (VDCs). The detailed inter-relationship of these linkages is discussed in section 2.3.2 of the 2nd National Report.

3.3.3 Linkage of NAP with Regional and Sub-regional Programme (SRAP & RAP)

Table 3.4 presents the major programmes that provide the linkages of NAP with SRAP & RAP.

Table 3.4: NAP linkages with SRAP & RAP

SRA & RAP		Specifications
1	SRAP for CILSS member states	Thematic Programme Network (TPN)
		NEPAD
		Management of international waters
2	RAP for the African Region	Thematic Programme Network (TPN)
		NEPAD
		Management of international waters

3.3.4 Government's Agreement

Table 3.5 and 3.6 present key partnership agreements concluded by the government with international and national partners and consultative meetings involving donor partners respectively.

Table 3.5: Partnership agreements

	Partnership	Agencies involved	Date of conclusion
1	Gambia German Forestry Programmes	DoF	1996
2	Youth Corps	UNDP	2001
3	Capacity 21 Phase II	NEA, DoF, DWR, DPWM,	2004
4	National Capacity Self Assessment	NEA, DoF, DWR, DPWM,	2002
5	Lowland Development programme	DAS, DoP, DLS	1997
6	Kuwait Fund	DAS, DoP, DLS	2003

Table 3.6: Consultative Meetings

	Title of meeting	Date/year	Donors involved	Agencies involved
1	Zonal Consultations for NAP	1998	UNDP, WB	DoF, NEA, DWR, DPWM,
2	Zonal Consultations for NCSA	2003	UNEP/GEF	DoF, NEA, DWR, DPWM,
3	Divisional Consultations for the	1998	UNDP, WB	DoF, NEA, DWR, DPWM,

4	NAP Divisional Consultations for the NCSA	2003	UNEP/GEF	DoF, NEA, DWR, DPWM,
5	National Consultations for the NAP strategies	1998	GTZ, UNSO (DDC), UNDP	DoF, NEA, DWR, DPWM,
6	National Consultations for the Roadmap & NDFT	2004	GM	DoF, NEA, DWR, DPWM,
7	National Consultations for the NCSA	2004	UNEP/GEF	DoF, NEA, DWR, DPWM,
8	C & I consultative workshop	2002	UNCCD, CILSS, OSS	DoF, NEA, DWR, DPWM,
9	Integration of NAP into planning frameworks	2002	UNCCD, CILSS	DoF, NEA, DWR, DPWM,

3.4 Coherent and Functional Legal and Regulatory Framework

The legal and regulatory framework for environmental management in The Gambia has four broad components. These are natural resource management-specific legislations; general environmental legislations; land tenure and land use legislations; and, public health and production control legislations.

Table 3.7: Acts and Regulations relevant to UNCCD implementation

Acts & Regulations	Date of Adoption
1 National Environment Management Act	1994
2 Forest Act	1998
3 Forest Regulation	2000
4 Local Government Bill	2002
5 Wildlife Conservation & Biodiversity Bill	2003

3.4.1 Analysis of the Legislation on Environment and Related Fields

The NEMA enacted in 1994 is the principal environmental legislation supported by sectoral legislations as mentioned in section 2.4.1 of the 2nd National Report. The sectoral legislations of relevance to UNCCD implementation are summarised in **Table 3.7**.

3.4.2 Measures to Adapt Current Legislation or Introduce New Enactments

Since the issuance of the 2nd National report there has not been any attempt to adapt any existing legislations, however two new legislations have been proposed; the Biodiversity Bill 2003 which has enacted and the National Desertification Trust Fund Bill 2004 is in the process.

IV PARTICIPATORY PROCESS FOR PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

The process was based on a bottom-up approach to ensure ownership, awareness and full participation of all Gambians and designed to ensure the active involvement of local authorities, grass-roots communities, Government officials NGOs and private sector. Detailed description of the process is provided in chapter III of the 2nd National Report.

4.1 The Participatory Process

The quintessence of the process was that it is a bottom-up approach initiated by the National Desertification Taskforce under the directives of the ANR Working Group as detailed in section 3.1 of the 2nd National Report.

4.2 Effectiveness of the Participatory Process in Defining National Priorities

As indicated in section 3.2 of the 2nd National Report the local, regional and national level desertification concerns were synthesis and consolidated into a coherent national desertification issues paper, which form the bases for detailed diagnostic review.

4.2.1 Methods of Participation

The main methods of participation were brainstorming at and general discussions through PRAs as fully discussed in section 3.2.1 of the 2nd National Report.

4.2.2 Gender Balance

On average the gender balance at various stages of the process was about two men to one woman as detailed in section 3.2.2 of the 2nd National Report.

4.2.3 Representation of Various Actors

No systematic criterion has been used in inviting various actors other than the relevance of desertification to their respective enterprises at the different fora, at the local level the meetings even took the form of open public forum as detailed in section 3.2.3 of the 2nd National Report.

4.2.4 Nature and Scope of Information, Education and Communication

The nature and scope of information, education and communication included study tours and workshops for key stakeholders including communities as detailed in 3.2.4 in the 2nd National Report.

4.2.5 Extent of Uptake of Local and National Concerns and Results

As a bottom-up participatory process the local and national concerns provided the building blocks for the implementation of the convention which is fully discussed in section 3.2.5 of the 2nd National Report.

V. CONSULTATIVE PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION & IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

5.1 The Consultative Process

As detailed in section 4.1 of the 2nd National Report the Consultation proceeded through a three stage process – zonal, divisional and national levels under the oversight of a national team of resource persons.

5.2 The Effectiveness of the Support of International Partners

Hitherto the major driving force of the process has been the contribution of the internal partners.

5.2.1 Degree of Participation of International Partners

Apart from the traditional sectoral activities, all the major events were funded by international partners. Key among these are the GTZ, the World Bank, UNDP, UNSO (present DDC), CILSS, UNCCD and Global Mechanism as fully discussed in section 4.2.1 of the 2nd National Report.

5.2.2 Establishment of an Informal Consultation & Harmonization for Action between Partner Countries

Although a variety of avenues for intra-country informal consultations and harmonisations exist among local partners as discussed in section 4.2.2 of the 2nd National Report, no such avenues exist between partner countries.

VI. MEASURES TAKEN OR PLANNED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME (NAP)

As discussed in chapter V of the 2nd National Report the desertification process evolved through three different stages: Grass-roots consultations, Divisional consultations and National consultations.

6.1 Adequate Diagnosis of Past Experiences

Following the elaboration of the local environmental action plans, the 1st National Forum commissioned detailed diagnostic studies in the five core programme areas culminating in the 1st draft NAP. The 1st draft was reviewed and adopted by the 2nd National Forum in September 2000. A full discussion is given in section 5.1 of the 2nd National Report.

6.2 Established Technical Programmes and Functionally Integrated Projects

As discussed in section 5.2 of the 2nd National Report, the NAP was developed as a comprehensive and integrated initiative and based on its identified priority needs the investment priorities were formulated. Recently in 2003/4, the Roadmap for resource mobilisation and the trust fund bill 2004 documents for the implementation of the convention were elaborated.

6.2.1 Inventory, Adaptation and Integration of Projects within the NAP

The NAP programme areas wholly integrate on-going proven projects into the process as elaborated in section 5.2.1 of the 2nd National Report.

6.2.2 Identification of New Actions And Planned Measures

Experiences from participative and integrated ecosystem approach in particular in the area of watershed management and participative land management has culminated into a planned AFBF supported project and CILSS/FEM supported NGO project are in their final stages of becoming effective.

The planned rural electrification and the use of renewable energy sources in rural water supply systems are being implemented on a wider scale through EU, CILSS and GoTG funding towards the fulfilment of MDG.

6.2.3 Specific Actions to Strengthen National Capacity to Combat Desertification

In addition to the actions discussed in section 5.2.3 of the 2nd National Report, the GoTG in collaboration with UNEP/GEF is presently finalising NCSA programme. At the same time, the UNCBD has just commissioned the elaboration of capacity requirements for the implementation of NBSAP. The national secretariat of UNFCCC has in September this year commenced an 18 months project for the elaboration of the NAPA. As part of its capacity building endeavours, the UNCCD/GEF and the GoTG

are jointly funding the writing of the present report as an act with capacity building of the NCB.

6.3 Action Programmes Implemented in Compliance with Priority Fields

Annex 6 provides a detailed list of programmes implemented or are being implemented in compliance with the priority fields.

6.3.1 Measures for Natural Resource Conservation

The first phase of a twenty year Lowland Development Programme terminated in December 2004 has been the only major action programme implemented in compliance with measures for natural resource conservation

6.3.2 Measures to Improve Institutional Organization

Three key programme measures to improve institutional organisations in compliance with priority fields have been implemented. These are National Capacity Self Assessment, Support to Local Government for Poverty Reduction and Support to Decentralised Rural Development as detailed in Annex 6.

6.3.3 Measures to Enhance Knowledge on Desertification Control

Only one major programme measure to enhance knowledge on Desertification has been implemented. This is the Research and Development Project for Livestock detailed in **Annex 6**.

6.3.4 Monitoring & Evaluation Measures for the Effects of Desertification

So far no specific programme for the monitoring & evaluation of the effects of Desertification has been implemented. The identified benchmarks and indicators elaborated for the impact monitoring of Desertification supported by CILSS as detailed in chapter VII below needs to be applied urgently.

6.3.5 Measures to Improve the Economic Environment

No major programme to improve the economic environment have been implemented during the period under review.

6.4 NAP Linkage with Subregional and Regional Action Programmes

Table 3.2 above presents the various programmes which constitute the linkage between NAP and SRAP & RAP.

6.5 Effectiveness of Measures in Local Capacity Building

As explained under section 5.5 of the 2nd National Report, the Local Government Bill 2000 and the local Government Reform culminating in fiscal decentralisation has commenced since end of 2002, its effectiveness has yet to be measured.

6.5.1 Degree of Responsibility in Natural Resource Management at Local Level

In a drive to entrench the principles and practices of good governance and decentralisation, The Gambia Government has undertaken a wide range of activities aimed at ensuring peoples participation in democratic pluralism, community development and natural resource management. To this end the Local Government Act 2000 was enacted by the National Assembly and Local Government elections held in 2002 to establish the councils. This Act provides for the creation of Natural Resources Management Committees to be established by each authority. However the authorities are yet to establish these committees.

6.5.2 Degree of Decentralization

The Local Government Act 2000 was enacted by the National Assembly and Local Government elections held in 2002 to establish the councils. Although the current administrative structures of the Forestry, Agriculture, Livestock, Medical and Education services are functional cascading to village level, the decetralisation of theses services as envisaged by the Local Government Bill 2000 is yet to effected.

6.5.3 Involvement of Actors in Monitoring and Evaluation Process

As indicated in section 6.3.4 above, no specific monitoring of the effects of desertification has yet been undertaken. The GEAP monitoring process involves all major line sectors. It is recommended that the defined benchmarks and indicators detailed in chapter 7 be urgently implemented.

6.6 Partnership Agreements Applied

Relevant partnership agreements applied for the implementation of the convention are given in **Table 3.3** above.

6.6.1 Functioning of Internal Partnership Agreements

Functioning of internal paetnership agreements are through Memoranda of Understanding.

6.6.2 Consultation and Coordination Process

The consultation and coordination process are well discussed in section 5.6.2 of the 2nd National Report, the only difference is the absence of FRG representative due to the phasing out of the bilateral support of that component in June 2003.

6.6.3 Investments Made for NAP Implementation

The major investments made so far are summarised at the time under section 5.6.3 of the 2nd National Report. Since then, the Government budgetary allocations to the key sectors of Agriculture and Natural Resources have increased by 5% in 2003 and 6% in 2004 respectively. In addition to those contributions mentioned in the said report, the Global Mechanism (GM) has contributed \$60,000 for the elaboration of the Roadmap and the National Desertification Trust Fund Bill 2004. Similarly, the UNCCD Secretariat/GEF is supporting country parties in the area of capacity building with \$33,000.

6.6.4 Number of International Partners (Multi & Bi-lateral)

The international partners indicated in Table 3.4 and Annex Table 9.1 constitutes the main multi- and bi-lateral contributors to the programmes relevant to desertification process.

VII. FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS FROM NATIONAL BUDGETS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANT AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN SUPPORT OF IMPLEMENTATION

The main sources of funding available to public agencies for implementing their sustainable development mandates including Desertification control are the National budgets, dedicated sectoral funds and external assistance.

7.1 Adopted Financial Mechanism

The only adopted internal financial mechanisms are the traditional national budgets allocated to sectors and the revenue retention schemes of Forestry and Wildlife management. The main external financial mechanisms relevant to desertification are indicated in table 3.6 and the Annex Table 9.1..

7.1.1 Measures to Facilitate Access to Existing Funding Sources by Local Actors

There are no specific measures to facilitate access to existing funding sources by local actors. In view of this, the GoTG with the support of the GM elaborated the National Desertification Trust Fund which is in the process of adoption by cabinet.

7.1.2 Working out New Adapted Methods of Internal and External Resources Mobilization

The GoTG with the support of the GM just elaborated the Roadmap and the Trust Fund for resources mobilisation for the implementation of the convention which are presently in the process of being approved by cabinet.

7.1.3 Analysis of Flows of Investment in Dry Land Development

Investments in the dry-lands have been fully discussed in 6.1.3 of the 2nd National Report. The Government is on the verge of commencing the implementation of the Participative Integrated Watershed Management programme jointly funded by The Gambia Government and AFDB.

7.2 NAP Financing

There are no NAP specific financial mechanisms yet. The main financial mechanisms are the traditional national budgets allocated to sectors and the revenue retention schemes of Forestry and Wildlife management. The external financial mechanisms relevant to desertification are indicated in table 3.6 and the Annex Table 9.1.

7.2.1 Mobilization of National Resources

The GoTG with the support of the GM just elaborated the Roadmap and the Trust Fund for resources mobilisation for the implementation of the convention which are presently in the process of being approved by cabinet.

7.2.2 Mobilization of External Resources

The GoTG with the support of the GM just elaborated the Roadmap and the Trust Fund for resources mobilisation for the implementation of the convention which are presently in the process of being read before cabinet.

7.2.3 Contribution from the Global Mechanism

The Global Mechanism has in 2003 provided an amount of \$60,000 for the elaboration of the Roadmap and the National Desertification Trust Fund Bill for the implementation of UNCCD in The Gambia. The two documents are presently before the Cabinet for approval.

7.3.3 Number of Partners Providing Financial Support

The partners indicated in Table 3.6 and Annex Table 9.1 are the main multi- and bi-lateral contributors to the programmes relevant to desertification process.

7.3.4 Amount of Financial Resources Available

The major investments made so far are summarised at the time in section 5.6.3 of the 2nd National Report. Since then, the Government budgetary allocations to the key sectors of Agriculture and Natural Resources have increased by 5% in 2003 and 6% in 2004 respectively. In addition to those contributions mentioned in the said report, the Global Mechanism (GM) has contributed \$60,000 for the elaboration of the Roadmap and the National Desertification Trust Fund Bill 2004. Similarly, the UNCCD Secretariat/GEF is supporting country parties in the area of capacity building with \$33,000.

7.4 Technical Cooperation Developed

The situation has not changed much since the last report that is, no such cooperation has been developed as specified in section 6.3 of the 2nd National report.

7.4.3 Mobilization of Technical Cooperation

Hitherto no definite plan has been formulated for the request of technical cooperation as envisaged in the NAP. Included in the key partners, are UNEP/GEF, the UNCCD and GM who also provided technical assistance in the form of consultancies to the NAP implementation process.

7.4.4 Identification of Priority Needs in Technical Assistance

Given the novelty and paucity of knowledge on desertification, the scope of the need for technical assistance is large. Thus, the NCSA process needs assessment and action plan presently under finalisation has thoroughly looked into this issue.

VIII BENCHMARKS AND INDICATORS FOR MEASURING PROGRESS

The 1st and 2nd National Report has covered the status qua and stage of benchmarks and indicators according to the GEAP monitoring system. The GoTG with the support of CILSS and OSS has in 2002 developed benchmarks and indicators for the core sectors for the specific monitoring of the impact of desertification which are presented below. This report strongly recommends the urgent implementation of these defined indicators.

Forestry and Wildlife

STRATEGY/ INDICATOR	TYPE OF DATA	FRQUENCY OF DATA COLLECTION	TOOLS	PERESNT ATION FORMAT
Increased forest cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inventory data - Type of ownership (ha), - volume of growing stock m³ - forest types, - species types 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inventory every 10 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resources Inventory/ Survey - RRA/PRA/LFA results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tables - Graphs - Pie-charts
Increased Biological diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area of forest & species type - Dominance and frequency species - Total forest area. - forest categories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inventory every 10 years 10 years inventory - Annually - Inventory Bi-Annual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PRA - Socio-economic surveys - Consultative processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tables - Graphs - Pie-charts
Reduction in incidence Of bushfires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Causes and incidences of fires registered - Area affected - Sampling in burnt areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resource inventory - PRA - LFA results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tables - Graphs - Pie-charts

Increased community participation in forest management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communities managed forest area - Socio-economic data - Number of communities involved in forest management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bi-annual - Annual - Annual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultative processes - Resource inventory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tables - Graphs - Pie-charts
Increased capacity to extend forest management principles to communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community managed forest area - Socio-economic data - Training data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resource inventory - Market surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tables - Graphs - Pie-charts
Community management structures in place to effectively implement forest management agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of functional CBOs - Community Managed forest areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annually - Annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Socio-economic surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tables - Graphs - Pie-charts

	-	Number of management agreements signed			
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FISHERIES

INDICATOR	TYPE OF DATA	FREQ. DATA COLL.	PRESENTATION FORMAT	IMPACT INDICATOR
Establish and dev. Stock enhancement Aquaculture	Fertility of stock brood survival rate of fry. Primary productivity level Nursery ponds, Total number and individual size of fingerling for release. Environmental parameters	-Daily fry mortality count. -Daily Prim.Productivity. -Daily measurements.Half yearly number of finger released. Daily measurements	Bar charts line graphs scatter pwn.	
Improved size of threatened fish stock.	Catch per unit effort. Yield per recruit	Daily catch assessment Annual total yield	Bar chart, frequency distribution.	
Alternative oyster harvesting method adopted.	Growth data Spat fall data Mortality data Total yield data Yield per substrate type.	Forthnightly growth monitoring. Daily mortality count. Half yearly yield data collation.	Growth curves Bar chart	Reduced rate of mangrove destruction through oyster harvesting.

LIVESTOCK

Indicator	Type of Data	Frequency of Data Collection	Presentation
Information system on livestock production and management is made available	1a) Calving, lambing and kidding rate	Quarterly - (3 monthly)	Graphs/Pie chart
	1b) Offtake rate	Monthly	Graphs/Bars
	1c) Mortality rates of livestock diseases	Monthly	Graphs
Establish of information on range production and management	The total land area unsuitable for crop farming	Yearly	Bars
	Biomass production	Seasonal (dry & wet season) monthly	Graphs
	Livestock Water available	Monthly	Graphs
	Migratory livestock numbers	Monthly (dry season)	Pie chart/Bar chart
Surface and percentage of lands managed for the protection of pastoral land by local communities	Area of rangeland under community management	Yearly	Pie Chart
Increase community participation in semi-intensive livestock production system	Number of Farmers involved in semi-intensive production system	Monthly	Graph
The percentage of farmers undertaking high capital input livestock farming enterprises	Number of farmers involved in different livestock enterprises	Monthly	Bar chart
Share of the livestock sector in the formation of the income of local communities	Livestock sales, market prices	Monthly	Bar chart

AGRICULTURE, SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

Indicators	Type of data to be collected	Formula	Presentation format
Reduce Soil Erosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Length of contour bunds constructed (m) - Amount of land ploughed along the contour (ha) - Increased vegetation cover (ha) - Reduced gradient of landscape to slow down runoff (%) - Nr. of ramps/Irish crossing constructed (m) - Amount of gullies rehabilitated 	$\frac{\text{Area recovered}}{\text{Total area}} \%$ Universal soil loss equation. $A = RKLSCP$	Pie chart Graph Table form
Increase Capacity of Institution in Land use Planning, Production of Land use Maps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training of staff and farmers - Availability of field equipment - Number of topo and land use maps produced 	Nr. of staff trained Nr. of maps produced	Bar chart Maps
Increase Efficiency of Interventions in Crop Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Timely sensitization of farmers - Availability of fertilizer, seeds, and pesticides - Increase in capacity to address unexpected outbreaks - Increase in number of trained extension workers 	Nr. of receptive farmers Nr. of ext. workers trained	Histogram Pie chart
Maintenance of Soil Conservation Structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of staff trained - Amount of available vertiver grass and tree nurseries - Nr. of farmers trained in maintenance of conservation structures. - Amount of structures in place 	- Nr. of conservation structures Total area treated Nr. of farmers trained	Bar chart Graph
Increased crop Yields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of farmers receptive to advices from extension workers - Number of farmers that have access to improved crop varieties - Yield data - Level of mechanisation in crop production increased. 	$\frac{\text{Current yield}}{\text{Previous yields}} \%$	Graph Histogram
Increase Soil Fertility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Soil analysis data - Plant analysis data - Presence of indicator plants - Crop yield data. 	Nr. of soil analysis conducted $\frac{\text{Current yield}}{\text{Previous yield}} \%$ Percentage of plant indicator per area	Histogram
Declining Salinity in Rice Fields and Reclamation of Rice Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rainfall data - Presence of indicate plants - EC levels - Crop yield data - Area of reclaimed land. 	Total rainfall Density of indicator plants $\frac{\text{Area reclaimed}}{\text{Total area destroyed}} \%$	Graph Histogram Histogram

The rest of the chapter has been thoroughly dealt with in the 1st and 2nd National Reports.

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ANNEXES:

1. National Focal Point Institution

Name of Focal point	Department of Forestry
Address	Department of Forestry Department of State for Fisheries, Natural Resources & the Environment 5, Marina Parade P.O.Box 504 Banjul, The Gambia
Websites relating to desertification	

2. Status of NAP

Date of validation	October 2000
NAP reviews	26 th September 2001
NAP integration into PRSP	Almost fully integrated
NAP integration into other national development strategies	Almost fully integrated Table 3.3 above
NAP implementation partnership agreements	GM

3. Number of NGOs and CBOs accredited to the process

A total of 32 NGOs are actively involved in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Sector. Of this total 8 are accredited to the implementation of the NAP.

4. Acts and Regulations relevant to UNCCD implementation

Acts & Regulations	Date of Adoption
1 Forest Act	1998
2 Forest Regulation	2000
3 Wildlife Conservation & Biodiversity Bill	2003
4 National Environment Management Act	1994
5 State Lands Regulation	1995
6 Land Use Regulation	1995

5. Chef de file (lead facilitating country)

Federal Republic of Germany through an attachment of a policy adviser to the focal point, therefore their fiscal presences.

6. Projects under implementation

Name of Project	Relevant to NAP\SRAP\ RAP framework implementation Framework implementation	Time frame	Involved Partners	Overall Budget
1 Gambia German Forestry Project	NAP	Bilateral	1980 - 2006	GTZ, BMZ	About Euro 16 Million
2 Lowland Development Project	NAP	Grant/Loan	1997 - 2004	AfDB/ IFAD	US\$ 11,66 Million
3 Youth Corps	NAP	Grant		UNDP	
4 National Capacity Self Assessment	NAP	Grant	2002 - 2004	UNEP	US\$ 164,000
5 Peri Urban Smallholder Improvement Project	NAP	Grant/Loan	2001 - 2005	AfDB	UA 5,72 Million
6 Integrated Rice Development Project	NAP	Grant/Loan	2001 - 2005	KFAED	US\$ 3,728 Million
7 Research and Development Project for Livestock	NAP	Grant	2000 - 2004	EDF	Euro 2,9 Million
8 Support to Local Government for Poverty Reduction	NAP	Grant	2001 - 2004	GTZ	Euro 1,2 Million
9 Support to Decentralised Rural Development	NAP	Grant	1999 - 2004	EDF	Euro 2,9 Million
10 Artisanal Fisheries Development Project	NAP/SRAP/RAP	Grant/Loan	2002 - 2007	AfDB	UA 13,47 Million

7. Strategies and priorities established within the framework of sustainable development plans and /or policies

Table 7.1: Mainstreaming NAP Priority Strategy Elements into SPA II Programmatic Components

No	NAP Priority Strategy Elements	<i>SPA II Programmatic Components</i>										
		Macro-economic Growth	Income Generating Opportunities	Redistribution of income and assets	Social Service Delivery;	Food Security	Public Resource Management	Allocation of debt relief resources to poverty reduction	Participation in Local Decision Making	Coordination and Monitoring	Integration of Information, Education and Communication Processes	Gender, the environment and good governance
1	Define principles for forest management planning for state, community and private forests.			Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes				Yes
2	Develop and implement new strategies for the prevention and control of bush fires				Yes		Yes	Yes				Yes
3	Ensure sustainable supply of forest produce for urban and rural population		Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes				Yes
4	Promote effective participation of local communities and the private sector in forest resource management				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes
5	Review the proposed wildlife policy and legislation to develop effective implementation tools and trans-frontier boundary management strategies.						Yes					Yes

6	Identify demarcated and designate wildlife protected areas with a view to achieving an even distribution of protected areas in the country			Yes			Yes				Yes	
7	Develop and implement management plans for the protected areas				Yes		Yes				Yes	
8	Promote integrated land use planning and ensure that the land use zones established by the Department of Physical Planning and Housing (DPPH) under the Land Use Regulations 1995 are respected		Yes				Yes				Yes	
9	Promote soil and water conservation techniques in both the low lands and uplands to reduce erosion and improve water retention		Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	
10	Promote the use of sustainable crop production practices which enhance the productivity of the soil and minimize soil degradation		Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	
11	Strengthen the human resources and institutional capacity of relevant departments to undertake effective land use planning, produce topographic maps, monitoring land use and control inappropriate land use practices in a more coordinated manner						Yes			Yes	Yes	
12	Initiate, develop and intensify educational campaign on the use and management of agro-chemical.				Yes		Yes				Yes	Yes
13	Establish a database for effective livestock development planning and management					Yes						Yes

14	Development and promote appropriate extension package for stratified livestock systems					Yes						
15	Encourage and promote cautious intensification of livestock enterprise					Yes						
16	Review and capitalize the institution/unit responsible for range management.						Yes					
17	Formulate adequate range policy and legislation		Yes				Yes					
18	Strengthen and expands the population IEC programme on a nation wide basis.										Yes	
19	Improve human capacities and skills to effectively manage health care policies.											
20	Create an enabling environment to improve food security and promote better land husbandry.		Yes			Yes						
21	Strengthen women's contribution to food production and development.		Yes			Yes						
22	Strengthen youths' contribution to food production and development.		Yes			Yes						
23	Improve education and knowledge transfer systems.				Yes							

24	Restructure and strengthen existing institutional arrangements adopted for the elaboration of the NAP, proposals to enhance inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation among the key institutions in the four programme areas.								Yes	Yes		Yes
25	Facilitate the proper functioning of DDC, WDCs and VDCs to serve as for a for MDFT the private and other members of the civil society to meet and discuss issues related to desertification or mitigation of drought and present their view to their representative DCCs.								Yes			Yes
26	Review and main-stream desertification considerations into some of the existing sectoral legislations in the right of the CCD											Yes
27	Develop and enact a Land Care Act with appropriate incentive scheme to support implementation				Yes	Yes						Yes
28	Strengthen the capacity of NGOs which will be involved in the implementation of the NAP and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to enable them to play more effective role in implementing the NAP		Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes			Yes
29	Establish a National Desertification Trust Fund under the Department of Forestry to support the implementation of the NAP		Yes			Yes	Yes		Yes			Yes
30	Develop and implement desertification monitoring within the framework of the GEAP monitoring and evaluation strategy									Yes		Yes
31	Development/ map out significant						Yes					

	fish landing sites along Gambia river and estuary											
32	Review Fisheries regulations governing exploitation of Inland fish resources						Yes					
33	Highlight the importance of Aquaculture technology to Sahelian countries particularly the Gambia and develop strategies to increase awareness		Yes			Yes	Yes				Yes	
34	Review mesh size regulation of shrinking nets						Yes					
35	Sensitize oyster collectors about the need to preserve the mangrove substrate and the oyster population		Yes			Yes	Yes				Yes	Yes
36	Collaborate with relevant institutions e.g. (Forestry) to develop and implement management plans for mangroves ecosystem						Yes				Yes	

8. Measures taken to implement the convention (legislative, institutional frameworks, linkages and synergies with other conventions and with national development strategies)

Pari passu with the development of SPA II, which was launched by the President in early 2001, a Second National Forum on the implementation of UNCCD adopted the National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (NAP) in The Gambia in September 2000. In line with the requirement of the Government for all national plans to be integrated into SPA II, CILSS with the financial support of GTZ commissioned a study in August 2001 to assist the Government to investigate the feasibility of integrating the NAP into SPA II.

The focus of the GEAP II is sustainable natural resource management, energy and environmental health. The key areas of interest to the GEAP Programme include agriculture and livestock, natural resources, trade and investment, tourism and infrastructure, waste management and coastal zone management. Its implementation strategy will continue to be the raising of public awareness and greater community involvement and capacity building through the implementation of the three global environmental conventions of Biodiversity, Framework Convention on Climate Change and UNCCD. This makes the CCD not only coherent with the GEAP but also a strategic framework for GEAP action.

As a strategic framework the SPA is the national economic and social development plan of the Government. A recent feasibility study for the incorporation of the NAP into SPA II recommended the wholesale submission of the NAP along with its allied action plans for biodiversity and climate change by NEA as the Agency's investment programme content for implementation under SPA II. This recommendation was approved and adopted by a National Validation Workshop in September 2001. Thus the NAP and allied action plans along with SPA II and GEAP II evolved and are being implemented through a process that adequately accommodated UNCCD principles entirely and will successfully integrate them at both national and local levels.

9. Financial allocations and/or financial assistance or technical co-operation

Table 9.1: Integrating NAP Programmatic Components into Donor Focal Areas (Framework)

Donors		NAP Programmatic Componenets					
Donor	Donors Focal Areas (Framework)	Forestry & Wildlife	Agriculture, Soil & Water Conservation	Livestock & Rangeland Management	Fisheries	Population & Social Dimensions	Institutional Frameworks
World Bank	Poverty Reduction					YES	
	Environment				YES		
	Infrastructure				YES		
IFAD	Poverty Reduction		YES	YES		YES	
	Food Security		YES	YES		YES	
ADB	Poverty Reduction		YES	YES	YES	YES	
	Food Security		YES	YES	YES	YES	
FRG	Environmental Protection and Sustainable Economic Growth	YES					
	Health					YES	
UNDP	Poverty Reduction		YES	YES			
	Good Governance					YES	YES
	Environment	YES					
	Information and Communication Technology					YES	