



THE SECOND MALAWI NATIONAL REPORT

ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS

CONVENTION TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION

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LILONGWE, MALAWI

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1. INTRODUCTION

Malawi ratified the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and /or desertification, particularly in Africa, in June, 1996. In line with demands and specifications of Articles 9 and 10 of the Convention Malawi elaborated and adopted a National Action Plan (NAP) in 2000. The elaboration process was steered by a National Steering Committee (NSC) comprised of Public Sectors of Environment; Forestry; Agriculture and Livestock; Water; energy; Meteorology; Gender, Youth and Community Services; Information; NGOs; Co-coordinating Unit for the Rehabilitation of the Environment; Private Sector and the United Nations Development Programme.

The programme was elaborated through a bottom up approach consulting all the 27 District Assemblies at the time, some Non-Governmental Organizations and Private Sector. This led to a set of issues that were synthesized into a programme of Action¹ which was discussed and agreed at a National Forum. The programme comprises strategies in five-core subprogrammes and three-support subprogrammes. The core subprogrammes are Food Security, Water Resources Management, Renewable Energy, Forest Resources Management and Environment Management. The support subprogrammes comprise Indigenous knowledge systems and Technologies, Institutional arrangements and finally, Funding arrangements. Details on these programmes can be accessed by consulting the Malawi National Action Plan and the first National Report presented to the third conference of the parties.

This is a second National Report produced in compliance to demands of Article 26 of the Convention. Its format and contents are dictated by Decisions 11/Cop1, 5 Cop 2 and 1Cop 5. It is a report elaborating progress made in implementing the NAP.

¹ National Action Plan to Combat Desertification in Malawi, 2000

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

Poverty and their Indicators

Malawi has a total land area of 119,140 square kilometers supporting almost 10 million people; 50% of whom are the youth. The majority live in rural areas and subsistence agricultural is a major source of livelihoods. Tobacco provides a significant source of employment and foreign exchange earnings. Based on 1998 Integrated Household Survey (HIS) consumption data, 65.3% of the population live below poverty line. This is roughly 6.5 million people, the majority of whom are women and children.

The poverty is caused by constraints on economic productivity of land, labour, capital and technology. Constraints on land include environmental degradation, particularly deforestation and soil erosion. Labour is constrained by low levels of literacy (58% in 1998), poor skills, poor health, (life expectancy was down to 39 years in 2000), HIV/AIDS (14% prevalence) and finally, rapid population growth (1.9% in 1998). Key constraint on capital is poor access to credit. As a result of these constraints incomes are too low to afford assets other than food.

Since 1981, Malawi continued to implement an Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP) focussing on liberalization of the agricultural sector, parastatal sector reform, privatization, trade liberalization, financial sector reform, exchange rate liberalization, interest rate liberalization and rationalization of the budget.

Although there have been periods of macro economic stability, sustainable growth continue to be elusive and its benefits have been poorly distributed to the poor. This is because much of the growth has come from the estate sector.

There is compelling evidence, world wide, that strategies which are good for equity are good for growth, and good for transforming growth into poverty reduction. Thus progress is possible towards poverty reduction through strategies which combine growth with equity and human capital development.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper

A Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper² (PRSP) launched in April, 2002 seeks to achieve proper economic growth, in the agricultural sector and diversify into *value adding* through micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises, MSMES, in natural resources, manufacturing, tourism and small scale mining.

In **Agriculture** the strategies are:

1. Expand and strengthen access to agricultural inputs
2. Improve agricultural research and extension
3. Improve access to domestic and international markets
4. Promote small scale irrigation schemes and drainage
5. Reduce land shortage and degradation
6. Encourage production of livestock and specific crops
7. Promote and expand farm mechanization
8. Strengthen institutional and Policy framework
9. Increase gender balance, prevent and mitigate HIV/AIDS in the agricultural sector

In **Natural Resources**, the strategies are:

10. Promote community based natural resources management
11. Increase sustainable utilization of fishery resources
12. Encourage sustainable private sector utilization of natural resources

In the **MSMEs** the strategies are:

13. Provide support for development of MSMEs
14. Improve institutional coordination and support

In **Manufacturing** and **Agro processing** the strategies are:

15. Broaden the industrial base
16. Develop new cluster-based industries
17. Accelerate regional development
18. Improve product standards and quality
19. Integrate MSMEs in industrial development
20. Establish a credible institutional framework

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² Malawi National Poverty Reduction Paper, April, 2002

In **Tourism** the strategies are:

21. Promote Community based tourism
22. Increase efficiency and effectiveness of tourism on the basis of defined standards
23. Provide infrastructure to support tourism

Strategies for achieving an *enabling environment* for growth are:

24. Improve feeder roads
25. Increase accessibility to safe drinking water and sanitation
26. Promote rural electrification and access to renewable energy sources.

Above all else are issues of governance, which have been dealt with in the PRSP. Of interest is the element of wrong *mindset* in the civil service, private sector and donor community. Laxity in Civil Service must be exposed to performance based management while over dependence on government by the general population should be reversed and a culture of blaming government for all troubles in private sector, in addition to unjustified demands for tax protection from international competition, must change for the better. Development partners have an underlying assumption that whatever they say and do, despite undermining government planning and priority setting, is in the best interest of the poor. This mindset, too, must change.

As a country Malawi must put a solid foundation for generating local resources for development. The PRSP has been estimated to cost Malawi Kwacha 155 billion (US\$2.1 billion) over the next 3 fiscal years, 2002 to 2005. This is equal to the total National debt, most of which is with Multilateral donors.

The National Sustainable Development goal is to eradicate Poverty and make Malawi a middle-income nation by 2020. In this regard Poverty Alleviation is an overall objective in the Management of the National Economy. Education, Health, Agriculture and Natural Resources and infrastructure are Key Sectors. Their strategies and plans towards Poverty Reduction, since 1994, continue to account for over 60% of the National Budget, for both recurrent and development.

Poverty Reduction Framework and its attendant Poverty Reduction Programme has resulted in introduction of free primary education, basic health care and public works programme being supported by two phases

of Malawi Social Action Fund with funding from the World Bank. These programmes have led to construction of school blocks, health clinics, rural roads, boreholes and their attendant shallow wells and dams. Learning materials such as textbooks and stationery have also been provided. As a result enrolment for basic education has gone up by over 100%, to 3 million, most of whom are girl children. Over 3,000 boreholes have been drilled and are functional.

A Decentralization Policy was approved by Cabinet in 1996 and its enabling Act passed by Parliament the same year. This legislation has led to strengthening of district assemblies which now have District Development Plans (DDPs) and District Development Funds (DDFs). Plans are underway to decentralize education, health, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. This has already led to proliferation of Community Based Organizations (CBOs).

Environmental Policies

The National Environmental Action Plan³ (NEAP) of 1994 points out weaknesses in natural resources management legislation, their ineffective coordination and enforcement mechanisms. To date all natural resources policies, especially Land, Agriculture, Environmental Management, Forestry, Fisheries and Water were reviewed to minimize the weaknesses and improve their institutional framework. These new policies were adopted by Cabinet, their legislation enacted by Parliament. The legislation advocate community based management and recognize roles of private sector and non-governmental organizations in the management, development and sustainable utilization of the resources.

Malawi Agricultural Policies and Strategies

The Malawi Agricultural Sector Investment Plan is a tool for implementing the Agriculture and Livestock Development Policy of 1994⁴ which calls for crop diversification and liberalization of the sector, particularly growing of special crops such as tobacco, marketing of inputs such as fertilizers and expansion of irrigation programme.

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³ National Environmental Action Plan, 1994

⁴ Agriculture and Livestock Development Policy, 1994

Water Resources Management Policy

A new and comprehensive Water Resources management Policy⁵ is being implemented through a National Water Development Programme. The programme is focusing first, on water catchment Rehabilitation in five catchment areas of Blantyre – Ndirande - Mudi River catchment; Zomba Plateau Mulunguzi River catchment; Ntcheu – Nkhanda, Pamadzi and Mpira catchments; Kasungu – Chitete River catchment and Mzuzu – Lunyangwa catchment. Secondly, the programme is focussing on supplying safe drinking water through borehole drilling.

National Renewable Energy Policy

The National renewable overall Policy⁶ objective is to sustain provision of reliable, efficient, affordable and equitable energy services in a liberalized energy market and efficient utilization of the available energy resources without compromising environmental, health and safety concerns. Key strategies for achieving this objective include:

1. Intensify rural electrification schemes that are appropriately engineered and costs minimized.
2. Establish a dedicated Energy Fund which will be replenished by levies electricity and petroleum sales, proceeds from privatization and HIPC programme; donations from local and international partners.
3. Fiscal incentives in the form of import and surtax free status on all renewable energy technology (RET) systems.
4. Undertake reforms through market restructuring, establishment of an appropriate regulatory framework, fiscal policy review and institutional strengthening for reliable and sustainable private sector driven renewable energy technologies industry.

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⁵ Water Resources Management Policy, 2001

⁶ National Energy Policy, 2002

National Forestry Policy and Strategies

The national Forestry policy⁷ was adopted by Cabinet in 1996 and its enabling legislation enacted in 1997. The goal of the policy is to sustain the contribution of the national forest resources to the upliftment of the quality of life in the country.

Specific objectives of the policy are:

1. Allowing all citizens to have a regulated and monitored access to some forest products;
2. Contributing towards improving the quality of life in the rural communities and providing a stable local economy, in order to reduce the degenerative impact on the environment that often accompanies poverty;
3. Establishing appropriate incentive that will promote community based conservation and sustainable utilization of the forest resources as means of alleviating poverty, including on farm trees, and fostering the growing of trees.

These objectives have been translated into a National Forestry Programme⁸ comprising twelve strategies, namely,

1. Manage the process of institutional change.
2. Optimize policy influences on forests and livelihoods.
3. Build local forest governance through decentralization.
4. Support Community Based Forest Management.
5. Improve individual smallholder livelihoods.
6. Strengthen forestry extension
7. Sharpen research and information systems.
8. Influence wood energy supply and demand.

9. Manage forest resources.
10. Foster improved industrial forestry.
11. Increase wood production in the estate sector.
12. Develop forest sector financing.

The Programme has prioritized actions under each strategy and defined roles of central government, local government, private sector and civil society.

⁸ Malawi's National Forestry Programme, 2001

Land Policy

The land policy⁹ goal is to ensure security and equitable access to land, and to facilitate the attainment of social harmony and broad based social and economic development. Specific objectives are to:

1. Promote tenure reforms that guarantee security and instill confidence and fairness in all land transactions
2. Promote a decentralized and transparent land administration
3. Extend land use planning strategies to all urban and rural areas
4. Establish a modern land registration system for delivering land services to all
5. Enhance conservation and community management of local resources
6. Promote research and capacity building in land surveying and land management

Over 60% of land in Malawi is customary falling within the jurisdiction of a recognized traditional authority, which has been granted to a person or group and used under customary law. Most of this land is suitable for agriculture and has been a source for conversion into leasehold for agricultural estates. This new land policy will, thus undertake much reform on this land type with a view to improving tenure and security for families. This intention is in line with principles of empowerment and therefore, combating desertification.

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⁹ Malawi National Land Policy, 2002

SETBACKS

Major setbacks in these strategies are:

1. Debt burden estimated at US\$2.6 billion on which foreign debt servicing is almost 18% of gross domestic product, GDP, which is making it difficult to provide resources for implementation.
2. A Shift in donor development paradigms:
 - From many countries to few key partner countries
 - From many sectors to utmost three sector
 - From government to NGOs
 - From project sector to sector wide approach
 - From projects to Programmes
 - Over emphasis on Human Rights and good governance

This shift has rendered some policies and strategies low priority

3. A shift in international trade paradigms:
 - From traditional to globalization
 - Certification standards have gone up
 - Anti smoking campaign is growing

This shift and the anti smoking campaign is threatening the tobacco industry.

4. Poor capacity planning, implementation and monitoring in the Public, NGOs and Private Sectors.
5. Economic growth model has relied heavily on estate sector. This has left the majority of the poor out of participation in the production and benefits from economic growth.
6. Intensive tobacco production demands use of fertilizers, pesticides and some machinery. Harvesting of the leaf during heavy rains expose soil to erosion, thereby washing away sediments, fertilizers and pesticides into rivers and wetlands.

7. Floods and droughts have interchanged in the recent years leading to serious food deficits affecting the entire country. This has been made worse by transportation bottlenecks along import routes.
8. Massive retrenchment, without alternatives, from reform programmes in the public, parastatals and private sectors has led to the retrenched plundering the rich and lowering personal security; loss of faith and a share in the national vision and strategies.

ABRIDGING

These setbacks can be abridged by moralizing economic growth so that there is participation of the poor in the production for economic growth whose benefits should accrue to them. In line with articles 6 and 20 of the Convention the developed country parties and multilateral donors need to moralise development paradigms by canceling the whole debt burden of US\$2.6 billion, offer grants to Malawi in line with Millennium *Agreed Agenda* of halving poverty level by 2015. The grants should assist the nation *put back people to work* so that they can get off relief programmes and their spirits and dignity can be restored.

GAPS Being Addressed by NAP

The NAP is attempting to close gaps between the policies in-

1. Diversification into drought tolerant agricultural crops
2. On farm catchment management through national Tree Planting Programme
3. Soil fertility management through Agroforestry practices
4. Integrated pest management for both trees and crops
5. Promotion of cement blocks to save energy and forests
6. Promote local manufacturing of energy appliances and farm machinery
7. Apply Indigenous knowledge and technologies
8. Promote production of transmission polewood in private plantations

9. Enabling farm families into commercial food processing
10. Changing eating habits

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

In line with Decision 10/CoP5, a number of scientific and technical desertification activities which appear in the NAP are:

1. Zonation of the country into – agro ecological zones and matching them with crops.
2. Research on integrated pest management (IPM).
3. Developing or adapting prototypes of energy appliances (stoves, bio gas cookers, solar panels, solar heaters, geysers).
4. Developing prototypes of water pumps.
5. Developing techniques for extraction of edible oils and fruit juices.
6. Research into varieties and propagation techniques of palm leaves and bamboos.
7. Conduct market research.
8. Conduct comprehensive research on Indigenous knowledge systems and technologies.

Scientists have been challenged on these topics through their well established fora such as the National Forestry Steering Committee which met last February to formulate the next 3 years rolling programme similarly, Agricultural Research and Technical Services annual meetings have been challenged on these topics.

Indigenous knowledge systems

Use of truncheons in afforestation, a traditional technique used to construct live fencing and both rooms, was appreciated and applied by early Scottish Missionaries to plant trees around missions. At a celebration to mark 120 years since establishment of the first Mission of the Church of Central Africa Presbytery, the President His Excellency Dr. Bakili Muluzi, led the celebrities in planting 20 hectares with truncheons of *pterocarpus angolensis*. Since this event, truncheons have become popular in the country.

Malawi has benefited from a southern African Development Community (SADC) study on plants of economic importance. So far over 100 plants which traditional healers use have been catalogued. Research has started on their propagation techniques so that they receive adequate conservation.

- Indigenous knowledge on use of truncheons
- Indigenous knowledge on early warning system
 - Appearance of lower of signify rainfall within 24 hours
 - high yield of mangoes signify poor harvest
- Indigenous knowledge on medicinal plants

Coherence of NAP

In order to improve the coherence of NAP with other development and environmental protection strategies and plans described above, there is ongoing process to integrate some aspects of the NAP into those National Plans. This is true of irrigation renewable energy technologies, forest management and water resources management and development. The next stage is to integrate the NAP into District Development Planning processes.

Adoption of NAP

Government officially adopted the NAP in 2000. Since then, there is a budget line for the secretariat. Subprogrammes such as food security and water resources management are co financed from sectoral funds as in the case of Energy Fund, Forest Management and Development Fund and Malawi Environment Endowment Fund.

3. INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION

The National Co-ordinating body (NCB) is the National Steering Committee described in the introduction. It is a body of high-ranking professionals, 40% of whom are females. Most committee members are deputy or assistant directors or Programme Managers. The Committee exerts significant influence on policy formulation and implementation. Through the committee policies and plans have been harmonized. The committee is served by a full time secretariat in the Office of the Director of forestry. The committee is linked to a District Environmental management committee

chaired by District Commissioner with a District Environmental Officer serving as the Secretary. The secretariat of the Steering Committee has a budget line in the Approved Estimates. It also has two fulltime officers, e-mail, fax and photocopier facilities.

The Steering Committee has capacity to catalyze preparation, implementation and evaluation of the national action programme. Already some capacity building and micro projects have been initiated by the committee with funding from the Malawi Environment Endowment Trust, Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust, the European Union and USAID. Almost 50% of the members in the committee are members of National Committee on CBD, UNFF OR RAMSAR. This helps to harmonize plans in other conventions.

The Committee organizes field days on CCD Micro projects, celebration of the Day to Combat Desertification and radio/TV interviews of champions of *best practices*.

The secretariat maintains database on the NAP, key programmes of relevance to NAP, micro projects and Roster of experts. It produces various reports on meetings attended, including conference of parties and intercessional fora, updates on micro projects and mainstreaming activities. These reports are circulated to NCB. It has just launched a News letter.

Key documents from CCD Secretariat Website are printed and circulated to members who have no Internet facility.

4. PARTICIPATORY PROCESS IN SUPPORT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF NAP

Consultations which the National Steering Committee for CCD conducted in 1999 in all the major districts of Malawi involved district assemblies comprising traditional authorities, members of parliament, councilors, representatives of business communities and non governmental organizations. Issues of concern were identified with facilitation from members of the steering committee. For each group they ranked the issues on the basis of their significance on contributing to poverty, which is a major cause and effect of desertification. These are the rankings which were considered at the national level to determine a national action plan.

The consultations went to the lowest level possible, the District, where District Development planning is carried out. However, proper data for analyzing the issues identified was not available to assist the assemblies in decision-making. This data is now available and a system for collecting

and updating it is now in phase. It is a system for updating state of the Environment Report.

Participation process has rendered itself an effective tool for sharing a vision, harmonizing policies and strategies, building consensus, enlisting support and fostering ownership. It is a good approach in promoting transparency, accountability and therefore, good governance.

5. CONSULTATIVE PROCESS IN SUPPORT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF NAP AND PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS WITH DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES AND OTHER INTERESTED ENTITIES

Donor Co-ordination meetings are regularly convened by the Minister of natural Resources and Environmental Affairs. It is at these meetings where donors are briefed on the process and needs. Secondly, the Minister of Finance convenes donor round tables and Donor Consultative Group meetings to discuss the National Development and Investment Programme annually. The National Focal Point and some members of the steering committee are involved in these meetings. An important process came out of these meetings where the Minister of Finance engaged ministries in formulation country support strategy for the 9th EDF. The National Focal Point and members of the steering committee participated in this process, which has prioritized Agriculture and Natural Resources, Education and infrastructure – roads as the highest priority areas. These are, indeed, programme areas of the NAP.

6. MEASURES TAKEN OR PLANNED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF NAP INCLUDING MEASURES TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT TO CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES AND PROMOTE THEIR SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION

Irrigation

In the irrigation programme¹⁰ Treddle pumps are the most preferred technology for smallholder irrigation. In the 2001/2002 fiscal years 10,500 pumps were supplied out of a total demand of 30,000. The supply was made possible through use of funds from HIPC, which will also enable procurement of 35,000 pumps in 2002/2003 fiscal years. The Teddle pumps are imported from India at a landed cost of MK9 375 (US\$125).

¹⁰ National Irrigation Development Programme, 1997

In the 2001/2002 fiscal year, with support from the Nordic Development Fund (NDF) and the World Bank (WB), 500 boreholes have been drilled in 4 districts of the Rift Valley. HIPC facility, at a total disbursement of Malawi Kwacha 289 million (US\$4 million), has enabled drilling of 800 more boreholes in twenty (20) districts while support from Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and KFW has assisted three districts at a total cost of 12 million DM¹¹.

GITEC of the Federal Republic of Germany and Inter Consult International. As (ICI) of Norway are the two providing technical assistance in drilling and catchment rehabilitation, respectively.

India supplies Hand water Pumps, although the design was done by Malawian engineers. The pumps are cheaper to import from India than to produce them locally.

Village borehole committees receive training on how to management and maintain the boreholes. Each borehole serves 250 people. So far 56% of the population, almost 5.6 million people, have access to safe drinking water. Thus 4.4. Million people have no access. Thus 18000 boreholes are required. At an average cost of MK300,000 (US\$4,000) per borehole an estimated MK5.4 billion (US\$72 million) is needed. This amount is almost equal to HIPC annual sum Malawi will be accessing when all conditions on the HIPC have been met including satisfying IMF conditions

Rural electrification

So far rural electrification has been completed in all 27 District Headquarters during phases I and II; 4 Community Day Secondary Schools and a trading centre were completed in phase III. Phase IV is about to start and will install electricity to 8 rural growth centers, 32 trading centres, 2 Immigration Border Units and 1 Orphanage Center. A total of MK120 million (US\$1.6 million) has been collected from a petroleum and electricity levy which provide co financing with JICA support of US\$4million to start up phase IV. The levy will meet local and recurrent costs while JICA support will meet all costs on capital, technical assistance a Master Plan Study.

¹¹ National Water Development Programme Semi Annual Report, 2002

GEF, through the World Bank, is supporting a barrier removal strategy on Solar systems with a budget frame of US\$2.5 million. Briquetting of sawdust by local communities has started also with support from UNDP. This will remove Sawdust mountains and greatly contribute to supply of fuel to Lilongwe City. Press Corporation, a giant company, will produce and market of Gel fuel by the end of this year. The briquettes and the gel fuel will, thus, reduce charcoal and firewood demand thereby reducing pressure on forests. Sustainable forest management livelihoods.

Sustainable Forest Management

The 9th European Development Fund (EDF) has made an indicative budget of 15.5 million *Euro*, for a programme on Forest management for sustainable livelihoods. The goal of the programme is to improve livelihoods through sustainable management of forest resources. This programme will build on 8th EDF, which has been running over the past 5 years at a cost of 4.5 million *Euros*. The programme is delivering Social Forestry training and extension (SOFTE), particularly in dry land areas affected by Mozambican refugees.

A national Tree Planting Programme focussing on farm, steep slopes and riverine areas and supported by government, NGOs, and private sector has been going on since 1976. Village communities are key producers of seedlings which, in the last 5 years, production has ranged between 40 and 50 million, mainly of indigenous and nitrogen fixing species.

Government of Finland is supporting a Capacity Development Programme for Forestry Extension in Northern Malawi. This programme will run up to 2004. Government of the United Kingdom was requested to consider a £4.9 million Forestry support programme to support privatization of some pine plantations and improve forest-based livelihoods over a 3-year period.

Government has established a Forest Management and development Fund that is replenished by forest royalties. The fund finances recurrent costs of the National Forestry programme and offers leverage for co financing with development partners.

7. ADOPTED FINANCIAL MECHANISMS

The 2001/2002 National budget¹² show the three sectors of direct relevance to the NAP were allocated 6% of total resources on recurrent (table 1) and 25% on capital or development budget (table 2). The largest share went to water development, which to a large extent, means water catchment management and borehole drilling in the rural areas.

Public debt servicing consumed 20% of the expenditure. This is 7% less than the 1998/99 levels reported in the first National Report. The drop is attributed to HIPC initiative that will see Malawi Debt being cancelled by 53 percentage points.

Malawi Environment Endowment Fund was established in 2001 and has over US\$10 million to finance desertification control and other environment management activities. Most of the projects being supported are to do with capacity building for community based natural resources management.

Table 1: Approved Recurrent Expenditure Budget for 2001/2002 Fiscal Year.

Ministry	Total Amount Malawi Kwacha	% of Total Recurrent
Agriculture	1,218,784,114	3.8
Natural Resources & Environmental Affairs	511,556,475	1.6
Water Development	184,153,274	0.6
Public debt	6,570,900,000	20.4
Total recurrent	32,199,136.373	

Source : Financial Statement, 2001/2002, Budget Document No. 3

¹² Financial Statement, 2001/2002, Budget Statement No. 3

Table 2: Approved capital (development) Expenditure Budget for 2001/2002 Fiscal Year

Ministry	Total Amount Malawi Kwacha	% of Total Recurrent
Agriculture	1,324,000,000	9.8
Natural Resources & Environmental Affairs	362,852,369	2.7
Water Development	1,682,000,000	12.6
Total Capital	13,401,835,244	

Source: Financial Statement, 2001/2002 Budget Document No.3

8. REVIEW OF BENCHMARKS AND INDICATORS UTILIZED TO MEASURE PROGRESS AND AN ASSESSMENT THEREOF.

Malawi has established a system for generating data for the STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORT (SOER),¹³ which the Minister of Environmental Affairs, by law, is required to present to Parliament every two years. The SOER identifies state, pressure and response indicators in Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Water, Biological diversity, and climate change. These indicators match with guidelines on Benchmarks and indicators recommended by the committee on science and Technology of the Convention. The NAP has adopted these indicators, which are assessed every two years in order to produce the SOER

For social and institutional indicators, formation and training of village natural resources management committees, rules and bye laws for natural resources management provide a measure of changes towards empowerment of village communities in natural resource management. An estimate of 20,000 village natural resources management committees (VNRMCs) and Beach village Committees are in place of whom 30% have been trained in leadership, forest management, fisheries management, water catchment management, borehole maintenance and Wildlife management.

Table : 3 State of the Environment Report indicators and levels (benchmarks) for year 2000

		Level/Benchmarks
Agriculture		
1	Soil loss (tonnes/ha)	20.0
2	Nutrient loss (tonnes/ha)	160,000
3	Nutrient replenishment (fertilizers manure)(tonnes/ha)	90,000
4	Crop yields for hybrid maize (kg/ha)	2,500
5	Land hold size (ha/household)	0.2 - 0.5
6	Food deficits (months)	3 - 5
Forestry		
7	Forest cover (% of total land area)	28
8	Deforestation rate (% of total land area)	2.8
9	Afforestation rate (% total land area)	1.0
10	Demand for fuelwood (% of National Energy Budget)	93
Fisheries		
11	Catchments (tonnes (yr)	60,000

¹³ State of Environment Report for Malawi, 2000

12	Aquaculture production (tonnes/yr)	550
13	Value of ornamental fish trade (US\$/yr)	300,000
Water Resources		
14	Access to safe drinking water (% of population)	52
15	Feacal pollution (75% of rivers have coliform)	500/100 ml
16	Base flows	Diminishing in Bua and Linthipe
Biological diversity		
17	Fauna (species)	4,000 of which 1,500 are vertebrates
18	Flora (species)	5,500
Climate Change		
19	Precipitation (mm/yr)	600 – 800 mm (30% of the Country; 800-1200mm (60%))
20	Droughts occurrence	1992,1995
21	Floods occurrence	2000
22	Population growth (%)	1.9
23	Population of children (%)	50.0
24	Population of female (%)	52
25	Life expectancy (yrs)	39

Due to rapid population growth, and shrinking landholding people are cultivating on steep and fragile ecosystems, which are leading to heavy soil losses and poor agricultural yields. In 2000/2001 rainy seasons 15 out of the 27 districts experienced floods, which washed away maize crop leading to a national shortfall of 400,000 tonnes of maize. This shortfall, at current prices, is Mk6.8 billion. In additional the shortfall translated into relief operations costing MK252 million. Bridges were washed away leading to an emergency maintenance cost of Mk200 million. This has stagnated development.

Last season, 2001/2002, the country experienced drought in 18 out of the 27 districts. Maize production is low and relief operations will cost more. This time donors are willing to help on both tackling the relief as well as response initiatives such as scaling up irrigation and agroforestry practices.

Early warning systems are in place, one national and another at sub regional level and is based in Harare. Warnings are sounded in time. In 2000/2001 seasons Malawi approached donors for support well in advance in order to minimize human suffering. Unfortunately, response was negligible until the worst happened. People are suffering from hunger and dying from hunger related diseases. The food deficit is in excess of 5 months.

9. Concluding Remarks

In conclusion, the foregoing suggests that the NAP process is as important as the NAP itself. The need for consultations and participation of stakeholders in the preparation, resource mobilization, implementation, monitoring and evaluation lies in enlisting support, building consensus and fostering ownership. It is a political process, which balances power and directs that power towards a common goal of combating desertification. The power players are government, communities, private sector and donors.

In Malawi support from donors on implementation of NAP has come from sectoral plans. NAP has added value by pointing out omissions or gaps in the sectoral plans. It is these gaps that will constitute stand alone projects. Financial support has started flowing from MEET, MMCT and sectoral-based funds. This is giving confidence to all stakeholders that NAP will not a pipe dream doomed to the shelves to collect dust.

SUMMARY

Malawi a country of 119,140 square kilometers supports almost 10 million people, 50% of whom are young people, and 52% of the population are female. Over 60% of the population live below the poverty line, the majority of whom are women and children. The poverty is characterized by high rate of deforestation and land degradation, low illiteracy rate, poor skills, prevalence of HIV/Aids low life expectancy, a rapid population growth and poor access to credit.

To address these constraints, strategies have been formulated and presented in a Poverty Reduction Strategy paper (PRSP), which was launched in April, 2002. The paper re inforces issues and strategies identified in a National Action Plan (NAP), which was formulated in a participatory process between 1998 and 1999. The Plan has 5 core subprogrammes and 3 support subgrammes. The core subgrammes are Food Security, Water Resources Management, Renewable Energy, Sustainable Forest management and Environmental Management. The supporting subgrammes are Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Institutional arrangements and Financing arrangements. The Nap was adopted by Government in 2000.

Enabling policy and legal framework has been achieved with policy reviews and enactment of their appropriate laws in Environmental Management, Land Management, Forest Management, Fisheries Management, Water Resources Management and Energy management and Development. Implementation of these policies and strategies face set backs, particularly inadequate financial resources due to debt burden and shifts in development and trade paradigms low capacity for planning, implementation and monitoring in Public, NGOs and private sectors.

NAP is adding value to sectoral policies and plans by addressing gaps between the polices. These include diversification of crops, on farm catchment management, soil fertility management, integrated pest management, promotion of cement blacks to save energy and Indigenous Knowledge Systems.

A National Steering Committee instituted in 1997 continues to guide the combat against desertification. The committee comprises senior professionals from various disciplines of relevance to the struggle against desertification. It is served by a full time secretariat which has modest office equipment. So far the committee has been able to catalyse preparation, implementation and evaluation of some micro projects. The National committee is linking down to the district assemblies development committees.

Participatory process, in support of implementation enabled the National Steering Committee to consult district assemblies, NGOs and private sector on issues of land degradation. This resulted in a National Forum organized in 1999, at which the issues were thoroughly discussed, prioritized and strategies for tackling them determined in a NAP. The participatory process is an effective tool for harmonizing policies, sharing visions, building consensus, enlisting support and fostering ownership.

Consultative processes with donor communities are organised at two levels. First level are monthly meetings with donors concerned; convened and chaired by Minister responsible for Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs. Second level are annual meetings organized by Minister of Finance. These come as Round Tables or Donors Consultative Group meetings. Sectors that have developed sector wide programmes receive donor sympathy much more than those without through these meetings. In this regard, Agriculture, Forestry, Water and Energy are attracting some financial and technical assistance from donors namely, Canada, Britain, European Union, Finland, Germany, Japan, Norway, UNDP and the World Bank.

Almost 6% of the 2001/2002 recurrent expected budget supported programmes of relevance to NAP. It is important to note that almost 50% of the budget went to Education and Health. Almost 20% went to debt servicing; this is 7% less than the 1998/99 budgets which were reported in the first National Report. NAP related activities account for 25% of the development budget, with almost 50% of this being water and sanitation. A more sustainable financing of NAP micro projects has been established in the Malawi Environment Endowment Trust (MEET) and Mulanje Conservation Trust (MMCT). Some sectors have also established funds such as the Energy Fund

which replenishes from fuel and electricity levies and Forest Management and Development Fund which replenishes from forest royalties.

Benchmarks and indicators adopted by the NAP are both physical and institutional in nature. These indicators are used in the *State of Environment Reporting* and are relevant to combating desertification. They range from soil and nutrient loss, crop yields to precipitation, floods and drought occurrences. A National floods early warning system is in place and this has been used well to warn communities to vacate prone areas thereby saving lives. However, crops particularly maize have suffered from wash and this has led to shortfall in the national Grain supply. Hunger is raging havoc to many Malawians who suffered from wash a ways in 2000/2001 and ensuing drought in 200/2002 growing season.

A SADC early warning System, based in Harare, serves the sub Region well. Warnings have been sounded in good time for disaster preparedness. For Malawi, she approached donors for relief support in 2001 but received cold response until the worst happened.