



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

**UNITED NATIONS
CONVENTION TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION**

2002-2004

SEPTEMBER 2004

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ARET	Agricultural Research and Extension Trust
COP	Conference of the Parties
ADB	African Development Bank
AU	African Union
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
COJEA	Coalition of Journalists on Environment and Agriculture
CBNRM	Community-Based Natural Resources Management
CBOs	Community-Based Organisations
CCD	Convention to Combat Desertification
CIFOR	Centre for International Forestry Research
CISANET	Civil Society Agricultural Network
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMPASS	Community Partnerships for Sustainable Resource Management in Malawi
CURE	Coordination Unit for the Rehabilitation of the Environment
DA	District Assembly
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DDC	District Development Committee
DDF	District Development Fund
DEAPs	District Environmental Action Plans
DEC	District Executive Committee
DEM	Decentralised Environmental Management
DESC	District Environmental Sub-Committee
DfID	Department for International Development (UK)
DIDC	Department for International Development Cooperation (Finnish)
DSOER	District State of Environment Report
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ENRM	Environment and Natural Resources Management
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FECO	Forum for Environmental Communicators
FEWS	Famine Early Warning System
FINIDA	Finish International Development Agency
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GoM	Government of Malawi
GTZ	Germany Agency for Technical Cooperation
HIPC	Highly Indebted Poor Countries
HIV/AIDS	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus / Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
ICPAC	IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre
ICRAF	International Centre for Research in Agroforestry
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development

IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority for Development
IKS	Indigenous Knowledge Systems
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MAFE	Malawi Agroforestry and Extension
MASAF	Malawi Social Action Fund
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MIRTDC	Malawi Industrial Research and Technology Development Centre
MEET	Malawi Environmental Endowment Trust
MEGS	Malawi Economic Growth Strategy
MG	Malawi Government
MNSSD	Malawi National Strategy for Sustainable Development
MPRS, MPRSP	Malawi Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
NAP	National Action Programme
NATURE	Natural Resources Conservation Management and Support Programme
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCB	National Coordinating Body
NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NFP	National Focal Point
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NORAD	Norwegian Assistance for Development
NRM	Natural Resources Management
NSC	National Steering Committee
NSO	National Statistical Office
NSSD	National Strategy for Sustainable Development
PADELIA	Partnership for the Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa
POPS	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PROSCARP	Promotion of Soil Conservation and Rural Production
PRS, PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RAMSAR	Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
RAP	Regional Action Programme
SABONET	Southern Africa Botanical Network
SABSP	Southern Africa Biodiversity Support Program
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SOFTE	Social Forestry: Training and Extension Project
SRAP	Sub-Regional Action Programme
SSFSA	Sub-regional Support Facility for Southern Africa
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework

UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VNRMCs	Village Natural Resources Management Committees
WARFSA	Water Research Fund for Southern Africa
WB	World Bank
WESM	Wildlife and Environment Society of Malawi
WFP	World Food Programme
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This UNCCD Malawi Country Report is the third after the 1999 and 2002 reports and covers the period 2002-2004. Whereas the previous reports addressed policy issues, institutional measures and participatory processes, this report provides current status of the UNCCD process in the country aimed at strengthening various capacities including institutional and human for effective implementation of the UNCCD as an integral part of national efforts to promote sustainable development. It has been developed based on the 19th November 2003 UNCCD national reporting process explanatory note and help guide (document ICCD/CRIC (3)/INF.3) and is intended to provide basic information that will allow the COP to understand the Convention's implementation status in the country. Since the guide is being used for the first time, there are instances in the report where information previously reported has been re-mentioned to clarify a specific issue. The report is built sequentially around eight theme topics as follows: strategies and priorities established within the framework of sustainable development plans and/or policies; institutional measures taken to implement the Convention; participatory processes supporting the preparation and implementation of action programmes; consultative processes in support of the preparation and implementation of partnership agreements with developed country parties, and other interested entities; measures undertaken or planned within the framework of NAP aimed at conserving natural resources and promoting their sustainable use; financial allocations from budgets in support of implementation as well as financial assistance and technical cooperation; the review of benchmarks and indicators utilized to measure progress and an assessment thereof; and a brief review of newly introduced indicators according to Decision 10/COP. 5. A Country Profile has also been prepared and attached as annex to the report.

2. In Malawi the Convention is coordinated by the NCB, sometimes referred to as the UNCCD National Steering Committee, and is represented by fifteen stakeholders from various sectors of Government, NGOs, CBOs, and the Private sector. There is an intention to achieve a gender balance by having a 40% female NCB. At present, no NGO has been accredited to the process. However, NGOs have an environmental voice through their Coordination Unit for the Rehabilitation of the Environment (CURE). Currently, the NFP is the Director of Forestry at P.O. Box 30048, Lilongwe 3, MALAWI, Tel. + (265) 1 771000 and Email: fes@malawi.net. Its major mandate is to operate as the NCB's secretariat. Currently, there are no country-specific websites relating to desertification. To facilitate the UNCCD implementation in the country, more than 15 Acts and laws have been passed that relate to the Convention, of which, the most relevant include the Environmental Management Act 1996, Forestry Act 1997, National Water Policy 1999, the Four Acts in the Energy Sector (Energy Regulation Act; Rural Electrification Act; Electricity Act; Liquid Fuels and Gas (Production & Supply) Act), all approved in 2004, as well as the Agricultural and Natural Resources Master Plan 1999, especially as it relates to land resource conservation, and the National Land Resources Management Policy and Strategy. Partnership agreements are yet to be concluded or initiated within the UNCCD framework to enhance the implementation of NAP. Though not specific to the NAP process, there are some partnerships dealing with issues of concern to NAP.

3. In line with the Convention's principal requirements, Malawi developed the NAP through a consultative process involving all major stakeholders. The process identified eight strategies comprising five core ones, namely: food security; water resource management and development; renewable energy; forest resource management; and environmental management; and three support sub-programs of indigenous knowledge systems and technologies, institutional arrangements, and funding arrangements. The WSSD, MDG, MPRSP, MNSSD, as well as the national decentralization process and the privatization frameworks have played a key role in redirecting the NAP. The NAP's coherence with other national and social development and environmental protection plans can easily be correlated with its origins and development path, whose roots could be traced back to the development of the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), an offshoot of the agreements concluded at the UNCED Rio Conference (1992), and formally launched in December 1994. The NAP was developed in 2000 and was validated by the Government through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs in 2001. It has undergone two reviews in February 2004 and July 2004 and was integrated into the National Strategy for Sustainable Development in 2003. Relative progress relating to the NAP process has been made at both institutional and technical levels. For example, more than ten projects are currently under implementation that is directly or indirectly related to the NAP and UNCCD. A number of consultative meetings and workshops have been conducted; including the UNCCD National Steering Committee Meeting of 19-20 February 2004 and NAP review meetings of July 2004, with the aim of promoting the NAP process.

4. A number of national plans and strategies are contributing towards combating desertification and these have, in turn, assisted in the development of NAP objectives and activities. These include the PRS, being implemented through the MEGS, and seeks to achieve economic growth in the various sectors such as agriculture and natural resources; the NEAP, as it points out weaknesses in natural resource management legislation, their effective coordination and enforcement mechanisms; and national policies and legislation in the sectors of land, agriculture, energy, environment, forestry, fisheries, and water, whose sectoral action plans have and are still playing a key role in the development, implementation and review of NAP. At the international level, conventions such as CBD, RAMSAR, CITES, and strategies such as the MDG and the WSSD have also contributed to the development of the NAP. New national policies in the areas of Decentralization, Privatization and HIV/AIDS are being examined in the review of the NAP.

5. In the light of the COP 6 decisions and the Declaration (decision 8/COP.4) calling for an integration of NAP objectives into national sustainable development strategies and plans, some efforts have been undertaken to ensure complementarity and integration since the last report. In general, various obstacles have been encountered in the implementation of NAP and the UNCCD. These include: a limited and unclearly defined UNCCD national budget; the absence of a clear communication system between NCB members; and the inadequate information and data on land degradation in various parts of the country that make it difficult to analyze the country's environmental status and come up with realistic NAP strategies and activities. While a commendable decision towards

Decentralized Environmental Management (DEM) has been made, the slow implementation of the DEM is in turn affecting effective NAP implementation especially at the local level. Some external factors have also directly or indirectly affected the NAP especially the integration of its strategies into other relevant national strategies or vice versa. For example, agricultural production in semi arid parts of the country has focused more on crops than livestock, when the latter contributes more to livelihood development and is a more appropriate land use practice in those areas. This has had the negative effect through people being forced to exploit natural resources in an unsustainable manner. The delay in the implementation of the recommendations from the Biodiversity Support Program is also having a negative effect of the NAP process. The country's heavy debt burden, estimated at more than US\$ 2.6 billion, is also not positively assisting the implementation of NAP due to limited availability of financial resources despite the limited resources being made available through the HIPC programme. Access to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) continues to be limited, largely due to the elaborate procedures to complete the funding requirements.

6. Various organizations and donor agencies are directly or indirectly involved in the UNCCD initiative in the country. For example, there are a number of funded community based natural resource management micro-projects of relevance to the NAP in areas such as beekeeping; tree seedling production, (fruit) tree planting, agroforestry, establishment of village forest areas, woodlots and seed banks; aquaculture, guinea fowl and goat rearing; vegetable production; and mats and baskets production. These have been supported by Donor Agencies such as JICA, EU, FINIDA, DANIDA, USAID, GTZ, and the ADB; and NGOs such as the Wildlife Society of Malawi, CURE, the Malawi Environment Endowment Trust, and the Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust; and the Government. In general, with regard to international participation in UNCCD activities in the country, the main non-UN development partners with similar focus include USAID, EU, DANIDA, NORAD, GTZ, DfID, ADB, and WB.

7. The NAP recognizes the private sector support in all its eight program components as this has a direct bearing on issues such as the provision of financial and technical support to the process. To-date limited progress has been made in maximizing such support especially due to the fact that the private sector has only been recently incorporated into the NCB to the extent that their effective participation is still in the primary stages. Despite the above, some notable achievements have been made. For example, alternative sources of fuel, as a private sector initiative, have now been given full Government support as an alternative energy source nationally. In the same vein, solar energy is also being promoted vigorously. Some members in the private sector are currently participating actively in various afforestation programs. The privatization policy, despite its related implementation constraints which have tended to reduce its positive image, appears to be a major incentive that is enticing the private sector to take part in programs that directly or indirectly assist in combating desertification in the country. For example, the sector is playing an active role in promoting forestry activities such as seedling production, afforestation, forest-plantation harvesting, pit-sawing and other community support programs. On the scientific scene, Government is also promoting incentives, which will eventually have a positive impact on UNCCD

implementation in the country. For example, the waiver of duty on products such as solar equipment and computers and the removal of surtax on Gel fuel are, some of the initiatives that will assist the NAP implementation.

8. Apart from private sector and NGO participation in UNCCD activities, an effort is being made to strengthen the capacity of local populations and local authorities to participate in decision making which is relevant to combating land degradation. VNRMCs have been established at grassroots level to, among other issues, deal with natural resource management issues. However, some of these grassroots level institutions need training to make them more effective. To enhance the coordination of environmental issues at local authority level, each District Assembly has a District Environmental Sub-Committee (DESC) within its organogram that deals with environmental issues. One of its major outputs is the production of the district SOER on a regular basis. At the same time, the continuing land degradation in many parts of the country, especially where population densities are high, requires awareness raising for improved compliance to legislation among local populations in the affected areas. Law enforcement relating to the combat against desertification is an issue that cuts across all NAP program components and as such, a number of activities have been identified that deal with the subject. The absence of a clear reporting system at local level is another constraint.

9. Regarding the indigenous knowledge perspective, it is generally accepted and appreciated at various levels in the country that local communities are enriched with such knowledge. Some of it relates to the management and sustainable use of natural resources. For the first time, Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) and technologies have been recognized as part of the national Science and Technology Policy (2002). IKS has been incorporated as a sub-program of NAP with the major objective of identifying and promoting indigenous knowledge relevant to natural resource conservation and management. Subsequently, a number of research projects have been carried out at the University of Malawi, undertaken as projects toward awards of Masters degrees. However, limited progress has been made in exchange, circulation, transfer and dissemination of such information. More research and documentation in the various areas are needed, but these need funding. There is also the absence of property rights aimed at protecting indigenous knowledge. It is planned that the intellectual property rights (IPR) issues should be given adequate attention. Thus the existing situation does not put to the fore the role of traditional knowledge/technologies in the framework of the NAP.

10. Participatory awareness campaigns are being conducted at sector level mainly through: networking at grass-root level, song and dance, radio, television and the print media as well as through field days and field visits. These are supported mainly by donors, through projects, or through funding by Government. There are organizations such as the Forum for Environmental Communicators (FECO) and Coalition of Journalists on Environment and Agriculture (CAJEA) that have been established with the aim of promoting environmental reporting among journalists and media organizations.

11. At the moment, there is no country that has taken over the role of *Chef de file* i.e. that of spearheading the UNCCD implementation process. In terms of sub-region and regional cooperation, the UNCCD implementation in Malawi is benefiting from cooperation with the SADC in areas such as integrated river basin management, trans-boundary natural resource management and regional environmental programs, and from cooperation with the AU especially through the NEPAD initiative, in particular through the CAADP process and Environmental Strategies. Other international organizations or agencies of the UN system supporting the UNCCD initiative in the country include the Sub-Regional Support Facility for Southern Africa (SSFSA).

12. During the preparations for participation at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, a national assessment exercise was made on the implementation of Agenda 21. The national report submitted to WSSD has relevant data to guide the NAP process. New initiatives such as the WSSD and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are being mainstreamed into the NAP to provide additional guidance in the implementation of environmental projects. In general, UNCCD principles have been integrated into projects through the NAP in the eight identified core program areas listed under paragraph 3 above. The NAP review has identified new actions and planned measures aimed at enhancing effective implementation of UNCCD such as: the recommendation that the NAP is modified to conform to UNCCD activities at national and international level; in implementing NAP activities, sectors are advised to refer to the requirements of the MPRSP as it represents a major advance in the fight against poverty and sustainable management of the environment; that stakeholders should consider the decentralization policy requirements in the implementation of relevant activities devolved by various sectors to district assemblies; that the NAP should adopt some relevant strategies as outlined in the MNSSD, and MDG; that sectors address the funding constraint by developing project proposals to seek support from partnerships such as GEF; that there is development of monitoring and evaluation systems to enable the NCB and NFP effectively and efficiently execute their respective mandates; and as a way of further combating desertification, specific focus should be given to issues and programs relating to the management of watersheds and catchment areas, the development and promotion of alternative technologies, and the introduction of fiscal incentives, involving the private sector and research institutions, aimed at combating desertification.

13. Capacity issues to implementing the UNCCD at local, technical and scientific levels are being addressed through a number of diverse but interrelated institutional arrangements. For example, at District Assembly (DA) level, there is the District Executive Committee (DEC), which comprises government staff representatives from various sectors at district level and some NGOs. On occasions, the DEC meets to discuss issues relating to the environment. Its main output is the production of the District State of Environment Report (DSOER). It highlights current environmental status as well as mitigatory measures planned or being undertaken. There is the District Development Fund (DDF), which acts as the major source of funding for the execution of such measures. At higher levels, capacity issues are dealt with through professional, technical and vocational training programs.

14. As stated earlier, budgetary constraints are affecting the implementation of the Convention's objectives in the country. As a way of addressing the problem, one attempt has been to sensitize stakeholders on issues such as: Guidelines on project formulation to tap funds from GEF and other local and international donors. New local sources of funding for CBOs and other actors are the Malawi Environment Endowment Trust (MEET), USAID-COMPASS and HIPC. By its nature, MEET has set up a permanent endowment fund. In working out new, adapted methods to mobilize internal and external resources, other specific mechanisms, such as the incorporation of UNCCD activities in sectoral budgets, have been determined to ensure financing for the NAP. The Environment Fund, stipulated under the Environmental Management Act (1996), was approved by the Government of Malawi in September 2003 to support sustainable development initiatives at district and local levels. On the other hand, Government and donor agencies are directly or indirectly allocating money for the implementation of the Convention through initiatives such as the District Development Funds and the Green Window.

15. At the moment, no plan has been formulated for requesting technical cooperation, including envisaged multilateral and bilateral cooperation. At the same time, no significant external technical cooperation has been received with regard to the NAP, but of late, some institutions, such as the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC), have shown interest. At the same time support is required in the following areas, in order of reducing priority: Capacity Building (Specialized Training, Capacity building of local institutions, Technical Assistance in form of experts in specialized fields, Material Support such as procurement of Remote Sensing and GIS equipment, and the Development of a Data Bank for storing sectoral CCD data and information); Support to NCB and NFP operations; and Project funding.

16. The benchmarks and indicators utilized to measure progress regarding the country's processes and dynamics of land degradation include GIS, to depict canopy cover changes and soil fertility loss, and the Famine Early Warning System (FEWS). To date, there have been no studies to assess the rate of resource degradation that can be attributed to drought or climate change in Malawi. The FEWS, located in the Ministry of Agriculture, is the major early warning mechanism set up in an effort to mitigate the effects of drought and desertification. In the Department of Relief and Rehabilitation Affairs there is being set up a Disaster Management Information System whose results will enable the country's preparedness and response to natural disasters.

17. Projects and programmes underway or envisaged to address causes or remedy the visible effects of desertification, with a view to drawing lessons and popularizing the scientific and technical methods used, have been implemented by a number of stakeholder organizations. Lessons learnt from some of these initiatives have been identified as best practices and compiled for dissemination.

18. In conclusion, the review of implementation of the NAP for Malawi for the UNCCD for the period 2002-2004 has shown that various sectors have undertaken

initiatives to address the problem of land degradation and desertification by working with the affected communities in the semi-arid areas of the country. Though the NAP implementation is in line with new developments both at local and international levels, there is need to critically examine the strategies outlined by various documents produced after the NAP was developed. There is generally a need to address all the major constraints to achieve effective implementation of the UNCCD process in the country.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report is the third Malawi UNCCD Country Report after the 1999 and 2000 reports. It has been developed based on the 19th November 2003 UNCCD national reporting process of the affected country parties explanatory note and help guide (document ICCD/CRIC (3)/INF.3). It is divided into ten chapters including the Introduction. It also has an Annex comprising Country Profile.

2. A summary (Table 1) given under eight sub-items, and incorporated in this Introduction, highlights the major elements of the report and provides basic information that will allow the COP to comprehend easily the status of the Convention's implementation and its assessment in Malawi. Table 1 summarizes information on: focal point institution; the status of NAP in Malawi; the status of the country's membership of SRAP/RAP; the composition of the NCB i.e. whether it is a Government or civil society organization, as well as its gender perspective regarding its representatives; the total number of NGOs accredited to the process; total number of Acts and laws passed relating to the UNCCD; the consultative process i.e. number of partnership agreements that have been concluded or initiated and a list of consultative meetings on UNCCD implementation; and a list of ten projects that are directly or indirectly related to the UNCCD currently under implementation.

3. The following eight chapters address, in respective terms, the following topics: strategies and priorities established within the framework of sustainable development plans and/or policies; institutional measures taken to implement the Convention, including legislative and institutional frameworks or arrangements; linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and, as appropriate, with national development strategies; participatory processes in support of preparation and implementation of action programmes, particularly processes involving civil society, NGOs and CBOs; consultative processes in support of the preparation and implementation of partnership agreements with developed country parties, and other interested entities, particularly mobilization and coordination of both domestic and international resources; measures taken or planned within the framework of NAP, including those aimed at improving the environment, to conserve natural resources and promote their sustainable use, to rehabilitate degraded land, to enhance knowledge on desertification and its control, and to monitor and assess desertification and drought; financial allocations from budgets in support of implementation as well as financial assistance and technical cooperation including their inflows, and processes to identify their requirements, as well as areas of funding and the setting of priorities; the review of benchmarks and indicators utilized to measure progress and an assessment thereof; and a brief review of newly introduced indicators according to Decision 10/COP. 5.

4. Finally, an attempt has been made in the tenth chapter, on Conclusion, to sum up progress Malawi has achieved in implementing the UNCCD mandate in line with the approved methodology and the respective constraints encountered.

Table 1: Baseline Data and Information on the UNCCD process in Malawi

1. Focal point institution	
Name of focal point	Director of Forestry
Address including e-mail address	P.O. Box 30048, Lilongwe 3, MALAWI Tel. + (265) 1771000 Email: fes@malawi.net
Country-specific websites relating to desertification	None
2. Status of NAP in Malawi	
Date of validation: <i>2001</i>	Body/institution/Government level which validated the NAP: <i>Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs</i>
NAP review(s): <i>Two</i>	Date(s): <i>19-20 February 2004, and July 2004</i>
NAP has been integrated into the poverty reduction strategy (PRSP)	Yes/No/Currently under way (If yes, please specify the year in which the strategy was officially adopted.): <i>Yes, Year 2002</i>
NAP has been integrated into the national development strategy	Yes/No/Currently under way (If yes, please specify the year in which the strategy was officially adopted.): <i>Yes. It was integrated into the National Strategy for Sustainable Development in 2003</i>
NAP implementation has started with or without the conclusions of partnership agreements	Yes/No: <i>Yes. But the partnerships referred to here are not specific to the NAP process. They, however, deal with many issues concerned with NAP.</i>
Expected NAP validation	Month/year: <i>N/A</i>
Final draft of a NAP exists	Yes/No: <i>YES</i>
Formulation of a draft NAP is under way	Yes/No: <i>N/A</i>
Basic guidelines for a NAP have been established	Yes/No: <i>N/A</i>
Process has only been initiated	Yes/No: <i>N/A</i>
Process has not yet started	Yes/No: <i>N/A</i>
3. Member of SRAP/RAP	
Name of subregional and/or regional cooperation framework	Involvement specifically in topics such as water harvesting techniques, soil erosion etc.
i. <i>Southern African Development Community (SADC)</i>	<i>There is cooperation in areas such as integrated river basin management, trans-boundary natural resource management and regional environmental programs</i>
ii. <i>African Union (AU) through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)</i>	<i>Cooperation anticipated during the operationalization of (CADP) Environmental Strategy documents</i>

4. Composition of the NCB (whether a Government or civil society organization, as well as, the nature of its representatives' gender):			
Name of institution	Government (✓)	NGO (✓)	Male/female
i.	<i>UNCCD National Steering Committee</i>	<i>Government (With membership from Government, NGO, Civil Society and the Private Sector)</i>	<i>N/A</i>
			<i>Intended to achieve 40% female participation</i>
5. Total number of NGOs accredited to the process:			
<i>One (i.e. Christian Service Committee)</i>			
Has an NGO National Coordinating Committee on desertification been established; if yes, how many NGOs or civil society organizations participate in it?		Yes/No (If yes, please provide the number of civil society organizations participating.)	
		<i>NO. However, NGOs have an environmental voice through their Coordination Unit for the Rehabilitation of the Environment (CURE), a mouthpiece of over 26 NGOs in ENRM.</i>	
6. Total number of acts and laws passed relating to the UNCCD:			
<i>More than 15</i>			
Five most relevant acts and laws and/or regulations			
Title of the law		Date of adoption/approval	
i	<i>Environmental Management Act</i>	<i>1996</i>	
ii	<i>Forestry Act</i>	<i>1997</i>	
iii	<i>National Water Policy</i>	<i>1999</i>	
iv	<i>The Four Acts in the Energy Sector (Energy Regulation Act; Rural Electrification Act; Electricity Act; Liquid Fuels and Gas (Production & Supply) Act)</i>	<i>All approved in 2004</i>	
v	<i>Agricultural and Natural Resources Master Plan, especially in relation to land resource conservation</i>	<i>1999</i>	
vi	<i>National Land Resources Management Policy and Strategy</i>		
7. The Consultative Process:			
Number of partnership agreements that have been concluded and/or are being initiated within the framework of the UNCCD			
Official title of partnership	Donor(s), international organization(s), and/or agencies of the UN system involved		Date of (expected) conclusion
<i>None</i>	<i>N/A</i>		<i>N/A</i>

List of consultative meetings on UNCCD implementation						
Name of consultative meeting	Date/year	Donor countries involved	International organizations or agencies of the UN system involved			
i. <i>UNCCD National Steering Committee Meeting</i>	<i>19-20 February 2004</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Sub-regional Support Facility for Southern Africa (SSFSA)</i>			
ii. <i>Review of the NAP</i>	<i>July 2004</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Sub-regional Support Facility for Southern Africa (SSFSA)</i>			
Name of country which has taken over the role of <i>Chef de file</i>						
<i>None</i>						
8. Names of some ten projects currently under implementation which are directly or indirectly related to the UNCCD						
	Name of project	Project implemented within the framework of the NAP/SRAP/RAP? (Yes/No)	Project implemented within the framework of...	Timeframe	Partners involved	Overall budget
i.	<i>Sustainable Management of Indigenous Forests</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>SRAP/NAP</i>	<i>1996-2006</i>	<i>GTZ, WESM, MG</i>	<i>DM540,000 Euro290,000</i>
ii.	<i>Lilongwe Forestry Project</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>NAP</i>	<i>1998-2004</i>	<i>ADB</i>	<i>US\$ 3.8 million</i>
iii.	<i>Better Land Husbandry Project</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>NAP</i>	<i>2003-05</i>	<i>EU, MG</i>	<i>MK35, 101,209</i>
iv.	<i>Smallholder Food Plains Development Program</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>NAP</i>	<i>1998-2006</i>	<i>IFAD, MG</i>	<i>US\$15.2million</i>
v.	<i>Partnership for the Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa (PADELIA)</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>RAP</i>	<i>2003-05</i>	<i>UNEP, UNDP, MG</i>	<i>US\$270,000</i>
vi.	<i>National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>RAP</i>	<i>2003-05</i>	<i>GEF, UNEP/UNDP, MG</i>	<i>US\$239,780</i>
vii.	<i>Barriers Removal to Renewable Energy</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>NAP</i>			
viii.	<i>Southern Africa Biodiversity Support</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>SRAP</i>	<i>2000-05</i>	<i>UNDP/GEF, SADC, IUCN-</i>	<i>US\$270,000</i>

	<i>Program (SABSP)</i>				<i>ROSA, MG</i>	
ix.	<i>Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Neno District</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>NAP</i>	<i>2001-05</i>	<i>Oxfam (UK), WESM</i>	<i>Euro99, 000 £79,856</i>
x.	<i>Biodiversity Project</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>SRAP</i>	<i>2002-04</i>	<i>EU, WESM, African Resources Trust</i>	<i>Euro70, 854</i>

Note: Projects selection principle based on sector-wide coverage. Chapter 5 lists more projects

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

2.1 National Plans and strategies

5. As outlined in the second Malawi UNCCD National Report, which was produced in 2002, there are a number of national plans and strategies that have contributed towards combating desertification and which have assisted in the development of NAP objectives and activities. These include the PRS (which is being implemented through the MEGS) as it seeks to achieve economic growth in the various sectors such as agriculture and natural resources; the NEAP as it points out weaknesses in natural resource management legislation, their effective coordination and enforcement mechanisms, national policies and legislation in the sectors of Land, Agriculture, Energy, Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, and Water. Action Plans in these sectors also played, and are playing, a key part in the NAP development and review. New national policies in the areas of Decentralization, Privatization and HIV/AIDS are being examined in the review of the NAP. It is difficult at this stage to assess the extent of significance that each one of these initiatives has achieved in the formulation and review of the NAP. Suffice to say that the framework is a product of a collaborative process involving various stakeholders: Public, Local Government, NGOs, Private, Research, Academic, Donors and CBOs. In general, the NAP is well harmonized with the various national policies and strategies in the sense that its preparatory process made sure that a range of NAP issues identified related to the existing policies, strategies and programs.

6. Malawi, recognizing the importance of the UNCCD and its objectives at national, regional and global levels, ratified the Convention in June 1996. To implement the Convention's objectives, the country developed and adopted a NAP in 2000. In line with the Convention's principal requirements, the NAP was developed through a consultative process involving all major stakeholders. In order to address key issues relating to desertification, especially those affecting the rural poor, the NAP's development had to follow a bottom up approach in which pertinent issues were identified and synthesized into a program of action. The process identified eight strategies comprising five core ones: namely food security; water resource management and development; renewable energy; forest resource management; and environmental management; and three support

sub-programs of indigenous knowledge systems and technologies; institutional arrangements; and funding arrangements. To-date, valuable progress is being made and a number of lessons have been learnt on how best land degradation and desertification can be controlled. The WSSD, MDG, MPRSP, MNSSD, as well as the national decentralization process and the privatization frameworks have played a key role in redirecting the UNCCD implementation process via the NAP.

7. The relationship between the NFP and /or NCB and those Ministries dealing with the implementation of UNCCD strategies as well as other stakeholders could be defined as being amicable despite communication and other logistical constraints. The NFP has received support from Ministries, through the NCB, that has assisted, among other things, in the production of the 1999 and 2002 country reports and in the review of UNCCD programs such as the NAP. Such support has been complemented by cooperation received from stakeholders such as NGOs, Private Sector, Donor Agencies, and local communities. The working relationship established between the various members of the NCB and the NFP is good but could be improved. The NCB, as the main Government organ that coordinates UNCCD activities has the NFP as its secretariat. Areas requiring redress include the need for the development of a clear communication system between the two. Since the NCB represents the UNCCD implementers at national level, there is need for regular reporting of the members to the NFP to assist the latter in the timely production of national reports and other local reports for submission to interested parties such as the UNCCD Secretariat.

3. INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION, INCLUDING LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS OR ARRANGEMENTS, LINKAGES AND SYNERGIES WITH OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS AND, AS APPROPRIATE, WITH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

3.1 NAPs as part of the National Economic and Social Development and Environment Protection Plans

8. The NAP's coherence with other national and social development and environmental protection plans can easily be correlated with its origins and development path. The NAP's roots could be traced back to the development of the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP). The NEAP is an offshoot of the agreements concluded at the UNCED Rio Conference (1992). Formally launched in December 1994, the NEAP describes the environmental situation in Malawi and outlines a series of actions that need to be taken in order to redress the aggravating natural resource degradation and bring their utilization within sustainable limits. As such, the activities identified for the implementation of the CCD are seen to be complimentary to the NEAP.

9. In developing the NAP, lessons have been learnt from implementing NEAP that have led to improved strategies for the implementation of CCD at the grass roots level. The majority of the line ministries have, since the last report, completed formulation of their Strategic Plans, which are the backbone of environmental protection. A major

nation-wide social development strategy revolves around the implementation of MASAF III, which addresses the main areas of the NAP. In broader terms, the NAP is a result of issues and concerns expressed by Malawians on food security, water and sanitation, renewable energy, forest products and services, environment and indigenous knowledge. To ensure that the framework continues to be coherent with national developmental and environmental goals and conforms to UNCCD requirements, it is regularly reviewed. Recently, in February 2004, the UNCCD National Steering Committee or NCB carried out a review. Amongst other things, the review considered new developments such as the MDG, WSSD, PRSP, NSSD and the Decentralization program that have a direct influence on the NAP. A further review was carried out in July 2004 by some members of the NCB supported by the NFP with the aim of assessing progress so far made in the implementation of various strategies.

10. The national strategic framework is reflected in the four pillars of the MPRS. The overall goal of the MPRS is to achieve ‘sustainable poverty reduction through empowerment of the poor’. The four pillars are the main strategic components grouping the various activities and policies into a coherent framework for poverty reduction. The first pillar promotes rapid sustainable pro-poor economic growth and structural transformation. The second pillar enhances human capital development. The third pillar improves the quality of life of the most vulnerable. The fourth pillar promotes good governance. The MPRS also mainstreams key cross cutting issues such as HIV/AIDS, gender, environment, and science and technology, as well as statistics. The NAP largely addresses the first three pillars.

11. In the light of the COP 6 decisions and the Declaration (decision 8/COP.4) calling for an integration of NAP objectives into national sustainable development strategies and plans, some efforts have been made to ensure complementarity and integration since the last report as follows. The establishment of the NCB, which comprises members representing public, NGO, private and local communities, whose purpose is to guide and monitor the implementation of UNCCD objectives, is a case-in-point. It is through the NCB that stakeholder interests relating to sustainable development are incorporated into the NAP agenda. The establishment of the NFP as its secretariat has enhanced the effectiveness of the NCB.

12. Obstacles have been encountered in implementing the CCD. Currently, there is no clear system through which NCB members can be reporting back to the NFP. This, among other things, makes it difficult for the latter to produce reports such as the National Report in a timely and efficient manner. As reported by the Land Resources Department, at present, there is scanty information and data on land degradation in various parts of the country. This makes it relatively difficult to analyse the country’s environmental status and come up with realistic NAP strategies and activities. At the same time, some information is available through the Surveys Department’s satellite imagery and the various State of Environment Reports to name a few. In general, limited financial and human resources are major problems affecting the effective and efficient implementation of UNCCD objectives at national and local levels.

13. In addition, while a commendable decision towards Decentralised Environmental Management (DEM) has been made, the slow implementation of the DEM is in turn affecting effective NAP implementation at the local level. Also, Privatisation of management of some public assets has been going on. However, with regard to forest resources, privatization is currently on hold in order to restructure procedures for sustainability.

14. There are other external factors that directly or indirectly affect the integration of NAP strategies into other relevant national strategies or vice versa. Agricultural production in semi-arid parts of the country has focused more on crops than livestock when the latter contributes more to livelihood development and is a more appropriate land use practice in those areas. This has had the negative effect through people being forced to exploit natural resources in an unsustainable manner. The delay in the implementation of the recommendations from the Biodiversity Support Program is also having a negative effect of the NAP process. The country's heavy debt burden, estimated at more than US\$2.6 billion, is also not positively assisting the implementation of NAP due to limited availability of financial resources despite the limited resources being made available through the HIPC programme.

15. The NAP recognizes the private sector support in all its eight program components. This relates to issues such as the provision of financial and technical support to the NAP process. The major problem is that the private sector, together with NGOs, have only recently been incorporated into the UNCCD process to the extent that their effective participation, though active, is still in the primary stages. There are some notable achievements. For example, the sector is playing an active role in the promotion of alternative energy sources as well as energy saving technologies. Notably, alternative sources of fuel, as a private sector initiative, have now been given full Government support as an alternative energy source nationally. Solar energy is also being promoted vigorously. Some members in the private sector are actively participating in various afforestation programs. The privatization policy, despite its related implementation constraints, which have tended to reduce its positive image, appears to be a major incentive that entices the sector to take part in programs that directly or indirectly assist in combating desertification in the country. For example, the sector is playing an active role in promoting forestry activities such as seedling production, afforestation, forest-plantation harvesting, pit-sawing and other community support programs. It should be noted though that at present, the whole privatization process is on hold pending a review. On the scientific scene, an incentive scheme promoted by Government has been implemented. For example, the waiver of duty on products such as solar equipment and computers and the removal of surtax on Gel fuel, are some of the initiatives that will assist the NAP implementation

16. In the implementation of the NAP, efforts are being made by the various stakeholders to close various policy gaps in areas such as: the diversification into drought tolerant agricultural crops; on-farm catchment management through tree planting programs; soil fertility management through agroforestry practices; integrated pest management for both trees and crops; promotion of new energy and forest saving

technologies; promotion of local manufacturing of energy appliances and farm machinery; application of indigenous knowledge and technologies; promoting the production of transmission polewood in private plantations; enabling farm families to venture into commercial food processing; and encouraging adjustment in eating habits. Modalities for effectively implementing such strategies include NCB meetings and other foray that bring relevant stakeholders together.

17. The NEAP came into operation in December 1994. It has been guiding implementation of an environment agenda at all levels. As the NEAP was being revised in 2001/2002, and was being used as the precursor of 23 District Environmental Action Plans (DEAPs), the NAP process has been more closely aligned to the DEAPs. In addition, new developments at the national level include the formulation of the NSSD following the WSSD in 2002, and the completion of the NBSAP. These have enriched the NAP process. However, a systematic analysis of the NAP against these new developments is still to be made to close the gaps in the NAP as it gets revised.

3.2 Linkages achieved with subregional and regional action programmes (SRAPs and RAPs)

18. Activities which have a subregional or regional dimension and/or are directly linked with activities under SRAPs or RAPs include the following: Sustainable management of indigenous forests; Partnership for the Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa (PADELIA); National Capacity Self-assessment (NCSA) for global environmental management; Southern Africa Biodiversity Support Programme (SABSP); Biodiversity project; Songwe River Stabilization project; Designation of Lake Malawi as a Ramsar site; and the Nyika/Vwaza Transboundary Programme affecting Zambia and Malawi. These projects directly address the NAP process in Malawi.

19. On the other hand, national scientific and technical institutions are actively and effectively participating in a number of subregional, regional and relevant international networks involving wetlands (under IUCN), biotechnology (under NEPAD), water and sanitation (under WARFSA); policies and governance structures in woodlands of southern Africa (under CIFOR); plant systematic (SABONET); and indigenous knowledge systems (under SADC).

20. The Government officially adopted the NAP in 2001. At present, there is no special budget that has been officially approved to finance the implementation of NAP activities. Such activities are financed indirectly through allocations to sectors for programs of relevance to the NAP. There are also some community based natural resource management micro-projects supported by Donor Agencies such as JICA, EU, FINIDA, DANIDA, USAID, GTZ, and the ADB; and NGOs such as the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM), CURE, the Malawi Environment Endowment Trust, the Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust, the Nyika/Vwaza Wildlife Trust. In addition, Government supports projects in the areas of beekeeping; tree seedling production, (fruit) tree planting, agroforestry, establishment of village forest areas,

woodlots and seed banks; guinea fowl and goat rearing, aquaculture; vegetable production; and mats and basket production.

3.3 Established and functional national coordination body (NCB)

21. The NCB exerts some influence on policy formulation, harmonization and implementation. This is generally achieved through its mandate of coordinating the implementation of the UNCCD agenda in the country. It has, within its mandate, capacity to catalyze preparation, implementation and evaluation on the national action program. At local the level, it is directly linked to District Environmental Management Committees and thus exerts influence over matters of policy and legislation at that level. Since some of the NCB members represent Central Government institutions, the NCB, thus, is directly linked to Government institutions. Because of its sectoral diversity, the NCB operates in a decentralized manner regarding financial, human and material resources.

22. The NFP was established, among other things, as the NCB's full-time Secretariat. The NFP is an institution that is subservient to the Director of Forestry in the Ministry of Mines, Natural Resources and Environment. A revision of institutional arrangements would, therefore need to be made in order to strengthen its leverage in terms of resource access and decision-making. Due to the diverse composition of its members, the NCB is able to promote synergistic developments for sustainable land management with related program frameworks. One way of achieving this is in the review of the NAP.

23. The NCB's capacity to act effectively in the implementation of the UNCCD objectives is hampered by various factors. One of the major constraints is limited funding. The NCB as well as its secretariat, the NFP, do not benefit from direct funding. At the same time, human resources are allocated to these organizations on a part-time basis. Having full-time staff with government staff, as counterparts should strengthen the NFP. Material resources are also limited, mainly as a result of limited funding.

24. Despite the constraints, in the present state, the NCB has some capacity to catalyze the evaluation of the NAP. So far, the NCB has managed to review the NAP especially during its February 2004 meeting and the meeting of NCB experts that took place in July 2004. As a matter of fact, reports from these two initiatives have assisted in the preparation of this report. The major asset within the NCB is in its composition, which is made up of experienced and well-trained sectoral representatives.

25. For the NCB and the NFP to function effectively, there is an urgent need to address the constraints outlined above. There is need for a sustainable provision of financial and other resources (such as equipment), as well as the need for a proper restructuring of these organizations especially the making of the NFP as a more autonomous management unit from its current status as a unit with part-time staff and an unclear national budget line. The NCB, due to its composition of professional cadres from a multi-sectoral background, qualifies it as crosscutting and multidisciplinary and,

therefore, reasonably positioned to effectively implement the Convention's mandate at national level.

26. During the NCB meeting of February 2004, the NCB structure was subject for discussion resulting into the recommendation that it should comprise 15 full-time members representing Government, NGOs, and the Private Sector, meeting as frequently as three times a year. Previously, the NCB was Government driven. There are no significant changes in how the NCB is linked to bodies of other UN conventions. Suffice to say that most members of the NCB are also involved in programs from other UN conventions such as CBD, RAMSAR, CITES, and UNFCCC.

27. The multi-sectoral nature of the NCB membership enhances the programming and implementation of UNCCD projects in that the NAP program components and activities are multi-sectoral and, therefore, can only be effectively implemented by a truly representative NCB. The award of full-time membership of private sector representatives in the NCB will help facilitate the implementation of private sector initiatives and strategies as outlined in the NAP.

28. As stated earlier, the NCB, which is the national UNCCD Steering Committee, comprises members representing Central and Local Government institutions, Parastatals, NGOs, the Private Sector and Local Community representatives. Through its Secretariat, the NFP, it operates through various modes including meetings and specialized workshops. Various actors are able to participate in its work. In particular, active participation of NGOs, the private sector and the representatives of the local populations is enabled through incorporating them into NCB's membership, thereby ensuring that their aspirations relating to the CCD are taken care of. The level of stakeholder participation in the NCB has, thus, increased since the last reporting through the inclusion of the private sector and local community representatives in its membership. There is always active participation in NCB activities once resources such as financial support are readily available. Communication or networking among members of the NCB and the groups they represent, especially with regard to civil society organizations, could be said to be relatively effective and efficient in that these members are representatives of various organizations that employ them. The modality for nominating members to the NCB could be said to be transparent. Most sectors have managed to select high-ranking professionals to represent them at the NCB. However, a major problem identified regarding the NCB is that communication or networking has not been properly strategized. At the last NCB meeting, in February 2004, it was recommended that a monitoring and evaluation system should be put in place as a way of addressing the constraint.

29. As exemplified by the outcomes of the NCB meetings, it could be said that the NCB has some working capacity to organize, manage, review, and analyse information. The wide and professional sectoral representation at NCB is a key advantage. At present, the NCB does not have a well-defined database other than reliance on the aptitude of its secretariat, the NFP. No website exists for the posting of issues of common interest for members of the NCB to access. Internal and external communication between the NCB

and NFP requires urgent improvement. Currently, there are no clear mechanisms for the NCB to provide sectoral information required by the NFP, such as for the production of the national report. This was one of the major issues discussed at the NCB meeting in February 2004.

3.4 Institutional framework for coherent and functional desertification control

30. A major exercise carried out so far regarding analysis of existing mechanisms for coordinating and harmonizing actions to combat land degradation at national and local levels, thus contributing to strengthening coordination and implementation of UNCCD programs, has been the NAP review recently carried out. It is hoped that recommendations made will be adopted and put into practice. Major recommendations that have been made relate to the following issues: the NCB composition, timeframe in the implementation of NAP activities, reporting mechanisms, and funding of UNCCD programmes.

31. Regarding the building of capacity at local and national levels in order to establish a well functioning information exchange between relevant stakeholders, the NCB has recommended that its members should operate on a full-time basis and that they together with other stakeholders should strive to provide the NFP with up-to-date sectoral information in a timely manner to allow the latter to consolidate and disseminate such information to the required users such as the UNCCD Secretariat.

32. A number of meetings and workshops at various levels have been conducted since the last report. The major outputs have been the effective operationalization of the NCB and the NAP progress review. Through the meetings and workshops, stakeholders and the institutions they represent have been able to bring to the fore pertinent issues of relevance to the NAP initiative from within their respective sectors.

3.5 Coherent and functional legal and regulatory framework

33. There are a number of environmental legislations in the country. The National Council for the Environment has been established through an Act of Parliament to coherently coordinate environmental legislative (and policy) issues. However, conflicting areas exist where one Act may be subservient and/or has sections/subsections that are contradictory to another Act. Efforts to harmonise the environmental Acts have recently (2003) been carried out under the Environmental Affairs Department, and sectors have subsequently been asked to review their policies and Acts in view of the review of the Environmental Management Act.

34. Whereas progress is being made in enforcing environmental laws, this is weakened by a number of reasons such as poverty, and limited financial, human and technical resources to the extent that environmental degradation, especially deforestation and soil erosion are on the rise. There is need for refinement and coherence of the

country's multi-sectoral environmental strategies at institutional, financial and human resource capacity levels to facilitate a more effective environmental law enforcement.

35. Despite the availability of land policy and land Act, land tenure issues are, in certain instances, adversely affecting environmental conservation. At present, land tenure in the country could be said to be insecure and unclear especially at customary, government, and private land level. A relatively high population growth rate and a localized high population density have also had a negative impact on the security of tenure.

36. An effort is being made in the country to strengthen the capacity of local populations and local authorities to participate in decision making which is relevant to combating land degradation. VNRMCS have been established at grassroots level to, among other issues, deal with natural resource management issues. However, some of these grassroots level institutions need training to make them more effective. There is also a need to broaden the VNRMCS's mandate to coordinate all natural resource management and environmental issues at local level as opposed to the current situation where there is a proliferation of unlinked village level institutions covering areas such as forestry, water, and wildlife management. To enhance the coordination of environmental issues at local authority level, each District Assembly has a District Environmental Sub-Committee (DESC) within its organogram that deals with environmental issues. One of its major outputs is the production of the district SOER on a regular basis.

37. The continuing land degradation in many parts of the country, especially where population densities are high, requires awareness raising for improved compliance to legislation among local populations in the affected areas. One way of dealing with this important aspect is to introduce simplified policy briefs in local languages among the local populations. Members of the VNRMCS can then be trained regularly. At a higher level, training of extension workers is being undertaken to enhance their awareness in environmental legislation so that they are more effective in conducting awareness programmes.

38. Law enforcement relating to the combat against desertification is an issue that cuts across all NAP program components. A number of activities have been identified that deal with the subject matter which will, eventually, allow for the development and implementation of law enforcement related projects. It is worth noting that an association for Lawyers known as "Green Wigs Association" was established as a forum for legal practitioners to participate in matters of environment and natural resources management. Its major objective is to assist communities where their rights with respect to environmental issues are infringed and do not have any legal representation to resolve them against perpetrators. The NAP has made specific reference to awareness raising among the Judiciary regarding appropriate penalties for contravening environmental law. At present, though not done directly through the NAP, a number of projects and programs have law enforcement as a composite component. According to recommendations from the NAP review, incorporating law enforcement in particular projects is implicitly assumed a requisite requirement.

39. One of the procedures for identifying and implementing law enforcement issues in particular projects is the prerequisite requirement by Government that any project proposal that has an anticipated effect on the environment has to undergo an EIA to ensure that environmental concerns are incorporated in the project proposal.

4. PARTICIPATORY PROCESS IN SUPPORT OF PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PROGRAMMES, PARTICULARLY PROCESSES INVOLVING CIVIL SOCIETY, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

4.1 Effective participation of actors in defining national priorities

40. The NAP formulation process was effectively conducted through sensitization and consultative meetings involving key members of the District Development Committees (DDC) in all the districts in 1999. The NAP Steering Committee shaped the findings into program areas and produced a consolidated Issues Document which was presented at a National Forum from which was produced an Action Program. A stakeholder workshop, consisting of NAP Steering Committee and the National Council for the Environment was convened in March 2000 to discuss and finalize the Draft National Action Plan. The NAP was validated in 2001. Its implementation and that of related activities is also conducted through a participatory process. For example, NCB meetings are the usual fora for the NAP review. The February 2004 review meeting involved various stakeholders representing sectors such as forestry, environment, energy, water development, land resources, irrigation, geological survey, meteorological services, local government, decentralization secretariat, fisheries, mines, gender and community services, animal health and livestock development, tobacco association of Malawi, power company, NGOs, the private sector such as wood industries, and the University of Malawi.

41. The UNCCD National Steering Committee, the NCB, at its February 2004 resolved that it should comprise 15 members representing stakeholders involved with CBD activities. These comprise central Government institutions such as: forestry, land resource conservation, energy, water, decentralization secretariat and local government, gender; parastatals in the energy, agriculture and water sectors; NGOs and CBOs. The criteria used for selecting the various actors in the national priority identification were based on the significance of a particular representative sector to the CBD. There is a goal aiming at having at least 40% women representation in the NCB.

42. The other criterion has been through the development of NAP's national action program for the implementation of UNCCD activities at national level. In this case, various actors have been identified as key players in the implementation of NAP activities under specific program components, goals and strategies. Again, these fall in the categories above but vary for each program component, especially the component activities. As such, the criteria encourage equal representation at all levels. The national

scientific community is well represented through academic institutions such as the university and local research organizations. At present, no clear monitoring mechanisms have been established with assistance from the scientific community. The main mechanism that ensures local UNCCD stakeholder consultations is through meetings, especially the NCB meetings.

43. In Malawi, it is appreciated that local communities are enriched with indigenous knowledge that they use in managing natural resources. For the first time, Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) and technologies have been recognised as part of the national Science and Technology Policy (2002). IKS is a sub-program of the NAP. Its major objective is to identify and promote indigenous knowledge relevant to natural resource conservation. The first national workshop on IKS was held in 2001. Information collected through desk studies led to an initial inventory of IKS in Malawi showing that indigenous knowledge technologies and practices are used in the following areas: pest control in crops, food security, soil management, fish production and conservation, crop and poultry selection, livestock production and health, conserving trees, medicine, locating ground water, water treatment etc. Subsequently, a number of research projects have been carried out at the University of Malawi, undertaken as projects toward awards of Masters degrees. However, limited progress has been made in exchange, circulation, transfer and dissemination of such information. More research and documentation in the various areas are needed, but these need funding. There is also the absence of property rights aimed at protecting indigenous knowledge. It is planned that the intellectual property rights (IPR) issues should be given adequate attention.

44. The existing situation does not put to the fore the role of traditional knowledge/technologies in the implementation framework of the NAP. As such, related activities identified are the baseline activities dealing with issues such as: conducting research, creating awareness, evaluation and selection of knowledge suitable for CCD, utilization of rural experts in traditional practices in training others, collaborative development of new suitable systems of biodiversity conservation, and incorporation of indigenous knowledge in environmental education programs in the school curriculum.

45. Participatory awareness campaigns are being conducted at sector level with sectoral themes relating to combating desertification in areas such as food security, water resources management and development, renewable energy, deforestation, environmental management, and indigenous knowledge systems and technologies. These campaigns are conducted mainly through networking at grass-roots level, song and dance, radio, television and the print media as well as through field days and field visits. These are supported mainly by donors, through projects, or through funding by Government. There are organizations such as the Forum for Environmental Communicators (FECO) and Coalition of Journalists on Environment and Agriculture (CAJEA) that have been established with the aim of promoting environmental reporting among journalists and media organizations. Environmental education efforts also emanate from academic institutions, environmental clubs such as those under the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM), civil society networks e.g. CISANET, and the Traditional

Leaders Forum, while lobby groups include the Civil Society Task Force on Land and Natural Resources (chaired by WESM).

46. The concerns and results of the national consultations at the local level are incorporated into the NAP through its review meetings by the NCB organized by the NFP. This review process ensures continuous feedback from stakeholders. Representatives of various social and institutional categories, at both national and local levels in the UNCCD process are nominated or selected by the institutions that they represent. In general, the NAP is a product of consultations with district assemblies comprising traditional authorities, members of parliament, councilors, representatives of business communities, and NGOs. Feedback from these stakeholders on certain NAP issues has been indirectly obtained in 2003 during national consultations on the development of the National Disaster Management Plan, which outlines complimentary issues of food security, mitigation of environmental hazards and disaster preparedness. A system of collecting baseline data, and of direct relevance to NAP, is in place mainly through the updating of District and National State of the Environment Reports.

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

5.1 Effective support from international partners for cooperation

47. In the 2002-2006 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) the UN system (UNDP, WFP, FAO and UNICEF) has outlined a Programme Framework in partnership with the Government of Malawi. Relevant strategies to the NAP are as follows: improving hygiene practices and access to safe drinking water in schools and communities in targeted areas; reforestation of degraded catchments, hills and watersheds; rehabilitation of river flow-lines and river banks; training empowerment of communities in NRM; improving soil and land conservation practices through a better land husbandry policy and plan; and defining land tenure rights.

48. The main non-UN development partners with similar focus include USAID, EU, DANIDA, NORAD, GTZ, DfID, DIDC, ADB, and WB. All the partners have programmes that support the NAP process, though to different degrees. Access to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) continues to be limited, largely due to the elaborate procedures to complete the funding requirements. The main projects advancing the NAP process, through GEF funding, include the Mulanje Mountain Biodiversity Conservation Project through the establishment of the Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust registered in 2000; and the SADC/GEF Lake Malawi Biodiversity Conservation Project that ended in 1999. Rehabilitation of the Middle Shire River catchment is a major project waiting funding from the GEF. The EU and DfID are financing the forestry sector. DfID is

supporting implementation of the National Forestry Programme, launched in 2001, as an agreed strategic framework of priorities and viable actions to bring about sustainable management of forest goods and services for improved and equitable livelihoods.

49. Implementation of the COMPASS I Project was initiated in 1999 by USAID/Malawi as a means of increasing incomes of the grassroots communities as well as protecting the environment. COMPASS II, initiated in 2004, continues the long history of support to activities that promote Community-Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) by providing expertise to help communities identify natural resource-based products and technologies that will lead to increased incomes. The project is aimed at addressing three challenges: advancing decentralization of natural resources management; enhancing community capacity for managing natural resources in a sustainable manner; increasing sales of natural-based products by rural households. Other relevant projects supported by international cooperating partners include the following: the ADB funded Lilongwe Forestry Project and the Lake Malawi Artisanal Fisheries Development Project; Liwonde National Park and Mangochi Forest Reserve Conservation Project funded by the Frankfurt Zoological Society; the Barrier Removal to Renewable Energy Project funded by GEF; the EU funded Public Works Project; the USAID funded NATURE project; the agroforestry technology development projects under ICRAF and MAFE; land rehabilitation projects under PROSCARP; and the WB funded projects of MASAF II and III and Environmental Management Project.

50. At the moment, the resources that are made available through the international support do not match the national needs. Much more needs to be done to attract adequate levels of funding to implement the NAP. A Donors Coordinating Meeting held every month has provided a forum where issues concerning desertification have been discussed. The NCB, through the participation of the Environmental Affairs Department at these meetings, has been formally represented. From time to time, thematic presentations are made to this forum to bring issues to the fore. At the same time, traditional and alternative sources of finance have not been successfully generated for the implementation of the NAP mainly due to the fact that NAP activities have not been fully mainstreamed into sectoral programs. On the other hand, it is hoped that, through regular meetings and reports organized by the Government, international partners will be more involved in UNCCD activities in Malawi.

51. The UNCCD secretariat and the Global Mechanism can assist in facilitating the convocation of the consultative processes through various support programs such as finance, technical and logistical support with the major aim of effective operationalization of the NAP objectives. In general, at present, a calendar of activities is yet to be developed to ensure continuous monitoring of the UNCCD process in Malawi.

52. The Department of Environmental Affairs is the national GEF focal point, while the Department of Forestry is the CCD/NFP. Both organizations are based in the Ministry of Mines, Natural Resources and Environment. There are a number of GEF implementing agencies most of which are members of the NCB. Currently, it is within the mandate of

the NCB to establish communication and exchange of information between the national GEF stakeholders especially on issues dealing with UNCCD in the country. .

6. MEASURES TAKEN OR PLANNED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT, TO CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES AND PROMOTE THEIR SUSTAINABLE USE, TO REHABILITATE DEGRADED LAND, TO ENHANCE KNOWLEDGE ON DESERTIFICATION AND ITS CONTROL, AND TO MONITOR AND ASSESS DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

6.1 Adequate diagnosis of past experience

53. During the preparations for participation at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, a national assessment exercise was made on the implementation of Agenda 21. The national report submitted to WSSD has relevant data to guide the NAP process. The NAP review meetings of February and July 2004 are also a step forward in the reevaluation of past experience regarding the implementation of the program. The major potential for data collection to establish the relevance of the Country Profile has been the fact that each variable: climate, vegetation and land use, water resources, energy, land degradation and rehabilitation, people and economy, human development, and science and technology has a representative institution, especially at Government level, whose mandate includes data and information gathering, analysis, storage and dissemination. The major constraint for data collection to establish the relevance of the Country Profile has been the limited availability of key resources especially funding. In addition, more trained expertise is needed, as well as up-to-date equipment, including computers and GIS software.

54. The NAP review has recommended that a monitoring and evaluation system be developed at NFP level to, among other requirements, facilitate the timely production of good progress reports, such as the national report for submission to the UNCCD Secretariat. NCB members and other stakeholders have been requested to provide, on a regular basis, sectoral information required in the production of the National Reports and Country Profile. It was also recommended that project proposals, containing elements of climate change, biodiversity and desertification, among others, should be developed and submitted to the Secretariat for soliciting financial assistance especially from the GEF.

55. The NAP was completed four years ago. Since then, there have been new initiatives such as the WSSD and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on the international scene while the Decentralised Environmental Management (DEM) framework is now guiding Malawi on future implementation of environmental projects. There is, therefore, a need to review the NAP.

6.2 Established technical programmes and functional integrated projects to combat desertification

56. As a way of adapting and integrating ongoing projects and programs into the NAP process, the NAP review meetings received and carried out a review of sectoral progress reports with the ultimate aim of adjusting proposed projects and programs to conform with the NAP requirements. Some issues considered in the process included the effect of Decentralization, Poverty Reduction Strategy, the National Strategic Development Plan, the MDGs and the WSSD on the ongoing or proposed projects. The other issues considered were: the development and strengthening of partnerships and synergies with the private sector, NGOs, donors, and other stakeholders for effective participation in the implementation of the UNCCD activities, and the provision of support for the participation of local communities in the control and mitigation of negative impacts of land degradation, desertification, and environmental degradation.

6.3 Action programmes implemented in compliance with priority fields set out in the Convention

57. UNCCD principles have been integrated into projects through the NAP in the eight identified core program areas of food security, water resource management and development, renewable energy, deforestation, environmental management, indigenous knowledge, institutional arrangements, and funding. Generally, no concrete projects originating directly from the NAP in the said program areas have been developed and implemented under the banner of the NAP, nor have there been concrete projects directly aiming at implementation of the CCD at the local level, as well as addressing local ecological and socio-economic conditions. However, relevant projects and programs have been developed that are in line with UNCCD principles of improving the economic environment with a view to eradicating poverty and addressing the underlying causes of desertification. The process of the NAP formulation ensured that relevant sectoral issues were to be addressed. A few examples of relevant projects from the various sectors are highlighted in sub-item 8 of Table 1 in the Summary section (incorporated in the Introduction) of this report.

58. The NAP review has identified the following new actions and planned measures aimed at enhancing effective implementations of UNCCD. The review has recommended that the NAP should be modified to conform to UNCCD activities at national and international levels. In implementing NAP activities, sectors are advised to refer to the requirements of the MPRSP as it represents a major advance in the fight against poverty and sustainable management of the environment. It has also been recommended that stakeholders should consider the decentralization policy requirements in the implementation of relevant activities devolved by various sectors to district assemblies. It is further recommended that the NAP should adopt some relevant strategies as outlined in the MNSSD, and MDGs, and that sectors should address the funding constraint by developing project proposals to seek support from cooperating partners and funding mechanisms such as the GEF. Finally, monitoring and evaluation systems need to be developed to enable the NCB and NFP effectively and efficiently execute their respective

UNCCD mandates. As a way of further combating desertification, it has been recommended that specific focus should be given on issues and programs relating to the management of watersheds and catchment areas, development and promotion of alternative technologies and fiscal incentives, involving the private sector and research institutions, aimed at combating desertification.

59. At local level, technical and scientific capacity is being addressed through a number of diverse but interrelated institutional arrangements. For example, at District Assembly (DA) level, there is the District Executive Committee (DEC), which comprises government staff representatives from various sectors at district level and some NGOs. On occasions, the DEC meets to discuss issues relating to the environment. Its main output is the production of the District State of Environment Report (DSOER). It highlights current environmental status as well as mitigatory measures planned or being undertaken. There is the District Development Fund (DDF), which acts as the major source of funding for the execution of such measures.

60. At the DA level, there is also the District Development Committee (DDC), whose members include Members of Parliament, Councilors, and Traditional Authorities in a district. These members represent local communities and are conduits for local aspirations to the higher echelon. Thus the DDC's major mandate is to synthesize and prioritize local community needs in form of development projects and program proposals. The District Commissioner, who chairs DDC meetings, presents DDC proposals to the DEC for further consideration, prioritization and eventual implementation. Currently though, there is need for the District Assemblies to fully recognize and support local level institutions, especially those dealing with natural resource management issues.

61. Capacity building at institutional level within the NAP process is sectionalized into training at professional, technical and vocational levels and the recruitment and allocation of staff to particular sectors within the district. At participatory level, in the area of natural resource management (NRM), Village Natural Resource Management Committees (VNRMCs) have been established in various localities in the district with the main objective of strengthening local level participation in NRM. Such strengthening is facilitated through the implementation of community training programs. VNRMCs also act as the major link between local communities and Government through institutions such as DDC and DEC. A major weakness of the VNRMCs is that they focus more on forestry issues when they are supposed to look at all natural resource issues from an integrated and multi-sectoral approach. It is proposed that these should operate through sectoral subcommittees in areas forestry, water, land resource management, energy, etc. Finally, at consultative level, capacity building, at local community level for example, is also achieved through the provision of specialized training programs to key stakeholders such as Chiefs, Village Development Committees, and Area Development Committees.

62. Capacity-building measures aiming at the NAP process are integrated into it mainly during its review. Stakeholders, who represent different interest groups at national, district and local levels play a key role in the solicitation, review and integration of such measures.

6.4 Effectiveness of measures in local capacity building

63. Capacity-building measures that are needed to ensure implementation of the Convention, particularly at the local level, can be summarized into three major areas as follows: the provision of specialized training (e.g. to CBOs and Extension Workers) in areas such as land rehabilitation, income generation, food security, sustainable natural resource management; the provision of adequate financial resources; and the provision of various physical inputs such as tree seed, tree seedlings, polythene tubes, and tools.

64. The NAP, in its current state, clearly reflects such capacity needs and ways to addressing them. A key element in the overall NAP strategy is the strengthening of the capacity of local authorities and ensuring the active involvement of the local population, communities and groups, with emphasis on education and training, and strengthening of decentralized government structures. At present, this is being implemented through the National Capacity Self-Assessment Project. Within the eight NAP program components, various capacity needs have been identified and are being addressed in form of program activities. These include activities in the following areas: education and training, research and extension, and the provision of financial support, physical inputs and incentives.

7. FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS FROM NATIONAL BUDGETS IN SUPPORT OF IMPLEMENTATION AS WELL AS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION INCLUDING THEIR INFLOWS. PROCESSES TO IDENTIFY THEIR REQUIREMENTS, AREAS OF FUNDING AND SETTING PRIORITIES

7.1 Adopted financial mechanisms

65. The NFP organized a workshop for various stakeholders in April 2004, to sensitize them on UNCCD activities such as: Guidelines on project formulation to tap funds from GEF and other local and international donors; for combating desertification in Malawi; and NGO accreditation to UNCCD. These measures are currently provisional and can be sustained through the creation of revolving funds. A new local source of funding for CBOs and other actors is the Malawi Environmental Endowment Trust (MEET). By its nature, MEET has set up a permanent endowment fund.

66. In working out new, adapted methods to mobilize internal and external resources, other specific mechanisms, such as the incorporation of UNCCD activities in sectoral budgets, have been determined to ensure financing for the NAP. Establishment of the Environment Fund stipulated under the Environmental Management Act (1996) was approved by the Government of Malawi in September 2003 to support sustainable development initiatives at district and local levels. USAID through the GoM-NATURE program has released US\$2million for district, city and town assemblies to develop and implement environmental micro projects.

67. Plans and strategies on funding and managing activities to combat desertification are discussed during UNCCD stakeholder workshops and NCB meetings, which enable relevant actors to participate. Some international partners are indirectly supporting specific sectoral budgets in which UNCCD activities are included. But no activity that generates sufficient economic return in an environmentally sound way has been identified and promoted for investment projects at the moment. However, some activities that subsidize on the income of local communities, and, in most cases, act as safety nets during periods of food shortage, have been identified at the local level. In the absence of such activities, no return on investment has been properly reinvested.

68. Investment in drylands does generate environmental and socio-economic benefits for multiple stakeholders. For example, the Sustainable Management of Indigenous Forests project (SMIF) in Neno District promotes juice making from indigenous fruits, which generates income from sales. There are also irrigation projects, including those located along the lakeshore areas and within the Shire Valley areas, which promote winter cropping and the installation of boreholes mainly for the irrigation. In general, there is need for the NFP to be more forthright in soliciting funding for UNCCD activities. For example, one way of doing so would be to develop good project proposals and urge the GEF Focal Point in Malawi to aggressively market them for funding.

7.2 NAP financing

69. Government and donor agencies are directly or indirectly allocating money for the implementation of the Convention through initiatives such as the District Development Funds and the Green Window established at the local level in every district to, among other things, support some activities related to the Convention. The Government also allocates funds to various Ministries and Departments that deal with natural resource management issues of high priority in the implementation of the Convention. And as stated above, Government has now approved the Environment Fund.

70. The heavy debt burden the country is experiencing, at local and international levels, is the principle difficulty affecting an increase in the existing level of financing. As stated earlier, there is no funding exclusively for NAP activities other than through general sectoral funding.

7.3 Technical cooperation developed

71. At the moment, no plan has been formulated for requesting technical cooperation, including envisaged multilateral and bilateral cooperation. At the same time, no significant external technical cooperation has been received with regard to the NAP, but of late, some institutions, such as the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC), have shown interest.

72. There is need for financial assistance to support NCB and NFP operations, fund some projects, and help with capacity building in areas such as specialized training,

technical assistance in form of experts in specialized fields, material support such as Remote Sensing and GIS equipment, and development of a Data Bank for storing sectoral CCD data and information.

73. The order of priority of the needs identified is as follows: i) Capacity Building, ii) Support to NCB and NFP operations, and iii) Project funding. Regarding capacity building, the following is the priority order: a) Specialized Training, b) Technical Assistance in form of experts in specialized fields, c) Material Support such as procurement of Remote Sensing and GIS equipment, and d) Development of a Data Bank for storing sectoral CCD data and information.

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

8.1 Operational mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation

74. The county's processes and dynamics of land degradation are being monitored through GIS and the Famine Early Warning System (FEWS). GIS, to depict canopy cover changes, among other requirements, and soil fertility loss measurements, are some of the on-the-ground measures for assessing the rate of natural resource degradation. To date, there have been limited studies to assess the rate of resource degradation that can be attributed to drought or climate change in Malawi, a record of these being those made under EAD to determine vulnerability and adaptation as related to climate change.

75. The FEWS, located in the Ministry of Agriculture, is the major early warning mechanism set up in an effort to mitigate the effects of drought and desertification. The Ministry of Water Development carries out regular measurements of water levels in Lake Malawi as well as river flows and levels. In the Department of Relief and Rehabilitation Affairs there is being set up a Disaster Management Information System. Results from these measures have enabled the country's preparedness and response to natural disasters.

76. As a way of harmonizing the existing mechanisms and systems, the NCB has proposed the establishment of a Data Bank for storing CCD data and information. Also, as a way of assessing and evaluating the NAP impact, a monitoring system has been outlined and adopted whereby each activity and strategy is allocated to various relevant stakeholders for monitoring within a given timeframe.

9. NEWLY INTRODUCED INDICATORS, ACCORDING TO DECISION 10/COP.5

9.1 Scientific and technical desertification control activities

77. The NAP has identified a number of scientific and technical activities relating to desertification control and drought mitigation. Though with a variable degree of

significance, this falls into the eight NAP themes of food security, water resource management and development, renewable energy, deforestation, environment management, indigenous knowledge systems and technologies, institutional arrangements, and funding arrangements. These activities deal with issues such as: crop/livestock production and land resource conservation and management; agroforestry and afforestation; alternative sources of energy or improved energy production and energy economics; promotion of indigenous knowledge and technologies relevant to natural resource conservation; and specialized research activities.

78. The NAP has been produced in conformity with the principles of the UNCCD in that it was initially based on demands and specifications of Articles 9 and 10 of the Convention. The elaboration process was steered by the NSC comprising of public sectors of Environment, Forestry, Agriculture and Livestock, Water, Energy, Meteorology, Gender, Youth and Community Services, Information, NGOs (such as the Coordinating Unit for the Rehabilitation of the Environment, CURE), Private Sector, and the United Nations Development Program. The NAP development program was elaborated through a bottom up approach involving consultations with all District Assemblies at the time, some NGOs and the Private Sector.

79. A number of scientific and technical institutions are engaged in the UNCCD program via the NAP. As indicated in the Country Profile, these fall into the following groups: Central Government, Parastatals, Donor Agencies, NGOs, and Private Sector. These participate as stakeholders and/or members of the UNCCD National Steering Committee. As outlined above, scientific and technical activities under way to the NAP process have and are being adapted through the NAP development and review processes based on a consultation-with-stakeholders, bottom-to-top, approach.

80. UNCCD National Steering Committee meetings, Special workshops such as the NGO Consultation Workshop of March 2004 aimed at sensitizing them on UNCCD activities, and Special Task Force consultations such as the July 2004 NAP Review, are some of the consultation procedures that have been implemented with scientific and technical community participation.

81. A number of mechanisms have been set in place to facilitate consultation. These include the following: UNCCD Sector Desk Officers, the UNCCD National Steering Committee, the NFP, the identification of and consultation with relevant stakeholders, the drawing up of mechanisms and modalities for the solicitation of funding, and the organizing and implementation of various meetings and workshops.

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

82. Projects and programmes underway or envisaged to address causes or remedy the visible effects of desertification, with a view to drawing lessons and popularizing the scientific and technical methods used, have been implemented by a number of stakeholder organisations notably the research stations under the Ministry of Agriculture;

the Forestry Research Institute of Malawi; the Ministry of Water Development; the Departments of Energy, Irrigation Services, Land Resources Conservation, Meteorological Services, Fisheries; NGOs involved in developing and testing technologies at the grassroots level (such as Wildlife and Environment Society of Malawi, World Vision International, Christian Service Committee, Concern Universal, Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust); parastatals involved in research and development (such as ARET and MIRTDC); international research institutes (such as ICRAF); Universities of Malawi and Mzuzu; and the Private Sector (such as those working on alternative energy sources). Lessons learnt from some of these initiatives have been identified as best practices and compiled for dissemination.

10. CONCLUSION

83. The review of implementation of the NAP for Malawi for the UNCCD for the period 2002-2004 has shown that various sectors have undertaken initiatives to address the problem of land degradation and desertification by working with the affected communities in the semi-arid areas of Malawi. Government of Malawi and various cooperating partners have shown willingness to address the problem of land degradation and desertification by intervening in crucial areas such as poverty and food insecurity, which are known to lead to heavy reliance on natural resources as a source of livelihood. Most of the intervention activities are on going and are expected to improve the status of the communities. However, issues recommended for implementation by the Committee on Science and Technology require special attention with regard to available expertise and funding. These include development of benchmarks and indicators, more vigorous research on Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Technology to build on the low-key activities spearheaded by the University of Malawi, refinement of the early warning systems, training and field studies to identify pilot sites, institutional arrangements and funding mechanisms.

84. Implementation of NAP in Malawi is in line with new developments both at local and international levels. However, there is need to critically look into the strategies outlined by various documents produced after the NAP was developed. For example, the MPRSP, MNSSD and MDGs have some strategies that can improve the NAP implementation in Malawi especially where poverty and environment and natural resources management are the key areas of focus.

85. Some of the shortfalls identified in the implementation of NAP in Malawi are limiting the achievement of desired outputs especially the foreign debt servicing. While appreciating support that the Government is getting from the international lending institutions, such as funding through HIPC and the currently announced debt cancellation by JICA that is assisting some sectors in the implementation of NAP related activities, these institutions should further consider cancelling the debt burden for Malawi so that the money made available is channeled to addressing, among other things, the issues of environmental degradation and desertification that are a result of extreme poverty and over-dependence on natural resources.

ANNEX 1

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD) MALAWI UNCCD COUNTRY PROFILE

Provided by:

The UNCCD National Focal Point

Department of Forestry

Ministry of Mines Natural Resources and Environment

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MALAWI

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24th August 2004

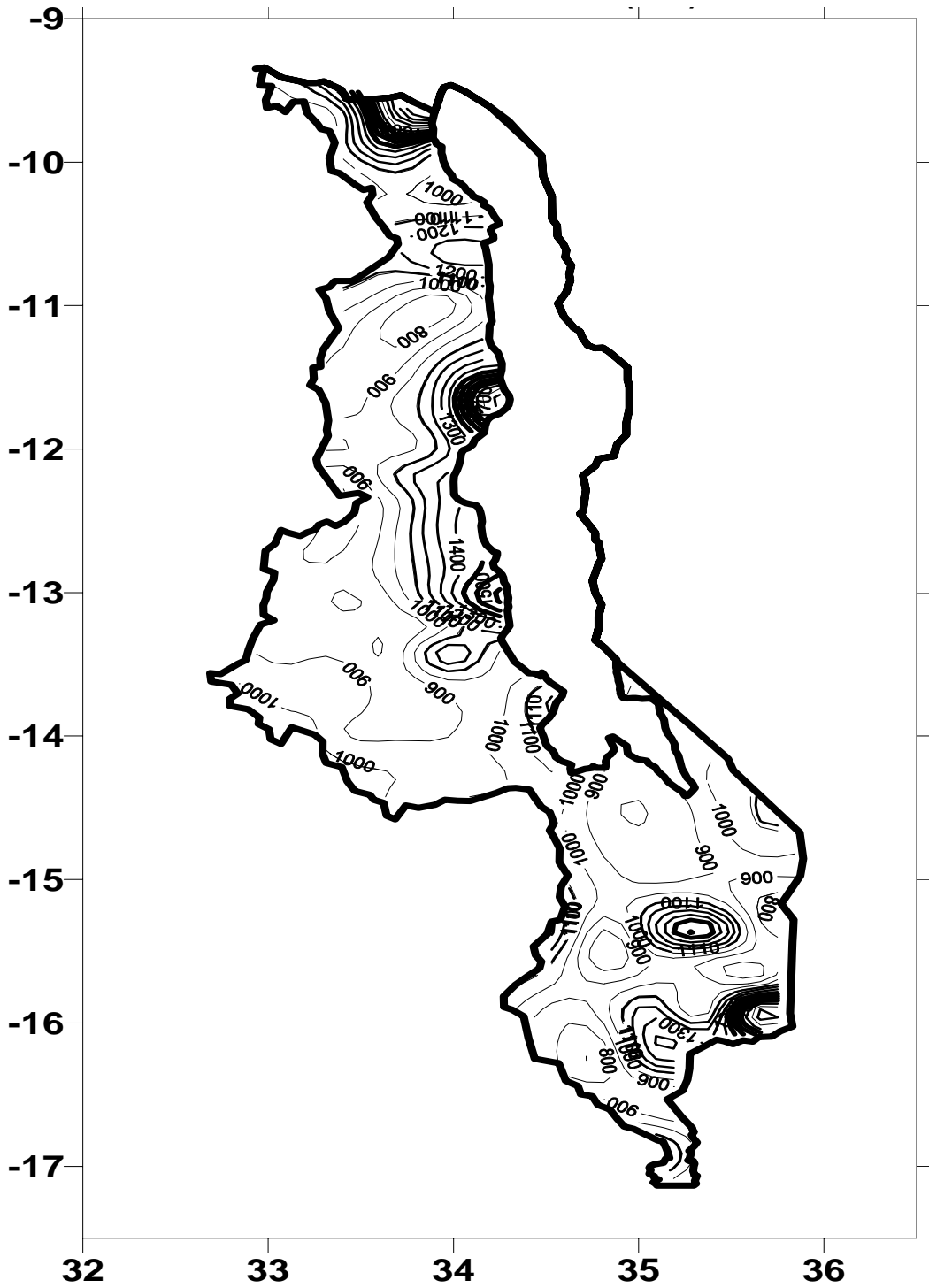
Variables	Indicators	Unit of measurement	Value	Period	Remarks	
1. Climate	1.1 Index of aridity	Precipitation/potential evapotranspiration	0.7249	1950-2003	Source: Malawi Government Meteorological Department. See Figure 1 for average rainfall map for Malawi (1961-1990)	
	1.2 Normal rainfall	mm/annum	1,195.4	1950-2003		
	1.3 Rainfall standard deviation	-	387.1	1950-2003		
	1.4 Sub-national area (Northern Region)	mm/annum	1,191.1	2003		
	1.5 Sub-national area (Central Region)	mm/annum	1,005.6	2003		
	1.6 Sub-national area (Southern Region)	mm/annum	1,267.7	2003		
	1.7 Sub-national (Chitedze Station)	mm/annum	923	1949-2003		Lat -14.32°S and Long 34.25°E
	1.8 Sub-national (Chileka Station)	mm/annum	897	1949-2003		Lat -15.67°S and Long 34.97°E
2. Vegetation and land use	2.1 NDVI (normalized difference vegetation index)- national				Source: Malawi Government Meteorological Department	
	January	-	0.53	1981-2003		
	February	-	0.57	1981-2003		
	March	-	0.59	1981-2003		
	April	-	0.58	1981-2003		
	May	-	0.53	1981-2003		
	June	-	0.47	1981-2003		
	July	-	0.41	1981-2003		
	August	-	0.36	1981-2003		
	September	-	0.32	1981-2003		
	October	-	0.32	1981-2003		
	November	-	0.37	1981-2003		
	December	-	0.46	1981-2003		

Variables	Indicators	Unit of measurement	Value	Period	Remarks
	2.2 Vegetation cover	% of total land area	25.7	2003	Based on 2000 estimate and an annual deforestation rate of 2.8% and comprise natural forests, grasslands, bare hills, marshes Source: Malawi Govt. Forestry Department
	2.3 Land use	% of total land area	59.5	1992	Source: Malawi Govt. Ministry of Agriculture
	2.3.1 Irrigated	% of total land area	0.5	2004	Comprise 48,150 ha under estate irrigation and 14,000 ha under small-holder irrigation
	2.3.2 Rainfed	% of total land area	48	1992	Comprise rainfed, <i>dimba</i> and wetland cultivation
	2.3.3 Pasture	% of total land area	9.4	1992	Comprise grassland area.
	2.3.4 Forest and woodland	% of total land area	1.2	1992	Comprise plantations and woodlots
	2.3.5 Other land	% of total land area	0.3	1992	Comprise built-up areas
	2.4 Surface albedo	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3. Water resources	3.1(.1) Fresh water availability (annual average)	million m ³	16,500	2003	Source: Malawi Government Water Department 3.1.1 average between wet and dry season estimates 3.2.1 average between wet and dry season estimates
	3.1(.2) Fresh water availability (wet season)	million m ³	30,000	2003	
	3.1(.3) Fresh water availability (dry season)	million m ³	3,000	2003	
	3.2(.1) Fresh water resources per capita (annual average)	m ³	1,500	2003	
	3.2(.2) Fresh water resources per capita (wet season)	m ³	3,000	2003	
	3.2(.3) Fresh water resources per capita (dry season)	m ³	300	2003	
	3.3 Annual agricultural water use	million m ³	2.76	2003	
	3.4 Annual industrial water use	million m ³	0.086	2003	
	4. Energy	4.1 Energy consumption per capita	Kg oil equivalent	504	
	4.2 Agriculture energy use per hectare	millions of BTU	N/A	N/A	

Variables	Indicators	Unit of measurement	Value	Period	Remarks
	4.3 Energy production from renewables excluding combustible renewables and waste	% of total supply	<1	2003	
	4.4 Industrial consumption of renewable energy	% of total renewable consumption	2	2003	
	4.5 Domestic consumption of renewable energy	% of total renewable consumption	83	2003	
	4.6 Agricultural consumption of renewable energy	% of total renewable consumption	12	2003	
5. Type of land degradation	5.1 Deforestation	million ha % of total area	0.41 4.3	1990-99	Source: Estimated by Malawi Government Forestry Department
		million ha % of total area	0.12 1.26	2000-03	Source: Malawi Government Forestry Department
	5.2 Soil erosion and soil fertility decline	million ha % of total area	>0.075	1990-99	Source: Malawi Government, Ministry of Agriculture
		million ha % of total area	>0.101	2000-03	Source: Malawi Government, Ministry of Agriculture
6. Rehabilitation	6.1 Land under rehabilitation	km ²	N/A	1990-99	
		km ²	N/A	2000-03	
	6.2 Rehabilitation of degraded crop land	km ²	75	1990-99	Source: Malawi Government Ministry of Agriculture
		km ²	101	2000-03	
	6.3 Rehabilitation of degraded rangeland	km ²	0	1990-99	No land is classified as rangeland in Malawi
		km ²	0	2000-03	
	6.4 Rehabilitation of degraded forest land	km ²	14.9	1990-99	Estimated by Malawi Government, Forestry Department using annual tree planting figures
		km ²	6.0	2000-03	
7. People and economy	7.1 Population: total	million	10.7	2002	Source: Malawi Government
	7.1(1) Population: urban	% of total	25.6	2001	Source: Malawi Government
	7.1(2) Population: rural	% of total	74.4	2001	Source: Malawi Government
	7.2 Population growth	annual %	2	2002	Source: Malawi Government
	7.3 Life expectancy	Years	37.5	2002	Source: Malawi Government
	7.4 Infant mortality rate	Per 1,000 live births	113	2002	Source: Malawi Government
	7.5 GDP	Current Billion US\$	1.9	2002	Source: Malawi Government
	7.6 GNI per capita	Current US\$	160	2002	Source: Malawi Government

Variables	Indicators	Unit of measurement	Value	Period	Remarks
	7.7 National poverty rate	% of population	65.3	2003	Source: Malawi Government (MPRSP). General poverty rate
		% of population	28.2	2003	Population in dire poverty
	7.8 Crop production	Million metric tons	5.32	2003	Source: Malawi Government
	7.9 Livestock production (meat)	metric tons	57,479	2003	beef 22,807, pork 13,140, chicken 11,240, goat 9,827, sheep 465, Source: Malawi Government
	7.10 Eggs	metric tons	2,629	2003	Source: Malawi Government
	7.11 Milk	metric tons	19,278	2003	Source: Malawi Government
8. Human development	8.1 Primary education completion rate	% age group	38.7	2003	Source: Malawi Government Ministry of Education
	8.2 Number of women in rural development	Economic Activity Rate, age 15 and above (%)	77.8	2001	Source: Malawi Government Human Development Report, 2003
	8.3 Unemployment	% of total	51.8	2003	Source: Malawi Government
	8.4 Youth unemployment rate (age 15-24)	% of total	?	?	
	8.5 Illiteracy: total (age 15 and above)	% of total	36.0	2002	Source: Malawi Government, 2002 NSO Analytical Report
	8.6 Illiteracy: male (age 15 and above)	% of total	25.0	2002	Source: Malawi Government, 2002 NSO Analytical Report
	8.7 Illiteracy: female (age 15 and above)	% of total	46	2002	Source: Malawi Government, 2002 NSO Analytical Report
9. Science and technology institutions engaged in desertification-related work	9.1 Central Government	Total number	>100	2003	-include education institutions Source: Malawi Government
	9.2 Parastatal	Total number	>10	2003	Source: Malawi Government
	9.3 NGOs	Total number	>50	2003	Source: Malawi Government
	9.4 Donor agencies	Total number	>17	2003	Source: Malawi Government
	9.5 Private enterprises	Total number	>18	2003	Source: Malawi Government

N/A = Not Available



**Figure 1: Isohyets Map - Average Rainfall (mm)
for Malawi (1961-1990)**

Vegetation and Land Use

Vegetation Index (NDVI) – Average 2003

