



Republic of Mozambique

Ministry for the Co-Ordination of Environmental Affairs

**Revised National Report on the Implementation of
the UNCCD- 2002**

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1 Executive summary

After the ratification of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) by the government of Mozambique in 1996, different efforts have been made to ensure the effective implementation of the convention.

At the policy level the government approved:

- The five year development plan for the period 2000 – 2004, which sets out the objectives and priorities of the government in its efforts to achieve economic and social development and to reduce poverty;
- The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, which the operational plan for the fight against poverty during the period 2000 – 2004;
- An impact assessment regulation as a pre-requisite for socio-economic activities and an instrument for anticipating the possible impacts on the environment of socio-economic activities; and
- The National Environmental Fund as a mechanism to finance activities geared at addressing environmental problems;

From 1999 to date, the National Coordinating Body (NCB) strengthened its activities with the establishment of a consultation group that comprises the private sector and research institutions. An NGO (ARO JUVENIL), which is part of the NCB was accredited as the **Focal Point** to the CCD of the NGOs involved in drought and desertification activities.

With the involvement of the NCB and NGOs awareness raising campaigns were continued through visits and workshops. The use of local languages in this process was pursued to ensure that more people were reached with information on drought and desertification.

To harness national contributions, efforts were made to mainstream the activities to combat drought and desertification into national strategies such as the PRSP.

Portugal was officially designated the **Chef de File** for the implementation of the convention. In this capacity, Portugal is coordinating the implementation of the convention among donors. Portugal has also provided technical assistance in the Preparation of the NAP and in the preparation of the national forum for the presentation of the first draft which has just been finalized.

Taking into account the high vulnerability of Mozambique to natural disasters a policy for the management of natural disasters was approved and adopted. The policy spells out the role of the different sectors of society and stakeholders and provides for the conservation and preservation of the environment.

The government of Mozambique has continued to provide funding for the functioning of the NCB. Additional assistance for the implementation of pilot projects has been provided by the **Chef de File**, the UNCCD secretariat and the governments of Italy and Venezuela.

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

Five year development plan

In the year 2000, the government of Mozambique approved its second five year programme (2000 – 2004). This programme is a continuation of the 1995-1999 programme and sets out the objectives and priorities of the government in its efforts to achieve economic and social development and to reduce poverty.

Poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP)

The PRSP is the operational plan for the fight against absolute poverty for the period 2000 – 2004, approved by the government. The components of the PRSP include the following:

- **Agricultural and rural development** with a view to increasing agricultural productivity and rural development;
- **Education** with a view to increasing the access and opportunities for education, reducing the illiteracy rate of the adult population and expanding technical and vocational training;
- **Employment** with a view to promoting employment, self-employment and professional training;
- **Environment** with a view to ensuring appropriate natural resources management to realize sustainable development;
- **Food security** with a view to improving food security at the household level;
- **Health** with a view to expanding the access and the quality of health care with particular emphasis to women, children, HIV/AIDS and nutrition;
- **Infrastructure** with a view to improving the network of infrastructure, access to potable water, access and quality of housing, access to reliable and sustainable sources of energy and access to communications;
- **Institutional capacity building for poverty issues** by way of research and training; and
- **Social security and direct social assistance** with a view to improving and increasing direct social assistance and rehabilitation of vulnerable social groups;

Because of the social and economic circumstances of the country, determined by the generalized poverty (three quarters of the population living below poverty line – usd \$0.40 per day), low levels of production, illiteracy, environmental degradation and the loss of traditional knowledge on how to mitigate the effects/impacts of drought and desertification, the PRSP underlines the principle that fight against drought and desertification can only be effectively addressed when poverty is addressed.

2.1 Impact assessment regulation

The government has approved **an impact assessment regulation** as a policy and environmental management instrument to anticipate the possible impacts of socio-economic activities on the environment. Impact assessment is now a pre-requisite for socio-economic activities to be authorized.

2.2 National Environmental Fund

To finance the various activities in the field of environment, where desertification is set out as a major priority, a national environmental fund was approved in October of 2000 and is now operational.

The fund seeks to promote and help decision makers, local communities, NGO's, Associations and individuals in addressing environmental problems or concerns through the financing of concrete activities.

Other relevant policies approved by the government include the following:

- The National Environmental Management Programme and Framework Environment Law (1995);
- Environmental Policy (1995);
- Agrarian Policy (1995);
- Land Policy and Land Law (1995)
- Water Policy (1995)
- Framework Environment Law (1997);
- Forest and Wildlife Policy and Strategy (1997);
- National Strategy for the Conservation of Biodiversity (1998)

3 Institutional measures taken to implement the convention

Soon after the ratification of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in 1996, the Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs (MICOA), led the set up of the National Co-coordinating Body (NCB), to ensure the existence of a structure for the implementation of the Convention.

The NCB is comprised of representatives of institutions whose activities are related to drought and desertification. These are:

- The Ministry for the Co-ordination of Environmental Affairs, which is the focal point for the CCD and oversees the implementation of the convention;
- The national Directorate of Agriculture of the ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development;
- The National Directorate of Forestry and Wildlife of the ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development;
- The National Directorate of Water of the ministry of Public Works and Housing; and
- The National Institute of Meteorology of the ministry of Transports and Communications.

To ensure a broader participation of the private sector and research institutions, a consultative group was created. The members of the committee are:

- The National Institute of Agronomical Research (INIA);
- The National Directorate of Geography and Land Tenure (DINAGECA);
- The National Center for Remote Sensing and Cartography (CENACARTA);

- The ministry of Planning and Finance.

Universities, the private sector and NGO's involved in drought and desertification activities have designated their contact persons to the group that works in collaboration with the NCB.

ARO – JUVENIL, an NGO representing all the NGO's involved in drought and desertification activities was accredited as RIOD the focal point for the CCD. The activities of this NGO are integrated in the NCB activities.

The NCB has continued its work and has been able to accomplish the following:

- The preparation of the sectoral contribution as part of the process for the elaboration of the NAP (food security, forest and wildlife, population, Soil conservation and water resources). A first draft of the NAP has been produced and is going to be presented for discussion in a national workshop;
- The continuation of awareness raising campaigns in the drought prone areas through visits of the NCB members and workshops;
- Conclusion of the trans-boundary project on the conservation of biodiversity through the recovery of degraded lands, involving Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe;
- Plantation of trees in different areas;
- Community projects for the production of seeds;
- Community projects for erosion control;
- Improvement of the hydro meteorological network with the assistance of different countries;
- Improvement of the network for water supply in rural areas;
- The formulation of a project on Natural Resources Management on the Limpopo River Basin, within the Africa Land and Water Initiative;
- Formulation of a project for the Promotion of Traditional Technologies to Combat Drought and Desertification in the provinces of Maputo and Manica;
- Participation of staff from line ministries in soil conservation and management courses, held in Portugal and Italy.

At the regional level the NCB has been involved in the process of integration of the CCD components in trans-boundary projects related to natural resources management.

4 The participatory process in support of the preparation and implementation of the action programme;

To ensure adherence to the NAP process, the NCB has continued with awareness raising activities targeted to various stakeholders at the national, provincial and local level.

Different communities and institutions have indicated their priorities for the NAP process. These contributions have been very useful in the preparation of the first draft of the PAN which has just been completed.

Recently efforts have been made for the use of different media to disseminate drought and desertification information in local languages. The use of local languages is seen as a mean of reaching a greater number of people, in a country where illiteracy is almost 60%.

The extent of awareness activities, although positive, has been limited by:

- Limited capacity of the NCB members;
- Limited resources.

In August 2001, Mozambique hosted the African Regional Conference in Preparation for the 5th Conference of the parties (COP 5) of the Convention to Combat Desertification in coordination with the UNCCD secretariat. The conference raised the major concerns and issues that African countries face in the process of preparation and implementation of the NAPs.

The conference was a learning opportunity for the members of the NCB, the consultative group members and of relevant institution. The results of the conference were broadly disseminated by the media.

5 The consultative process in support of the preparation and implementation of the national action programme and the partnership agreement with developed country Parties and other interested entities

Efforts are being made to mainstream the activities to combat drought and desertification in major national strategies such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, to ensure allocation of funds from the national budget.

Portugal has accepted to play the role of **Chef de file**. In this capacity, Portugal has been assisting technically the process of elaboration of the NAP.

An expert in agronomy has been made available to assist the national focal point and the NCB in preparing the first draft of the NAP and of the national forum for the presentation of the document to the stakeholders for discussion.

In the framework of South - South cooperation, the government of Venezuela has pledged support for the establishment of an environmental youth organization in Mozambique which will promote the participation of youth in activities to combat drought and desertification, thus creating employment and income generating opportunities for the youth.

The governments of Mozambique and Venezuela signed in September 2001, a letter of intention for the implementation of the youth project.

A delegation of the government of Mozambique participated in the 3rd high-level forum on cooperation between Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Caracas.

6 The measures taken or planned within the framework of national action programme, including measures to improve the economic environment, to conserve natural resources, to improve institutional organization, to improve knowledge on desertification and to monitor and assess the effects of drought

Further to the activities being carried out at the institutional level, the government of Mozambique approved a national policy for the management of natural disasters. The objectives of this policy are:

- To avoid the loss of lives and assets caused by natural disasters or by anthropogenic effects;
- To incorporate prevention of disasters in the national development process;
- To guarantee effective coordination and participation of the private and public sectors in the management of disasters; and
- To contribute to the conservation and preservation of the environment.

The policy for the management of natural disasters spells out the role of the different sectors of society and stakeholders. It empowers the national institutions, the private sector and the population at large to contribute to a safer and sustainable world.

7 Financial allocations from the national budget in support of the implementation as well as financial assistance and technical assistance received and needed, identifying and prioritizing requirements

A bulk of the activities carried out by the NCB are directly funded by the government of Mozambique. The government pays for the salaries of the members of the NCB in their respective institutions, provides transportation, communication and computer facilities. With the establishment of the environment fund, some activities of the CCD will be financed through this mechanism.

Portugal in its capacity as **chef de file**, has provided technical assistance in the form of an expert to help the preparation of the NAP. Portugal is also acting as a coordinator among the donors for the implementation of the convention.

An **Aide – Memoire** defining the framework for the development of solid and coordinated cooperation between MICOA, UNDP, the Government of Portugal in its capacity as chef de file and the UNCCD secretariat for the successful establishment of a National Environmental Youth Organization in Mozambique to implement the UNCCD convention was signed.

Technical and financial assistance for the establishment of the National Environmental Youth Organization was also provided by the governments of Venezuela and Italy.

The Executive Secretary of the UNCCD visited Mozambique. The objective of the mission was to raise the awareness of the decision makers at the highest level in the country for the problems of drought and desertification and the need of effectively

implementing the convention. The secretariat also dispatched missions to Mozambique to work with the national focal point and NCB members.

Support was also provided by UNDP-UNSO in the form of missions to identify priority areas for the implementation of the new integrated programme for drylands development.

Assistance is still needed to build the capacity of the members of the NCB and relevant sectors in the various components related to the implementation of the convention, namely:

- Benchmarks and indicators;
- NAP implementation;
- Natural resources management;
- Resources mobilization and management;
- Sinergies among the convention.

8 Review of the benchmarks and indicators utilized to measure progress and assessment thereof

The process of drawing benchmarks and indicators being carried out in the NAP formulation is still far from being completed. Progress in this area has been limited by the lack of expertise in the subject and the heterogeneity of circumstances where these indicators have to be applied.

For monitoring and evaluation purposes, considerable progress is being made by the institutions responsible for data collection. Recent efforts have been made towards the establishment of databases in digital format that can be accessed through the Internet and in a paper format for those who do not have access to the Internet.

9 List of abbreviations

CCD	Convention to Combat Desertification
CENACARTA	The National Center for Remote Sensing and Cartography
DINAGECA	The National Directorate of Geography and Land Tenure
INIA	National Institute of Agronomical Research
MICOA	Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs
MPF	Ministry of Planning and Finance
NAP	National Action Plan
NCB	National Coordination Body
NGO's	Non Governmental Organizations
PRSR	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RIOD	International Network for NGOs
UNCCD	United National Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme