

UNITED NATIONS
Convention to Combat Desertification

NATIONAL REPORTING PROCESS OF AFFECTED COUNTRY PARTIES

3rd National Report to UNCCD

Republic Of Macedonia

Skopje
June 2006

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Summary

A. FOCAL POINT INSTITUTION:

Name of focal point	Ms. Gordana KOZUHAROVA
Address including e-mail address	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning Drezdenska 57, 1 000 Skopje, Republic of Macedonia Tel: +389 2 3066930 ext. 132 g.kozuharova@moepp.gov.mk
Country-specific websites relating to desertification	1. www.moe.gov.mk 2. www.ncsa.com.mk

B. STATUS OF NAP

Date of validation	Not yet validated
NAP review(s)	NA
NAP has been integrated into the poverty reduction strategy	No PRSP has never been officially adopted
NAP has been integrated into the national development strategy	No National Strategy for Sustainable Development is currently being elaborated - expected to be completed by mid-2007
NAP implementation has started with or without the conclusions of partnership agreements	No
Expected NAP validation	June 2006
Final draft of a NAP exists	Yes
Formulation of a draft NAP is under way	Completed May 2006
Basic guidelines for a NAP have been established	Yes Law on Environment (2004)
Process has only been initiated	NA
Process has not yet started	NA

C. SUBREGIONAL AND/OR REGIONAL COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

Name of subregional and/or regional cooperation framework		Involvement specifically in topics
1.	Sub-regional Working Group under UNCCD for establishment of Drought Management Center for South-Eastern Europe	Drought , Hydro-meteorological databases Early Warning Systems
2.		

D. COMPOSITION OF THE NCB

Name of institution	Government	NGO	Male/female
1. Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts -MANU	√		M
2. Government of Macedonia, Sector for European Integration	√		F
3. Government of Macedonia, General Secretariat	√		
4. Ministry of Foreign Affairs	√		F
5. Ministry of Economy	√		M
6. Ministry of Transport and Communications	√		
7. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy	√		M
8. Hydro-meteorological Service	(√)		F
9. Ministry of Education	√		
10. Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food			M
11. Faculty of Forestry			M
12. Faculty of Natural Sciences			M
13. Faculty of Civil Engineering			F
14. Chamber of Commerce		√	F
15. Movement of Environmentalists of Macedonia - DEM		√	M

E. NGOS ACCREDITED TO THE PROCESS

Has an NGO National Coordinating Committee on desertification been established; if yes, how many NGOs or civil society organizations participate in it?	No
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F. ACTS AND LAWS RELATING TO THE UNCCD

Name up to five most relevant acts and laws and/or regulations.

Title of the law	Date of adoption
1. Law on Environment	Official Gazette of RM No: 53/2005
2. <i>Law on Nature Protection</i>	Official Gazette of RM No. 67/2004
3. Law on Waters	Off. Gazette of RM, No.4/1998
4. Law on Agricultural Land	Off. Gazette of RM, No.25/1998

G. THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

Number of partnership agreements that have been concluded and/or are being initiated within the framework of the UNCCD (please provide information where appropriate):

Official title of partnership	Donor(s), international organization(s), and/or agencies of the UN system involved	Date of (expected) conclusion
1. NA		

2.			
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List of consultative meetings on UNCCD implementation (please provide information where appropriate):

Name of consultative meeting	Date/year	Donor countries involved	International organizations or agencies of the UN system involved
1. NA			
2.			

Name of country which has taken over the role of Chef de file (please provide information where appropriate): _____

H. RELEVANT PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

8. Name up to 10 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	Time-frame	Key Partners Involved	Overall budget
1. Sustainable Land Management in Macedonia	Yes	GEF (OP 15) UNDP	2006-2009	MEPP, MAFWE, NGOs etc.	US\$ 0.96 M
2. Second National Environmental Action Plan -NEAP 2	No	EU CARDS	2004-2006	MEPP	€ 2.9 M
3. National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD)	No	SIDA			€ 1.5 M
4. Strengthening of the Environmental Management	No	EU CARDS 2004 & 2006			€ 1.8 M + € 1.2 M
5. Structural and Legal Reform of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy	No	EU CARDS	2005-2007	MAFWE	€ 2.9 M
6. EU approximation and Regional Cooperation in the Agro and Food sector	No	GTZ	2004-2008	MAFWE	€ - M
7. Macedonian Agriculture Advisory	No	SIDA	2004-2007	MAFWE, Agric.	€ 4.0 M + € 4.1 M

Name of project	Project implemented within the framework of the NAP/SRAP/RAP? (Yes/No)	Project implemented within the framework of	Time-frame	Key Partners Involved	Overall budget
Support Programme (MAASP) + Phase II				Advisory Services	
8. Project for Improved Agriculture Statistics in Macedonia	No	SIDA	2002-2007	SSO	€ 2.0 M
9. Institutional Development and Capacity Building in Forestry and Forest Industry Subsectors	No	FAO	2004-2006	MAFWE	US\$ 0.4 M
10. Real Estate Cadastre and Registration	No	WB / IBRD	2005-2009	SAGW	€ 10.3 M

National report on the Implementation of the UN CCD

A. STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANS

A.1 National plans and strategies available in other social and economic areas

1. The country's ongoing integration into the European Union has emerged as the overarching issue for the development of Macedonia and has posed dire challenges to central and local governance administrative structures, civil society and the business alike. Macedonia's official application for EU membership was submitted in March 2004 and a National Strategy for EU Integration¹ was approved by the Government in July 2004. The status of EU Candidate Country was granted to Macedonia in December 2005.
2. The country is also committed to the Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002, where it is stipulated that every country should develop and start the implementation of a national strategy for sustainable development by 2005. Macedonia has committed itself to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.
3. The National Capacity Self-Assessment for Global Environment Management (NCSA) assessed the key capacity needs and cross-cutting capacity bottlenecks in relation to the three environmental conventions on biodiversity, climate change and desertification / land degradation. The Draft Thematic Assessment Report on Combating Desertification and Land Degradation provided an overview of the existing situation in the country with regards to progress of UNCCD implementation. It identified priority issues and assessed the national capacities for addressing the issues on systemic, institutional, and individual levels. It also suggested possible actions for overcoming the key capacity constraints. The Action Plan for Capacity Development, as part of the Final NCSA Report specifically calls for finalization of the NAP for combating land degradation and desertification and mitigation of the effects of drought, and for mainstreaming sustainable land management approaches and practices on national, sectoral and local levels.
4. Macedonia adopted the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) in 1997, the first comprehensive, cross-sectoral efforts to address the environment. The NEAP addresses several key issues, including agriculture management, forestland management and conservation of forests and biodiversity. Following NEAP approval, most environmental improvement initiatives have focused on urban and industrial environment, including the majority of those supported by the international community. There is a low awareness and understanding amongst politicians and decision-makers of land degradation issues and their severity. Also there is no single institution that can take the responsibility for the issue of land degradation as many sectors are involved. Also the existing legislation and its enforcement do not cover all aspects of land degradation.
5. Second National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP 2) is currently in final stages of preparation. In this strategic document the issues of combating land degradation and desertification in the country are being properly addressed, due to the inputs from the NCSA Thematic Reports and integration of some recommendations and key actions identified in the draft NAP.

¹ NATIONAL strategy for European integration of the Republic of Macedonia. - Skopje :Government of the Republic of Macedonia, General secretariat, Sector for European Integration, 2005. - 228 стр. ; ISBN 9989-2238-4-X

6. The preparation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) has begun in January 2006 and its finalization is expected in mid 2007.

7. Poverty has become increasingly widespread and entrenched over the past decade. In response, with the support of the World Bank, the Government completed a National Strategy for Poverty Reduction (NSPR) in 2002. The Strategy, to be considered an organic evolving strategy, has several components: establishing coordination and management mechanisms for addressing poverty; empowering local governments to address poverty reduction; increasing the understanding of poverty and national capacity to address poverty; creating jobs; and, improving health services, education facilities and social protection for the poor. The Strategy also includes specific measures aiming at urban and rural areas. However, this document has never been formally adopted by the Government.

8. Presently the Republic of Macedonia does not have coherent and comprehensive policy regarding land degradation and desertification issues, as defined by the UNCCD. Sectoral and medium specific policies connected with the issues of land degradation do exist and are formulated in various policy documents and strategies. The reason for this is that land degradation issues are not on top of the government/ministries agendas, due to number of more urgent and complicated socio-economic problems and issues.

9. The national policy in agriculture is formulated in several strategies elaborated in the last few years. None, however, was unanimously accepted by all major stakeholders in the sector for various reasons. The complicated political and economic situation, combined with unfortunate personnel solutions on decision making level has decreased the capacity of the MAFWE for formulating a comprehensive and coherent policy. The process of harmonization and approximation to EU shall, in foreseeable future, eventually lead to adoption of the EU Common Agriculture Policy (CAP). In the meantime, the agricultural sector has to face numerous problems like institutional transformation, privatization and unstable market conditions, to list a few. The MAFWE is not really involved in the problem of land degradation and desertification, even though the majority of issues related to the UNCCD are topics within their responsibility. Increasing the awareness of the MAFWE should be one of the main issues in the future. The awareness exists within the ministry mainly in the water sector and institutions linked with this sector. However, they are much more interested in drought as a problem of water resources and not as a problem of the land.

10. The Agricultural Development Strategy until 2005 (Skopje, July 2001) is a comprehensive document that addresses all sectors of agricultural production. The general objectives – besides integration into the European Union – include better use of the natural advantages of the country, with the completion and development of irrigation schemes; improving the quality, processing and packaging especially of agricultural products, especially those with greater market potential; and better management and use of natural grassland. The environmental chapter of the Agricultural Development Strategy deals exclusively with the implementation of organic farming and presents no other concrete environmental objectives. The Agricultural Development Strategy also addresses rural development, but is directed primarily at general measures, such as crediting, the development of cooperatives, basic infrastructures and rural centers, the training of the young in agriculture, support for farmers-workers, and the creation of small enterprises. The Strategy was developed through cooperation between the Macedonian Academy of Science and Arts and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE). The Strategy, in its Introduction, states that one of its main objectives is to achieve rational use of human and natural resources for the purpose of reducing environmental pollution caused by the agricultural sector. However, it does not envisage/define mechanisms, measures and activities through which the set objective will be attained.

11. Waste Management Strategy, adopted by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia for a period of 12 years, is determining the basic directions in the management of all types of wastes, improvement of the overall waste management status, defining the long-term needs of the Republic of Macedonia in the area of waste management, as well as required legislative measures for its implementation. The adoption of the Strategy has been envisaged under the National Strategy for

EU Integration of the Republic of Macedonia. The Law on Waste Management² stipulates the obligation for the development of National Waste Management Strategy, as well as waste management plans. The Strategy shall cover a period of 12 years, whereas National plans will be developed for a period of six years. The local self-government units are obliged to develop waste management plans for their respective territories, to cover a period between three and six years. For the purpose of the plans, annual waste management programmes shall be developed, including national programmes and programmes at the level of the local self-government units. Legal entities and natural persons generating waste above the quantity specified in the National waste management plan shall be obliged to develop waste management programmes and to report on the implementation of such programmes.

12. According to the Law on Waters³, the basic document in the water management area is the Water Management Master Plan of the Republic of Macedonia. It is the Plan for water regime maintenance and improvement, for rational use of waters in the territory of the Republic of Macedonia and provides a basis for water management development. It contains objectives intended to be achieved in the area of water resource management and specifies measures for the achievement of such objectives. The new Draft Law on Waters (in Parliamentary procedure) specifies that the basic documents for water planning and development shall include: - National Strategy for Waters; - Water Management Master Plan of the Republic of Macedonia; - River Basin Management Plans. The National Strategy for Water is adopted for a period of 30 years. It will provide for sustainable development of waters, through meeting the demands of all users, protection of water against pollution, protection and improvement of water ecosystems and protection against harmful impacts of waters. The Strategy is adopted by the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia. Other strategic documents, such as documents determining the policy and the objectives in the area of spatial use and planning, the objectives of economic development, as well as of utilization of natural resources and environment protection, shall take into account the objectives set in the Strategy for Water, as a matter of obligation. According to the Draft Law, the Strategy shall be adopted within four years after the entry into force of the Law.

13. The Water Management Master Plan of the Republic of Macedonia is supposed to be elaborated and adopted for the purpose of integrated planning and implementation of water development programmes and measures, in accordance with the objectives of the national social and economic development. It covers a period of 30 years, and shall be revised every 10 years. The Water Management Master Plan of the Republic of Macedonia is adopted by the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, and it shall be adopted within four years after the entry into force of the Law.

14. It has been planned that a Strategy for Rural Development, as well as a Government Program for Agricultural and Structural Policy and Development of Rural Areas be prepared in 2005 and 2006, respectively. These documents, when completed and adopted, will constitute basis for implementation of national policies approximated to the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU, with a special emphasis on building a national system for administration of the structural funds of the EU.

15. In October 2004, the Ministry of Economy promoted the Strategy for Energy Efficiency in the Republic of Macedonia by 2020, which defines the possibilities for efficient energy use, as well as the guidelines for the energy efficiency policy. The goal of the Strategy, which incorporates the Implementation Plan with specific measures and activities, is to develop a framework for the adoption of energy efficient practices. Generally, this means the promotion of the use of renewable energy sources, through the implementation of training programmes and initiatives and private sector support, in order to reduce the impacts of the energy sector on the environment.

16. The administrative capacity of the Republic of Macedonia to create medium and long-term strategic development plans is very low. In the past fourteen years of transition, only one National Development Strategy has been prepared under the guidance of the Macedonian Academy of Arts

² ("Official Gazette of RM" No. 68/04, 71/04)

³ ("Official Gazette of RM" No. 4/98, 19/00)

and Sciences. It is now a rather outdated document, while it is doubtful that the Government's development policy has ever relied on that document. On the other hand, a number of sectoral or thematic strategic papers have been prepared in the country to serve as medium and long-term strategic documents for specific sectors and/or issues (export strategy, tourism strategy, poverty reduction strategy paper, etc.). Unfortunately, there is typically very little or no consistency between these documents. The most recent experience with the preparation of the National Strategy for European Integration of Macedonia confirmed again the insufficient capacity in the country to create medium-term strategic development plans.⁴

17. In the last few years the MEPP has produced several strategic documents, like for example: Vision 2008 - The Roadmap of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning ; Environmental Monitoring Strategy ; Environmental Communication Strategy; Environmental Awareness Strategy; and Environmental Data Management Strategy within the CMEPP project.

A.2 National plans or strategies in the field of combating desertification developed prior to the UNCCD NAP

18. Pursuant to the Decision on Strategic Priorities of the Government, the National Strategy for European Integration and the European Partnership Action Plan, the approximation of the Macedonian agricultural sector to the EU has been set as a priority of the future activities and reforms. Consequently, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy prepared the Strategy for Approximation of the Macedonian Agricultural Food Sector with the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the EU. This document represents a foundation of the future agricultural reforms that are yet to be implemented in the forthcoming period. The reforms in the agricultural sector will be implemented through three main pillars, i.e. through policy reforms, institutional reforms and legislation reforms.

19. The following strategic documents define the policy of development of the agricultural sector and the rural development:

- National Strategy for Integration of the Republic of Macedonia in the European Union, National Programme for Approximation of the Legislation (NPAL), Economic and Social Part, section 3.6.14 Agriculture, stating the priorities of the agricultural policy.
- Strategy for Adjustment of the Macedonian Agricultural and Food Production Sector to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of EU and the Operational Plan for Implementation.

20. The status, competences and responsibilities of the functioning of the public enterprises and agencies for management of forests, waters, pastures, markets, advisory services, agricultural information system, and other service-oriented and control and inspection bodies, and institutions related to the agricultural and food sector will be defined, and the new ones that will be formed, will be in accordance to the results that will come out of the projects and analysis necessary for implementation of reforms planned in the Operational Plan of the Strategy for approximation of the Macedonian agriculture and food sector to the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU.

21. Currently, there is no National Strategy/Plan for rural development, representing more complex approach to the process of rural development in the Republic of Macedonia.

22. The Strategy for Biological Diversity Protection and Action Plan was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia in 2004. It was developed with the financial support provided by the GEF through the World Bank. The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MEPP) coordinated the process of its development. The Strategy and Action Plan contain the most relevant mechanisms with regard to the protection, conservation and sustainable use of wild plant,

⁴ Mojmir Mrak, Vančo Uzunov. EU DEVELOPMENT FUNDS AND THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, May 2005

fungi, animal species and ecosystems in the period until 2008. Under the Strategy, the analysis has been made and measures, actions and mechanisms for cooperation among sectors have been defined for the purpose of biological diversity protection. The Action Plan contains tasks with estimated costs, time frames and expected outcomes.

23. National Strategy for Sustainable Forestry is being elaborated at the moment by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy with FAO support. It is expected to be completed in late 2006.

24. With the new De-nationalization Act all nationalized land that can be returned to its owners is subject to restitution. The Law On Agricultural Land⁵ from 1998 contains provisions for management of state owned-land, as follows:

- Utilization with concession to domestic and foreign entities for a period depending on particular production
- Leasing to a domestic and foreign entities for a short term of 5 years and for a long-term from 5-40 years upon public bidding procedure,
- Land granted for utilization at no cost for certain categories of socially uncensored population (farmers without land, unemployed persons etc.)
- Contract for annual rent of free agricultural land which does not have an owner.

Under this Law, Macedonian government enacts an annual program for permanent enlarging of new arable agricultural land surfaces. The land management on a governmental level, however, is facing the lack of existing basic data indispensable for creating a sustainable policy regarding land management.

A.2.1 Harmonization of national policies and strategies with the aspects of NAP

25. The new framework Law on Environment⁶ that has been recently adopted seriously tackles the issues of land degradation and desertification through provisions in Article 191 and 192 for preparation of National Action Plan and National Action Programme and their updating every three and six years, respectively. This can be considered as a big step forward which gives a good legal basis for planning and enforcing complete measures for combat and mitigation of land degradation and desertification in practice.

B. INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION

26. For the time being, there are no coherent and comprehensive institutional measures taken to implement the Convention, including legislative and institutional frameworks or arrangements, linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions.

27. A Directorate for Protection and Rescue has been established in 2004 under auspices of the Government of Macedonia. Within the Directorate also a National Crisis Management Agency (NCMA) has been established. Among others, their tasks cover management of natural disasters including drought and floods. Having in mind their primarily national civil defense role, except for early warning and activities *a posteriori* to mitigate the effects of droughts and floods, no preventive activities are undertaken. Also, no activities to influence or change the management and/or production practices that cause land degradation are responsibility of the NCMA.

⁵ "Official Gazette of RM" No: 25/98

⁶ "Official Gazette of RM" No: 53/05

C. NAPS AS PART OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION PLANS

28. The NAP for Combating Desertification and Land Degradation is in its final stages of preparation: a Draft disseminated for review to relevant stakeholders.

29. NEAP 2 - Second National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP 2), currently in final stages of preparation is a key strategic but also practical document which sets the environmental priorities in a wider socio-economic context. Its implementation, when adopted would integrate some of the recommendations and key actions identified in the draft NAP. However the NEAP 2 has not yet been adopted.

C.1 Making the NAP coherent with other environmental strategic and planning frameworks

30. One of the principles of the NAP is *Holistic approach to capacity building for combating land degradation*. All dimensions of capacity need attention – the individual, the institution and the systemic. A proper balance, therefore, needs to be established between all three, closely interlinked, levels.

31. A comprehensive analysis of the previous strategic and planning documents both on national and sectoral level preceded the elaboration of the NAP. The process of elaboration, in spite of the time and financial limitations, has been an open consultative process in which the relevant institutions, individuals and programmes/projects were consulted. The NAP summarizes the strategic priorities regarding land degradation issues identified in other national strategic documents.

32. Efforts were made during elaboration of the NAP to synchronize the Action Plan with the ongoing national projects, like: Second National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP 2), National Strategy for Sustainable Forestry, National Solid Waste Management Strategy, Second National Communication to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, etc. Findings and conclusions of the NAP, as well as the proposed AP were made available to all these projects in order to harmonize the proposed activities and achieve synergetic effects, by mainstreaming it into the prioritized national programmes and plans.

D. LINKAGE ACHIEVED WITH SUBREGIONAL AND REGIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

33. In absence of regional and subregional Action Programmes, the regional linkage has been in respect to harmonization of the approaches used in already completed NAP in the countries in the region. The country- and issues-specific approach in elaboration of the NAP of the Republic of Macedonia has been developed using the positive experiences and approaches in NAPs of Romania, Armenia, Moldova and Georgia.

D.1 Development, at the national level, of programmes of a subregional or regional character

34. In the draft NAP a special part of the Action Plan is devoted to improvement of international, regional and sub regional cooperation. Emphasis is put on networking, especially of scientific communities within the region, but also of other relevant institutions.

35. Multilateral and bilateral development cooperation agencies in the country do play an active role in developing programmes and projects in the country. An effort should be made to further the sub-regional approach and integrate national programmes into subregional ones in order to achieve synergies, share experience and knowledge.

D.2 Strengthening of relevant scientific networks at the national, subregional and regional levels

36. NAP foresees activities for strengthening of relevant scientific networks, like 1) Promotion and support of international and regional research projects for drought mitigation and combating of desertification; and 2) Setting up the national priorities of LDD related matters in international Programmes and Funds (CARDS, INTERREG, FP6, FP7, NATO, COST etc.). However, real implementation of these activities has not been enacted yet.

D.3 Government's agreement

37. The new Law on Environment⁷ that has been recently adopted seriously tackles the issues of land degradation and desertification through provisions in Article 191 and 192 for preparation of National Action Plan and National Action Programme and their updating every three and six years, respectively. This can be considered as a big step forward which gives a good legal basis for planning and enforcing complete measures for combat and mitigation of land degradation and desertification in practice.

38. The Republic of Macedonia ratified the UN CCD in March 2002 and it came into force in June 2002. The Government of the Republic of Macedonia has designated responsibility for the implementation of the Convention to the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MEPP) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE) in close cooperation with related institutions.

39. The GEF Political Focal Point is the Minister of Environment, *ex officio*. The UNCCD Operational Focal Point is within the MEPP. Establishment of a National Committee on Combating Land Degradation and Desertification and Mitigation of the Effects of Droughts in the Republic of Macedonia has been enacted and is expected to be completed soon.

40. The NAP is the first, preliminary National Action Plan of the Republic of Macedonia to the UNCCD. It has been elaborated by the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning. The process has been supported by UNDP Project "Support to the MEPP" and based on the "Land Degradation / Desertification Thematic Report" within the NCSA Process.

41. Number of national experts and institutions were involved in the preparation of the report. The guidance and the support of the MEPP, especially by the GEF OFP has been valuable for establishment of the structure of the report and for data collection. The WMP Team in MAFWE has also provided some valuable data.

42. Due to limited time and funds, the methodology for preparation of the NAP has been mainly based on desk studies, analysis of previous reports and studies, the available data, expert analysis and compilation.

43. Having in mind that some of the most significant issues regarding land degradation depend heavily on the political and socio- economic conditions in the country which are far beyond of the possible scope of the NAP, the measures and actions foreseen are mostly short and medium-term. According to the Law on Environment, the measures and actions are planned for a six-year period.

44. No funds from the National Budget are currently allocated specifically for implementation of the NAP. However, some measures and activities foreseen in the NAP are harmonized with proposed activities in other strategic documents (NEAP 2, Program for Approximation to EU legislation etc.), and are thereby mainstreamed into actual priority processes in the country.

45. The process of elaboration of the NAP started in mid-2005 and has been hampered by lack of funds and the existence and/or accessibility of relevant data and information. The collection of data has been completed by end of 2005 and the very first draft of the NAP produced in early 2006. The

⁷ "Official Gazette of RM" No: 53/05

process of wide consultations was enacted and reactions and inputs are still received from relevant institutions. It is planned to compile the NAP in May 2006. Final presentation to the public is planned for June 17th 2006, for the occasion of World Day for Combating Desertification.

46. Parliamentary elections in the Republic of Macedonia are set for July 5th, 2006. The Government and the Parliament are not going to undertake any projects other than already planned priority obligations. Formal adoption of the NAP is expected in second half of 2006 by the newly elected government.

E. NATIONAL COORDINATION BODY (NCB)

E.1 Legal status

47. The legal status of the NCB in the Republic of Macedonia is provided by means of ratification of the UNCCD, and thereby its binding provisions. Subsequently, the responsible national institutions and other relevant stakeholders nominate their respective representatives which are appointed to the National Coordination Committee with decision of the Minister of Environment and Physical Planning.

48. The NCB members are selected from higher decision-making management/professional levels of relevant institutions and organizations, thus bringing in the capacity and the authority of the institutions they represent. In this manner, the advisory and coordination capabilities of the NCB in promoting the implementation of the UNCCD are provided.

49. The members of the NCB, through representation of their respective institutions and in their personal and professional capacity are capable of influencing policy and legislation issues. Relevant national ministries regarding issues of land degradation, desertification and drought, as well as natural resources management, are represented in the NCB. This facilitates information sharing and cooperation on development programmes and projects with an aim to achieve synergistic effects. A NCB Secretariat has not been established yet.

50. The independent and impartial decision-making capacity of the NCB is not hampered by any visible obstacle, other than the financial constraints.

E.2 Resources

51. The NCB has not been able to reach financial autonomy yet, because of dependence on inputs from the central government/responsible ministries. Financial mechanisms for decentralized functioning of the NCB have not been developed yet. Considering the state of the economy and the set priorities, the immediate future possibilities for funding of the NCB are sought in technical and bi- and multi-lateral development cooperation programmes.

52. The composition and the representation level in the NCB does provide considerable opportunity to catalyze preparation, evaluation and implementation of the future updated NAPs. The present first Draft NAP has been produced simultaneously with the establishment of the NCB, abiding thus with no support but from the MEPP, the NFP and the relevant cooperation development programmes and projects (UNDP).

53. The NCB at the moment needs moderate financial support for enacting and preparation of development programmes and projects in the field of combating land degradation, desertification and mitigation the effects of droughts. The funds are needed for hiring (national) experts for specific related issues and projects development, as well as for data collection and analysis.

54. In many reports the cross-cutting issues and the inter-linkage of environmental with social and economic issues has not been analyzed to full extent. Regarding the human resources, deficiency

of expertise in this area, in the country in general, has to be overcome by capacity development programmes at all levels.

E.3 Cross-cutting and multi-disciplinary characters of the Convention

55. The NCB members do have a variety of different professional backgrounds, as well working experience and are representing relevant institutions and organizations, thus reflecting the cross-cutting and multi-disciplinary character of the UNCCD. Especially the technical knowledge and experience is considerable. Awareness of the importance of sociological and economic issues in the issues under consideration of the UNCCD is strong among the NCB members.

56. In many existing, and even quite recent reports and analyses regarding desertification and land degradation, the cross-cutting issues and the inter-linkage of environmental with social and economic issues has not been analyzed to full extent. Regarding the human resources, deficiency of expertise in this area, in the country in general, has to be overcome by capacity development programmes at all levels.

57. The NCSA process identified the need of closer cooperation or integration of the other NCBs of related Rio Conventions in the country (CBD and FCCC) in order to take into consideration the cross-sectoral nature of the convention. Positive is that the three NFPs and the GEF OFP and GEF FP (Minister of Environment and Physical Planning, *ex officio*) are in the same ministry, which facilitates the information sharing and cooperation among the respective NCBs.

58. Further efforts have to be made and capacity developed in order to enhance the (synergistic) programming and implementation of UNCCD projects within the Ministries. The NCB is aware of the issue and under guidance of the NFP is making the necessary steps for improvement.

59. The private sector involvement is foreseen in the implementation the NAP. However at the moment no such activities take place as a result of measures proposed in the NAP, but as a result of normal market conditions.

E.4 Composition and mode of operation

60. The composition of the NCB does equitably represent the major stakeholder groups, the ethnic and gender balance, as presented in table X below:

Table 1. Composition of the National Coordination Committee for Combating Desertification of the Republic of Macedonia

Name of institution	Government (v)	NGO (v)	Male/female
1. Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts -MANU	√		M
2. Government of Macedonia, Sector for European Integration	√		F
3. Government of Macedonia, General Secretariat	√		
4. Ministry of Foreign Affairs	√		F
5. Ministry of Economy	√		M
6. Ministry of Transport and Communications	√		
7. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy	√		M
8. Hydro-meteorological Service	(√)		F

9.	Ministry of Education	√		
10.	Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food			M
11.	Faculty of Forestry			M
12.	Faculty of Natural Sciences			M
13.	Faculty of Civil Engineering			F
14.	Chamber of Commerce		√	F
15.	Movement of Environmentalists of Macedonia - DEM		√	M

61. The NCB has opportunities for inclusion of various stakeholders in its work directly and through questionnaires, interviews, workshops, information dissemination and sharing and other forms.

62. Active participation of NCB members into its work may be hampered by heavy overload of daily work at their regular positions, due to the intensive and extensive on-going processes in the country: transformation of the public administration and harmonization of the legislation in view of approximation to EU, the transformation to market economy burdened with numerous problems and the decentralization.

63. The operational work of NCB and the procedures are stipulated in the *Rulebook Of Operation Of The National Committee For Implementation Of The UN CCD of the Republic Of Macedonia* - Prepared by the NFP and the Ongoing SLM Project.

64. The short period since the NCB has been established until now does not allow for substantial analysis of the procedures, modalities, efficiency, ways of communication with represented stakeholder groups.

65. The process of nomination of NCB members, organized by the UNCCD OFP and the MEPP has been transparent, as was the appointment.

E.5 Status of information data

66. The available data on issues relevant to CCD are scattered among numerous governmental and scientific institutions. Coherent and comprehensive databases do not exist. Except for the Hydro-meteorological data, systematic monitoring of important parameters (soil, land-use & land-use change, pollution, etc.) is not established. Data exist also produced by various separate scientific projects in both scientific institutions and the governmental institutions. However, its availability is not always straightforward.

67. Information availability and sharing among relevant institutions and organizations also present a problem (NCSA), as well as the institutional cooperation. One of the key areas of the draft NAP is devoted to establishment of a coherent databases on parameters related to LD and drought.

68. The NCB has acknowledged the current data and information status and availability in the country and has committed to strongly make an effort to improve the status by implementation of provisions of the draft NAP.

69. For the time being, the NCB does not maintain any databases, but the ones summarized in the draft NAP.

70. The level of communication between the NCB and NFP are quite satisfactory.

F. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR COHERENT AND FUNCTIONAL DESERTIFICATION CONTROL

71. Coherent and functional Land Degradation and Desertification control system does not exist in the country at the moment. Responsibilities are distributed among several institutions, with existence of gray zones not covered by either responsible authority or legislation.

72. The Law on Organization and Operation of the State Administration Bodies⁸ defines the competence of the Ministries regarding issues of land degradation and desertification. The most relevant are the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE) and the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MEPP). Other ministries also have responsibilities.

73. The MAFWE creates and implements the general agricultural policy in the country. The responsibilities of MAFWE are related to agriculture, forestry and water economy, utilization of agricultural land, forests and other natural resources, hunting and fishery, protection of livestock, monitoring and exploring the water conditions, maintaining and improving the waters' regime and other items defined with the Law. MAFWE has branches on local level in larger municipalities - regionally organized in regional centers.

74. Land-based natural resources in Macedonia are mostly managed by Public Enterprises (PEs) – state owned public entities with authority delegated by the State to manage the resources. The relevant PEs are the following:

- JP Macedonian Forests – responsible for forest management;
- JP Macedonian Pastures – responsible for pastures management;
- JP Macedonian Water Management – responsible for water management.

75. The organizational setups of the Public Enterprises in Macedonia usually encompass a central office on national level and branches on local level varying in size and responsibility.

76. The status, competences and responsibilities of the functioning of the public enterprises and agencies for management of forests, waters, pastures, as well as agricultural markets, advisory services, agricultural information system, and other service-oriented and control and inspection bodies, and institutions related to land management are currently in a process of restructuring and transformation. The final result will depend on numerous strategic documents and plans in the process of decentralization in the country as well as the approximation to EU (for example the reforms planned in the Operational Plan of the Strategy for approximation of the Macedonian agriculture and food sector to the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU).

77. The MEPP holds the legal⁹ obligation to create and implement environmental policy in the Republic of Macedonia, to lead the activities in the area of the environment and to provide for rational use of space and natural resources. The MEPP performs activities concerning: monitoring of the state of the environment; water, soil, flora, fauna, air and ozone layer protection against pollution; protection against noise and radiation; protection of biological diversity, geological diversity, national parks and protected areas; restoration of polluted segments of the environment; proposed measures for solid waste treatment; spatial planning; spatial information system; supervision within the scope of its competences; and performs other activities stipulated by law.

78. Other Ministries hold direct or indirect competences in the domain of land and environmental management. Apart from the MAFWE, regarding agriculture, forestry, pastures and water management, and MEPP, which has the leading role in the area of the environment, the public administration bodies with direct competences include: the Ministry of Defense performing activities related to civil protection; the Ministry of Interior performing activities related to: the implementation of the system of public security and the provision of aid in cases of natural disasters; the Ministry of

⁸ "Official Gazette of RM" Nos. 58/00 and 44/02

⁹ According to the Law on Organization and Operation of the State Administration Bodies ("Official Gazette of RM" Nos. 58/00 and 44/02)

Economy performing activities related to: geological surveys and exploitation of mineral resources and energy; the Ministry of Health performing activities concerning health protection of the population through air, water, soil and foodstuff pollution monitoring; the Ministry of Transport and Communications performing activities related to: communal services, including waste management, wastewater treatment, inland waterways, housing and public works.

79. State Authority for Geodetic Works is responsible for operations with regard to survey, cadastre and registering real estate entitlement, pursuant to the Law¹⁰. This institution implements its activities through its local/municipal departments/units in 30 municipalities. The State Authority for Geodetic Works maintains the public books, i.e. the Land Cadastre and the Cadastre of Real Estate. Even though efforts are made, the existing data are not updated, and due to low overall capacity, relevant data are not always readily available. This sometimes hampers sustainable and integrated management of natural resources.

80. The above-described setup indicates the existing fragmentation of competencies among bodies in the area of land and environment management. This may be partly overcome by the adoption of new environmental laws¹¹, providing for higher integration of environmental management and by the newly proposed setup. The MEPP is planning to obtain full competence also in the domain of water management, while the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy remains the responsible body in the domains of irrigation, forestry, hunting and fishing. Waste management, nature protection and air quality management have been transferred under the full competence of the MEPP. Environmental monitoring is also planned to be integrated as full competence of the MEPP.

81. Decentralization is one of the key ongoing processes in the country. It encompasses transfer of responsibilities and resources from the central to the local government.

F.1.1 Local Level

82. Decentralization, or the transfer of some of the responsibilities of the central government to the municipalities, is one of the key processes ongoing in the country. Besides fiscal and governance changes, the process envisages changes in the environment and natural resources management by delegation of greater responsibilities to the municipalities. There are 84 municipalities in the country, varying in size and overall capacity to implement the planned reform and fully undertake the delegated responsibilities. Regarding land degradation and desertification the capacity of the municipalities is even more questionable, according to the NCSA Thematic Report On Land Degradation /Desertification.

83. In the area of environmental management in the Republic of Macedonia, the number of municipalities that have civil servants responsible directly for performing activities in environmental management is evidently low. Under the new environmental legislation, numerous responsibilities will be delegated to the local self-government units, especially in the domains of waste management, integrated environmental permitting and compliance permitting and inspection supervision. In the future, it will be necessary to strengthen the capacities of the local self-government units in environmental management.

F.2 Measures Adopted To Adjust Or Strengthen The Institutional Framework

84. According to the Law on the Local Self-Government¹² the local self-government units – Municipalities are responsible for regulating and performing activities of public interest of local importance, as stipulated by the law. The same Law defines the list of competences of the local self-government units, such as: environment and nature protection – measures for the protection and

¹⁰ Law on Organization and Operation of the State Administration Bodies ("Official Gazette of RM" Nos. 58/00 and 44/02)

¹¹ For example Law on Waters, GOPA/MEPP, 2004 (In parliamentary procedure)

¹² ("Official Gazette of RM" No. 5/02)

prevention of water, air and soil pollution, nature protection; public activities – drinking water supply; technological water supply; wastewater drainage and treatment; storm wastewater drainage and treatment; maintenance of public hygiene; collection, transportation and treatment of municipal solid and industrial waste; maintenance and use of parks, green areas, forest parks and recreational areas; regulation, maintenance and use of river beds in urbanized parts.

85. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy prepared the Strategy for Approximation of the Macedonian Agricultural Food Sector with the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the EU. This document represents a foundation of the future agricultural reforms that are yet to be implemented in the forthcoming period. The reforms in the agricultural sector will be implemented through three main pillars, i.e. through policy reforms, institutional reforms and legislation reforms.

F.3 Analysis Of Existing Mechanisms

86. At the national level, the baseline situation is a continuation of the present single resource management practices. The slow process of degradation, possibly accelerated by climate change, will continue, leading to loss of productivity, erosion, and increased stagnation of the rural sector.

87. National development plans, focusing on poverty and rural development, are to continue underestimating the vital role played by land degradation. Land degradation will continue to be absent from most national plans.

88. Presently, the concept of integrated spatial or land management is not practiced in the country, but rather single resource management, in which each natural resource is managed by different enterprise.

89. The problem of *Natural Resources Management* may be summarized as follows: Non-integrated and inappropriate management of natural resources in Macedonia, leading to poor economic yields in agriculture and forestry and to land degradation.

90. Many of the Land degradation underlying causes can be found at the national level. These include traditional mono-sectoral approach to planning and management; traditional centralized approach to development and planning, accompanied by lack of mechanisms to involve the public and NGOs; absence of comprehensive policy regarding natural resources management including the land management, and poor awareness of relevance these issues to socio-economic development of the country; lack of attention to land degradation in national and economic sector development policies and programmes; lack of information, and of an information management system or decision-support tool; inconsistencies in legislative framework; the large number of new and planned laws with poor tools and mechanisms for enforcement and implementation; and finally, overlapping mandates in government agencies.

F.4 Measures To Readjust, Adapt And Strengthen Existing Mechanisms

91. The analysis in the Draft NAP is a basis for measures to readjust, adapt and strengthen existing mechanisms. The NAP, among others, proposes the following Institutional and Legal Measures and Strategic Documents:

- Development of local action plans for land degradation, desertification, and drought;
- Development of the Land Reform Strategy with special emphasis on increasing of average plot size and farm size;
- Development of Strategy For Forest Fire Prevention, (within wider national Fire Protection Strategy);
- Development of the National Strategy on Waters;
- Development of the National Strategy for Forest Management (in a phase of preparation)

- Improvement of system for financial support of farmers and rural areas with integration of LDD, by 1) Development of Farm Register, 2) Development of Paying Agency, and 3) Introduction of LDD areas in plan for support of Agriculture
- Re-establishment of fund for afforestation
- Adoption of legislation for afforestation of vulnerable areas
- Elaboration of integrated plan for reclamation of degraded areas
- Development and promotion of financial mechanisms on national, bilateral and multilateral level for LDD related activities
- Definition and evaluation of damage caused by desertification and drought
- Estimation of funding necessary for reclamation of land degradation by the desertification processes
- Evaluation of funds required for reclamation of lands affected by desertification processes and determination of economic leverage to mobilise funds
- Allocation of funding sources for sustainable monitoring in relation with UNCCD
- Plans and policies to deal with the socio-economic impacts of desertification and drought
- Development of integrated and comprehensive resource pricing system (policy formulation, methodology for establishment of resources price, institutional and legal provisions for implementation)
- Mainstreaming of the Soil Protection in current and future legislation (methodology for classification and typesetting of soil and soil degradation, establishment of legal bases for soil protection system etc)
- Involvement the land suitability analysis and other environmental principles in the planning process and develop policy for adoption of environmental priorities
- Preparation of Law on Soils
- Amendment and adoption of draft Law on waters and drafting of secondary legislation based on EU requirements
- Strengthening the capacity of the institutions and public bodies in water management
- Enforcement of regulations concerning the irrigation management transfer to the Water Communities
- Elaboration of a long-term national programme for prevention and/or reduction of land degradation / desertification, and promotion of sustainable development
- Elaboration of Agro ecological Zoning of Republic of Macedonia according to FAO methodology
- Elaboration of consistent incentive based taxation system in agriculture approximated to EU CAP
- Study of sociological and economical impacts of LDD in Rural Areas and elaboration of mitigation measures
- Completion of water master plan

92. The review and analysis of existing mechanisms for coordinating and harmonizing actions to combat land degradation at national and local levels carried out within the NCSA Process and the elaboration of the NAP, has identified constraints and bottlenecks regarding the implementation of the UNCCD programmes. Measures directed to overcome this, shall strengthen the coordination on all levels.

93. Capacity building for improved information exchange is necessary both at national level (ministries, public enterprises for resources management) and local levels (branches of PE and the ministries, local governments, NGOs and CBOs)

F.5 Measures adopted to strengthen existing institutions

94. Capacity & institutional building are not systematically addressed at national and local levels. Capacity building is rather sporadic and incidental within governmental and bi- and multilateral cooperation development projects and programs.

95. The decentralization is one of the main commitments of the Government. Strengthening of institutions at local level is necessary, especially in the areas of environmental protection, spatial planning, natural resources management and other related issues.

96. No particular measures for capacity strengthening of the existing institutions regarding implementation of UNCCD have been implemented. The related ongoing programmes/projects in various sectors do have capacity strengthening components, with a different aim.

97. The ongoing Land Registration and Cadastre - a WB implemented Project with the State Authority for Geodetic Works (SAGW) has as one of the objectives modernization and improvement of the land registration system.

98. UNDP & MEPP have proposed a project on Sustainable Land Management, aiming at improvement of the management with natural resources at both national and local levels. The project is expected to contribute to introduction of sustainable practices in agriculture, forestry, water and pasture management at the local level. The experiences and lessons learned are expected to be up-scaled to the national level.

99. Other programmes/projects that also have capacity building components ongoing in the country are Structural and Legal Reform of the MAFWE (CARDS 2004), Institutional Development and Capacity Building in Forestry and Forest Industry Subsectors (FAO), Building capacity for formulation of Macedonian policy and economic analyses in the agriculture sector (SIDA) Real Estate Cadastre and Registration (WB), Strengthening of the Environmental Management (CARDS 2004 and 2006), to name a few.

F.6 Legal And Regulatory Framework

100. Coherent and functional legal and regulatory framework regarding the implementation of the UNCCD does not yet exist in the Republic of Macedonia.

101. The legal basis for issues covered by UNCCD should be in existing sectoral laws dealing with land, land resources etc., like the Law on Agriculture, or similarly Law on Forests¹³ or Law on Pastures¹⁴. Unfortunately, these laws do not deal with land degradation issues. The legal grounds for nature protection i.e. land resources protection as a part of the nature is also provided by international agreements signed or ratified by the Republic of Macedonia. The main document is the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. Such agreements also include: Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁵; Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern)¹⁶; Convention for the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage¹⁷; European Landscape Convention¹⁸;

102. However, the legislation on environment and nature protection in the Republic of Macedonia does provide some legal grounds for combating land degradation within the system of environment protection.

F.7 Analysis Of Legislation On The Environment And Related Fields

103. Land tenure reform, or land reform is a necessity in the country as identified by numerous expert analyses and reports. The key issues are the ever decreasing plot size in the country, due to inheritance legislation and tradition, and the incomplete land registration system and ownership

¹³ "Official Gazette of RM" Nos. 47/97, 7/00, 89/04

¹⁴ "Official Gazette of RM" Nos. 3/98, 101/00

¹⁵ "Official Gazette of RM No. 54/97

¹⁶ "Official Gazette of RM" No. 49/97

¹⁷ "Official Gazette of SFRY" No.56/74

¹⁸ "Official Gazette of RM" No. 44/03

register. However in sensitive political and fragile economic situation in the country it is very difficult to imagine a political party willing to risk implementation. The situation is even more complicated by the slow process of de-nationalization.

104. The new Law on Environment¹⁹ that has been recently adopted seriously tackles the issues of land degradation and desertification through provisions in Article 191 and 192 for preparation of National Action Plan and National Action Programme and their updating every three and six years, respectively. This can be considered as a big step forward which gives a good legal basis for planning and enforcing complete measures for combat and mitigation of land degradation and desertification in practice.

105. With regard to species, the Law contains provisions that regulate the issues of introduction of non-indigenous species in nature and reintroduction of extinct indigenous species. This instrument is not fully adjusted to combating land degradation and desertification because there is only a small number of domestic species resistant to extremely bad environmental condition in some highly degraded land (polluted land, extremely dry land, extremely eroded land etc.). This may present a constraint, since by ratifying the UNCCD, Macedonia has obliged to combat land degradation and desertification and in some isolated cases revitalization of extremely bad land through planting foreign species is the only solution.

106. The Law on Environment also regulates the protection of habitats and ecosystems, including provisions that shall provide for the favorable status of habitats preservation, habitats monitoring, preservation of environmentally important areas and establishment of environmental network. The protection of habitats and ecosystems is carried out through the measures and activities for nature protection, sustainable use of natural resources and spatial planning and development.

107. For the purposes of integrated nature protection, implementation of the ratified international agreements and transposition of the relevant EU legislation in the area of nature protection, the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia adopted the *Law on Nature Protection*²⁰. This Law has transposed the key legal acts of the EU concerning nature protection, such as the Council Directive 1992/43 on the conservation of natural habitats. The protection of nature is carried out through biological and landscape diversity protection and natural heritage protection, in and outside protected areas.

108. The Law on Nature Protection stipulates that the use of nature outside protected areas is prohibited when such use causes damage or destruction of biological and landscape diversity; degradation of soil and loss of fertility; damage or destruction of surface or ground geomorphological features; water pollution or change in water regime; and air pollution.

109. According to the old Law on Environment and Nature Protection and Promotion²¹, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning carries out continuous measurement and monitoring of the state of the land within protected areas and outside protected areas. Inspection supervision over the implementation of the Law is performed by the State Environment Inspectorate as a body within the MEPP. This arrangement has not been changed with the new laws.

110. Part of the legal grounds applicable to nature protection at all is also established by laws regulating protection and use of certain natural resources, the most relevant of which include: Law on Forests, Law on Pastures, Law on Plant Protection²², etc

111. According to the Law on Forests, forest protection (protection from fires, illegal cut, pests, diseases) and silviculture outside protected areas is carried out in accordance with specific plans for forest silviculture and protection. The control over the implementation of those plans is under the

¹⁹ "Official Gazette of RM" No: 53/05

²⁰ "Official Gazette of RM" No. 67/04

²¹ "Official Gazette of RM" No. 13/03 consolidated text

²² "Official Gazette of RM" Nos. 5/98, 6/00

responsibility of the State Forestry and Hunting Inspectorate within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy.

112. Water related legislation in the Republic of Macedonia consists of laws, international agreements and secondary legislation. The main laws are the Law on Waters²³, Law on Environment, Law on Public Works and Law on Public Administration. The current Law on Waters (1998) provides a legal basis for water protection and management in the Republic of Macedonia. The main strategic planning document in the water management is the Water Management Master Plan of the Republic of Macedonia.

113. In general, law enforcement in Macedonia is not on a satisfactory level. The reasons are complex and multiple. Some examples (identified within the NCSA process) are: involvement of politics in the management issues, poor economic situation, inadequate capacity for enforcement at national and local levels, inefficient judicial system, to name a few.

114. The ongoing transformation and harmonization of the legislation and the institutional setup sometimes creates awkward situations with institutions fighting over certain responsibility resulting in overlapping of responsibilities, but also gray zones in which no institution feels responsible for certain issues (erosion protection, wind-break forest vegetation, riparian vegetation corridors etc.).

F.8 Measures to adapt current legislation

115. The Draft NAP proposes a series of measures/actions regarding adaptation of the current legislation. These measures are further elaborated in section I.

116. A new Law on Agriculture is supposed to be brought and replace the current Law on Agricultural Land²⁴ as part of the transformation and reform in the agricultural sector and approximation to EU legislation in accordance with the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). It is meant to provide for a sustainable financial infrastructure as well as transparent implementation of the financial support to agriculture. The Law on Agriculture should define the objectives and measures of agricultural policy, institutions for support, eligibility for financial support, bearers of agricultural policy, monitoring and control of finances in the agriculture, as well as the administrative and inspection supervision.

117. In order to introduce an integrated approach in water management and harmonization of the national legislation with the relevant EU legislation, the development of a new Law on Waters has been initiated in 2003, prepared in 2004, and since then in adoption procedure, without realistic chance to be adopted before early 2007. According to the Draft Law on Waters the basic set of documents for water planning and development shall include: National Strategy for Waters, Water Management Master Plan of the Republic of Macedonia, and finally River Basin Management Plans.

118. Decentralization is one of the key processes ongoing in the country. Besides fiscal and governance changes, the process envisages changes in the environment and natural resources management by delegation of greater responsibilities to the municipalities. The municipalities' overall capacity to implement the planned reform and fully undertake the delegated responsibilities regarding land degradation and desertification is questionable and requires serious analyses and capacity development.

119. Land tenure reform, or land reform is a necessity in the country as identified by numerous expert analyses and reports. The key issues are the ever decreasing plot size in the country, due to inheritance legislation and tradition, and the incomplete land registration system and ownership register. However, in sensitive political and fragile economic situation in the country, it is very

²³ Off. Gazette of RM, No.4/98,

²⁴ Off. Gazette of RM, No.25/98,

difficult to imagine a political party willing to risk implementation. The situation is even more complicated by the slow process of de-nationalization.

120. Preparations are underway for elaboration of a new Law on Agriculture and Rural Development. The adoption of this law is expected towards the end of 2007. The Law is a systemic legal act which creates the legal framework for the implementation of all reforms in the policy and institutions in the agricultural and food production sector and the rural areas. The basic principles of the Law are planning the agricultural policy and development of rural areas, measures of the agricultural policy and the beneficiaries of such measures, minimum quality and designations on agricultural products, setting up databases and surveillance over the implementation of such measures. Having regard to the issues regulated by this Law, its coming into force will prevail over the Law on Promoting Agriculture Development and the Law on Agricultural Activity. The Law on Agriculture and Rural Development will be in compliance with the provisions of the Council of EEC: Regulation No. 26, which imposes certain rules related to competition in the production of and trading in agricultural products²⁵ and will partially be in compliance with the EU legal acts in the following areas:

- Establishment of advisory and expert bodies for support of the agricultural policy;
- Regulation of the markets of certain agricultural and food products;
- System of direct support of the agricultural producers;
- Protection of geographical indication, appellations of origin and traditional markings on agricultural and food products;
- Rural Development Support Policy;
- Support for scientific and research projects in the area of agriculture;
- Agricultural Information System (AIS);

G. PARTICIPATORY PROCESS IN SUPPORT OF PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PROGRAMMES

121. The preparation of the draft NAP has not been carried out in a fully participatory process, due to the time and financial constraints. It has been mostly based on desk studies, analysis of the current situation, collection and integration of available data and information from strategies, plans, programs and projects in the related sectors. In the process the expert team contacted a wide spectrum of stakeholders for information gathering through meetings, targeted research and interviews.

122. Effective participation of actors in defining national priorities has been carried out by regular consultations, meetings and regular exchange of information in mailing and e-mailing networks.

123. During implementation of the NAP it is necessary to provide relevant actors with accurate and timely information, in particular information concerning the UNCCD implementation process, and promoting their full participation in decision making.

124. The validation stakeholder workshops for the draft NAP are planned for the forthcoming period- June 2006. The actual implementation of the NAP as such has not yet been started, except partly for the complementary measures foreseen in other related ongoing projects/programmes.

125. The over-arching national priorities of the Republic of Macedonia are Euro-Atlantic integrations – EU and NATO membership. These are the driving forces behind all effective ongoing reforms.

²⁵ (OJ 030 20.04.1962, p. 993),

126. Existing national sectoral strategies do provide overview of the policies and priorities. In elaboration of the draft NAP, an effort was made to analyze and integrate the activities for implementation of the NAP into the national priority plans and programs (NEAP 2, NSSD etc.).

G.1 Gender balance

127. During the elaboration of the NAP, the NCSA process and in various development strategies the gender issues have not been deemed as pertinent to land degradation and desertification in the Republic of Macedonia.

128. Representation of females in the NCB is quite satisfactory. This has not been an issue in the delegation of representatives – and there are more than third females apart from the GEF OFP and the UNCCD FP.

129. Local self-governments or municipalities shall receive more responsibilities regarding physical planning, land and resources management and environment protection in the near future, due to decentralization processes.

130. In order to maintain and/or establish mechanisms for active involvement of national and local stakeholders with regard to the planning and implementation of NAP activities serious capacity gaps have to be overcome at all levels -systemic, institutional and individual, both at national and local levels.

G.2 Representation in national priority identification processes

131. The criteria used for selecting various actors in national priority identification processes encourage equal representation at all levels. The scientific community has been constantly consulted in all phases of the NAP elaboration. The scientific community in the country sometimes acts as reminder to decision makers and a trigger to enact discussions regarding some issues tackled in the NAP and the other strategic documents.

132. The scientific community has been crucial in preserving the traditional knowledge and practices. The role of the scientific community has also been significant in provision of the environmental education.

133. The existing educational system, especially the curricula at the university level do provide sufficient insight into environmental issues of land degradation and desertification.

134. Awareness campaigns are regularly organized by the MEPP, through its Public Relations Office and various on-going projects. However in the area of land degradation and desertification, and agriculture not many campaigns have been carried out. The NAP calls for several measures like awareness campaigns, publication of BAT manuals (agricultural and irrigation practices, natural resources management etc.).

135. As identified in the NCSA Process, the number of NGOs dealing with issues of land degradation and desertification in the country is not very big, and their activities are limited. Hence, except for a few, wide participation of NGOs has been difficult to achieve.

G.3 Consideration of local concerns at the national level consultations

136. Local concerns have been incorporated in the NAP through analysis of existing Local Environmental Action Plans, and by consultations with local stakeholders in the regions prone to drought and land degradation.

137. NAP does foresee information sharing and dissemination activities at all levels, as well as follow-up and stakeholder feedback during NAP implementation.

138. The designation of representatives to NCB by the Minister of EPP follows a procedure of nomination of representatives of various stakeholders from all levels.

H. CONSULTATIVE PROCESS IN SUPPORT OF THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

H.1 Support from international cooperation partners

139. NAP foresees the following cooperation activities: 1) Co-operation / regional networking in integrated natural resource management through EU Programmes and Funds; 2) Promotion and support of international and regional research projects for drought mitigation and combating of desertification; and 3) Set up national priorities of LDD related matters in international Programmes and Funds (CARDS, INTERREG. FP6, FP7, NATO, COST etc.)

140. Commitments by international partners are well recognized by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and their participation in local and national consultations and their provision of financial support for the process is usually facilitated. In the process of elaboration of NAP, UNDP has been actively involved. Other development agencies present in the country with programs/projects in the LDD have also been consulted. Even more, the selection of priorities and the design of activities within the AP have been such to achieve complementarity and synergetic effects.

141. Multilateral and bi-lateral financial support has been a significant source of funds and a driving force regarding projects in fields related to land degradation and desertification. In general, the presence of development cooperation in the country amounts to about 2% of the GDP. Relatively small part of it is directed to environmental protection, land-based resources management and other issues pertinent to the Convention.

142. Until now, no financial support has been allocated for establishment of a national consultative mechanisms apart from the NCSA process that identified the capacity gaps needs, and enacted a wide consultative process.

143. No partnership agreements have been concluded yet. However, opportunities for cooperation with complementary programmes/projects have been explored and proposed in the draft NAP.

144. GEF finances number of projects in the country. The most common implementing agency is UNDP, Country Office in Macedonia. Projects in the environmental sectors are usually implemented through so-called NEX (National Execution modality). MEPP is the executing agency, and the projects are implemented by Project Office.

145. GEF Small Grants Programme is also present in the country since 2005. First grant allocations and project implementation is expected in 2006.

146. A GEF/UNDP MSP Project on Sustainable Land Management is expected to begin in summer 2006. The goal of the project is to advance Macedonia's ability to manage land sustainably

in order to preserve, conserve and restore ecosystem structure and functional integrity. The objective of the project is to improve land management and sustainable use options for natural resources management in the Ovce Pole region of Macedonia and enable replication of these improvements nationally.

147. The difficult economic situation in the country defocuses attention of the Government to other sectors and priority issues in the country and leaves traditional budgetary sources thinner by the year.

148. Regular communication and exchange of information have been established between the national GEF focal point, the implementing agencies of the GEF, and the NFP.

149. The primary role of the NCB is to steer and coordinate activities related to UN CCD and provide political support for the implementation of the NAP and related programmes/projects in the country.

150. The role of the NFP is to provide information flow between the Convention and the relevant stakeholders in the country, especially the NCB.

151. No particular problems in accessing GEF funds have been identified. The major setbacks and constraints are in the country and are related to the capacity of respective institutions responsible for project/program development.

I. MEASURES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

152. The contents of the draft NAP is as follows:

- Introduction and Background
- General physical and geographical characteristics of Macedonia and peculiarities of regions affected by desertification, land degradation and drought
- Legislative and institutional framework
- Factors which generate desertification, land degradation and drought
- Identification and delimitation of the areas affected by desertification, land degradation and drought and vulnerable sectors
- National strategy for combating desertification, land degradation and drought prevention and control
- National plan of actions to combat desertification, land degradation and drought

153. The national plan of actions within the Draft NAP is concentrated on following areas of intervention:

- Institutional and legal measures and strategic documents, including development and promotion of financial mechanisms on national, bilateral and multilateral level for LDD related activities.
- Preventive measures and activities for forecasting, combating and minimizing of the factors of desertification and preventive measures for low degraded or non degraded lands, including: 1) assessment of land degradation and desertification; 2) monitoring; 3) direct measures; and 4) solid waste management.
- Early Warning Systems

- Measures and activities for mitigation of negative effects of drought and desertification, including: 1) reconstruction, rehabilitation, and modernization of irrigation, drainage and flood control system in affected areas; 2) prevention and control of erosion processes; and 3) measures in agricultural practices
- Education and public awareness raising
- Measures for capacity building of expertise for research, technical and management staff
- International cooperation

I.1 Diagnosis of past experience

154. Not many activities directed primarily to combating desertification have been undertaken in the country. Number of programmes and projects, however, contribute to the overall goal. The draft NAP summarizes the ongoing initiatives in the country, analyses the current trends and proposes measures to improve the situation.

155. The Country Profile, attached to this 3rd National Report indicates the current state and some developing trends in the country. However, even at first glance it obvious that some answers are missing, indicating data gaps or absence. This is a result of several constraints identified also during elaboration of the draft NAP:

- poor or non-existent monitoring of relevant parameters;
- lack of systematic databases, as a result of
- unavailability of scattered research results and data;
- inadequate statistical analysis unabling generation of relevant and useful information;
- institutional and individual capacity;
- poor cooperation and information sharing among governmental and scientific/research institutions.

156. The identified constrains are addressed in the draft NAP. Number of measures and actions, as well as research and database establishment, have been proposed.

157. The natural resources management has not progressed in the last period. Quite contrary, the current practices of single resource management, combined with the transition trends, poor economic situation and the inefficient judiciary system have aggravated the situation. The somewhat hurried and unprepared legislation harmonization and changes in the institutional setup have left gray management zones and led to overlapping of responsibilities.

I.2 Established technical programmes and projects

158. Projects under way in resource management and desertification control have been analyzed in relation to the UNCCD principles and within the NAP elaboration process, and proposed actions have been adjusted accordingly

159. The Draft NAP, among others proposes the following measures:

- Measures for national resource conservation and management:

- Development of Strategy For Forest Fire Prevention;
- Development of the National Strategy on Waters;
- Development of the National Strategy for Forest Management (in a phase of preparation);
- Adoption of legislative for afforestation of vulnerable areas
- Elaboration of integrated plan for reclamation of degraded area
- Mainstreaming of the Soil Protection in current and future legislation (methodology for classification and typesetting of soil degradation, establishment of legal bases for soil protection system etc)
- Involvement the land suitability analysis and other environmental principles in the planning process and development of policy for adoption of environmental priorities
- Preparation of Law on Soils
- Amendment and adoption of the existing draft Law on waters and drafting of secondary legislation based on EU requirements
- Enforcement of regulations concerning the irrigation management transfer to the Water Communities
- Elaboration of a long-term national programme for prevention and/or reduction of land degradation / desertification, and promotion of sustainable development
- Elaboration of Agro ecological Zoning of Republic of Macedonia according to FAO methodology
- Elaboration of consistent incentive based taxation system in agriculture approximated to EU CAP
- Study of sociological and economical impacts of LDD in Rural Areas and elaboration of mitigation measures
- Completion of water master plan
- Reconstruction, rehabilitation, and modernization of irrigation, drainage and flood control system in affected areas
- Prevention and control erosion processes
- Measures in agricultural practice
- Measures to improve institutional organization
 - Development of local action plans for land degradation, desertification, and drought
 - Re-establishment of fund for afforestation
 - Strengthening the capacity of the institutions and public bodies in water management
- Measures to enhance knowledge on desertification and its control
 - Educational and Public Awareness Raising Measures
 - Measures for monitoring and evaluating the effects of desertification and drought
 - Elaboration and Establishment of Drought Early warning System for Republic of Macedonia
- Measures to improve the economic environment
 - Improvement of system for financial support of farmers and rural areas with integration of LDD
 - i. Development of Farm Register
 - ii. Development of Paying Agency
 - iii. Introduction of LDD areas in plan for support of Agriculture
 - Re-establishment of fund for afforestation
 - Development and promotion of financial mechanisms on national, bilateral and multilateral level for LDD related activities
 - Elaboration of consistent incentive based taxation system in agriculture approximated to EU CAP
 - Study of sociological and economical impacts of LDD in Rural Areas and elaboration of mitigation measures

I.2.1 Specific actions to strengthen the national capacity

160. The NAP encompasses capacity building measures in the following areas: monitoring, data collection and management, natural resources management. Some other proposed actions/measures, like elaboration of certain studies, research and strategies, also contain capacity building component. Namely, improving the knowledge and data availability is supporting thereby the decision making process on both national and local levels, and promoting sustainable management of natural resources.

161. Proposed organizational/institutional adjustments and changes are directed to enhance the effectiveness in natural resources management, by clarification of responsibilities among relevant actors in a coherent and comprehensive management system, and by providing enabling environment in the sectors.

I.3 Effectiveness of measures in local capacity building

162. The process of decentralization in the country has begun in 2005 and is implemented with due seriousness and caution. The increased responsibilities of the local governments call for capacity building and the draft NAP is proposing measures in this respect.

163. The current degree of decentralization does not include natural resources management. Organizational setup stays the same: central public enterprise on the national level with branches/offices on local level.

164. The monitoring and evaluation process of the implementation of measures to combat desertification and mitigation of the effects of drought in the NAP, shall be responsibility of the key actors in the process. These encompass the MEPP and MAFWE including their responsible departments and agencies within, NFP to UNCCD, the NCB and the stakeholders.

J. FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS FROM NATIONAL BUDGETS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

165. Financial allocations from national budgets in support of implementation are proposed in the draft NAP. During elaboration of the NAP, the financial requirements were estimated in order to fit the capacity of the government and to improve effectiveness of on-going government support in a more organized and focused manner.

166. Significant financial assistance and technical cooperation is coming to the country from several sources - EU (CARDS) as well as from multi- and bilateral donors. The NAP makes an effort to propose measures to combat desertification within the focus of these donors, by mainstreaming the LDD issues. Also some of the on-going programmes/projects were sensitized to issues of sustainable resource management and LDD issues.

167. Identification of requirements, areas of funding and setting priorities are tasks of the NAP implementation process.

J.1 Adopted financial mechanisms

168. Measures to facilitate access of local actors to existing sources of funding have to be developed and promoted in the future.

169. Current budgetary allocations are administered by MAFWE and they pertain to development of agriculture, organic farming, development of underdeveloped regions and irrigation/drainage improvement.

J.2 NAP financing

170. Financing of the NAP is planned primarily from the national budget. The proposed measures and actions are designed to make part of the regular plan of the responsible institutions and organizations. Most of the measures are planned to be mainstreamed within the ongoing prioritized processes in the country. Additional funds are also necessary.

171. Funding opportunities are the bi- and multi lateral development cooperation. As shown below, there are a number of ongoing and planned projects, which may promote and complement the implementation of the plan of actions.

172. Certainly one of the major opportunities for implementation of some of the measures in the NAP is by mainstreaming the LDD issues into the main on-going process in the country integration into the EU and introduction of the CAP. For this also the EU pre-accession funds will be made available from 2007. The proportion of funds allocated to agriculture is significant.

173. Mobilization of national resources is possible in the case if significant changes in the pricing and revenue collection from use of natural resources is implemented in the country. In the NAP this is identified as one of the constraints for sustainability of natural resources management in the country, and measures in this respect are proposed.

J.3 Technical cooperation

174. Number of technical cooperation projects are present in the country and are a significant input into the ongoing reform processes. In the agriculture sector the relevant on-going projects are listed below:

- Structural and Legal Reform of the MAFWE (CARDS 2004)
- Establishment of a National Integrated Phytosanitary Service (NIPS) EU-CARDS 2002
- National Animal Identification System phase II - EU-CARDS 2003
- Water Resource Strategies and Drought Alleviation in Western Balkan Agriculture – EU
- EU approximation and Regional Cooperation in the Agro and Food sector - 1.) Approximation of the Macedonian legislation with the EU. In close cooperation with MAFWE the project will work on the law on agriculture and rural development and its by-laws; and 2.) Support to the regional cooperation in South Eastern Europe. The project has also one subcomponent which is related to the introduction of standards of quality of the products as GAP, SEUROP, HACCP etc. (Germany-GTZ)
- Institutional Development and Capacity Building in Forestry and Forest Industry Subsectors 1.) Formulation of a new forestry policy and design a national forestry strategy in compliance with national development and environmental action plans and European Union standards; and 2.) Review forestry legislation and harmonize it with new forestry policy and EU rules and regulations. (FAO)
- Strengthening food safety in South East European transition countries - A regional approach to food legislation and control . (FAO/WHO - Regional project)
- Agriculture Financial Services IFAD 2: 1.) Commercially viable farms and other rural enterprises developed, and 2.) Institutional and financial basis for sustainable agricultural financial services established. (IFAD, IFAD Loan + SIDA donation)

- Project Law 84 - Improvement of fruit and vegetable yields through the diffusion of sustainable productive systems (Italy)
- Establishing, positioning and securing a Macedonian certification body for the horticultural sector (Netherlands-PSO Programmatic)
- Quality control and certification platform: expert center for the sector agriculture, food and its transport in Macedonia (Netherlands-PSO Programmatic)
- Macedonian Agriculture Advisory Support Programme (MAASP) – (Sweden-SIDA)
- Support to Farmers Associations in Macedonia Phase II (Sweden-SIDA)
- Project for Improved Agriculture Statistics in Macedonia (Sweden-SIDA)
- Building capacity for formulation of Macedonian policy and economic analyses in the agriculture sector (Sweden-SIDA)
- Project for organic agriculture in Macedonia. (Switzerland-SDC)
- Seal of Quality and Agribusiness Assistance Program (USAID)
- Irrigation Rehabilitation and Restructuring Project (Loan: World Bank, IDA, Donation: Netherlands)
- Real Estate Cadastre and Registration 1.Acceleration of establishing the real estate cadastre; 2.To improve the registration procedures through the establishment, implementation and monitoring of minimum service standards of property registration transactions; 3.To provide institutional development and capacity building to State Authority for Geodetic Works (SAGW) and other relevant institutions; 4.Development of government capacity to formulate land policies in order to establish efficient land markets. (Loan: World Bank –Donation: Netherlands)
- Reducing Environmental Impacts of Agriculture in the Prespa Region (UNDP)

175. In the environment sector the following projects are pertinent to land degradation and desertification:

- Second National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP 2) (EU CARDS)
- National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) (SIDA)
- Strengthening of the Environmental Management (CARDS 2004)
- Improvement of the Management of Transboundary Water Resources (CARDS 2003)
- Strengthening of the Environmental Management (CARDS 2006)
- Second National Communication to UN FCCC (GEF/UNDP/MEPP)

These projects, apart from the NEAP 2, are in its early phases and their completion and first results are expected in 2007.

J.4 Progress benchmarks and indicators

176. Benchmarks and indicators to measure progress of implementation of Action Plans and an assessment are not yet established. The Draft NAP does set some recommendations regarding operational mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation, as follows:

- Establishment and/or strengthening of national environmental monitoring and observation capacities
- Information databases & systems on land degradation and desertification at the national level, with improved access to available information
- Mechanisms for consultation concerning & feedback
- Regular production of reports

177. As stated before, there is a need for strengthening of the national capacity to harness relevant environmental information, including: The capacity to collect, analyze and process information, and to produce impact indicators; The functional efficiency for disseminating information and networking at the national level; The capacity to harmonize existing information systems in related fields (environment, agriculture, energy, climate change, biodiversity, coastal and marine resource management, etc.); The capacity to monitor, assess and evaluate the impact of NAPs.

178. The monitoring system has been formulated in the Draft NAP to assess and evaluate the impact of measures. The NAP has not been adopted yet.

J.5 Scientific and technical desertification control activities

179. The scientific community has been constantly consulted in all phases of the NAP elaboration. The scientific community has a crucial role in some of the proposed actions in the NAP, namely in the group of measures on Assessment of Land Degradation and Desertification, including the development/update/completion of basic data sets and maps (soil map, DTM, hydrography, geology, erosion risk map, erosion map, vegetation map, climate, drought, wild fire risk map...) for assessment of drought and desertification, delineation, definition, analysis of areas vulnerable and affected of land degradation, desertification and drought: than in establishment of the monitoring standards and early warning systems, and of course in promotion of the scientific-research cooperation mechanisms.

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

180. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on Science and Technology has been used in the Draft NAP as indicators and benchmarks of the progress of the implementation. They have not been used yet, their use is expected during the implementation of the NAP.

UNCCD Country Profile - Republic of Macedonia

This UNCCD country profile has been provided by:	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning MEPP/UNDP SLM Project
Name of focal point institution/ministry/office:	Ms. Gordana Kozuharova Head of European Integration Dept. MEPP
Date :	June 1 st , 2006
Mailing address :	Drezdenska 57, 1000 Skopje, Republic of Macedonia
Telephone :	++ 389 2 3066 930 ext.132
Telefax :	++ 389 2 3066 931
E-mail :	G.Kozuharova@moepp.gov.mk

Biophysical indicators relating to desertification and drought

1. Climate

1.1. Index of aridity ²⁶ (min-max) average:	(0.6 - 2.13)	1.12
1.2. Normal rainfall (mm)		733
1.3. Rainfall standard deviation		170.8

Sub-national areas	area (%)	mm
1. Submediterranean	3.9	650
2. Continental - Submediterranean	31.0	507
3. Continental (warm and cold continental)	40.7	695
4. Mountain	20.1	985
5. Subalpine - Alpine	4.3	897

²⁶ The index of aridity is the ratio P/PET; P=precipitation, PET=potential evapotranspiration.

2. Vegetation and land use

2.1. NDVI (normalized difference vegetation index)	NA
2.2. Vegetation cover (% of total land area)	84.94

2.3. Land use :

Land use	1990 – 1999 (ha)	2000 – 2005 ²⁷ (ha)
Arable crop land	612,200	634,297
Irrigated	60,153	31,755
Rainfed	550,050	602,500
Pasture	630,000	707,263
Forest and woodland	997,374	934,128
Other land	331,926	191,349

2.4. Surface albedo ²⁸	NA
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3. Water resources

3.1. Fresh water availability (million m ³)	6,372
3.2. Fresh water resources per capita (m ³)	3,150
3.3. Agricultural water use (million m ³) ²⁹	899
3.4. Industrial water use (million m ³) (2002) ³⁰	133

4. Energy

Consumption

4.1. Energy use per capita (MWh/capita) ³¹	212.4
4.2. Agricultural energy use per hectare (millions of BTU)	_____

Production

4.3. Energy from renewables excluding combustible renewables and waste (% of total supply) ³²	4.36
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Renewables - Consumption by sector³³

4.4. Industry (% of total renewable consumption)	_____
4.5. Residential (% of total renewable consumption)	_____
4.6. Agriculture (% of total renewable consumption) ³⁴	2.3

²⁷ Official Cadastre data in the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Macedonia, 2004

²⁸ Surface albedo map to be annexed if available.

²⁹ Data on irrigation water demand -2000

³⁰ Note: in 1999 the Industrial water use was 168,3 million m³

³¹ Data not available in [kg oil equivalent)], total consumption – all energy sources- 119,3 10³ TJ

³² 4.89 10³ TJ hydro + 0.32 10³ TJ geothermal = 5.21 10³ TJ renewables.

³³ Renewable hydro energy production cannot be separated by sector use as it makes part of the total electricity production in the country and is used within the same system.

³⁴ Refers only to geothermal energy used directly in greenhouse heating – est. 0.12 10³ TJ

5. Types of land degradation ³⁵

Type of degradation	1990 – 1999		2000 – 2005	
	million ha	Percent of total area	million ha	Percent of total area
erosion *				
soil covering	na	na	na	na
soil sealing	na	na	na	na
soil contamination (organic and inorganic materials)	na	na	na	na
deterioration of soil structure	na	na	na	na
depletion of organic matter	na	na	na	na
depletion of nutrients	na	na	na	na
salinisation	na	na	na	na
alcalisation	na	na	na	na

* Erosion status: 1992³⁶

Degradation category (erosion processes)		Area (km ²)	Percent (%)	erosion intensity (m ³ km ² y ⁻¹)
I	extremely high	698	2.77	> 3000
II	high	1 832	7.38	1500 – 3000
III	medium	6 893	27.78	1000 – 1500
IV	low	7 936	31.98	500 – 1000
V	very low	7 463	30.09	70 – 500
		25 713	100.00	

6. Rehabilitation

Lands under rehabilitation	1990 - 1999	2000 - 2005
Rehabilitation of degraded crop land (km2)	na	na
Rehabilitation of degraded rangeland (km2)	na	na
Rehabilitation of degraded forest (km2)		
◦ total cca	3,000.00	150.00
◦ afforestation bareland	75.29	33.44

Socio-economic indicators related to desertification and drought

7. People and economy

7.1. Population (total)

2,022,547

³⁵ Except for erosion, other land degradation types present in the country only have rough, unconfirmed estimates.

³⁶ Erosion Map of the Republic of Macedonia

Population: urban (percent of total)	_____
Population: rural (percent of total)	_____
7.2. Population growth (annual %) (2006 est.)	0.26%
7.3. Life expectancy (years) (2006 est.)	
◦ <i>total population:</i>	73.97
◦ <i>male:</i>	71.51
◦ <i>female:</i>	76.62
7.4. Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	9.81
7.5. GDP (current US\$) (2005 est.) ³⁷	
◦ (<i>purchasing power parity</i>):	\$15.55 billion
◦ (<i>official exchange rate</i>):	\$5.26 billion
7.6. GDP per capita (PPP) (2005 est., current US\$) ³⁸	7,600
◦ <i>GNI per capita (Atlas method)</i> ³⁹ :	2,370
7.7. National poverty rate (% of population, 2004 est.)	29.6%
7.8. Crop production (metric tons) (2003) ⁴⁰	2,431,253.00
7.9. Livestock production (metric tons) (2003) ⁴¹	2,831.00

8. Human development

8.1. Primary education completion rate (% age group) 2004: (Note: 99.4 % in year 2000)	96.4 %
8.2. Number of women in rural development (total number)	_____
8.3. Unemployment (% of total) (2005 est.)	38%
8.4. Youth unemployment rate (age 15-24)	_____
8.5. Illiteracy total (% age 15 and above)	3.9 %
8.6. Illiteracy male (% age 15 and above)	1.8 %
8.7. Illiteracy female (% age 15 and above)	5.9 %

9. Science and technology

9.1. Number of scientific institutions engaged

³⁷ Note: Macedonia has a large informal sector. Source: CIA World Factbook

³⁸ Source: CIA World Factbook

³⁹ World Bank: Country Brief

⁴⁰ MAFWE: Agriculture report 2005. Note: hay not calculated.

⁴¹ MAFWE: Agriculture report, 2005: *milk and dairy products not calculated.*

10. Data sources

Agricultural Development Strategy to 2005 (Skopje, July 2001)

CIA: <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/mk.html> The World Factbook

MAFWE: Agriculture report, 2005

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National Strategy for Integration of the Republic of Macedonia in the European Union, National Programme for Approximation of the Legislation (NPAL), Economic and Social Part, section 3.6.14 Agriculture, stating the priorities of the agricultural policy.

Strategy for Adjustment of the Macedonian Agricultural and Food Production Sector to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of EU and the Operational Plan for Implementation.

Strategy for Adjustment of the Macedonian Agricultural and Food Production Sector to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of EU and the Operational Plan for Implementation

UNCCD web page: <http://www.unccd.int/actionprogrammes/centraleu/centraleu.php>

World Bank: Country Brief: <http://www.worldbank.org.mk/>

www.moepp.gov.mk Ministry Of Environment And Physical Planning

www.mzsv.gov.mk Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE)

www.sei.gov.mk Sector for European Integration, Government of the Republic of Macedonia

List of abbreviations

BAT	Best Available Technology
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CARDS	EU Program
CBD	Convention on Biodiversity
CBO	Civil Based Organizations
CMEPP	Strengthening of the Capacity of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (PHARE 1999 project)
DEM	Movement of Environmentalists of Macedonia
DTM	Digital Terrain Model
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCCC	Framework Convention on Climate Change
FP	Focal Point
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GIS	Geographic Information System
GoM	Government of Macedonia
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation
HMS	Hydro-meteorological Service
IDA	International Development Agency
LD	Land Degradation
LDD	Land Degradation and Desertification
LEAP	Local Environmental Action Plan
MAFWE	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy
MANU	Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts
ME	Ministry of Economy
MEPP	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MSP	Medium Size Project
MTC	Ministry of Transport and Communications
NAP	National Action Plan (to Combat Desertification Land Degradation and Drought)
NCB	National Coordination Body
NCMA	National Crisis Management Agency
NCSA	National Capacity Self Assessment
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NEX	National Execution modality
NFP	National Focal Point
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NSSD	National Strategy for Sustainable Development
OFP	Operational Focal Point
PE	Public Enterprise
SAGW	State Authority for Geodetic Works
SDC	Swiss Development Cooperation
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	US Development Cooperation
WB	World Bank
WMP	Water Master Plan

