

**Department of Environmental
Affairs and Tourism**

SOUTH AFRICAN COUNTRY REPORT

Third Conference of the Parties 1999

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

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2. SUMMARY

Since the inception of the Government of National Unity in 1994, numerous new strategies have been developed, of which the two most important ones were the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), a socio-economic framework for rebuilding the nation and the Growth, Employment and Redistribution Policy (GEAR), a strategy for rebuilding and restructuring the economy in keeping with the goals as set out in the RDP. The similarities between the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) and these two documents are evident: democratisation of processes, inclusion of the population in all decision making activities that affect their lives to empower them to be responsible for shaping their lives, and the development of an integrated programme in an economically enabling environment. These will form the cornerstones of the National Action Programme (NAP) which is in the process of being developed and which will serve as the policy for the implementation and monitoring of the CCD.

Many other documents will be taken into consideration when formulating this draft framework policy to combat desertification.

While numerous actions have been ongoing for a number of years to combat land degradation unfortunately not much information on combating land degradation prior to the UNCCD is available. However, recent research undertaken indicated that more than 25% of South Africa's soil is already severely degraded.

As far as the institutional measures taken to implement the Convention are concerned, South Africa established a national coordinating body, the Steering Committee (SC) in 1995. Although not a statutory body, it plays a vital role, advising, giving guidance and overseeing the activities of the NAP process.

The CCD Focal Point for the implementation of the CCD rests with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEAT), headed by the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. The NGO Focal Point, is the Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG), a Cape Town based policy and advocacy organisation which represents civil society.

Other measures adopted to strengthen the institutional framework include a more representative Reference Group (RG) and various task groups to assist in the NAP process in different ways.

The SC's financial resources are contributed by each department in terms of their budget, manpower and materials. The Department of Agriculture (NDA), the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) as well as the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) have budgets for combating desertification. The EMG employs two staff members and overheads are covered by GTZ funding. In kind contribution of all the SC

members comprises of staff hours and office infrastructure.

All SC members have telephones, faxes, e-mail and Internet connections and access to photocopy machines. The DEAT has a Website with a section on desertification. A website specific to the CCD is being planned.

Other information regarding desertification can be obtained from universities, parastatals such as the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), the National Botanical Institute (NBI) and the Agricultural Research Council (ARC). A Soil and Water Conservation Audit has recently been completed by the CSIR for DWAF. The Potchefstroom University also maintains a database on soil conservation techniques.

South Africa has been approached by the Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel (OSS), to set up a Desertification Information System (DIS) in the framework of the CCD. This process is beginning at the end of May 1999.

Measures adopted to adjust or strengthen the institutional framework include a review of the mechanisms available for coordination and harmonisation of actions to combat land degradation which will inform the SC where the CCD will be placed within government.

Measures adopted to strengthen existing institutions at the local and national level include the LandCare programme, which will have strong linkages with the NAP programme of the CCD. Community projects at grassroots level such as this programme enables effective participation at local level in activities identified as part of the NAP.

The existing mechanisms for coordinating and harmonising desertification control actions include a MinMec Forum at the Department of Agriculture The ITCA (Interdepartmental Technical Committee on Agriculture) is an existing forum from which a working group on LandCare is functioning. Provincial LandCare forums establish linkages with local people and have been informed on the CCD process and its linkages with LandCare. The DWAF has a MinMec which deals with water issues.

The NAP will be made coherent with other environmental strategic and planning frameworks through research of existing policies and strategies and will form linkages with national, intra-regional and local approaches. Linkages with subregional and regional action programmes will also be effected mainly through cooperation with the Land and Management Sector (ELMS) of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) which often serves as a platform where partners can communicate at the subregional level.

Apart from the screening of existing strategies, plans and policies related to the combating of desertification, an analysis of legislation on environment and related fields will also be conducted. This analysis will include macro economic policies, cross sectoral transversal policies as well as legislation pertaining to the environment, water, agriculture and land to

ensure a coherent and functional legal and regulatory framework which will engender the development of natural resource management capacity.

In line with the CCD, a range of consultative processes will ensure participation of local communities. However, consistency in such processes has not been achieved. Decentralisation of activities resulting in capacity building and empowerment of local populations are effected through certain NGO and government programmes such as the Community Land Management Programme (Environment and Development Agency (EDA)), LandCare (NDA), Working for Water (DWAF), Integrating Environmental Planning in the Land Reform Process Project (Department of Land Affairs) and Integrated Development Planning (Department of Constitutional Development). However, these efforts are not yet either comprehensive, or wide spread in their application.

As far as partnerships are concerned, valuable alliances have been built with many stakeholders in the field of land degradation. Although these partners did not participate in all stages of the process, they were readily available and could be reached by means of electronic communication and other methods.

International partners provided donor funding, backstopper services and technical advice in support of the eventual formulation of the NAP. The following international donor agencies contributed to various actions of the NAP process: Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), Norwegian government, UNEP/UNSO, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Netherlands Government and the Australian government.

Informal consultation and harmonisation between the partner countries and the SC include the exchange of information, exchange visits, technical cooperation and networking at international, regional and subregional fora, through electronic and other communication means.

Meetings take place at various levels and at different intervals and for different reasons. South Africa is also one of the members of the Valdivia Group, a group of seven Southern Hemisphere countries (Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia) who organised themselves to address various environmental problems. South Africa acts as the desertification coordinator of this group.

Synthesis and evaluation of activities undertaken in the field of combating desertification include a study on *Land Degradation in South Africa* by Timm Hoffman and Associates. Numerous technical programmes are underway within the NAP process and several pilot projects have also been embarked on by SC members. All these experiences will provide data and learning to be incorporated in the NAP. The decentralisation of the NAP process and the inclusion of the CCD principles will commence with a pilot project in the Northern Cape, one of the nine provinces in South Africa.

The NAP process has not yet been concluded. The audit referred to (*Land degradation in South Africa*) has been finalised and an analysis of other policies are about to commence. Practical measures to combat land degradation are ongoing and the NAP will endeavour to bring all the actions together in one document.

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

3.1 NATIONAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES AVAILABLE IN OTHER SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC AREAS

3.1.1 National Development Plan

The Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) is the main development plan of the democratically elected government which came into power in 1994. The RDP is an instrument for transforming government and society. The RDP is an integrated socio-economic policy framework which was built on six principles:

- an integrated and sustainable programme
- a people driven process
- peace and security for all
- nation building
- link reconstruction and development
- democratisation of South Africa

Land restitution, agriculture, water and sanitation, housing, school and clinic building, integrated community projects, primary health care, spatial development and AIDS awareness were identified as Presidential Lead Projects.

While the RDP caters for basic infrastructure, the Growth, Employment and Redistribution Policy (GEAR) looks at the macroeconomic issues and is a strategy for rebuilding and restructuring the economy in keeping with the goals as set out in the RDP. In the context of an integrated economic strategy, the government intended to successfully confront the related challenges of meeting basic needs, developing human resources, increasing participation in the democratic institutions of civil society and implementing the RDP in all its facets. These two policies in conjunction with each other can be regarded as the country's national development plan.

The first principle of the CCD commits Parties to ensure that decisions on the *design and implementation of programmes...* are made with the participation of populations and local communities and that an enabling environment is created at higher levels to facilitate action at national and local levels. The second principle stresses the need for international partnership and coordination; the third principle extends the concept of partnerships within the affected

countries to include the people who bear the brunt of desertification to become fully involved in decisions that will shape their lives. The fourth and final principle says that AParties should take into full consideration the special needs and circumstances of affected developing country parties, particularly the least developed among them@.

The basic similarities are evident: democratisation of processes, inclusion of the population in all decision making activities that affect their lives to empower them to be responsible for shaping their lives, and the development of an integrated programme in an economically enabling environment. These will form the cornerstones of the NAP which is in the process of being developed and which will serve as the policy for the implementation and monitoring of the CCD.

3.1.2 National Environmental Action Plan or Strategy

The Environmental Management Policy for South Africa was formalised on 28 July 1997. It is the government=s national policy on environmental management. It sets out the vision, principles, strategic goals and objectives and regulatory approaches that government will use for environmental management in South Africa. It is an overarching framework policy. Specific subsidiary and sectoral policies to carry forward the detailed tasks of everyday governance will resort under this framework. They must subscribe to the vision, principles, goals and regulatory approach set out in the framework policy.

Although the CCD is not specifically mentioned, many of the principles, goals and objectives relate to those of the CCD.

The National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998, also makes provision for environmental implementation plans and management plans where *every national department listed.. as exercising functions which may affect the environment and every province, must prepare an environmental implementation plan (Art 11)* of which the purpose is to:

- coordinate and harmonise the environmental policies, plans, programmes and decisions of the various national departments that exercise functions that may affect the environment...
- give effect to the principle of co-operative government...
- secure the protection of the environment
- prevent unreasonable actions by provinces in respect of the environment....
- enable the Minister to monitor the achievement, promotion, and protection of a sustainable environment (Art 12)

The purpose of the NAP is in accordance with some or all of the following priority fields as they relate to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought in affected areas and to their populations:

- promotion of alternative livelihoods and improvement of national economic environments with a view to strengthening programmes aimed at eradication of poverty and at ensuring food security
- demographic dynamics
- sustainable management of resources
- sustainable agricultural practices
- development and efficient use of various energy sources
- institutional and legal frameworks
- strengthening of capabilities for assessment and systematic observation, including hydrological and meteorological services and capacity building, education and public awareness (Art 10).

3.1.3 National and Local Agenda 21

South Africa submitted a report to the Commission for Sustainable Development on the progress of sustainable development in South Africa. The South African desertification NAP process was described in the report. At the local authority level the role and responsibilities were discussed and will be taken into consideration when the local population's needs are reflected in the NAP.

By the year 2002 a National Strategy for Sustainable Development in accordance with Agenda 21 will be in place.

3.1.4 National Conservation Strategy

The policy on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biological Diversity, (July 1997), serves as South Africa's National Conservation Strategy. The strategies, programmes and policies for this Convention are in various stages of development.

This is one of the policy documents which will be analysed to inform the draft framework policy document for the CCD. Various meetings have taken place to establish the linkages with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in accordance with Article 8 of the CCD. A recent workshop to seek further synergies with the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC), the CCD and the CBD was held between government and NGO stakeholders. The purpose was to establish collaboration between the NGO sector and the DEAT around joint coordination of national strategies. The NGO sector has been tasked to list the synergies, and put together an information sheet to inform the working group, who will take the process further.

Apart from analysis of existing related plans, policies and programmes, various studies will be conducted to provide the team with valuable information and serve as policy inputs into the Draft National Framework Policy for the CCD. The baseline studies will be:

- an assessment of the environmental situation,
- a survey in environmental protection
- an analysis of the legal framework necessary for the green paper
- an analysis of the institutional framework relating to the combating of desertification
- a study of benchmarks and indicators relating to desertification issues

Further information is needed on the following:

- A National Water Policy with its associated National Water Conservation Campaign with the objective inter alia of the sustainable management of water sources, enacted in the National Water Act
- A National Water Services Policy aiming at the provision of sanitation and services to disadvantaged communities, enacted in the Water Services Act
- Development Facilitation Act (Act 67 of 1995) for land use planning
- Agriculture (an existing policy (White Paper on Agriculture, 1995) addresses production, marketing, sustainable utilisation of natural resources, agricultural financing, institutional infrastructure, information and agricultural technology, research, extension and training, while a final Draft Policy Document on Agriculture is being compiled by the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Affairs with reference to the following:
 - goals of agricultural development
 - building a competitive and efficient agriculture
 - supporting agricultural production
 - conserving agricultural natural resources (with subsections on enhancing efficiency in irrigation, promoting sustainable resource utilisation, and meeting international obligations (desertification, wetlands and biodiversity)
 - Rural Development Framework -(describes how government, working with rural people, aims to achieve a rapid and sustained reduction in absolute rural poverty. Solutions are sought to the following questions:
 - how to involve rural people in decision making through participation in local government
 - how to increase employment and economic growth
 - how to provide affordable infrastructure
 - how to ensure social stability
 - how to improve local government capacity to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate the process and progress of development.
 - Land Reform Programme -(aimed at the redistribution and restitution of land to disadvantaged communities, especially women, with necessary support services such as training and education).
 - FCCC - the links with this Convention are being coordinated as land degradation in arid and semi-arid areas can both contribute to climate change and be a result of it.
 - LandCare (a programme of the NDA which aims to promote and improve land

management by rural resource users and to create short term employment for the rural poor. The programme includes capacity building, training and monitoring and evaluation of community land based management. It was launched in 1998 and 22 lead projects had been funded by April 1999. This is the largest programme of government aimed at combating desertification that incorporates the principles of the CCD. Through this programme it is expected to improve farming practices, protect biodiversity and integrate catchment management. The LandCare programme will have strong linkages with the community projects at grassroots level which will provide the means of effective participation at local level in activities identified as part of the NAP.

3.1.5 Other relevant plans or strategies

The following additional national plans and strategies are currently in existence and will be analysed for relevant information to avoid overlapping and policy contradictions within the NAP :

- Policy for Social Welfare
- War on Poverty- a better life for all
- Population Policy
- Policy for Sustainable Forest Development in South Africa (including social forestry)
- Draft Policy on Sustainable Resource Use
- Policy on Integrated Pollution and Waste Management in South Africa
- Draft Energy Policy of the Republic of South Africa
- National Transport Policy
- Development and Promotion of Tourism in South Africa
- Growth and Development Strategy - (a strategy to improve the economic performance of the country by attracting foreign investment, stimulating export orientation and thereby creating jobs, stimulating small, micro and medium enterprises (SMME) business and environmentally based business)
- Water Supply Programmes - aimed at poor, rural communities

3.2 NATIONAL PLANS OR STRATEGIES DEVELOPED IN THE FIELD OF DESERTIFICATION PRIOR TO THE UNCCD

It was not until the end of the 19th century that the issue of land degradation gathered momentum. The exceedingly dry period from 1911 - 1915 resulted in significant agricultural and economic loss, which culminated in the 1914 report of the Senate Select Committee. In 1923 a report of the Drought Investigation Commission on the impact of drought and land use practices followed. However, with the generally favourable rainfall conditions of the 1920's South Africans took as little interest or notice of this report as the 1914 report of the Select Senate Committee.

The theme of the expanding Karoo (a dry area in South Africa) dominated the desertification issue in South Africa, and this was illustrated by John Acocks in a comprehensive analysis.

A Desert Encroach Committee was established and this committee's report noted incorrect veld management as one of the factors of significant changes in the Karoo's historical land use patterns. Following the Desert Encroach Committee's report in 1951 and John Acock's Veld Types in 1953, very little original research occurred. It was not until the 1980's however, that the problem has been looked at afresh with a wide variety of disciplines involved.(Hoffman, 1999).

With changes of government and policies, not much information on combatting land degradation is available. However, the Betterment Planning Project was one project of the previous government which applied to communal farming in tribal land. This project was in many ways not successful because of limited participation of local communities and insufficient knowledge of the resource base by planners. It was discarded in 1994 when the homelands became part of the new South Africa.

4. INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION

4.1 ESTABLISHED AND FUNCTIONAL NATIONAL COORDINATING BODY (NCB)

4.1.1 Legal status of the NCB known as the Steering Committee (SC)

The national coordinating body, the **SC** was established in 1995. The SC is not a statutory body or juridical person and does not have financial autonomy. It plays an advisory role to the NAP process.

Its functions and mandate are primarily to give guidance and oversee the activities and actions relating to the process of developing a NAP (see attached its Terms of Reference (Annexure 1). It meets at least six times a year, or on demand.

The CCD Focal Point for the implementation of the CCD rests with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEAT), headed by the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. The NGO Focal Point is the Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG), a Cape Town based policy and advocacy organisation who represents civil society.

A Subcommittee: Sustainable Development of the Committee for Environmental Coordination (CEC), a statutory body in terms of the National Environmental Management Act,(Act 107 of 1998), provided guidance on the actions and activities on the implementation of the CCD. This Subcommittee is now defunct, because of a new structuring and action plans for the CEC.

4.1.2 Resources

4.1.2.1 Financial resources

The SC's financial resources are contributed by each department in terms of their budget, manpower and materials. The NDA did not directly contribute to the CCD as such, but allotted USD 4 million for the 1998/99 as well as for the 1999/2000 financial year for the LandCare programme, which can be regarded as the flagship programme for community based land management for the CCD. DWAF contributed the amount of USD 7 500 for the 1998/99 financial year and the amount of USD 9 000 for the 1999/2000 financial year. DEAT has budgeted the amount of USD 233 000 for the development and preparation of the NAP for the 1998/1999 and USD 300 000 for the 1999/2000 financial year. EMG employs two staff members and overheads are covered by GTZ funding (USD 95 000). GTZ allocated USD 27 000 for the DEAT's participation in the NAP process. In kind contribution of all the SC members comprises of staff hours and office infrastructure.

All SC members have telephones, faxes, e-mail and Internet connections and access to photocopy machines. DEAT has a Website with a section on desertification. A website specific to the CCD is being planned.

4.1.2.2 Human resources

Human Resources	Area of expertise	Sector/organisation
Three Deputy Directors	Environment/development/agriculture, international relations	DEAT, DFA, NDA
Senior engineer	Water	DWAF
Assistant Director	Agriculture/natural resource management	NDA
Environmental Officer	Environment/development	DEAT
Director	Development/environment	EDA/NGO
Project Manager	Agriculture/rural development,	EMG/NGO

4.1.3 Intersectoral and multidisciplinary characters

The intersectoral and multidisciplinary characters reflected in the SC, are indicated in the table above. The SC communicates and networks via minutes from every meeting, telephone and e-mail. This is facilitated by the National Secretariat (NatSec). Each member of the SC is responsible for disseminating the information to its specific stakeholder group.

4.1.4 Composition and mode of operation

The **SC** consists of national government officials (DEAT, NDA, DWAF, the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Land Affairs and those secondary Departments such as Health and Welfare coopted when necessary) and the NGO representatives. Two NGO networks, the Environmental Justice Networking Forum (Environmental) and the South African National NGO Coalition (Social) nominated the EMG and the Environmental Development Agency (EDA) respectively to represent them on the SC. Time and involvement of most of the members of the SC is a problem due to their extremely large workload.

The SC comprises of four women, of which three serve as the NAP **NatSec** and six men who advise the Secretariat. The SC, through strategic planning meetings which are held every six months, draws upon its timetable for activities. Supervision, control and evaluation of the SC is problematic as it does not take place. Inter evaluation is non existent at the moment.

The **NatSec** is the main executing body and consists of officials of the DEAT and the National Coordinator and is responsible for the day to day management of all matters relating to the CCD.

The **Management Committee** consists of the two key role players, namely the NatSec and the NGO Focal Point for desertification, EMG. The Management Committee is the driving force behind the development of the NAP. The NAP process is steered in partnership between EMG and DEAT.

DEAT and EMG went into partnership to draw up the NAP. DEAT is responsible for the National Audit and the policy writing. EMG is coordinating the Awareness Raising Campaign and consultation process which will inform the development of the NAP. The partnership has never been formalised and many problems occurred due to conflicting terms of reference.

Each Department or organisation nominated its own representative on to the SC. Due to internal restructuring in DEAT, a review as to where the CCD should be placed within government has been taking place over the last four months. Progress has therefore been severely hampered due to uncertainties and holding back of decisionmaking.

Other bodies in support of the SC are:

- ***The Awareness Raising Task Group***

This task team is convened by EMG, and generates and coordinates awareness raising activities and products, drawing on expertise and other resources within its membership. The Task Group reports to the SC and responds to initiatives of the SC and raises awareness on desertification issues, so that stakeholders can make informed decisions.

- ***The Science and Technology Task Group***

This team is made up of elected members from universities, the National Desert Margins Program (DMP), parastatals, NGOs and government departments. These members are from both the natural and the social sciences. A gender representative is one of the members. They are to assist the SC with the interpretation of multisectoral scientific issues relating to the combating of land degradation, including scientific research. This group is currently dormant and has not met for the past nine months due to limited capacity and coordination.

- ***The National Desertification Fund Task Group***

Currently this team is being constituted and will consist of a representative of the Development Bank of Southern Africa, who will serve as coordinator. A representative of UNDP, the National Secretariat, EMG and a representative from a relevant CBO, are still to be nominated. The SC may assign further members to assist the Task Group if required.

- **The Gender Task Group**

The Gender Task Group is to be constituted by the Gender Coordinator and will consist of a representative of the Gender Commission, the partner departments= gender focal points as well as EMG and EDA as the Rural Development Initiative (RDI) gender task team representatives. Its purpose is to strengthen the role of women in decision making processes of the CCD and mainstream gender into the NAP process. Activities include awareness raising of the importance of gender in the Convention. A strategy has been developed to celebrate World Desertification Day (17 June) with a focus on women's role in combating desertification.

- ***The Policy Task Group***

This task group is yet to be constituted and will support the development of the NAP through the evaluation of the preparatory work done by consultants. The preparations will include investigations of the environmental situation and environmental protection; a review of policies and strategies relating to desertification issues; an analysis of the legal and institutional frameworks and a study on benchmarks and indicators.

- **The Reference Group (RG)**

The RG comprises of high ranking representatives of national and provincial governments, parliament, international organisations, the donor community, NGOs, research institutions and a representative of the Gender Commission. This Group is responsible for the policy content, the development process of the NAP and for representing and informing the major interest groups related to desertification. This body met twice in the past but their role needs to be re-evaluated as it has not been functional during the last year (Annexure 2: Draft Terms of Reference of the RG).

4.1.5 Status of information data

DEAT has a website with basic information on the actions of the CCD.

Other information regarding desertification is in existence and can be obtained from universities, parastatals such as the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), the National Botanical Institute (NBI) and the Agricultural Research Council (ARC). A Soil and Water Conservation Audit has recently been completed by the CSIR for DWAF. The Potchefstroom University also maintains a database on soil conservation techniques.

South Africa has been approached by the Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel (OSS), to set up a Desertification Information System (DIS) in the framework of the CCD. A DIS is an information circulation system based on a server or a network of Internet servers and gives access to existing information like data, maps and documents, projects etc relevant for the elaboration, implementation and monitoring of the NAP process. This approach consisted of a briefing session with key stakeholders, individual discussions with national partners of the NAP, a workshop and follow up actions. Phase one of this approach was concluded in May 1999. It is envisaged that a DIS for South Africa will have progressed to such an extent that a report on this activity could be submitted to the third session of the Conference of the Parties in November 1999.

According to the CCD, National Coordination Units in charge of NAPs must inter alia, give access to different sources and formats of databases, data, derived products and information. It is proposed that the information system will contribute in fulfilling these obligations.

4.2 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR COHERENT AND FUNCTIONAL DESERTIFICATION CONTROL

4.2.1 Measures adopted to adjust or strengthen the institutional framework

As mentioned above, a review of the mechanisms available for coordination and harmonisation of actions to combat land degradation will be available soon to inform the SC where the CCD will be placed within government. The role of the DEAT in the past has not been supportive and this led to isolation and therefore no integration of the process.

The existing mechanisms for coordinating and harmonising desertification control actions include a MinMec Forum at the NDA consisting of various Members of Executive Councils (MEC-s) and the Minister of Agriculture at national and provincial level. The ITCA (Interdepartmental Technical Committee on Agriculture) is an existing forum with national and provincial heads of agriculture. From the ITCA a working group on LandCare is functioning. Provincial LandCare forums (of which three of the nine have been formed) establish linkages with local people. They have been informed by an official of DEAT on the

CCD process and its linkages with LandCare.

DWAF has a MinMec which deals with water issues. In addition, approximately 90 forums have been established which serve as platforms for dialogues. These forums vary in representation and are based on water catchment areas. These forums are known as planning forums and incorporate about one hundred local authorities on each forum. This is a forum where the NAP process needs to be present.

4.2.2 Measures adopted to strengthen existing institutions at the local and national level

Within the LandCare programme, capacity building and local institution building have been identified as requirements for projects and the aim is that local level initiatives will be initiated, designed and implemented by capacitated local organisations. The programme is still in its first phase, and there is no overall strategy to develop capacity of local institutions.

4.3 NAPS AS PART OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

4.3.1 Making the NAP coherent with other environmental strategic and planning frameworks

As discussed in par.3.1.4

4.3.2 Linkages of the NAP with national intra- regional and local approaches

As indicated in par 3.1.4, a study and analysis will be conducted on existing related documents to ensure co-ordination of a multi sectoral approach to combat desertification.

Linkages with the NAP with intra regional and regional approaches will start off with a pilot project in the Northern Cape, one of the provinces in South Africa prone to desertification, where desertification issues will be integrated in the economic and social development plan. This is a pilot project for the decentralisation of the NAP process (see Annexure 3 for the concept paper for this project.)

The LandCare Programme will link local community land based management to the national approach.

4.3.2 Linkages of NAP with subregional and regional action programmes

4.3.2.1 Sub-Regional Participation

South Africa has been an active member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Environment and Land Management Sector (ELMS). SADC is composed of fourteen Southern African countries who are involved in the Sub-Regional Action Plan (SRAP). At the

moment activities in the SRAP include participation in the Kalahari-Namib Action Plan, Integrating Gender into the NAP, Strengthening the role of Early Warning Systems in the context of the CCD and serving on the Multidisciplinary Scientific and Technical Consultative Committee (MSTCC) on the CCD. The pilot project envisaged in the Northern Cape will form part of the SRAP.

National desertification information is always conveyed to the sub-regional level through SADC ELMS to be incorporated into subregional and from there to regional action plans and strategies.

4.3.2.2 Regional Participation

Various African Countries affected by drought and desertification have undertaken activities towards formulating and implementing NAPs to combat desertification. At the regional level, participants in Africa will elaborate the African Regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification (RAP). Unfortunately progress has been hampered by lack of participation from the involved countries, due to lack of communication and the fact that it was carried out separately from the SRAP and without any linkages or networking with the National Coordinating Bodies.

A Desert Margins Programme (DMP) has been in development since 1996 and is a proposal for an integrated national, regional and international research programme for developing sustainable resource management options to combat land degradation in sub-Saharan Africa. This is one example of a coordinated effort of global and regional cooperation.

Another project in development involves South Africa and Argentina and will develop synergic approaches between government and civil society in the implementation of the CCD, FCCC and the CBD. This will entail country visits both to South Africa and Argentina and the formulation of future actions at a workshop at the end of these visits. UNSO money is in the process of being sought and this endeavour will be extended to other Valdivia countries if successful. The objective is inter alia the scientific exchange of knowledge and cooperation in the southern hemisphere context to address the common problems facing the rural people.

All the above initiatives have been undertaken with the principle of partnership building, involving broad based consultative processes in order to implement the CCD.

4.3.3 Governments agreement

The NAP has not yet been officially adopted as it is still in process.

As far as prioritising the NAP is concerned, the DEAT has not accorded the NAP a high priority in their activities. A review is currently being conducted, inter alia to determine whether the CCD is located correctly within the DEAT. This has created an immense setback

for the process, since little progress could be made in the past six months with the NAP process.

4.4 COHERENT AND FUNCTIONAL LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

4.4.1 Analysis of the legislation on environment and related fields

This is one of the analyses about to be done prior to the formulation of the draft NAP. It consists of a consultant reviewing the existing related policy and legal documents relevant to the NAP to determine measures to promote synergies with other sectors, including the identification of the shortcomings in current legal frameworks and the specific legislation required to address these. This document will include macro economic policies as well as cross sectoral transversal policies.

As far as the legislative measures aiming at developing and ensuring a greater involvement and responsibility of local populations are concerned, the National Environmental Management Act, No 107 of 1998, states as one of its principles that *Environmental management must place people and their needs at the forefront of its concern, and serve their physical, psychological, developmental, cultural and social interests equitably* (Goal 2, p 10).

The White Paper on Environmental Management Policy for South Africa has as strategic goal to *build capacity in local government to effectively incorporate environmental considerations into integrated development plans and land development objectives*.(Goal 1, p 30) (Annex 4).

The Minerals and Mining White Paper also requires public participation when mining projects are being developed.

The various water policies and programmes and legislation are all aimed at the management and provision of water and sanitation services to the rural, impoverished and disadvantaged communities and many include job creation through the involvement of the local communities.

Awareness raising activities at local level in the past year included a pamphlet on land degradation, published in the South African languages. Other activities included the establishment of linkages with the LandCare initiative and the RDI. These two programmes strongly emphasise the participation of local communities. A recent strategy meeting focused on awareness raising activities for World Desertification Day (17 June) and the integration of gender into these activities.

4.4.2 Measures to adapt current legislation or introduce new enactment

- Land tenure reform
- Decentralisation
- Natural resources management

Certain NGO and government programmes such as the Community Land Management Programme (EDA), LandCare (NDA), Working for Water (DWAF), Integrating Environmental Planning in the Land Reform Process Project (Department of Land Affairs) and Integrated Development Planning (Department of Constitutional Development) do have capacity building and empowerment of local populations (and, in some cases, local authorities) as objectives. However, these efforts are not yet either comprehensive, or wide spread in their application.

In line with national policy, these objectives have been developed in a range of consultative processes. However, consistency in such processes has not been achieved. The NAP process will review current legislation and recommend measures to ensure a coherent and functional legal and regulatory framework which will engender the development of natural resource management capacity.

5. PARTICIPATORY PROCESS IN SUPPORT OF THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PROGRAMME

5.1 EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF ACTORS INVOLVED IN DEFINING NATIONAL PRIORITIES

5.1.1 Methods of participation of various actors (regular consultation or meetings and regular exchange of information (mail or e-mail networks))

The SC, supported by the **RG**, which is a representative body including national and provincial governments, parliament, international donor organizations, and NGO-s , the **NatSec**, the **National Coordinator** and the Management Committee, The Awareness Raising Task Group, The Science and Technology Task Group, The National Decertification Fund Task Group, The Gender Task Group and The Policy Task Group are the main role players.

All these groups have a function to fulfill in terms of communication and public awareness as far as the implementation of the CCD is concerned. The major role player as far as awareness raising activities are concerned, however, is the Awareness Raising Task Group, consisting of officials of the communications sections of the various lead departments of the CCD, and the NGO sector. The Awareness Raising Task Group holds strategic meetings on a regular basis to determine the messages and contents.

One of the means of raising awareness is through a publication (NapNews) of the partnership. This publication is distributed to 12 500 role players and contains information on land degradation issues. NapNews appears four times per year. The distribution list includes community based environmental and developmental NGO-s, national and provincial based environment and development and advocacy NGO-s, officials of national, provincial and local government, farmers and other natural resource users and their organisations such as farmers

unions, water committees, water boards, parliamentarians etc.

The first phase of the awareness campaign was implemented and various products to effect this were developed, inter alia T-shirts, an event on Desertification Day where primary school pupils participated, a video, a CD production, posters, talks on radio etc.

A new awareness raising strategy for 1999 is directed at dryland communities, people in affected areas, farmers (natural resource users), youth, women, people in leadership roles and positions, policy and/or decision makers at all levels (parliament, provincial legislators, local government), business, NGOs, unions, Youth Commission, Commission on Gender and Equality and includes the following:

- local government and provincial government publications
- a slot on community radio station in local language
- simple printed media for kids/community organisations
- pamphlet
- agriforum 2000 (an agricultural TV programme)
- interactive processes via resource people
- local newspapers
- coop newsletters
- Farmers Weekly (an agricultural magazine)
- agricultural news
- NAP News and other publications of the various stakeholders
- video and TV and radio

The posters and pamphlets have been and are in the process of being translated in the main languages of the local populations.

All the above actions are to be assessed and evaluated. Aggressive awareness raising has occurred only in the past two years, and an assessment of the success thereof could not yet be ascertained.

As far as gender issues are concerned, it should be mentioned that the Land Tenure Reform Programme formulated a gender policy which sets out several situations which the implementors have to follow to allow women to access their own land. This policy is supported by various gender land tenure education workshops which are held in all the provinces with all the stakeholders.

The Water Management and the Community Forestry policies have a gender impact analysis done by the departmental focal points.

Gender activities include partnerships with different departmental gender focal points, the Gender Commission, RDI: Gender Policy Group, NGOs and CBOs; the development of a

tool kit for use by people involved in the CCD and World Desertification Day 1999 using the theme 'Strengthening the Role of Women within the Convention'.

One of the main objectives of gender mainstreaming the NAP is to support land management programmes such as the LandCare, through the networks and partnerships mentioned above.

All these activities will be incorporated into the NAP to secure the role of women (and men) in sustaining their environments.

5.5.2 Representatives of various actors in the national priorities identification processes (local forums, national forum)

The government agencies are to give information on their line function activities as far as the combating of desertification is concerned. The NGO sector bridges the gap between the national and provincial governments and the local people. A consultant was employed by the NGO community to conduct the first phase of the awareness raising process. Since the consultant's contract has expired, EMG has employed a full time official to steer the awareness raising campaign.

The SC on which both key government departments and two NGOs are represented, has been established, and serves to keep the key stakeholders informed and able to contribute to the development of the NAP. The NatSec keeps in touch with other departments and levels of government.

5.5.3 Nature and scope of information, education and communications action

As discussed in par 5.5.1

5.5.4 Extent of uptake

- **of local concerns at the national level**
- **the results of national consultations at the local level**

In the course of 1998 and 1999 and NGO initiative, the RDI was launched by the major NGO networks in the country. A series of local consultative workshops culminated in a provincial and national conference (April 1999). This National Rural People's Conference established a Rural People's Charter. This reflects the consensual issues and concerns of disadvantaged rural communities as regards a range of developmental issues, including desertification and the environment, agriculture, water, land and rural economic development. A policy team convened by EMG will carry out further work on desertification and environmental issues on the basis of the Charter and will feed its recommendations back to the participating networks for endorsement. The output of the policy team will be reviewed in a consultative workshop with representatives of the NGO and CBO rural networks.

A series of consultative workshops with local communities is currently underway to identify desertification issues and policy options to address them in respect of rural communities. Consultations with farmers unions must still be undertaken.

6. CONSULTATIVE PROCESS IN SUPPORT OF THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME AND THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES AND OTHER INTERESTED ENTITIES

6.1 EFFECTIVE SUPPORT FROM INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS FOR COOPERATION

6.1.1 Degree of participation of international partners

As far as government measures to ensure the involvement of international partners in the process are concerned, government has employed a full time person to act as intermediate between the international agencies for donor funding and the government. This person is also assisting the NAP process with approaching donors for funding. During the process government has also acquired the services of a backstopper to assist with the strategic development of the process. Various other international advisors have been part of the process at different stages and for different purposes such as activities relating to gender activities, Valdivia technical cooperation, consultative process, awareness raising, National Desertification Fund (NDF), the audit, the production of a video and a pilot project in the Northern Cape.

Although these partners did not participate in all stages of the process, they were readily available and could be reached by means of electronic communication and other methods.

These partners provided financial support, backstopper services and technical advice in support of the eventual formulation of the NAP.

A round table of donors was held in 1995 and was presented with the NAP process. The IDRC, the Netherlands Embassy, DANCED and GTZ were present at that meeting. The IDRC, GTZ, UNDP and UNSO were regular attendees of various strategic planning and other meetings.

The following international donor agencies are involved:

- Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), (approximately USD 180 000) for the purposes of the consultative process, policy development and writing and technical support

- Norwegian government USD 197 000 has been channelled to UNEP (Nairobi) of which USD 167 000 was expended for the South African Awareness Raising Campaign by the UNEP
- UNSO for the starting up of the National Desertification Fund, also channelled through UNDP (South Africa) who will administer it. (USD 25 000)
- IDRC for the purposes of the audit (USD 8 500)
- Netherlands government -USD 28 000 for the production of a video
- UNSO for the development of a gender strategy to strengthen the role of women in the NAP development - USD 8 000 (and USD 20 000 pledged)
- Australian government through UNSO for the development of a decentralisation pilot project in the Northern Cape - USD 40 000
- At present UNSO is also being approached for a study in technical and interregional cooperation between Argentina and South Africa (USD20 000).

6.1.2 Establishment of an informal consultation and harmonisation process for actions between partner countries

SADC (ELMS) often serves as a platform where partners can communicate at the subregional level.

Informal consultation and harmonisation between the partner countries and the SC include the exchange of information, exchange visits, technical cooperation and networking at international, regional and subregional fora, through electronic and other communication means.

Meetings take place at various levels and at different intervals and for different reasons. South Africa has been an active member of SADC (ELMS). South Africa is also one of the members of the Valdivia Group, a group of seven Southern Hemisphere countries (Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia) who organised themselves to address various environmental problems. South Africa acts as the desertification coordinator of this group.

Activities in this role included a questionnaire sent to the Valdivia countries on desertification related issues. This questionnaire will serve as a background for Valdivia countries in efforts to learn about desertification and compare their desertification problems to that of South Africa. Exchange of information and mutual understanding and assistance in the effort to combat land degradation are the objectives of this questionnaire.

7. MEASURES TAKEN OR PLANNED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT, TO CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES, TO IMPROVE INSTITUTIONAL ORGANISATION, TO IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE OF DESERTIFICATION AND TO MONITOR AND ASSESS THE EFFECTS OF DROUGHT

7.1 ADEQUATE DIAGNOSTIC OF PAST EXPERIENCES

Synthesis and evaluation of activities undertaken in the field of combating desertification

A diagnosis of past experiences was introduced in the recent study *Land Degradation in South Africa* by Timm Hoffman and Associates. (See Annexure 5)

Several specialist contract workers were employed for the first part of the study. Each had specific responsibilities, such as compiling the bibliography and directory. In the spirit of the CCD, which encourages popular participation in the process of developing a NAP, the team embarked on a series of regional workshops around the country. Their primary aim was to develop a consensus map of degradation in South Africa.

The above research was the first step in the development of the NAP and was intended as part one of a baseline study to prepare well for the NAP process.

No specific recommendations for the formulation of the NAP was concluded, however, this study provided the country with a rare opportunity to assess its land degradation and desertification status, with a view to developing a NAP to address the problem.

The recommendations relating to land degradation specified in the audit will be taken into account by the policy drafters, presented at South Africa's National Forum in order for the programme stakeholders to identify the priority issues for the country and so that awareness can be raised at all levels on these issues.

7.2 ESTABLISHED TECHNICAL PROGRAMMES AND FUNCTIONAL INTEGRATED PROJECTS TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

7.2.1 Inventory, adaptation and integration of projects underway within the NAP process

Agricultural goals and strategies to support the government's growth and development plan, at national and provincial levels were developed. Provincial governments are also in the process of formulating Integrated Rural Development Policies aiming at implementing issues in sustainable agriculture and rural development. The Land Care and RDI are being developed

with the focus on people participation.

The RDI has been started with the purpose of mobilising rural communities and organisations to take their rightful place on the rural development agenda. It will also give the rural people the opportunity to make their voices heard about what should be done to combat land degradation and desertification. The experience, advice and suggestions that people share will help to shape the NAP. The RDI aims to provide a policy and mobilisation platform for rural people and organisations and is being coordinated by five networks active in rural development work. The EMG is also helping to coordinate the RDI process and will ensure that land degradation issues are addressed.

The Working for Water Programme of DWAF is a programme to remove alien vegetation from certain areas, thereby reducing the water usage of these invaders and involving local disadvantaged, poor communities, contributing to job creation and capacity building. The Save the Sand programme also aims at the involvement of local communities.

CCD SC members have been involved in the formulation of the LandCare programme and in the design of two of the lead projects currently under way (Mier and Paulshoek).

A pilot project which seeks to address all the principles of the CCD and to link with the FCCC and the CBD is under development in the Northern Cape Province in the Nieuwoudville district. Involvement and participation of SC members in the design and implementation of monitoring and evaluation systems from the projects at Mier, Paulshoek and Nieuwoudville, will provide data and learning related to the particulars of the implementation.

The proposal for technical cooperation between Argentina and South Africa is being finalised and will entail country visits by identified participants from both countries, and a workshop to formulate future actions. This project is to share information and experiences on similar ecosystems and of decentralisation of the NAP process and policy and institutional development.

The Northern Cape is one of the nine provinces in South Africa. It is the intention of the SC that a pilot project to decentralise the NAP process to a provincial level through their existing economic development plan, will be conducted. The development stage has been funded by Australia through UNSO.

Wavecrest is another pilot project where three communities are beginning to develop their economic development plan taking the issues of land tenure, basic service provision, job creation from alternative forms of income generation, training and capacity building and land use planning into account. GEF funding is being sorted out as the community is fighting a mining company who wants to mine its land which is the furthest south. It is a mangrove area in South Africa and contains threatened indigenous sand dune forests.

In the Herschel District, a project is looking at community land base management options and

the NAP process will support the development of a monitoring and evaluation system. As yet funds have not been sorted out.

Other water management related projects include the Gabion, Geen Einde (Sekhukuneland) and Stoffelton pilot projects.

All these programmes have one common denominator and that is to include the principles of participation and partnership therein and to allow the local populations to help with the formulation of the NAP.

The experience gained from all ongoing processes will be included in the NAP process and will serve as cornerstones on which the policy to combat desertification will be based.

7.2.2 Identification of new actions and planned measures

These are determined twice a year by means of strategic planning where new actions proposed to combat desertification are taken into consideration. A recent strategic planning meeting was held in March 1999 to address the most pressing issues as far as the process to develop a NAP is concerned.

7.2.3 Specific actions to strengthen the national capacity to combat desertification, in particular at the local level

The Northern Cape pilot project mentioned, will seek to build capacity.

A training course in participatory monitoring and evaluation will be conducted for officials of the NDA involved in LandCare in the course of the second half of 1999 to which some of the SC members will be invited.

The implementation of the awareness raising and consultation process being given to a NGO which is in partnership with the national government, is part of capacity building for national level to deal with local community issues.

7.3 ACTION PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH PRIORITY FIELDS SET OUT IN THE CONVENTION

The NAP process has not yet been formulated. The audit referred to above has been concluded and an analysis of other policies is about to commence. Practical measures to combat desertification are ongoing and the NAP will endeavour to bring all the actions together in one document.

7.3.1 Measures for national resource conservation

The White Paper (policy document) on the Conservation and Sustainable Use for South Africa's Biological Diversity can be regarded as setting out measures for natural resource conservation. However, this policy is not yet implemented as such, although many actions to effect the objectives of the policy are ongoing.

7.3.2 Measures to improve institutional organisation

The study to decentralise the NAP process can be regarded as the first step in an effort to improve the institutional organisation. This will provide an integrated approach into other economic policies and plans of the Northern Cape and this approach will be extended to other provinces in due course.

7.3.3 Measures to increase knowledge of desertification as a phenomenon

A research programme has been conducted by the DEAT for a number of years. This programme, the Human Needs, Resources and the Environment (HNRE) Programme is now focused on desertification as a phenomenon, with specific reference to the role of humans in causing land degradation. Other institutions, apart from the Human Sciences Research Council which administers the HNRE Programme, also dealing with research on land degradation, are the CSIR and the Foundation for Research Development (FRD).

The forthcoming DIS to be established in South Africa, the Website as well as promotion of synergies of the three Conventions mentioned earlier will also contribute to increase knowledge of desertification

7.3.4 Monitoring and evaluation measures for the effects of desertification

South Africa is planning a study into what the situation in South Africa in terms of sustainable development benchmarks and indicators is at all levels. With the results of this study we will begin to develop an appropriate system for South Africa.

Phase 1 is to pull together and review what has happened and what is happening in South Africa and a proposal to suggest a way forward to develop a benchmark and indicators system for South Africa. Phase 2 will develop a suitable system.

7.3.5 Measures to improve the economic environment

The NAP will address possibilities of alternative forms of income generation, such as crafts, ecotourism, market strategies etc. which will result in job creation.

7.4 LINKAGE ACHIEVED WITH SUBREGIONAL AND REGIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

7.4.1 Development, at the national level, of programmes of a subregional or regional character

No pilot project extends beyond the boundaries of South Africa.

7.4.2 Strengthening the African and other relevant scientific networks

National scientific and technical institutions are participating actively and effectively in the relevant networks. The Scientific Task Group consists of members of the ARC, the Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS) of the University of the Western Cape, the CSIR, and various provincial and national government officials as well as the NGO sector. This task group assist with the interpretation of scientific issues in the development of the NAP and is involved in various research projects.

As already mentioned, South Africa is also a partner of the Multidisciplinary Scientific and Technical Coordinating Committee of the SADC countries, where matters of mutual concern are addressed.

7.5 EFFECTIVENESS OF MEASURES IN LOCAL CAPACITY BUILDING

7.5.1 Degree of responsibility in natural resources management devolving on local communities

Where NGO's have been working actively with local communities, a greater degree of responsibility has been achieved. The LandCare initiative already discussed is one example of increased local responsibility in managing their land.

7.5.2 Degree of decentralisation achieved

The Working for Water Programme and Save the Sand Campaign are two examples of initiatives by DWAF linked to the LandCare Initiative where much more participation at community level is required.

These initiatives have as their goal the eradication of alien invasive vegetation by the communities which will result in the

- increase of run -off water
- job creation
- empowerment of women and
- protection of biodiversity

7.5.3 Involvement of actors in monitoring and evaluation process

The only NGO initiative in local conservancies where there is involvement of actors is the

LandCare Programme which demands involvement of both officials and community leaders in the monitoring and evaluation process.

7.6 PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS APPLIED

7.6.1 Functioning of internal partnership agreements

The EMG is in partnership with government in this endeavour. The EMG serves to bridge the gap between the national and local levels. Responsibility for specific aspects of the NAP process is allocated to the respective partners by the SC. Implementation is monitored at monthly management meetings and is reported on at bimonthly SC meetings.

7.6.2 Consultation and coordination process

The Agricultural Policy document seeks to enhance the role of communities in natural resource management. The RDI initiative also has in mind the active communication of the needs of the rural communities.

The development of synergies between the three Conventions is aimed at the participation of both the government and NGOs in order to collaborate around joint coordination of national strategies.

7.6.3 Investments made for NAP implementation

Apart from the normal budgets of the parties involved mentioned elsewhere in this report, no other funds were invested for this process.

7.6.4 Number of international partners involved

Apart from the donors mentioned in par 6.1.1, (GTZ (involved in the RG, strategic planning, financial and technical support), Norway, UNEP/UNSO (provides technical support for gender and strategic planning and awareness raising and is represented on the RG), IDRC (provides technical support and financial support for the audit)), the Netherlands and Australia (provide financial support)), other international role players with whom South Africa cooperates on various platforms include Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, New Zealand and Australia (the Valdivia Countries), as well as the Africa groups.

8. FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS FROM NATIONAL BUDGETS IN SUPPORT OF IMPLEMENTATION AS WELL AS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION RECEIVED AND NEEDED, IDENTIFYING AND PRIORITISING REQUIREMENTS

8.1 ADOPTED FINANCIAL MECHANISMS

8.1.1 Measures to facilitate access of local actors to existing sources of funding

A process to establish a NDF is about to commence in South Africa. The objective of this process is to propose financing mechanisms for the implementation of the CCD as input into the process of developing a NAP to combat desertification in South Africa. The focus will be inter alia on an analysis of the nature and extent of funds required, the sources and availability of funds, local realities in communities at risk from desertification, the advantages and disadvantages of different funding options and a strategic framework for implementing a preferred option. The Northern Cape decentralisation pilot project will be used for developing the NDF proposal.

South Africa has not yet accessed local/private sector funds for the NAP. This is an area to explore and South Africa would welcome technical support to begin the process.

Local actors have been given small provisional amounts of funds for travel, workshops but no formal sources have been set up. A government department has a list of funding sources to whom proposals are submitted for financial assistance.

8.1.2 Working out new, adapted methods to mobilise internal and external resources

No decision on the specific mechanisms to ensure financing for combating desertification has yet been made.

The modalities of participation of the various actors in the funding and management of the activities have been proposed. The SC, DEAT and the NDF Task Group all have specific functions identified. (See Annex 6)

The UNDP will contribute up to USD 25 000 of UNSO funds for purposes of the assignment and will provide general advice and administer the payments.

8.2 NAP FINANCING

8.2.1 Mobilisation of national resources

No strategy or plan has yet been developed to access funds for national and international resources. Funds have been provided on an ad hoc basis.

8.2.2 Mobilisation of external resources

The round table mentioned above drew responses from the IDRC and the Royal Netherlands Embassy.

8.2.3 Contribution from Global Mechanism

The Global Mechanism has not yet been contacted and no support was therefore forthcoming.

8.2.4 Number of partners providing financial support

The contribution of the SC members, particularly the DEAT, EMG, NDA and DWAF has been spelt out above. The international partners contributing financially to the NAP process have been mentioned in par. 6.1.1. The GTZ and UNSO are the main financial supports of the NAP process.

8.2.5 Amount of financial resources available

The amount of financial resources available for the NAP process was spelt out in par. 4.1.2 and 6.1.1. The NatSec has received all the requests for financial support asked for except a request for support of an international backstopper whom DEAT and DWAF had financially backed up for the first two consultancies.

8.3 TECHNICAL COOPERATION DEVELOPED

8.3.1 Mobilisation of technical cooperation

South Africa had requested backstopping support (before the international backstopper was employed) from GTZ and UNSO. There is no set plan for requesting technical support.

As mentioned, GTZ has provided a small amount of technical support for the NAP process. UNSO also gave technical support for gender and NDF activities. The Development Bank of South Africa supported the NatSec in the development of the NDF concept and proposal.

8.3.2 Identification of priority needs in technical assistance

As far as required technical support is concerned, this remains difficult to determine due to the restructuring process that was recently finalised within the DEAT. Possibly the following might be needed: partnership development, local action developing into national policy and private sector involvement.

9. REVIEW OF BENCHMARKS AND INDICATORS UTILISED TO MEASURE PROGRESS AND AN ASSESSMENT THEREOF

9.1 OPERATIONAL MECHANISMS FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

9.1.1 Establishment and/or strengthening of national environmental monitoring and observation capacities

An approach to identify a suitable method and conceptual framework for the selection of indicators and an appropriate process whereby an agreed upon system evolves, is currently being contemplated for South Africa. This will also entail a review of past and present benchmark and indicator systems. The testing of indicators for applicability in South Africa, will be executed within the framework of a specific programme, such as the pilot project in the Northern Cape, and the NAP as a whole. A review of the local indicators currently being used at community level will be an integral component of this activity.

9.1.2 Information system on desertification level at the national level

The State of the Environment Report provides some insight of the status of land degradation at the national level.

9.1.3 Main actors=access to available information

A webpage for the State of the Environment Report is being developed and will be available in September 1999.

9.1.4 Mechanisms for consultation concerning the analysis of results

There has been no specific impact analysis done of the NAP process in South Africa. A report was written by a consultant who was employed to review the location, management, administration, implementation and funding of the CCD. The recommendations are currently being investigated.

9.1.5 Regular production of reports

The government review mentioned above is our closest review in terms of institutional and policy capabilities.

9.1.6 Feedback on evaluation for programme management

The CCD will possibly require technical support for an impact assessment of the NAP process. There has been no mechanism for evaluation, dissemination or feedback on programme management or results of reviews as yet.