



SOUTH AFRICA

**SECOND NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS
CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION**

Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA
PRETORIA

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

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1. SUMMARY

This document is the second report of South Africa as an affected country party of the UNCCD. The document is an attempt to update the new developments with regard to combating desertification in South Africa since the first report.

South Africa has not produced a National Action Plan to Combat Desertification (NAP). The first stage in developing a NAP entailed gathering information on the state of land degradation in South Africa. This report was finalised in 1999. The actual drafting of South Africa's NAP is in process and a first draft will be concluded towards the end of 2002.

A range of actions has been taken in the past to combat land degradation in South Africa. This was elaborated at length in the previous report.

The UNCCD focal point rests with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT), headed by the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. Recent developments included the expansion of the National Co-ordinating Body (NCB) to incorporate a range of other role players, such as the provinces, academia, researchers and scientists. Other members are also co-opted when necessary.

South Africa hosted a SADC workshop on capacity building for resource mobilisation facilitated by the Global Mechanism (GM) from 7-11 May 2001. South Africa had its workshop back to back with the SADC workshop to finalise the NAP institutional arrangements.

International partners provided donor funding, services and technical advice in support of the formulation of the NAP. The Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), the Australian government and the World Bank (Global Environmental Facility) have particularly provided valuable support in the past year. Apart from the fact that South Africa has since 1994 attended the international negotiating committees to develop the Convention and was represented at all five Conferences of the Parties, it is well supported by its international partners. An example of this is the recent mission of the UNCCD Secretariat and the SADC- Environment and Land Management Sector (ELMS) who visited the country early in February 2002 to give guidance and advice to South Africa in its efforts to have a NAP ready. This was preceded by a visit from Mr Cheik Sourang of the GM who advocated the importance to develop a country partnership framework prior to drafting a National Action Programme.

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

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

2.1.1 New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

NEPAD is a pledge by African leaders based on a common vision, and a firm and shared conviction that they have a pressing duty to eradicate poverty and to place their countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development, and to participate actively in the world economy and body politic. It is anchored on the determination of Africans to extricate themselves and the continent from the malaise of underdevelopment and exclusion in a globalising world and has been reinstated as a primary programme specifically designed for Africa. The UNCCD can be a powerful tool for the implementation of NEPAD, as well as to reduce poverty, both regionally and nationally.

2.1.2 National Development Plan

The *Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP)* is the main development plan of the democratically elected government that came into power in 1994.

In the context of an integrated economic strategy, the government intends to 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. This is contained in the *Growth, Employment and Redistribution Policy (GEAR)*

While the RDP caters for basic infrastructure, the 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. The basic tenets of the GEAR policy are the maintenance of a fiscally prudent policy via a competitive and more labour intensive growth path and generally, accelerated economic stance compatible with lower inflation rates and ultimately lower interest rates, accelerated creation of employment growth.

These two policies will serve as guidelines and will form the cornerstones of South Africa's NAP.

2.1.3 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. Several local authorities are assisted in developing local government strategies and actions plans as part of the Local Agenda 21 initiatives in South Africa.

2.1.4 National Conservation Strategy

The *White Paper on Environmental Management Policy for South Africa (1994)* 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). It further accepts the concept of sustainable development as “the guiding principle for environmental management.” Policy guidelines are provided for environmental education, land-use, nature conservation, cultural heritage and the urban environment in which the concept of holistic environmental management is introduced, pollution control, the role of environmental resource economics. To build capacity at local level is one of the main objectives of the UNCCD.

2.1.5 Growth and Development Strategy

This strategy is a fundamental pillar of the transformation process of spatial and development planning. This strategy has been initiated by the National Departments of Land Affairs, of Housing and the Development Planning Section in the Deputy President's Office and will be implemented by the provincial Departments of Local Government and Housing.

2.1.6 Other relevant plans or strategies

Many other relevant plans and strategies can be cited. Poverty eradication, however, is a key national priority. President Thabo Mbeki has signed the Millennium Declaration, which includes the target of halving poverty by 2015. The South African Government and all line function ministries are the major bodies responsible for this issue. The Government's commitment to poverty alleviation is well documented and articulated in various policy documents and economic development. An official declaration: *War on Poverty - A Better Life for All* was adopted. The *Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Strategy* and the *Urban Renewal Program* are two examples of programmes that provide a framework against poverty.

The government also developed the *HIV/AIDS National Strategy*. Several other policies have been developed which take poverty issues into consideration: the *Water Supply and Sanitation Policy*, and the *National Water Policy*, are programmes that will entail investment in the economic and social infrastructure, human resource development, enterprise development, the enhancement of the

development capacity of local government, poverty alleviation and the strengthening of the criminal justice system.

The *Population Policy for South Africa*, 1998, places population at the center of development as its driving force and ultimate beneficiary. It describes the critical interface between population, development and the environment, and captures the sustainable development aspirations of ordinary South Africans. In this sense, the Population Policy forms an integral part of national development strategies aimed at redressing past inequities and promoting the quality of life of people.

3. INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION

3.1 ESTABLISHED AND FUNCTIONAL NATIONAL COORDINATING BODY (NCB)

3.1.1 Legal status of the NCB

As previously reported, the NCB has no legal standing. However, guidance on the actions and activities on the implementation of the UNCCD is provided by the *Subcommittee: Sustainable Development of the Committee for Environmental Coordination (CEC)*, a statutory body in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998). This Subcommittee is now defunct, because of a new structuring and action plans for the CEC. This function will now probably reside with a Subcommittee: Environmental Management.

3.1.2 Resources

3.1.2.1 Financial resources

The NDA allotted 1,3 million Australian dollar for the 2000/2001 as well as for the 2001/2002 financial year for the LandCare programme, which can be regarded as the flagship programme for community based land management related to the CCD. Other financial resources were reported on in the previous report.

3.1.2.2 Human resources

One person in DEAT was solely responsible for the implementation of the UNCCD in the past few years. All the other relevant departments and provinces made staff available on a part time basis for attending major events regarding desertification. Recently one additional official was appointed in DEAT to assist with this responsibility.

3.1.3 Intersectoral and multidisciplinary characters

The intersectoral and multidisciplinary characters of the NCB are reflected in the fact that several national departments, all the provinces, academia and scientists as well as parastatal institutions are represented on the NCB. The NCB communicates and networks via minutes from every meeting, telephone and e-mail. A multitude of professions and expertise are constituted by these bodies.

3.1.4 Composition and mode of operation

In keeping with the gender policy, the NCB currently comprises eight females and fifteen male members. However, this might change according to new appointments to the NCB.

Supervision, control and evaluation of the NCB is problematic as it does not take place. This is as a result of the disbanding of the Reference Group that was supposed to be the final decision making body of the UNCCD implementation process and to which the NCB was accountable.

3.1.5 Status of information data

As previously reported.

3.2 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR COHERENT AND FUNCTIONAL DESERTIFICATION CONTROL

3.2.1 Measures adopted to adjust or strengthen the institutional framework

As previously reported.

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

As previously reported.

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

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

As previously reported.

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

As previously reported.

3.3.3 Linkages of NAP with subregional and regional action programmes

3.3.3.1 Sub-Regional Participation

Currently the pilot project envisaged in the Northern Cape to develop a provincial action programme (attached), and the South African contribution to the *Desert Margins Programme (DMP)* will form part of the Sub Regional Action Programme. The DMP was initiated in 1995 and involves nine African countries. Its objectives are to:

- * collect and assess current dryland management practices
- * understand the causes, extent and severity and physical processes of soil and ecosystem degradation
- * develop improved soil, water and biodiversity management strategies that are ecologically sound, economically viable and acceptable to the people of the desert margins
- * design policies, programmes, and institutional options that would serve as incentives to people living in the desert margins to adopt these practices
- * enhance the institutional capacities of program member countries to conduct research on sustaining the desert margins
- * disseminate the knowledge to farmers, policymakers and other stakeholders.

In addition, in 1997 SADC approved the project *SADC Land Degradation and Desertification Control Programme* for capacity building by using selected capable institutions to be strengthened to serve as centers of excellence for this purpose. The following institutions were selected and approved by the SADC Council in August 2001: Faculty of Law (University of South Africa) for Environmental Law, and Farmers Support Group, (University of Natal) for Community Planning, Appropriate Technology and Indigenous Knowledge. These institutions will work closely with the national government to ensure that all relevant information is contained in the NAP.

3.3.3.2 Regional Participation

The DMP is the flagship 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. In South Africa the DMP will be implemented in the Northern Cape and North West Provinces.

3.3.4 Governments agreement

The UNCCD has been placed firmly on the agenda of the World Summit on Sustainable Development that will take place in August-September 2002 in South Africa. Preparations are well underway to develop positions in this regard.

3.4 COHERENT AND FUNCTIONAL LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

3.4.1 Analysis of the legislation on environment and related fields

The *Bill of Rights* is contained in chapter 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996; The overarching protection of environmental rights is contained in section 24 under the heading "Environment", Section 24(a) states that everyone has the right to (a) to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being. Section 24(b) states that "everyone has the right to have the environment protected, for the benefit of future generations." The environment, of course, includes land. The general environmental policy laid down that every generation has an obligation to act as a trustee of its natural environment and cultural heritage in the interest of succeeding generations.

The *National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998)* in section 2(4)(o) reaffirms the principle by stating that the "environment is held in public trust for the people, the beneficial use of environmental resources must serve the public interest and the environment must be protected as the people's common heritage". This concept also forms the basis of the principle of sustainable development. Sustainability is only practically and legally possible if land is managed according to the principle that the owner is a trustee of the land on behalf of future generations. It is therefore important to realize that the concept of sustainable development is effectively enshrined in section 24 of the new constitution and section 2(3) of the National Environmental Management Act. This Act also makes provision for the establishment of a Committee for Environmental Coordination to coordinate issues related to environment amongst all relevant national government departments. It is the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism's responsibility to facilitate the integration and coordination of environmental management in development decision-making. In addition, in terms of schedule 6 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Provincial Governments were given the responsibility for decision-making with regard to development.

Legislation on specific subjects such as agriculture, forestry, mining and others contained measures that shaped the trusteeship structure over the past 50 years or more. Not one square centimeter of land in the country is not subject to controls dedicated to preserving the environmental resource base. A study of legislation on agriculture shows that not only is the destructive use of agricultural land prohibited but owners of land can also be forced to improve their land, for example through the construction, maintenance, alteration or removal of soil conservation works or other structures on land.

However, in the administration of environmental law, South Africa shares a problem with the rest of the world. The many legislative measures that manage environmental impacts tend to be fragmented and fall under the control of a variety of enforcement agencies. As environmental legislation is contained in many acts of parliament, ordinances, rules and regulations, relevant legislation is difficult to access and conflicting measures are inevitable. The fragmentation of control detracts from effective management and lends itself to either conflicting control or to a complete absence thereof .

The *Minerals and Mining Act (1992)* is an important milestone in the development of mineral law. It created a new mineral and mining management system and deals with several aspects important to environmental management. The White Paper also requires public participation when mining projects are being developed.

The *National Water Act (Act 35 of 1998)*, is structured around the notions that water is scarce, that it is unevenly distributed, that it belongs to all people, that all aspects of water resources are managed in an integrated manner, and that water management must achieve sustainable use and must protect the quality. 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.

3.4.2 Measures to adapt current legislation or introduce new enactment

A *National Biodiversity Bill* and *Protected Areas Bill* have progressed to a seventh draft and will be submitted for cabinet approval in 2002. A National Forestry Plan was developed in collaboration with relevant sectors and was published recently.

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

4.1 EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF ACTORS INVOLVED IN DEFINING NATIONAL PRIORITIES

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

NCB meetings regularly took place over the past years, and at least four times a year to review progress and discuss issues around desertification. Minutes of meetings were held and distributed through e-mail.

Stakeholders were frequently invited to related workshops and events and assisted in defining national priorities.

4.1.2 Representativeness of various actors in the national priorities identification processes (local forums, national forum)

The department charged with the management of the environment cannot rely on the capacity in the department alone to establish management structures. For this purpose environmental capacity elsewhere also has to be used.

The National Environmental Advisory Forum consists of members of the general public that can contribute environmental expertise and its main function is to advise the Minister. The Committee for Environmental Co-ordination's members includes the administrative heads of central governments, representatives of the provincial administration and a representative of local government. The Committee owes its existence to a realisation that such a structure is necessary to promote adequate co-ordination and integration where environmental measures are promulgated or executed by member departments. (See 3.4.1)

The focus in legislation to base the prevention of environmental degradation on effective management structures and procedures is extended by requiring of the public sector to develop environmental management structures. Environmental implementation plans must be prepared by national departments whose activities may affect the environment.

4.1.3 Nature and scope of information, education and communications action

The national secretariat, housed by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, is responsible for dissemination of information. This occurs on an ad hoc basis and when necessary.

4.1.4 Extent of uptake of (i) local concerns at the national level and (ii) the results of national consultations at the local level

All of the new legislative and policy-development processes in the field of environmental management have included comprehensive public participation processes. Participatory decision-making is covered in the national environmental management principles and is further addressed in the National Environmental Management Act's provisions relating to environmental impact assessments and regulatory powers.

5. 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

5.1 EFFECTIVE SUPPORT FROM INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS FOR COOPERATION

5.1.1 Degree of participation of international partners

Various discussions with development partners (Finland, GTZ, Denmark, UNDP and the World Bank) took place in February 2002 when South Africa was visited by a mission of the UNCCD Secretariat and a representative of SADC. The development partners all pledged their support for the process to implement the CCD. South Africa was invited to develop proposals in the quest for combating desertification which will then be evaluated by these development partners for possible funding.

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

The unified management of vast tracts of land straddling national borders is fast becoming a reality. It has been established that the yield from land use could be substantially more if it is managed as one integrated unit rather than several independent units. This cross border co-operation is evident in the Desert Margins Initiative. Apart from structures that are created for certain projects, informal consultations can also take place for actions to be implemented.

6. 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

6.1 ADEQUATE DIAGNOSIS OF PAST EXPERIENCES

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

In the development of the NAP, it is envisaged that a proper synthesis and a situational/environmental analysis of the legal framework, institutional arrangements, policy framework, as well as an analysis of the social, political and economic scenario, existing programmes, strategies and partners or stakeholders and their roles, as well as consultation of stakeholders at local, provincial and national level will take place.

Guidelines to advocacy, networking and communication will also be addressed in the NAP.

6.2 ESTABLISHED TECHNICAL PROGRAMMES AND FUNCTIONAL INTEGRATED PROJECTS TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

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

The following are examples of projects which are undertaken and which will be reflected on in the NAP process:

The Paulshoek LandCare project is a project in an arid part of Northern Cape which is based around functioning community participation and management of natural resources to improve their sustainability. The Agricultural Research Council (ARC) plays a facilitatory role in this project.

Management and policy options for the sustainable development of communal rangelands and their communities in southern Africa (MAPOSDA). This is an European Union (EU) funded project with partners in South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho and Europe. The South African research is based around the communal village of Paulshoek, Northern Cape. This project arises from a previous project with the same partners: Global Change and subsistence rangelands in southern Africa. Both these projects are concerned with the desertification of natural resources on which rural people depend. They examine the underlying processes of desertification and look at ways of improving resource management and developing alternative livelihoods in order to mitigate the effects of desertification. The South African partners are the University of Cape Town (UCT), University of Western Cape (UWC) and the ARC.

The South African Netherlands Programme for Alternative Development (SANPAD), is a project in the Suid Bokkeveld, Northern Cape and is about sustainable livelihoods through improved natural resource management. This project looks at improving livelihoods of previously disadvantaged rural communities through a better management of a very marginal natural resource base. The South African partners are the Environmental Monitoring Group, Farmer Support Group, ARC and UWC.

6.2.2 Identification of new actions and planned measures

These are determined by the Secretariat in DEAT by means of strategic planning exercises, workshops and other events, where new actions proposed to combat desertification are taken into consideration.

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

These actions to strengthen national capacity occur through the development of participatory tools aimed at increasing local capacity to manage natural resources sustainably. In particular Participatory Impact Monitoring is used to involve large sectors of the community in monitoring and managing natural resource based projects in a community dependent on marginal rangeland.

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

6.3.1 Measures for national resource conservation

As previously reported.

6.3.2 Measures to improve institutional organization

As previously reported.

6.3.3 Measures to increase knowledge of desertification as a phenomenon

As previously reported.

6.3.4 Monitoring and evaluation measures for the effects of desertification

The following activities will assist in the monitoring and evaluation of the effects of desertification:

A South African study on benchmarks and indicators will be finalised in June 2002. This will provide a core set of environmental indicators, including desertification indicators.

The State of the Environment Report of South Africa is a tool to monitor and evaluate the status of the environment. The National State of the Environment report is currently being updated. Seven of the nine provinces of South Africa is in the process of developing State of the Environment reports.

A State of the Rivers report has also been finalised by the National Water Research Commission in co-operation with the CSIR. An inventory of wetlands is being compiled by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

A National Land Cover Data Base is in process, on a scale of 1:50 000.

6.3.5 Measures to improve the economic environment

South Africa has a Poverty Relief Fund to its disposal that has as its aim to assist poor communities to improve their economic environment. This initiative entails

many projects such as those related to the Working for Water Programme of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, of which the objective is to remove alien species in certain areas.

Apart from the Working for Water Programme, the Save the Sand Campaign is another examples of an initiative by the above department, linked to the LandCare Initiative where much more participation at community level is required.

These initiatives have as their goal the involvement of communities which will result in the

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

6.4 LINKAGE ACHIEVED WITH SUBREGIONAL AND REGIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

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

As previously reported.

6.4.2 Strengthening the African and other relevant scientific networks

MAPOSDA (mentioned in par 6.2.1) is a partnership between various South African institutions, the National University of Lesotho and the University of Botswana as well as various EU partners.

6.5 EFFECTIVENESS OF MEASURES IN LOCAL CAPACITY BUILDING

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

Awareness raising activities at local level in the past year included series of provincial fact sheets on land degradation. Linkages have been established with the LandCare Programme and the Rural Development Initiative. These two initiatives strongly emphasise the participation of local communities. The projects described in par 6.2.1, are also perfect examples of natural resources management devolving on local communities.

6.5.2 Degree of decentralisation achieved

As previously reported.

6.5.3 Involvement of actors in monitoring and evaluation process

A component of the MAPOSDA project is concerned with monitoring and evaluation of the Paulshoek LandCare project and other natural resource management interventions.

Participatory Impact Monitoring is a tool that has been applied in Paulshoek and Mier as the evaluation methodology for the LandCare projects and that recognises the need for continual monitoring and evaluation for successful project management.

6.6 PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS APPLIED

6.6.1 Functioning of internal partnership agreements

As previously reported.

6.6.2 Consultation and coordination process

As previously reported.

6.6.3 Investments made for NAP implementation

As previously reported.

6.6.4 Number of international partners involved

GTZ, the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, Canada and the Netherlands are the main international partners as far as the implementation of the UNCCD is concerned.

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

7.1 ADOPTED FINANCIAL MECHANISMS

7.1.1 Measures to facilitate the access of local actors to existing sources of funding

The Suid Bokkeveld project has been developed as a pilot project for implementation of the UNCCD at a local level. It was initiated with exchange visits under the Community Exchange and Training Programme of the GM and

RIOD. Funding was provided by the World Bank Indigenous Knowledge for Development Programme and the GM. Subsequently, support has been provided to the Heiveld Small Growers Co-operative by UNEP for the development of promotional materials and packaging to support the marketing of their indigenous herbal rooibos tea. The Canadian government has provided seed funding to the Co-operative for the development of its own processing facilities.

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

As previously reported.

7.2 NAP FINANCING

7.2.1 Mobilisation of national resources

As previously reported.

7.2.2 Mobilisation of external resources

As previously reported.

7.2.3 Contribution from Global Mechanism

The GM provided valuable technical support and also supports a community project in the Northern Cape (see par 7.1.1).

7.2.4 Number of partners providing financial support

As previously reported.

7.2.5 Amount of financial resources available

As previously reported.

7.3 TECHNICAL COOPERATION DEVELOPED

7.3.1 Mobilisation of technical cooperation

As previously reported.

7.3.2 Identification of priority needs in technical assistance

As previously reported.

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

8.1 OPERATIONAL MECHANISMS FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

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

Both the MAPOSDA and SANPAD projects have research components designed to identify desertification indicators. Monitoring and evaluation in the Suid Bokkeveld takes place via participatory monitoring and evaluation exercises, which are designed to enhance improvement of performance and improve effectiveness of measures.

8.1.2 Information system on desertification level at the national level

The institutional meeting of programming the operational phase of the Environmental Information System on the Internet programme in Africa (SISEI Africa 2002-2005) initiated in 1997 by the Observatory for Sahara and the Sahel (OSS) in close collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) was held in Geneva, October 2001.

Organised jointly by UNITAR, OSS and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the meeting led to:

- the validation of the programme document SISEI 2002-2005 in Africa by the representatives of the African countries, the sub regional institutions (CILSS, IGAD, SADC and UMA) and by the secretariats of environmental conventions (climate change, biodiversity and desertification)
- the definition of the methods of its setting, including the consensus on the mechanisms of search for financing and institutional arrangements necessary

It is expected of African countries to formulate a national project document which will then be collated at sub regional level and allow the organizers to approach financial partners.

8.1.2 Main actors' access to available information

As previously reported.

8.1.3 Mechanisms for consultation concerning the analysis of results

As previously reported.

8.1.5 Regular production of reports

As previously reported.

8.1.6 Feedback on evaluation for programme management

As previously reported.