



# **THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**FIRST NATIONAL REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES ON THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT  
DESERTIFICATION**

**MAY 1999**

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## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONMYS

ADMADE	-	Administrative Management Design
ASIP	-	Agriculture Sector Investment Programme
BSAP	-	Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
CBD	-	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBNRM	-	Community Based Natural resources Management
CBOs	-	Community Based Organizations.
CCD	-	Convention to Combat Desertification
CBENRM	-	Community Based Environment and Natural Resources Management
CEMP	-	Community Environment Management Programme
COP	-	Conference of Parties
DDCC	-	District Development Coordinating Council
ECZ	-	Environment Council of Zambia
EEPA	-	Environmental Education and Public Awareness
ESP	-	Environmental Support Programme
EIA	-	Environmental Impact Assessment
GEMS	-	Global Environment Monitoring System
GIS	-	Geographical Information Systems
IDA	-	International Development Association
INCD	-	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Desertification
LIRDP	-	Luangwa Integrated Resources Development Programme
MENR	-	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
MMP	-	Micro Projects Programme
NAP	-	National Action Programme.
NBSAP	-	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCS	-	National Conservation Strategy
NEAP	-	National Environmental Action Plan
NFP	-	National Focal Point.
NGOs	-	Non Governmental Organizations.

NGOCC	-	Non-Governmental Organisation Coordinating Committee
NPRP	-	National Poverty Reduction Plan
NPRSF	-	National Poverty Reduction Strategic Framework
NSC	-	National Steering Committee.
PID	-	Planning and Information Department
PFAP	-	Provincial Forestry Action Plan
ROADSIP	-	Road Sector Rehabilitation Programme
RIAA	-	Regional Implementation Annex for Africa
SCAFEP	-	Soil Conservation and Agro-Forestry Extension Programme.
SLMU	-	South Luangwa Management Unit
SRR	-	Social Recovery Programme
SSN	-	Social Safety Net
UNCCD	-	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
UNCED	-	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNECA	-	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
WCS	-	World Conservation Strategy
WDCD	-	World Day to combat Desertification.
ZEEP	-	Zambia Environment Education Programme.
ZESCO	-	Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation
ZFAP	-	Zambia Forestry Action Plan

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The international community has long recognized that desertification is a major socio-economic and environmental problem of concern to many countries of the world. As a result the issue of how to tackle desertification was one of the major concerns at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro. On the same note, the government and the people of Zambia have recognized the havoc that can be caused by desertification and drought in the country. To address this concern a number of plans and strategies have been developed and are reviewed now and again and new strategies put in place. Zambia has also joined the international community, which is trying to find long lasting solutions to the problems by signing and ratifying the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in 1994 and 1996 respectively. As a result a number of activities are being undertaken to implement the provisions of the Convention. Some of them are multi-sectoral while others are sectoral.

Some of the plans and strategies, which have been and are being pursued beside the implementation of the Convention, which in one way or the other contributes to the combating of desertification and/or mitigation of drought, include:

- National Conservation Strategy (1985)
- Zambia Forestry Action Plan (1993)
- National Environment Action Programme (1994)
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (1997)
- Environment Support Programme (1997)
- Community Based Natural Resources Management (1998)
- Agriculture Sector Investment Policy (1997)
- Road Rehabilitation and Construction Investment Programme (1997)
- Review of Environmental Related Legislation
- National Poverty Reduction Programme
- Climate Change Programme
- Soil Conservation and Agro-Forestry Programme
- Rural Electrification Programme
- Zambia Environment Education Programme.

The government is implementing the strategies with support from various donor partners. A number of national Non-Governmental Organizations, local communities and the private sector are also participating in the execution of these programmes.

Some of these plans and strategies have recommended a review of the institutional organization for improved management of the environment and natural resources. From the recommendations of the National Conservation Strategy, the Environment Council of Zambia (ECZ) was established in 1990. The ECZ is responsible for advising government on issues of environment protection and pollution control and also ensuring compliance with formulated environmental regulations. In addition, a Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources was created in 1992. The mission of the ministry is to provide an environmental policy framework, monitor, evaluate and coordinate its implementation, management and utilization of natural resources for the benefit of the present and the future

generations.

### **Institutional Coordination of NAP**

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MENR) is the supreme body on environmental issues in Zambia. In order to facilitate the process of preparing a National Action Programme to Combat Desertification, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources established a National Steering Committee in 1997. This Committee is chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the MENR and is responsible for providing policy and technical guidance to the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification. The Committee is multidisciplinary and multisectoral in nature and is constituted by 17 senior officials representing different organizations. There are six female members of the Committee (30%) and the ratio of government departments to civil society organizations is 7 to 10. Terms of Reference were developed and adopted by both the Committee and the MENR.

For the day to day implementation of activities on the Convention, a number of supporting organs have been established to coordinate and take a lead. These are:

- The National Focal Point which is housed in the Department of Planning and Information (PID) in the MENR.
- The NGO National Focal Point which is “The Zambia Alliance of Women”.
- NGO National Steering Committee on Desertification
- District Development Coordination Committees were not necessarily established for the NAP process but have been in place for sometime. The NAP process has taken advantage of their presence and their Environmental Sub-Committees.

The National Steering Committee meets regularly, on a quarterly basis and sometimes more frequently as need arises to discuss various issues pertaining to the implementation of the Convention and the NAP process. A workplan is prepared on an annual basis, which is guided by the availability of resources. The operations of the Steering Committee are funded by the government through the budget allocated to the MENR. A sum of US\$ 100 000 was received from UNDP/UNSO for the initiation of the NAP process.

For communication purposes each member of the Steering Committee is expected to report back to the institutions and organizations they represent. Communication amongst members of the Steering Committee is mainly through meetings, distribution of minutes from meetings, distribution of documents, use of communication facilities i.e. telephone, fax and e-mail.

The National Steering Committee has access to a number of information systems and databases being kept by different institutions that are members. The National Focal Point coordinating the NAP process has used quite a number of these facilities as sources of information and for information dissemination.

### **Some Activities undertaken by the National Steering Committee.**

Since its establishment in 1997 the Steering Committee has implemented a number of activities as part of the NAP process. Such activities include:

- Institutional strengthening at the grassroots level to facilitate the implementation of the NAP

process.

- Awareness raising campaigns, consultations and capacity building.
- Development of an information kit.
- Inventory of key stakeholders.
- NGO/CBOs needs assessment.

The National Steering Committee has three programmes in the pipeline, the documentation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Catalytic support to two communities on a pilot basis and the establishment of a National Desertification Fund.

### **The Participatory Process**

The government of Zambia has a communication mechanism in place for reaching the local communities. The communication channels are through the District Authorities. In addition a sectoral communication mechanism has been established through the District Environmental Facilitators, Forestry and Agriculture Extension Officers at the local level. Both channels were utilized during the awareness raising campaigns and consultations. The messages delivered during the campaigns were chosen based on; the understanding of environmental issues by the target audience, the expected reaction, time and resources available. The mode of communication and media chosen was mainly on the bases of; the geographical location of the target group, coverage and accessibility by the target group and the cost involved.

In preparations for the awareness raising and consultations some UNCCD information documents were translated into four local languages, Tonga, Lozi, Bemba and Nyanja. The translated material was distributed to relevant communities.

The issue of women participation in the NAP process has also been taken very seriously. Special attempts were made to have as many women participating as possible and issues papers addressing the role of women in combating desertification were given at consultative and awareness raising workshops. The government of Zambia is also in the process of finalizing a gender policy which will empower women to participate in the decision making process in the country.

The NAP process has gone through a number of stages and these include:

- National Awareness Days held in 1994.
- Workshops for specialized groups to support in raising awareness.
- A Review of existing and/or proposed projects and programmes relating to combating desertification and the mitigation of the effects of drought.
- Four provincial awareness and consultation workshops 1998
- NGO/CBO National Forum.
- The National Forum 1998.

The First national Forum was held in Lusaka from 22 – 23 December 1998. The forum was mainly focussed at reaching agreements on priority issues for the NAP and identifying catalytic actions that need to be launched immediately.



It has not been possible to cover all the target areas due to the large size of the country and financial problems. The challenge from communities reached in the awareness campaigns is to ensure that awareness is carried out as a component of an overall programme of action and not as a stand-alone activity. To this effect Zambia has provided a follow-up by using existing environmental awareness and education programmes such as the Environment Education and Awareness Programmes (EEPA) of the Environment Support Programme (ESP). This is done in order to maintain the momentum and interest created at the local level.

### **Consultations With Developed Country Parties.**

The government of Zambia has endeavored to interest and involve the international partners in the preparation of the National Action Programme right from the beginning of the consultation process. The government has invited international partners to national and provincial workshops. In addition the MENR through the National Focal Point has sent some briefs and has had discussions with some of the donor partners. UNDP is also an observer member in the NSC hence providing a link between the Committee and the donor community. A number of cooperating partners have responded positively to invitations and have promised to support the NAP once adopted as a national document. However, the involvement of international partners has not been that easy. The number of them responding to invitations has been low. This can be attributed to the level of awareness of the donor community on the UNCCD and its provisions and to the specific agendas which donors have for their funding and support.

### **NAP Programme Areas.**

There is no action programme in place yet. The consultative workshops and first National Forum provided relevant data and information that would be used for the preparation of the NAP document, which would spell out the Action Programme. New approaches identified by the National Forum include:-

- Fostering inter-sectoral linkages
- Promoting capacity building at district and village levels
- Empowering local communities in their role as custodians of the natural resource base and in tackling environmental concerns that include land degradation
- Shifting from government driven approaches to community lead initiatives.

### **Financial Support and Requirements.**

The government of Zambia has funded a number of activities towards the development and implementation of the NAP process in the country as donor funds were not forthcoming. Though it is not easy to put a figure on the financial contribution by government, the majority of the activities have been funded from the local budget. In addition government is providing the following:

- a) Human Resources.

The facilitation and implementation of the UNCCD in Zambia is totally being managed by Zambians

themselves who are employees of the government drawn from various departments.

b) The government is also providing office space, transport, facilities and exemptions from tax to all material and equipment imported from abroad for the UNCCD activities.

In order to facilitate access by local actors to funding government in 1998 established a Pilot Environment Fund under the ESP to finance community based environment and natural resource management programmes and studies targeted at finding practical solutions on environmental problems. It is envisaged that some CCD activities can be financed from this fund. It is hoped that a fully-fledged National Environment Fund will be established taking into account lessons that will be obtained from the pilot fund.

The following Financial assistance to the NAP process has been received:

- a) The UNCCD Secretariat US\$ 8 000 for financing the National Awareness Days.
- b) UNECA provided some assistance for a review of existing and/or proposed projects and programmes relating to combating desertification and assessment of the implications of financial resources for the NAP process and preparation of a framework support document for mobilization of the resources.
- c) UNDP/UNSO provided US\$ 100 000 for catalysing the NAP Process.
- d) The UNCCD Secretariat has supported the participation of two delegates to INCD meetings and to the COPs. In addition local participants have been funded to participate in regional consultative meetings and workshops.
- e) SADC-ELMS has also supported the attendance of national participants to Sub-regional workshops and consultative meetings.

#### *Technical Cooperation Received*

Zambia has been receiving technical support in the form of experts and inputs on the NAP process from a number collaborating partners including; UNDP/UNSO, SADC-ELMS and the UNCCD Secretariat. UNDP/UNSO and SADC-ELMS have constantly been providing technical backstopping support on the NAP process through their physical presence or through comments communicated to the NFP.

#### *Financial and Technical Cooperation Needed.*

##### *Drafting the NAP document:*

An amount of US\$ 20,00 will be required for this activity.

This will include payment for the drafting team, holding a National Forum to approve the document,

publication and distribution of documents.

*Implementation of a catalytic support programme.*

An agreement has been reached that there is need to implement pilot catalytic activities in two highly degraded districts. This is planned to get the local communities committed after all the awareness campaigns. This will include the documentation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems on combating desertification, which would be applied in these pilot areas. This programme will require an amount of US\$ 200,000

*Establishment of a National Desertification Fund*

There is an urgent need of financial support for the formulation of a National Desertification Fund. This is required to finance the implementation of the NAP, which will be in place shortly, and also community piloted projects. An amount of US\$ 40,000 is required for this purpose.

## **Benchmarks And Indicators**

The Environment Council of Zambia (ECZ) is responsible for environment monitoring and giving warnings on its findings. At the moment no mechanism has been put in place for monitoring land degradation and no standards have been developed. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources through its Planning and Information Department is working on the development of indicators for monitoring progress in the different programmes under the ministry of which desertification is one of them. For the purpose of assessing progress on the NAP process benchmarks and indicators adopted by SADC member states have been used in this report

### **1.0. INTRODUCTION.**

This is the first national report of the Republic of Zambia to the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The report is prepared in fulfillment of decision 11/COP.1 which is re-enforced by decision 5 /COP.2.

The international community has long recognized that desertification is a major economic, social and environmental problem of concern to many countries of the world. As a result the issue of how to tackle desertification was one of the major concerns at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro. The conference supported a new approach to the problem, emphasizing action to promote sustainable development at the community level. It also called upon the United Nations General Assembly to establish an Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee(INCD) to elaborate on the Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification particularly in Africa. Consequently, the 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly established the INCD that started work in May 1993. The Convention was adopted in June 1994 and entered into force in December 1996.

The Convention to Combat Desertification defines desertification as “land degradation in arid,

semi-arid and sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities.” It is accompanied by a reduction in the natural potential of the land and a decrease in surface and ground water resources. But above all desertification affects the living conditions and economic development potential of the people who inhabit vulnerable lands.

Desertification is a world phenomenon of degradation of the world’s ecosystems. It affects about two-thirds of all countries, and about one-third of the overall surface of the globe, where a billion people live. Therefore, desertification does not mean natural deserts. It can occur on any land, which is vulnerable and prone to desertification. Vulnerability depends on the climate, the land’s topography, the natural vegetation, and most important on the way resources are used by human communities and their livestock. Overgrazing, land clearance (deforestation), over exploitation of cultivated and natural lands and, in general, using land in a way that is inappropriate to local conditions - each of these can spur the process of desertification.

Desertification has several consequences at the local and national levels. By impoverishing the natural potential of ecosystems, desertification reduces agricultural yields and makes them less predictable. It therefore, has a bearing on the food security of people living in affected areas. Desertification also considerably heightens the effects of climatic crises (drought) and political crises (wars), regularly leading to migration, suffering and even death to hundreds of thousands of people world wide.

The consequences, in turn weaken the economies of the countries affected by desertification, particularly when their economies are dependent on agriculture. This is particularly the case in most African countries. Their economies are unable to offset the increasingly serious effects of desertification, and they have to deal with emergency situations created by drought and desertification. The increasing debt burden also reduces their capacity to make productive investments in order to break the spiral of underdevelopment.

Desertification has consequences at the global level. Due to the depletion of soil and vegetation, the carbon-exchange cycle is adversely affected, which worsens the greenhouse effect. There is also a reduction in biodiversity as desertification contributes to the destruction of habitats, which in turn, directly affects the food and health of the local people who rely heavily on these animals and plants for their survival. Desertification also directly reduces the world’s freshwater reserves.

Finally, it must be remembered that "man is the very centre of the problem of desertification, whether he be the protagonist or the victim." Combating desertification is a battle for life. Seeking the full participation of the affected populations- which is one of the real foundations of the Convention - is a key aspect of the struggle against desertification.” (J.P.Lanly 1995).

Zambia, like most of the Southern African countries has been experiencing severe drought for the past ten years. This has greatly affected the country’s capacity for food production and ultimately has affected its food security. Therefore, the drought accompanied with soil erosion and declining soil fertility has undermined the people’s living conditions, especially those that are solely dependent on agricultural production. This has further increased the government’s budget burden of having to provide relief food to affected populations. In turn this forces the

government to divert resources which could have been used in other productive sectors to foster economic growth.

It is with this background that Zambia welcomed and signed the Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa (CCD). Zambia signed the Convention on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1994 and ratified it on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1996.

For Zambia, desertification means land degradation. A high proportion of Zambia's productive land, particularly that under small-scale farmer cultivation is subject to various degrees of land degradation that manifests itself in the form of reduction of the economic and biological potential of the land and the spread of desertification. These areas are also characterized by poor methods of cultivation, overgrazing and deforestation and complicated by a lot of other socio-economic factors such as property rights, land tenure systems and poverty. According to Chiti 1991, about 10% of Zambia's land surface has a high soil erosion hazard. Furthermore, cases of severe soil erosion and degradation occur in the low hazard areas. Soil loss in red clay soils on land with 2.5% slope has been estimated at 12.5 tonnes per hectare by Levain et al 1989. Although this loss represents 0.4% of the cultivated land, soil erosion has accelerated in many areas due to poor cropping practices. Given that in most Zambian soils, the highest nutrient concentration is in the top 0-10cm, soil erosion can result in considerable losses of plant nutrients. Therefore, given a population growth rate of 3.2% per year, the need to manage cropland will continue to grow in the future, especially that current increase in food production is largely based on bringing new land under cultivation.

Another factor contributing to desertification in Zambia is the fact that the entire traditional herd of livestock of 2.2 million depends on the natural grassland and browse for feed. The rangeland available for the traditional livestock sector is estimated at 10 million hectares which gives a stocking rate of 5 hectares per animal instead of the carrying capacity of 10-15 hectares per animal. About 90% of this traditional herd is concentrated in Central, Lusaka, Eastern, Southern and Western provinces of Zambia, which are the most vulnerable provinces to desertification. Hence, overgrazing has exacerbated the situation.

Deforestation which is another contributing factor to desertification has been estimated to range between 200,000 and 300,000 hectares per annum with localised cases recording as much as 900,000 hectares per annum. This is due to the high demand for fuelwood (Woodfuel is the main source of energy for cooking for over 90% of the households in the country) and the conversion of land for agriculture. Table 1.0 below shows the current trends in forest and land cover in the country. The table does show that forest in open areas will continue declining unless major interventions in forest management are undertaken.

**Table 1.0: Forests and the Land Cover,(1996-2016) current Trends**

<b>Current Trends (Million ha)</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Forests in open area incl. GMA</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>26.5</b>
<b>Forest Resources</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>7.0</b>

<b>Plantations</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<b>Tress Outside Forests</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>12.7</b>
<b>National Parks</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>59.5</b>	<b>57.9</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>52.6</b>

Source: ZFAP 1998, page 33, after Alarjarvi, 1996.

In order to address the issue of desertification, Zambia has decided to undertake a National Action Programme. This process hopes to outline programmes and strategies, which the country intends to put in place to mitigate the effects of drought and control land degradation. To this effect a National Steering Committee to spearhead the process has been created. This is a multi-disciplinary Committee with broad representation from government, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, traditional leadership and the private sector.

## **2.0 STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND/OR POLICIES.**

Zambia's efforts in achieving sustainable development are seen in the strategies and plans and/or programmes it has attempted to undertake. These have endeavoured to address one or more aspects of sustainable development. Some of the major strategies undertaken by the government of Zambia which address sustainable development by addressing land degradation or desertification and drought either directly or indirectly include the following:

### **2.1 MULTI-SECTORAL STRATEGIES**

#### **2.1.1 National Conservation Strategy (NCS)**

The challenge for the wise management of the country's renewable natural resources was first recognized in the early 1980s and culminated in the preparation of a National Conservation Strategy (NCS). Zambia became the first African country to undertake the NCS process as the national response to the World Conservation Strategy (WCS) launched in 1980.

The overall goal of the NCS process was:

"to satisfy the basic needs of all the people of Zambia, both present and future generations, through the wise management of natural resources."

The objectives were as follows:

- to ensure the sustainable use of Zambia's renewable natural resources;
- to maintain Zambia's biological diversity;
- to maintain essential ecological processes and life support systems.

The NCS process initially concentrated on the environmental and resource management aspects

of development. This emphasis was due in part to the dominant "conservation for development" ethics in the WCS. Much attention was given in the NCS document to development threats to the environment, and also to natural resource potentials for development. The strategy document's analysis was organized around development sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, mining and industry, and their implication for conservation. Cross-sectoral functions such as legislation, education, extension, organization and planning formed the bulk of the prescriptions in the strategy document. This offered an effective interdisciplinary ways of bringing sectors together, to maximize cross-sectoral synergies and to minimize antagonism.

Actual implementation of the NCS began even before the document was approved as the blueprint for an environmental policy by the Zambian Government in 1985. The Task Force served as the National Conservation Committee (NCC) to generate specific activities for the implementation of the strategy. In the interim, implementation focused on two projects. The first one was the integration of natural resource activities such as urban forestry and improved charcoal stoves into a squatter upgrading project in Lusaka. The second one was the Luangwa Integrated Resource Development Project (LIRDP) now the south Luangwa Management Unit (SLMU) that aimed at encouraging community wildlife utilization and multiple land use in the Luangwa valley. After the approval of the document, a wide range of activities ensued. These included the establishment of a Natural Resources Data Bank, Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), training in EIAs, the nomination of Victoria Falls as a World Heritage Site, enactment of the 1990 Environmental Protection and Pollution Control Act (EPPC) and the consequent establishment of the Environmental Council of Zambia (ECZ) and an attempt to build capacity for the integration of environmental economics in the development planning process at the National Commission for Development Planning (NCDP).

### **2.1.2 National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP)**

Following the 'Earth Summit' in June 1992, Zambia endorsed the Plan of Action, Agenda 21 and other Rio agreements. As an input into Agenda 21, Zambia had carried out a critical review of her pursuit of Sustainable Development through a country report to the conference. Consequently it was found out that during the period 1980 to 1990 Zambia experienced serious economic difficulties which adversely impacted the social and economic situation and triggered accelerated environmental degradation. The unemployment, poverty, and general state of the social and economic degradation in the country represented a growing threat to Zambia's environment. The economic policies pursued under the central planning and direct state control type of government had been found responsible for the precipitous decline in the economy and environment. Policies such as those that encouraged high concentration of resource in the hands of the state made it difficult for local people to exploit them and alienated the people from the resources on which they were supposed to depend. The control of prices for services such as water supply and waste disposal discouraged new investment in the sectors and led to the deterioration of plant and machinery resulting in the outbreaks of diseases such as cholera while subsidies in fertilizers and agro-chemicals promoted their misuse and the consequence pollution of soil and waters.

The liberalization of Zambia's economy which started in 1992 opened up an opportunity for re-examining the country's environmental policy and strategies which led to a review of the NCS

and to the preparation of a National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP). The other reasons that led to the need to update the NCS include the following:

- The NCS was developed to manage natural resources and the environment in the context of a centrally planned economy, making many of its recommendations inappropriate for the market economy that is currently being put in place.
- Most of the specific recommendations of the NCS including the development of new institutions had been established and operationalised.
- Much of the technical information contained in the NCS was in need of updating.
- There was a recognized need to translate environmental policy into tangible improvements in the environment and natural resource use through a clearly defined action plan and investment program.
- As a consequence of Agenda 21 the country needed to re-examine and update its vision for sustainable human development with due regard for sustainable environment management.

The main objective of the NEAP was, therefore, to review and integrate environmental concerns into the social and economic development process of the country, consistent with the country's new market economy orientation. The NEAP provides for new opportunities for involvement of the private sector in management of the environment while at the same time recognising the increased role for government in monitoring, regulations and enforcement of appropriate resource use in the interest of sustainable development.

The first phase of the NEAP which was essentially participatory environmental policy formulation for sustainable development started in 1993 and ended with the Government's adoption of the document as the basis of Zambia's environmental policy in December 1994. The NEAP document identifies the major challenges to sustainable utilisation of natural resources and to environmental management in the country and prescribes measures for addressing them with an action plan prioritising these measures and identifying the lead implementing agencies. The NEAP identified the following five areas as being the major environmental concerns in Zambia:

- Land degradation
- Deforestation
- Water pollution and inadequate sanitation
- Wildlife depletion (including fish)
- Air pollution.

The second phase of the NEAP process which involves investment planning in form of an Environmental Support Programme (ESP) started in August 1994, but due to operational difficulties was shelved and only launched in 1998. The ESP, taking into consideration the overall objective of NEAP, is guided by six basic strategic investment aims, namely;

- direct investment in resource management activities and conservation that either mitigate against or improve environmental resources with the greatest social and economic costs and benefits;
- investing in building strong and effective institutions for sustainable economic



planning, assessment of development programmes and environmental management;

- creating public awareness and support to education and human resource development and support those activities that will facilitate communities to act on local environmental problem;
  - establishing effective environmental information systems for information collection and analysis for effective decision making, monitoring and enforcement of environmental standards;
  - support for environmental research and long term investment studies; and,
  - a carefully planned and politically supported policy development objective. The NEAP should not be static but must continually be reviewed to bring it in line with new socio-economic and environmental development trends of the country.
- The ESP will be implemented in three phases of four years each depending on the time frame of implementing a solution to the concerns identified in the NEAP document, whether short, medium or long term. The implementation of the projects and programmes identified within the framework of the ESP will require mobilisation.

The NEAP addresses environmental issues in an integrated manner. It provides an overall framework through which specific sectoral policies such as forestry and other actions such as the NAP can be implemented. Further, it provides a basis for integration of environmental considerations into the overall national socio-economic development goals. According to a mission report undertaken later in 1996 by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the NEAP was found to be compatible with the NAP in that the principle programme areas of NAPs as outlined in Articles 9,10,13 and 14 of the CCD and 8 and 9 of the RIAA are consistent with the recommendations of the Zambian NEAP.

### **2.1.3 Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP)**

Zambia is endowed with a rich base of biological resources, which form the basis of economic development and human survival. In 1997 the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources initiated the preparation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) to provide a basis for the implementation of the CBD. The NBSAP placed emphasis on building upon existing knowledge through a process of participatory planning and stakeholder consultation. The NBSAP has been able to address the following areas-:

- Current Status of Biodiversity
- Pressures on Biodiversity
- Options and priority actions necessary to ensure the conservation of biodiversity
- Sustainable use of biodiversity
- Equitable sharing of biodiversity
- Biosafety and
- Institutional, Legal framework and Human Resources

An action plan to address these issues is being prepared and it is hoped that synergies from this process will be used to the advantage of the NAP process on the CCD.

#### **2.1.4 Community Based Natural Resources Management Programmes (CBNRM)**

Over the years the management of natural resources has been the monopoly of mainly Government institutions who have acted as sole actors in planning and decision making concerning the utilization and management of natural resources with local communities playing marginal roles. It is for this reason that local communities have tended not to apply themselves fully in the conservation and management of natural resources because they have viewed these resources as belonging to the state and not to them. This approach coupled with the inability of government to adequately administer the natural resources has led to the deterioration in the quality of the natural resources base.

In recent times government has recognized and appreciated that sustainable management can only be achieved by putting in place measures to facilitate the involvement of local communities in natural resources management. A number of community based initiatives have been put in place to provide a mechanism for the involvement of local communities. Important initiatives worth citing are:-

- i) *Administrative Management Design (ADAMADE) and the South Luangwa Management Unit (SLMU)*, (formerly Luangwa Integrated Resources Development Project) are programmes running on the principle of cost and benefit sharing between Government and local communities in managing the wildlife resources
- ii) *The Community Environmental Management Programme (CEMP) and the Community Based Environment and Natural Resources Management Programme (CBENRM)* are programmes conceived under the ESP and initiated in 1998 to strengthen national capacity in the management of the environment and natural resources at community level in an integrated manner to support sustainable livelihood systems and to enhance the development of human resources. These programmes provide a mechanism for local communities to identify activities or projects to address areas of environmental concerns in their localities and to improve their livelihoods. These programmes are currently running on pilot basis in 4 districts of Zambia.

#### **2.1.5 Social Sector Rehabilitation Programme (SSRP)**

The Government has employed different strategies for social development and poverty reduction. The main approach is through increased GRZ financing to the social sector (e.g. budget to this sector rose from 28% in 1993 to 35% in 1994 and 40% in 1995.) A poverty Alleviation Task Force has been established to improve co-ordination of poverty alleviation activities. As a follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen in 1995, and to the Zambia Poverty Assessment 1994, a Programme of Action, is being formulated to reduce poverty. Zambia's poverty levels are estimated at 70% of the population. Zambia has committed herself to reduce the poverty level from 70% to 50% by the year 2004. A National Poverty Reduction Plan (NPRP) is being prepared within the framework of the National Poverty Reduction Strategic Framework (NPRSF).

Programmes to alleviate poverty have been launched with the support of the donor community. The Micro-Projects Programme (MPP), assisted by the EU and the World Bank, supports small projects designed and implemented at local level. The communities are responsible for proposing projects, and for their implementation including the administering of funds. The Social Recovery Project (SRP) supported by the World Bank, finances community initiatives to help protect the poor during the structural adjustment programmes. Projects supported by SRP are generally small and locally generated, covering sectors including health, nutrition, education and economic infrastructure. Communities contribute labour, material or cash, as a way of sustaining the projects. The Social Safety Net (SSN) provides a cushion from the impacts of structural adjustment to the vulnerable groups. This is done by providing material support for self-help projects, and financial support and skills training to the poor.

Since these programmes lack emphasis on environment and natural resources, the ESP has proposed to integrated a Pilot Environmental Fund to the MMP. The fund will serve the purpose of facilitating community participation in natural resources management by supporting small-scale environmental projects such as tree planting. It is envisaged that some of the NAP projects can be funded from such funds.

#### **2.1.6 Others**

Other multi-sectoral strategies being undertaken include Climate Change, soil conservation and Agro-forestry Extension Programme (SCAFEP) and the National Drought Relief Programme.

### **2.2. SECTORAL STRATEGIES.**

#### **2.2.1 Agricultural Sector Investment Programme (ASIP).**

- The Agriculture Sector Investment Programme (ASIP) originally designed to rationalize donor support to the Ministry of Agriculture Food and Fisheries later changed its focus to that of formulating an agriculture policy under the structural adjustment programme. ASIP was expected to create an enabling environment to support agricultural development.

ASIP sets out objectives for achieving food security, sustaining the resource base, increasing incomes and generating employment, contributing to industrial development, and contributing to balance of payments support. A key strategy to increase food security is the diversification of crops according to the conditions of each agro-ecological zone, the improved use of water resources and the full utilisation of land suitable for agriculture. Hence, ASIP will promote combating desertification through its strong emphasis on conservation of the resource base.

#### **2.2.2 Zambia Forestry Action Plan (ZFAP)**

The forests cover approximately 60% of the country. Over the years the status of our forests has deteriorated mainly due to opening up of land for agricultural expansion and the production of

charcoal to meet the high demand for it. It is estimated that the country loses between 200,000 - 300,000 hectares of forest per annum. In order to address the deteriorating status of Zambia's forests the Zambian Government through MENR initiated the process of preparing the Zambia Forest Action Plan in 1993.

The objective of ZFAP is to provide a framework for effective management and conservation of forest resources to enhance the contribution of the forest sector to socio-economic development, poverty alleviation and the improvement of food security at household and national level.

The ZFAP consultative process recommended for the review of the forest policy of 1965 and forest act of 1974. The main essence for the review of the Policy and Act was to provide for a mechanism to facilitate the participation of local communities in the management of the forestry resources. A new forestry policy has since been adopted by the Zambian Government while the forest bill awaits enactment. The ZFAP planning process came to a conclusion in August 1997. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources is currently in the process of organizing a donor round table to solicit the support of donor institutions to finance the implementation of actions recommended in the ZFAP.

Almost running parallel to the ZFAP was the Provincial Forestry Action Programme (PFAP) which was piloted in Luapula, Copperbelt and Central provinces. The aim of PFAP is to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Forestry Department; enhance sustainable forest management; conserve environmental and ecological resources; improve production and to enhance income generation and employment opportunities from the forest sector with the participation of local communities. Between 1995 and 1998 through a participatory process PFAP developed Forestry Action Plans for the 3 provinces.

### **2.2.3 Legislation and Policy Review**

The Country has a total of about 32 pieces of legislation that have a bearing on environmental management in the country. The Principle environmental law is the Environmental Protection and Pollution Control Act No: 12 of 1990. Some of the major natural resource acts are: The Forest Act, Fisheries Act, Wildlife Act, Tourism Act, Town and Country Planning Act, Natural Resources Conservation Act, and Land Act.

The colonial and post-colonial period gave the State through the various laws the monopoly of owning, administering and managing the natural resources. The local communities were marginalised and hence could not benefit equitably from the natural resources within their localities. The local communities have as a result developed an attitude of viewing natural resources as state property, this in turn has contributed to the degradation of the natural resources base.

Government has since undertaken and completed the review of some policies and legislation such as the forest policy and act, land act, wildlife act and fisheries act to facilitate the participation of local communities in natural resource management. Some of these reviews are to the advantage of combating desertification. These include:

Land: Increasing demand for land has necessitated the strengthening of land administration and legal reform. The new Lands Act of 1995, which abolished the distinctions of land into reserve, trustland and state land provides for a continuation of customary tenure. Thus it has positive factors for environmental and natural resources management in that by recognising customary tenure, the Act recognises the role of the traditional leadership (Chiefs) in leading community participation in natural resource management. It also provides for land conservation within its covenants. The Land Policy itself reviews the legislative and institutional framework and provides objectives to enhance local participation in use of land resources.

Forests: The review of the Forest Policy and Act have ushered into a National Forest Policy that aims at increasing the country's forest cover and simultaneously meet the growing local needs for fuel wood, fodder, timber and minor forest products. The Policy also encourages participatory joint forest management systems with the active involvement of local communities in the protection, management and utilisation of forest resources. Therefore, the Policy is in line with the principles of the CCD.

The main focus of all the reviews have been to empower local communities to own and to actively participate in natural resources management. Plans are underway to prepare the National Environmental Policy.

#### **2.2.4 Others**

Other sectoral strategies being undertaken include the rural electrification programme which was initiated in 1994 for the purpose of extending the national grid to areas that had no supply of electricity, in order to reduce the pressure on Zambia's forests, the road Rehabilitation and Construction Programme and the Zambia Environmental Education Programme, which has been in existence for over 10 years with the overall purpose of ensuring environmental education and awareness raising and the incorporation of environmental concerns into the school curricula.

#### **2.2.5 Relationship to Development Planning**

The need for close links with the development planning system was fully recognized by most of the strategies especially the National Conservation Strategy and the National Environmental Action Processes. Critical to the development of any strategies for sustainable development is the integration of such strategy in overall national development plans. Even though this aspect is essential, it has been one of the most difficult to achieve for the Zambian strategies. Although the Ministries of Planning and Economic Development have been encouraged to participate in these strategies in reality, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources has remained the more active Ministry in the processes. An example of this situation is the development of the NCS and the NEAP. Unfortunately the situation for the NAP development is not different either. Therefore, there is a need for a deliberate move and concerted efforts to overcome this problem.

### **3.0 INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION.**

The CCD provisions require affected developing country parties to "promote policies and strengthen institutional frameworks which develop cooperation and co-ordination, in a spirit of partnership, between the donor community, governments at all levels, local populations and community groups, and facilitate access by local populations to appropriate information and technology."

An enabling environment facilitating the implementation of the NAP includes an institutional framework encouraging communication and dialogue between various national stakeholders. In Zambia some institutional frameworks have been created as a direct response to the CCD/ NAP Process. However, to a greater extent this has been done within the existing institutional, legal and policy frameworks. The comprehensive decentralisation policies are being used to facilitate NAP activities at the local and district levels. However, consultations have identified the need to review and create some structures such as provincial and district steering committees.

#### **3.1 The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.**

The MENR is the institution responsible for environmental policy issues. It is responsible for providing an environment policy framework, monitor, evaluate and coordinate its implementation. In order to facilitate the process of preparing the National Action Plan to combat desertification, the MENR established a National Steering Committee (NSC) in 1997 to provide policy and technical guidance to the implementation process of the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD). Upon request by the MENR, a number of institutions among them non-governmental organisations submitted their nominees to serve on the Committee. The MENR is accountable for the work done by the NSC and thus is responsible for guiding, monitoring and evaluating the work done by the NSC.

#### **3.2 The National Steering Committee.**

The National Steering Committee is chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the MENR and was established in accordance to the mandate of the MENR of coordinating all environmental and natural resources management. It is made of senior members from the following institutions:

- Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries.
- Ministry of Local Government and Housing.
- Zambia Alliance of Women.
- Chalimbana River Catchment Committee.
- Traditional Ruler.
- University of Zambia.
- National Institute for Science and Industrial Research.

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.
- Environmental Conservation Association of Zambia.
- Zambia Association for Research and Development
- Department of Meteorology.
- Department of Energy.
- Environment Council of Zambia
- Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation
- Non-Governmental Organisation Coordinating Committee (NGOCC)

This is a multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral committee. The ratio of female members to male is 30% while that of government to civil society organizations being 7 to 10.

The overall task of the National Steering Committee is to ensure that the National Action Programme is designed/formulated and effectively implemented using a consensus building process. The specific tasks of the Committee therefore are as follows:

- Review the consolidated work programme of the NAP including consultants work plans and reports.
- Ensure development and adoption of modalities for effective NAP execution.
- Resolve any inter agency implementation issues related to the NAP.
- Approve and ensure implementation of studies commissioned under NAP.
- Identify and source knowledge and/or practices that are relevant to the effective implementation of the NAP and the Convention to Combat Desertification.
- Evaluate and review suitability of consultants and institutions to be engaged in the NAP development.
- Advise the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in the overall implementation of the CCD.

Since the National Steering Committee comprises members from the economic and social sectors critical to land degradation the members are able to bring into the NAP process a wealth of critical information and advice.

### **3.3 Supporting Organs.**

#### ***The National Focal Point***

After signing the Convention in 1994 the government established a National Focal Point to lead the implementation of the Convention. The office of the Permanent Secretary of MENR is the Focal Point for the CCD. The Planning and Information Department under MENR houses the Secretariat which is led by a National Coordinator (part-time) who is a Senior Planning Officer and responsible for the day-to-day management of the implementation of the CCD. The National Focal Point has never changed since the adoption of the Convention in Zambia. Other supporting staff, include two officers also working on part-time basis depending on needs. The Focal Point

is responsible for coordinating all activities under the UNCCD and for liaising with the UNCCD Secretariat and other relevant international and regional bodies. The National coordinator, being under the MENR has access to; funds allocated to PID, office space and equipment, transport, and communication facilities.

### ***The NGO Focal Point.***

The role being played by NGOs is very crucial in the implementation of the Convention. One NGO “The Zambia Alliance of Women” has been designated as the NGO Focal Point on the Convention. This NGO has played an active role in the NAP process. As an NGO Focal Point it is responsible for coordinating NGO activities on CCD, mobilizing the participation of other NGOs and liaising with other national, regional and international partners.

### ***NGO Task Force on CCD.***

The NGOs have formed their own Task Force, which is responsible for assisting the NGO Focal Point in the coordination and lobbying for the implementation of the Convention. In addition the NGO community have an NGO forum on environment where they discuss issues of environmental concern. This forum has been used by the NGOs to raise awareness on the CCD.

### ***The District Development Coordinating Committees.***

In order to facilitate coordinated development at district level, District Development Coordinating Committees (DDCC) have been established at district level to deal with matters of development within their boundaries under the decentralization programme. Natural Resource Management Sub-committees have been established within the DDCC to deal with matters of environmental management within the respective districts. The DDCC is made up of representatives from government departments, local communities, private sector and non-governmental organizations active in the districts.

Some villages have organized themselves and have established village committees to facilitate decision making and implementation of programmes. The NAP will utilize such structures for implementation of activities.

## **3.4 Communication And Coordination Amongst Members Of The NSC And With Their Organisations.**

The National Steering Committee meets on a quarterly basis, and as need arises, to discuss various issues pertaining to the National Action Programme process and to approve workplans and commission short-term consultancies on the NAP process. Every year the Committee prepares a plan of action to be implemented during the year. Though no specific budget is allocated to the functions of the Committee, funds budgeted to the MENR and some from the NAP are accessed as it is the responsibility of the ministry to develop the NAP process. Each member of the Committee is expected to report back on regular basis to the institution or



stakeholder group he/she is representing. Other forms of communicating information is through the circulation of minutes from steering committee meetings, distribution of documents, workshops, meetings and seminars. For day to day communication between members of the steering committee, communication facilities like letters, telephone, fax, e-mail etc are used.

### **3.5 Information Systems And Databases Available**

The first effort to facilitate institutional cooperation in the field of environmental data, with a view to improving institutional networking, was the establishment of a National Remote Sensing Committee in 1980. Thereafter, a Natural Resources Data Bank was established at the University of Zambia in 1989 to develop a referral data base for environmental information in Zambia, that not only worked at inventorying environmental publications and other documentary material, but also sought to develop a catalogue of expertise available in Zambia on environmental/natural resources management. A National GIS Committee was created in 1991 that more or less took over from where the National Remote Sensing Committee had left off. Through an initiative of the GEMS/UNITAR Africa training programme in GIS, a GIS and Natural Resources Management Section (GISS) was set up at the Ministry of Agriculture. This sought to develop GIS applications within agricultural research and planning and constitute a national node for the Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS).

In 1992, a data Bank was created at the Environmental Council of Zambia (ECZ) that absorbed the Natural Resources Data Bank and fused in expertise from GISS. After the discovery of a number of problems associated with the networking systems and inavailability of resources in different institutions it was decided that a new approach be sought. This led to the establishment of the present Environmental Information Network and Monitoring System. This comprises an EINMS forum and several issue-oriented information sub-systems and a monitoring, evaluation and reporting system as a management tool.

The EINMS is meant to provide action-oriented environmental information and decision support tools to various stakeholders involved in environment and natural resources management, to allow them better assess environmental issues, plan and implement activities, and capture early lessons through monitoring and evaluation. The EINMS will also address coordination issues at the national level, while also developing information systems at the district level, with particular emphasis on participatory processes involving the direct users and custodians of environmental information. The EINMS is to support the development of information Sub-systems for each of the five priority environmental issues defined in the NEAP: (a) soil degradation (b) water pollution and inadequate sanitation (c) deforestation (d) air pollution and (e) wildlife depletion. This system is very important for the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification in that all the issues identified in the NEAP have to a greater or lesser extent a bearing on desertification.

The NAP has generated a lot of information, which is kept mainly in hard copies as well as in electronic form. These include:-

- Issues papers prepared for the Provincial Consultative workshops and the First National

Forum.

- Proceeding of the Provincial workshops and the Forum.
- Inventory of stakeholders
- NGO/CCD Needs Assessment Report.
- Adapted Information kit on CCD, etc

The means of communication nationally has been as mentioned before the use of the local media, workshops and seminars. For external communication it has mainly been through presentation of progress reports on the NAP process in sub-regional, regional and international conferences and meetings. For some international partners who have shown interest, reports have been mailed directly to them.

### **3.6 Activities Undertaken By The NSC.**

#### ***i) Institutional and capacity building.***

The institutional reorganization and capacity building at all levels is an ongoing process. There are a number of ongoing programmes focussing on that and they include; The Environment Support Programme, Forestry Action Plan, Community Based Natural Resources management Programme etc. The National Steering Committee is responsible for making sure that new CCD concepts are taken on board by these ongoing programmes.

#### ***ii) Integration of the NAP into the National Economic and Social Development Plans.***

A concerted analysis has been made of the existing plans and strategies that are relevant to combating land degradation with a purpose of ensuring complementarity and avoiding duplication particularly the NEAP. In addition to this, the NAP is a fully recognized process and is taken as one of the strategic frameworks for action in the larger development process. Further to that the principles of the UNCCD on popular participation and bottom-up approach are acknowledged and adopted in other environmental and development plans. Such plans include the programme on Community Based Natural Resources Management and the Community Environment Management Programme.

#### ***iii) Coherent and functional legal and regulatory framework.***

A comprehensive analysis of the existing environmental related legislation is been undertaken albeit under different initiatives such as ZFAP and ESP. This has led to the review of some of the legislation as they were found to be outdated and not empowering communities to participate in natural resources management. The review has been completed on the forest, land, wildlife and fisheries Acts.

#### ***vi) Awareness raising and capacity building.***

The major part of the preparatory process of the NAP has focussed on Awareness and capacity building for stakeholders to appreciate the UNCCD concepts. Measures have been taken to raise awareness, inform and educate local populations to enhance their participation in the process. Local workshops and seminars have been organised to educate the communities on the process. The NAP approach on combating land degradation was well presented during the workshops. Participants included local community members, government departments in the districts, NGOs active in the districts and CBOs.

***vii) Development of a locally adapted information kit and translation into local languages.***

During the NAP process there has been a lot of information on CCD produced. Some of the materials have been translated into four major languages of Zambia. These are Tonga, Nyanja, Bemba and Lozi. These materials were distributed during the awareness raising and consultative workshops. Funds for this activity were provided by UNDP/UNSO.

***viii) Inventory of Stakeholders.***

An inventory of stakeholders to the implementation of the CCD in Zambia was conducted using a consultant with funding from UNDP/UNSO financial assistance to the NAP process.

***ix) NGO/CBO needs assessment.***

An NGO/CBO needs assessment is near completion. This assessment is aimed at assessing the capacity and needs of NGOs and CBOs in relation with the role they have to play in the implementation of the CCD in Zambia. For ensuring capacity and empowerment of local populations and local authorities to participate in decision making that is relevant to combating land degradation, the consultative process adopted the bottom-up approach. This new approach seeks to promote decentralization and empowerment of local authorities and communities by facilitating the mobilization of the necessary resources; human, financial and material, in order to effectively carry out local and community based programmes.

### **3.7. Proposed Immediate Activities.**

***i) Documentation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems.***

The provincial consultations revealed the importance of indigenous knowledge systems in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought and emphasised the need to document this knowledge.

***ii) Establishment of the National Desertification Fund.***

The issue of a financing mechanism came out very strongly from both the provincial consultations and the National Forum. It is therefore, being proposed that finances be solicited to contract a consultant to look into the feasibility and modalities for establishing a Desertification or Environment Fund taking into consideration lessons learnt from the existing Pilot Environment

Fund and other initiatives that may exist.

### *iii) Catalytic Projects*

It has been agreed that two catalytic pilot projects be undertaken in two districts of the affected Provinces. These are Lusitu in Southern Province and Nalolo in Western Province.

## **4.0 THE PARTICIPATORY PROCESS IN SUPPORT OF THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PROGRAMME.**

A general mechanism for communicating with local level communities was long established in Zambia and has been used during the consultation process. The communication channel is through the District Authorities. In addition to this broad-based approach, a sectoral system exists which is through the provincial and district environmental/forestry and agricultural Extension officers.

During the awareness raising campaigns the messages delivered were chosen based on the following; level of understanding of the audience on environmental issues, their expected reaction, time and resources availability. The media used was chosen on the basis of; the geographical location of the targeted audience, coverage and accessibility and the cost involved. Due to the size of the country and inadequate finances, it has not been possible to reach all the intended relevant social and institutional categories in the target areas.

In preparation for the awareness raising campaigns, summarized and nationally adapted documents were translated into four National Languages. These are: Tonga, Lozi, Bemba and Nyanja. The translated documents on the CCD were distributed during the awareness raising campaigns and are still being distributed to local stakeholders and institutions. In Zambia, like in other African countries, women are at the center of the utilization and management of natural resources. A deliberate move was made to make sure more women participated during the awareness raising workshops. Indeed they participated on equal basis with men i.e. in most meetings the ratio was almost equal or were more women. In some of the provinces (such as Western Province) women's groups were involved in awareness raising by staging drama and presenting poems on the CCD in local languages. Issues papers on the role of women in combating desertification were presented during the workshops. The Government of Zambia has also taken the issue of gender very seriously. A National Policy on Gender is in the process of being finalized and will be followed by the preparation of a National Action Programme on Gender for implementing the policy.

### **4.1 The Awareness Raising Process**

Zambia adopted a consultative process for the NAP. This began by identifying all entities with power to effect change. This brought together traditional Chiefs and representatives of line ministries, academic institutions, NGOs and the donor community to develop the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification. With representatives from the various groups, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

then constituted the National Steering Committee to provide guidance to the development of the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Convention to Combat desertification.

Specific awareness raising activities that have been undertaken in Zambia include the following:-

***i) National Awareness Raising Days.***

The National Awareness Raising Workshop on the CCD was held from 22-23 June 1995 in Lusaka under the sponsorship of the Interim Secretariat of the CCD. The workshop was attended by participants drawn from Government Ministries and Departments, main bilateral and multi-lateral donors, NGOs/CBOs in the field of environment and natural resources management and rural development, institutions of learning, research institutions and traditional institutions.

***ii) Awareness raising workshops for various groups.1996 - 1997***

Several group specific workshops were organized to raise awareness on the UNCCD. At this time the target groups were those who could be helpful in awareness raising. Workshops were held for schoolteachers who were also leaders of environmental clubs in their schools, journalists and other groups. Advantage was also taken of other environmental programmes, which were consulting stakeholders. During their fora talks on CCD were made and CCD material distributed. UNCCD materials were also distributed widely during celebrations of World Environment Day. Most of these activities took place during the period where the NAP process did not have financial support such that it was not in full swing. In addition, recently (1998) radio programmes have been used funded through the Environment Support Programme.

***iii) Provincial workshops. (1998)***

In order to ensure active and effective stakeholder participation the National Steering Committee organized four provincial workshops for the five pilot provinces of Southern, Western, Eastern, Lusaka and Central. One workshop was held in each of the provinces except for Lusaka and Central, which had a combined one due to their proximity to each other. The workshops were held with the following objectives:-

- To raise awareness and sensitize participants on the provision of the Convention to Combat Desertification and mitigate the effects of Drought.
- To identify and agree by consensus on the priority programme areas to be implemented in order to Combat Desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.
- To explore ways and means of promoting participation and partnership building among stakeholders, and
- To examine and agree on strategies for resource mobilization and financing mechanisms for the National Action Programme.

The consultative and awareness raising workshops were attended by various stakeholders including: representatives from government line ministries and departments, Academic Institutions, Research Institutions, NGOs/CBOs, Traditional Chiefs, the Private Sector and the Donor community. All this took place during the month of September to November 1998

Key issues from the provincial workshops are as follows;

- **Energy:** Due to the high dependency of the local communities on woodfuel for all their energy requirements deforestation has been exacerbated, which in turn has led to shortfalls in woodfuel energy.
- **Poverty:** The local communities, due to the unfavourable socio-economic situation in the country have been further impoverished. This has left them with no choice but to turn to the over-exploitation of their surrounding natural resources. Therefore, it was felt that programmes to alleviate poverty in these areas should be established.
- **Natural Resources Management Regimes:** It was felt that a re-visiting of the existing natural regimes in the localised areas should be done so that modern regimes are used side-by-side with the old ones.
- **Education and Public Awareness:** Education and public awareness came out strongly as needed to combating desertification.
- **Appropriate Land Use Systems:** Land use planning in the local areas was emphasized as one way which would help alleviate the problems of land degradation due to conflicting land use.
- **Policy and legislation:** It was advocated that a policy and legislative review be undertaken.
- **The role of women, use of indigenous knowledge and technologies** were highly recommended.
- **Financial Mechanism:** It was agreed that a National Desertification Fund be established in order to provide finances for funding the implementation of the Convention in the country.
- **Political Support and Government Commitment** was emphasized.

*iv) NGO/CBO National Forum*

An NGO/CBO National Forum was held in July 1998. This was both an awareness-raising workshop which sensitized NGOs and CBOs on the provisions of the Convention. It also served as a forum, which elected the NGO/CBO Focal Point on the implementation of the Convention in Zambia. The Zambia Alliance of Women was given this portfolio. The NGO/CBO National Forum also came up with a National Plan of Action for the NGOs/CBOs. This plan of action will be integrated into the National Action programme.

*v) The First National Forum*

The climax of the consultative process was the holding of the First National Forum, which was held in Lusaka on 22 – 23 December 1998. The forum created an enabling environment for facilitating agreements among the main stakeholders on a set of realistic and tangible actions that would rapidly move the CCD implementation forward. The forum was mainly focussed at reaching agreements on priority issues for the NAP, catalytic actions that need to be launched immediately for capacity building and/or testing innovative approaches, funding issues and other arrangements.

The Forum successfully addressed and achieved some of the categories of expected outputs such as; agreements on priority areas for programmes to be developed under the NAP, various arrangements to be put in place including information sharing, participatory approach, harmonization, legal framework and policy issues and urgent actions to support initiatives by NGOs and CBOs at local level. The issues of funding were also addressed and the forum agreed that the establishment of an NDF be looked into.

The awareness campaigns were organized and implemented by members of the NSC , which includes; government officials, NGOs and independent institutions. This was to ensure ownership of the NAP process. The involvement of the Steering Committee members also helped to mobilize the donor community in that each sector representative was asked to make contacts with their respective donors and invited them to the workshops. A planning meeting/induction was organized prior to the Forum to prepare the NSC officials for their involvement in the National Forum.

Some of the difficulties encountered during the awareness raising campaigns and consultation include such issues as the level of participation. Some institutions sent representatives to the meetings and workshops who, due to their level of seniority in their organizations could not take or make decisions pertaining to policy issues on the implementation of the Convention.

One of the main concerns surrounding awareness raising is centered on expectations created, particularly amongst local communities, which if not met, could lead to diminished interest. Immediate follow-up activities are therefore, essential, in order to maintain the momentum and interest at the local level. The real challenge is to ensure that awareness is carried out as a component of an overall programme of action and not as a stand-alone activity. To this effect Zambia is trying to provide a follow-up on the awareness raising act and advocacy activities of the programme using existing environmental awareness and education programmes such as the Environment Education and Awareness Programme of the Environment Support Programme. A proposal has also been prepared to solicit for funding for continued support for awareness raising.

#### **4.2 Communication Mechanisms With Stakeholders.**

Mechanisms used for getting information to stakeholders at all levels has been as follows: The use of the media, organizing workshops and seminars, through the celebration of World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD), contribution of articles on the environment to the Newspapers and the new environmental newsletter just started by the MENR. These are the general methods utilized in addition to the specific programmes for specialized groups. The campaigns have been at both national and local levels. Radio interviews were conducted under EEPA prior to the First National Forum in order to disseminate information on the Nap and CCD implementation and the Forum meeting.

In support of the information dissemination NGOs are using radio programmes allocated for their activities to inform the public about the NAP process. The media has also continued supporting the awareness campaigns. Recently an agreement has been reached with radio stations broadcasting in local languages that they will allocate time for CCD activities and the Focal Point is to provide information to be delivered. The traditional institutions have also supported very much in the dissemination of information as they feel desertification is at the heart of the lives of their local communities.

The relationship between national level actors and local level implementers has been that local level implementers undertake activities which are within the national strategies. The national

strategies are decided at the national level with input from the local level. The local level implementers develop their own plans and modalities for implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The local levels submit progress reports to the national level.

## **5.0 THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS WITH DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES AND OTHER INTERESTED ENTITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME.**

One of the principles of the Convention to Combat Desertification is the involvement of all stakeholders in all the stages of the NAP process. Some of the key stakeholders in the implementation of this Convention are the international partners and other potential local financiers. The government of Zambia has endeavored to interest and involve the international partners in the preparation of the National Action Programme right from the beginning of the consultation process. As early as 1995 during the “Awareness Raising Days” the government invited the cooperating partners to this workshop so as to ensure that they were on board right from the beginning of the process. Their involvement continued throughout the process of NAP development. They were participants to the provincial consultative workshops as well as the First National Forum. In addition the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources through the National Focal Point for the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification, sent some briefs to and had discussions with some of the donor cooperating partners.

Some of the partners who were invited attended the Forum being represented by their technical officers. Some Ambassadors and Heads of Missions participated during the official opening of the Forum. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was invited to be an observer during Steering Committee meetings on the Convention. The presence of UNDP in these meetings has provided a link between the NAP process and the donor community and international partners. UNDP has further been requested to continuously brief the donor community on the progress on the NAP process when they have donor meetings. Land degradation is taken very seriously in Zambia such that even politicians are involved in addressing the problem. Political statements are made in both national and international conferences. This has helped in alerting the international community of the importance attached by government to the desertification problem and the need for support.

A number of donors have expressed interest to support the implementation of the NAP once it is in place. It is hoped that once the NAP is put in place and the priority areas clearly spelt out these donors will come forth and support its implementation. However, the participation of the donor community and the coordination of their inputs in the NAP process could be better. Currently, there is no lead donor coordinating other donors for the NAP process. The government is relying on UNDP to play this role until such a time when there shall be an agreement to get into the “Chef-de-file” arrangement.

The involvement of cooperative partners in the process has also not been easy. The number of partners that responded to invitations to meetings and workshops was usually between 30 and 50%. This can be attributed to the level of awareness of the donor institutions on the CCD and its provisions and to the specific agendas which donors have for their funding and support.



## **6.0 THE MEASURES TAKEN OR PLANNED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME**

According to article 10 of the UNCCD, the fundamental purpose of the NAP is to identify those factors, which contribute to desertification together with practical measures, which are required to be undertaken, in order to combat desertification as well as mitigate the effects of drought. As such, National Action Programmes require specifying the roles of; government, local communities and land users. In addition resources that are available and those which are needed for the implementation of the NAP must be identified. It also requires the identification of priorities because resources are limited.

As the problems of land degradation and drought are not new in Zambia, several efforts and programmes have been tried before the UNCCD and others are currently ongoing. It is also within the spirit of the NAP that as much as possible experiences and knowledge gained from previous efforts must be used. The NAP is also to incorporate those ongoing programmes and strategies, which are felt to be effective.

It was in this spirit that a diagnosing had to be made of past experiences so that they can be used in the formation of the NAP. This exercise was undertaken using technical assistance from the United Nations Commission for Africa with funding from the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation. The objectives of the consultancy were as follows:

- Undertake a review of existing and/or proposed projects and programmes relating to combating desertification and the mitigation of the effects of drought.
- Assess the implications of financial resources for the NAP process and prepare a framework support document for mobilization of the resources.
- Sensitize the local and international partners on the provisions of the CCD and the importance of cooperation and partnerships implementing the Convention.
- Assess the status of desertification in the country, including the review of relevant documents as well as undertaking consultation with stakeholders (line ministries, and/or department, NGOs/CBOs and cooperating partners in development).

The mission report brought out the fact that the Principal Programme areas of NAP as outlined in Articles 10, 13, and 14 of the CCD and Articles 8 and 9 of the RIAA were consistent with the recommendations of the NEAP. It was however pointed out that the NEAP failed to give emphasis to some programme areas particularly the development of early warning systems and the development and transfer of technology.

Hence, the report proposed a way forward in ensuring the implementation of the CCD bearing in mind the already proposed NEAP Strategy. Actions required at the district and local levels included the following:-

- Land degradation - mainly to address and not symptoms
- Poverty Alleviation
- Gender Issues
- Put in place programmes aimed at improving the quality of life of vulnerable groups.

The Report also proposed a framework for the participatory approach and the awareness raising for the NAP process through:

- Sensitization and creation of public awareness among communities.
- Undertaking an assessment of the problems and needs as well as analyzing the ecological conditions of the community ecosystems, land water and livestock.
- Sensitization of local communities on the benefits of the CCD implementation etc.
- Establish a viable and vibrant extension service by Government.

The following activities were further suggested by the consultant:

- Assessment of the extent and status of desertification in Zambia. (This will include defining desertification in the Zambian context and obtaining statistical data).
- Establishment of Provincial and District Steering Committees on Desertification

On the mobilization of resources the report made the following proposals:

- Solicitation of Resources from partners on development for NAP.
- Resources for the NAP process to be sought from the international partners as well as ESP.
- ESP to be used for Community-Based Micro-Programmes and Projects on Desertification and Drought. These funds would come from the PEF.
- Education and Training to be enhanced.

The report and recommendations of the consultant was an input into the NAP Process and will be useful for drafting the NAP document together with reports from the consultation process. The analysis of on going projects has made it possible to identify all those projects that are to be incorporated into the NAP and how they should be adapted for the NAP process. Recommendations have been made on how on going projects should be coordinated and implemented under the NAP process.

The National Forum was able to identify a number of priority issues that should form the blocks for preparing action programmes in the NAP. The process was able to come up with the following new approaches or issues for combating desertification:

- Fostering inter-sectoral linkages.
- Promoting capacity building at district and village levels.
- Empowering local communities in their role as custodians of the natural resource base in tackling environmental concerns that include land degradation.
- Shifting from the situation of government being the sole player in natural resource management to that of facilitation, monitoring and evaluation.

Measures to improve the economic environment of the local population have been identified and recommendations made during the consultations. Policy revision of cross-sectoral and sectoral entities have been recommended. All the concepts which consider peoples' participation as an

essential component were part and parcel of the process. Poverty alleviation strategies have been suggested to reduce the rate of dependency on the exploitation of natural resources, which leads to depletion and consequently leads to desertification. Specific activities planned within the framework of the NAP include the following but will be spelt out in detail in the NAP document:

- Drafting and finalization of the NAP document.
- Implementation of a catalytic support programme for locally based community projects in two pilot areas.
- Documentation of indigenous knowledge systems and technologies on the combating of desertification in Zambia.
- Establishment of a National desertification fund.
- Continued education and awareness raising among communities.

### **6.1 Mechanisms for synergy and complementarity with related programmes.**

Some of the mechanisms initiated by the National Action Programme include the harmonization of all programmes that address the concerns of land degradation through interministerial and intersectoral approach. This mechanism enables the various departments and ministries to compliment their efforts towards addressing the desertification problems through the use of various resources. This has been made possible through discussions at Steering Committee level.

Considerations have been made of the priority programmes in the SRAP. This was done to make sure that all national and sub-regional dimensions on combating desertification are coordinated. In addition, there are programmes being implemented that have a sub-regional dimension which include programmes such as the ZACPLAN and the proposed NBSAP Regional Programme. The ZACPLAN is a subregional programme in the SADC sub-region on the management of the Zambezi River Basin and shared watercourses. This programme emphasises the sustainable management of the Zambezi river basin system. The NBSAP Regional Programme is an attempt to sub-regional collaboration in the implementation of Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. It concentrates on trans-boundary as well as inter-sectoral issues, the regional implementation structure, definition of roles of the key sub-regional stakeholders.

The national scientific and technical institutions are actively and effectively participating in the sub-regional, regional and international relevant networks. In addition, Zambia is in the process of compiling a list of experts to be forwarded to the Secretariat for inclusion in the independent roster of experts.

From the outcome of the First National Forum, efforts are being made to put together a National Action Programme document which will be submitted to government for adoption. The Ministry of Environment is spearheading this process with a few representatives from other line ministries and NGO representatives. Contraction of consultants to work on the NAP document at the moment is not possible due to lack of financial resources. To this effect we would welcome financial and technical assistance through the CCD Secretariat for the finalisation of the NAP document.

Once the document is in place we would also like to hold a consultative and agreement Forum specifically with the donor community to solicit for their support and commitment to the NAP implementation.

## **7.0 FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS FROM NATIONAL BUDGETS AS WELL AS EXTERNAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

### **7.1 Support from National Budget.**

The government of Zambia has funded a number of activities towards the development and implementation of the NAP process in the country as donor funds were not forthcoming. The contributions to the NAP process as well as to other UNCCD activities are as follows:

#### **a) Financial Support for the NAP process.**

Though it is not easy to put a figure on the financial contribution by government, the majority of the activities have been funded from the local budget. Some activities were combined with those of other programmes which have funding.

#### **b) Human Resources.**

The facilitation and implementation of the UNCCD in Zambia is totally being managed by Zambians themselves who are employees of the government drawn from various departments.

The government is also providing office space, transport, facilities and exemptions from tax to all material and equipment imported from abroad for the UNCCD activities.

### **7.2 Pilot Environment Fund.**

Recently (1998), government has established a Pilot Environment Fund to fund community based environment and natural resource management programmes and studies targeted at finding practical solutions on environmental problems. It is envisaged that some CCD activities will be financed from this fund. A fully-fledged National Environment Fund will be established taking into account lessons that will be obtained from the pilot fund.

### **7.3 Financial Assistance.**

Financial assistance to the NAP process has been as follows:

- a) The UNCCD Secretariat US\$ 8 000 for financing the National Awareness Days.
- b) UNDP/UNSO provided US\$ 100 000 for catalysing the NAP Process.

The UNCCD Secretariat has supported the participation of two delegates to INCD meetings and to the COPs. In addition local participants have been funded to participate in regional consultative meetings and workshops. SADC-ELMS has also supported the attendance of national participants to Sub-regional workshops and consultative meetings.

## **7.4 Technical Cooperation**

Zambia has been receiving technical support in the form of experts and inputs on the NAP process from a number collaborating partners including; UNDP/UNSO, SADC-ELMS, UNCCD Secretariat and UNECA. UNDP/UNSO and SADC-ELMS have constantly been providing technical backstopping support on the NAP process through their physical presence or through comments communicated to the NFP.

## **7.5 Financial And Technical Cooperation Needed And Prioritization Of Requirements.**

### ***i) Support for the drafting of the NAP document.***

Having completed the sensitization and consultation process supported by UNDP/UNSO, Zambia is now ready to develop the NAP to guide the implementation of the CCD. There is need to constitute a drafting team to draft and complete the NAP document. An amount of US\$ 20 000 would be required. This will include payments for the drafting team, holding a National Forum to approve the document, publication, duplication and distribution of documents.

### ***ii) Implementation of a catalytic support programme.***

An agreement has been reached that there is need to implement a pilot catalytic support programme starting with activities in two highly degraded districts. This is planned to get the local communities committed and participating in environment activities after all the awareness campaigns that have taken place. This programme will also include the documentation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems which would be applied in these pilot areas. This programme will require an amount of US\$ 200,000 and run for two years.

### ***iii) Establishment of a National Desertification Fund.***

There is an urgent need to establish a National Desertification Fund to support community projects and the implementation of the NAP. This will include contracting consultancies, consultations with stakeholders and the holding of a national forum on the fund. This will require an amount US\$ 40,000.

### ***iv) Technical Assistance Requirement.***

Assistance would be required from time to time from experienced international experts to support local teams that would be working on the above programmes. This would include experts in the formulation of environment funds, experts conversant with National Action Programmes and technical support for initiating the implementation of the NAP.

## **8.0 A REVIEW OF THE BENCHMARKS AND INDICATORS UTILIZED TO MEASURE PROGRESS AND AN ASSESSMENT THEREOF.**

An institution responsible for the observation and monitoring of the environment exists.

However this institution, the Environment Council of Zambia (ECZ) has not been able to put in place a monitoring mechanism. Currently standards are being developed for monitoring forest depletion. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources is also working on the development of indicators for monitoring progress of the different programmes under the ministry of which desertification is one of them.

For the purpose of assessing progress on the NAP process benchmarks and indicators adopted by SADC member states have been used.

The table below shows the state of affairs in the development of the NAP in Zambia.

**Table 2.0: Benchmarks and indicators**

No.	Benchmarks	Indicators	Remarks
1	Institutions in place a National Coordinating Unit b Focal Point c Implementing institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal status</li> <li>• Resources</li> <li>• Intersectoral and multidisciplinary character</li> <li>• Composition and mode of operation</li> <li>• Terms of References</li> <li>• Senior experts representing various institutions</li> <li>• Continuity of NFP</li> <li>• Established time frame</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established by the MENR</li> <li>• Not enough resources available</li> <li>• NSC is intersectoral and multidisciplinary</li> <li>• Focal point is responsible for the day to day operations.</li> <li>• Has TORs</li> <li>• NSC is composed of senior experts representing various departments.</li> <li>• Changed once within same ministry.</li> <li>• Plan of action with time frame</li> </ul>
2	Effective participation of actors involved in identifying national priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methods of participation of various actors</li> <li>• Representativeness of various actors in the national priorities identification process</li> <li>• Nature and scope of information, education and communications action</li> <li>• Extent of uptake of:</li> <li>• Local concerns at the national level</li> <li>• Results of national consultations at the local level</li> <li>• Inventory of key stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through representation in the NSC</li> <li>• Attendance in meetings and workshops</li> <li>• All identified stakeholders invited to meetings and workshops during the consultative process</li> <li>• Special consultations with specialised groups</li> <li>• Through workshops, meetings, distribution of translated and other documents and use of the media.</li> <li>• Through the consultation process at the grassroots level</li> <li>• Not yet implemented</li> <li>• There is an inventory of stakeholders</li> </ul>
3	Support from international partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree of participation of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree of participation has been positive</li> </ul>

		international partners  Establishment of an informal consultation and harmonization process for actions between partner countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal bilateral consultations</li> </ul>
4	Institutional framework for coherent and functional desertification control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measures identified or adopted to adjust or strengthen the institutional framework</li> <li>• Measure adopted to strengthen existing institutions at the local levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being done through the ESP and CBENRMP</li> <li>• Being done through the ESP and CBENRMP</li> </ul>
5	NAPs as part of national economic and social development planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making the NAP coherent with other environmental strategic frameworks and vice-versa</li> <li>• Inter-linking of NAP with national, regional and local approaches</li> <li>• Inter-linkages of NAP with sub-regional action programme</li> <li>• Agreement by the government</li> <li>• Integration of NAP into national development plans and taking account of existing programmes</li> <li>• Specific programmes emerging from policy statements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of ongoing programmes and integration of relevant ones.</li> <li>• Done during the NAP process.</li> <li>• Done</li> <li>• NAP not yet adopted by government</li> <li>• Not yet undertaken</li> <li>• Yes a number of programmes are in place e.g. Poverty alleviation.</li> </ul>
6	Harmonized legal and regulatory framework impacting on the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of the legislation and enforcement of laws on the environment</li> <li>• Measures to adapt current legislation or introduce new ones</li> <li>• Policies piloted for the implementation of the NAP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis done but adaptation of laws and their enforcement still to be implemented.</li> <li>• In progress.</li> <li>• Not yet</li> </ul>



7	Adopted financial mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measures to facilitate the access of local actors to existing sources of funds</li> <li>• Working out new, adapted methods to mobilize internal and external resources</li> <li>• Facilitation funds established</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assisting local level actors with the preparation of project proposals</li> <li>• Making requests for the implementation of projects at local level</li> <li>• Consultations in progress</li> <li>• Pilot Environment Fund has been established</li> </ul>
8	Established (technical) programmes to combat desertification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inventory, adaptation and integration of projects underway within the NAP process</li> <li>• Identification of new actions</li> <li>• Actions to strengthen national and local capacity to combat desertification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An analysis of on going projects was done and relevant ones were integrated.</li> <li>• Done</li> <li>• Identified and proposed by the Forum to strengthen current efforts.</li> </ul>
9	Established mechanisms and norms and standards for monitoring and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment and/or strengthening of environmental monitoring and observation capacities</li> <li>• Established mechanism and criteria for monitoring the impacts of NAP formulation</li> <li>• Established unit to undertake the monitoring and evaluation</li> <li>• Established norms and standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On going</li> <li>• Established</li> <li>• Established</li> <li>• In progress</li> </ul>
10	Review of NAPs and commitment by partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval and acceptance of the NAP actors involved</li> <li>• Adequate resources committed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NAP not yet adopted.</li> <li>• Not yet</li> <li>• Still being pursued</li> </ul>

## **9.0 CONCLUSION**

In conclusion it can be seen that the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification through the formulation of the National Action Programme has progressed well. It is clear that the awareness raising and consultative meetings and workshops in Zambia have resulted into a more sensitized and aware population on the CCD than before. This is evidenced by the frequency of inquiries on the issue by the population at the Ministry of environment and Natural resources. There has been an increased interest and coverage by the media of CCD activities and issues in the print media, on radio and television. There is also a clear indication that the communities are willing to do something about improving their livelihoods through combating desertification or land degradation as has been evidenced by the number of requests by communities for funding of various projects. Zambia as a country has gone a long way in creating an enabling environment to support the implementation of the convention. The challenge therefore, remains that of mobilising resources both financial and technical; in order to effectively and efficiently implement the convention.

Although the implementation of the Convention remains the political responsibility of affected country parties, support from developed country parties in the spirit of the convention is needed. Therefore a demonstration of a clear political will and priority to the issue of combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought should be vivid in affected countries, bilateral and multilateral donors.