

# REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE

**ZIMBABWE'S SECOND NATIONAL REPORT ON THE OF THE  
NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME (NAP) PROCESS IN THE  
CONTEXT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO  
COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD)**

*Prepared by the National Taskforce On Desertification  
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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

NAP	-	National Action Programme
UNCCD	-	United Nations Convention To Combat Desertification
CBO	-	Community Based Organisation
NGO	-	None Governmental Organisation
DST	-	District Strategy Team
DEAP	-	District Environmental Action Plan
DDC	-	District Development Committee
PST	-	Provincial Strategy Team
RDDC	-	Rural District Development Committee
CCD	-	Convention to Combat Desertification
UNEP	-	United Nations Environment Programme
NCS	-	National Conservation Strategy
UNDP	-	United National Development Programme
GIS	-	Geographical Information System
NDF	-	National Desertification Fund
ZERO	-	Regional Environment Organisation
RDC	-	Rural District Council
SDARMP	-	Smallholder Dry Areas Resources management Project

## 1.0 Summary

This report covers NAP activities in Zimbabwe since the production of the first National Report in 1999. Since the ratification of the CCD, Zimbabwe has undertaken to implement provisions of the convention. With the support of UNSO funded by the Australian Support Fund, substantial diagnostic work of past experience with combating desertification was undertaken. This work played a major role in increasing the understanding of the problems the country is facing in the area of drought and desertification.

Zimbabwe's activities for the period under review focused on refining institutional arrangements, finalisation of the gap analysis, capacity building and community project implementation.

Zimbabwe's priorities are now focussed on six major programme areas, namely:

- (a) Water resources management
- (b) Energy resources management
- (c) Land resources management
- (d) Education, public awareness and capacity building
- (e) Provision of alternative livelihoods
- (f) Environmental Information System for the NAP Process

The selection of these programmes is a result of extensive consultations undertaken by the Taskforce. A spill over benefit from these consultations was further insight into the possible institutional arrangements necessary for implementation of specific activities related to the identified priorities.

The National Taskforce has now developed four project proposals namely:

- NAP Water subsector project
- NAP Energy subsector project
- NAP land resources project
- NAP land & water project proposal

Issues related to capacity building, education and public awareness, provision of alternative livelihoods and environment information systems are addressed as cross cutting issues.

A National Desertification Fund proposal document has been prepared including accounting and operational manuals. Once endorsed by the Zimbabwe Government through Cabinet and Parliament, it is envisaged that this will mark the beginning of concerted effort to implement more vigorously activities within the prioritised programmes for which consensus has been reached. The enactment of the Environmental Management Bill into law which is likely to take place before the end of the year would speed up of adoption of the NDF by government.

A Land Care programme has been developed and implemented in the context of Zimbabwe National Action Programme (NAP). This component of the programme received financial support from the Australian government. The programme is aimed at utilising the Australian land care experiences in order to adopt and adjust the concept as a strategy for drought mitigation and land degradation control in Zimbabwe. The programme had an exchange visit component which was aimed at promoting networking and sharing of experiences among Zimbabwean farmers as well as among the Australian and Zimbabwean farmers. One of its contribution to the NAP process is that it facilitated a look and learn visit to Australia's land care programme by twenty Zimbabwean farmers and also strengthened institutional arrangements at grass root level through the establishment of 149 land care groups.

As noted above a project proposal for the NAP implementation phase has been developed. The main document outlines a five-year programme focusing on the three NAP priority areas of land, water and energy resources management. There are three project proposals emanating from each of the priority areas listed above, whilst the fourth proposal is an integrated programme focusing on land and water resources management.

On community project implementation an additional nine (9) projects were implemented, making a total of twenty-five (25) projects that have been implemented under the programme. Projects implemented include river-dam catchment protection and rehabilitation and rehabilitation, horticultural production (small scale irrigation), veld management, wetland protection, ostrich farming, water provision and land reclamation.

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

Zimbabwe has witnessed a series of drastic changes in land use, technology, demography, farming capabilities, economic demands on the resource base and allocation of land. All of these have had an impact on the quality and quantity of the resource base resulting in environmental and land degradation.

Zimbabwe is experiencing a number of environmental problems, which are mainly a result of human activities. The single biggest problem is that of land degradation, which is emanating from excessive concentrations of human and livestock populations in ecologically marginal, dry and fragile soils mainly in communal, small scale commercial and resettlement areas.

The related three-tier land tenure system, which designate land into communal, commercial and small scale farming areas, has had a great influence on the genesis of most of Zimbabwe's environment and development problems. Since the Zimbabwe economy is agro-based, a greater proportion of the environmental problems are related to agricultural practices and other land use systems. Land degradation problems in Zimbabwe are best understood within the context of disparities of income and access to or ownership of resources.

Gold panning which is driven by poverty in rural areas has been accelerated by the current economic hardships and recurrent droughts, particularly the 1991/92 drought as people sought alternative means of livelihood.

Energy issues are also at the center of land degradation in the rural sector of Zimbabwe. The over-dependence of rural communities on fuel-wood to meet their energy requirements has contributed to massive deforestation, which in turn leads to soil erosion and land degradation and water shortages through the siltation of rivers and dams. Deforestation in many parts of the country is also a consequence of clearance of vegetation for agriculture and settlement purposes, and use of trees for construction and fencing purposes, as well as overgrazing and burning. Currently, Zimbabwe loses approximately 70 – 100 000 hectares of forests per year. This has contributed to soil erosion, loss of bio-diversity and desertification. As stated earlier, soil erosion has in turn led to siltation of rivers and other water bodies resulting in negative effects on the economy and living standards of local communities as a consequence of water scarcity.

The poverty-environment relationship contributes to land degradation. This issue has not been treated with the seriousness it deserves in the past. The poor are both the willing agents and victims of environmental damage. A large and growing rural population struggling to survive in a limited land resource base has over-utilized the available natural resources. Due to lack of alternative livelihoods, over-utilization of resources leads to further land degradation and entrenches poverty.

Land degradation in the rural sector has contributed to rural-urban migration creating environmental problems related to the urban poor. In the urban slums, absence of waste disposal, sanitation and other essential services are just not a health risk to the poor but also a cause of ecological damage as human and wastes

generated in the slums may destroy vegetation and pollute both surface and underground water. The growth of the urban sector in Zimbabwe has contributed to environmental problems, which need urgent attention. These range from land and water to air pollution. In addition urban areas are experiencing increased solid and liquid waste disposal and management problems which require immediate solutions.

Water availability and management has become one of the critical environmental issues in the country. The problem is a result of silted rivers and degraded wetlands and springs due to negative human and livestock impact. The problem is further worsened by the frequency of droughts, which have led to untold suffering to the Zimbabwean communities. Water shortage has had negative effects on agriculture and other sectors of the economy.

The government has attempted to address these problems in the past through a number of programmes. Some of the interventions made by government to address the above problems include; land redistribution, education and public awareness, land rehabilitation, law enforcement and provision of alternative livelihood aimed at reducing pressure on the different resources. Some successful programmes on environment and development have been implemented and completed on the ground. An example of such programmes is the Rural DEAP which is being used as the main vehicle for community mobilisation in the implementation of Zimbabwe's National Conservation Strategy, the NAP and other national programmes.

The Zimbabwean experiences with the NAP process over the years has revealed that the process promotes effective co-ordination, partnership building and stakeholder participation at all levels of programme implementation leading to programme sustainability.

### **3.0 STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND POLICIES**

A variety of environmental issues are of concern to people living in the rural and urban sectors of Zimbabwe. Environmental problems are related directly to land use and land use practices. A survey conducted by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism in 1993 identified the following major issues among others: deforestation, land degradation, water deficiencies, loss of bio-diversity, poverty, land tenure, environmental impact of small scale mining activities, water and air pollution.

The Zimbabwean government has responded to these environmental problems through a number of statutory instruments, policies, strategies and programmes. Many of these initiatives address long-recognized environmental and natural resources management needs of the various stakeholder groups. Other government policy initiatives derive from:

- ◆ The National Conservation Strategy of 1987.
- ◆ Being part to international conventions such as Desertification, Climate Change, Bio-diversity, Depletion of the Ozone Layer etc.
- ◆ Being participant to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; and commitment to the resultant Agenda 21 programme for sustainable development.

Outlined below are some of the specific policy initiatives and strategies that the government has put in place to address environmental problems. It should be noted that these have been developed and are being implemented as part of the National Development Strategy.

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

The National Conservation Strategy of 1987 was one such policy initiative by post-independence Zimbabwe. It was the first attempt by Zimbabwe to have a holistic approach to issues related to development and natural resources protection and management. It attempted to draw linkages on land, water, energy and population issues in designing programmes for land degradation control. The strategy noted that population is the most important and dynamic factor in the implementation of a resource conservation strategy.

The NCS objective was to promote sustainable resource utilisation through the integration of socio-economic and environmental issues in development programmes.

The strategy had, however, the following weaknesses which affected its implementation.

- ◆ It lacked an action programme for its implementation.
- ◆ It was never adopted and approved by both Cabinet and Parliament.
- ◆ No budget for its implementation was ever put in place.
- ◆ The strategy was developed using top-down approach.

Due to these limitations, the NCS has never been implemented. It has remained a policy statement with no programme implementation particularly at community level.

Although the NCS failed to achieve its stated objectives, it has lessons for the formulation and implementation of the NAP process. The lessons include;

- ◆ The need for the NAP to be adopted and approved at the highest level of government.
- ◆ Need for an action oriented implementation strategy.
- ◆ A NAP budget is a precondition for the successful implementation of the programme.
- ◆ Full participation of the key stakeholders in the formulation of the NAP will ensure programme ownership and success.

### **3.2 Decentralisation Policy**

The Zimbabwe Decentralisation policy is aimed at devolution of authority from national government to local authorities. Its focus is to empower Rural District Councils (RDC) to take charge of resources and development issues in their respective areas.

The government has initiated the Capacity Building Programme as a strategy to enable the RDCs to take charge of the responsibilities being decentralised to them. The Capacity Building Programme focuses on three main areas namely:

- ◆ Institutional framework strengthening
- ◆ Human resources development
- ◆ Financial management

The processes of decentralization and capacity building are in progress. This policy has a positive effect on the NAP Process in that it addresses the issue of capacity building for both local authorities and their communities. Once capacitated these institutions will among other things be able to make a meaningful participation in the NAP Process.

The decentralization process has the following merits:

- ◆ It gives local authorities and their communities a mandate to plan and develop resources in their respective areas.
- ◆ It promotes participation of stakeholder groups at the different levels in the country's development process.
- ◆ It has a capacity building component for local authorities personnel and local communities
- ◆ It promotes coordination of activities of development practitioners at the rural district council level.

The successful implementation of the decentralization policy hinges on the rural district councils who are mandated to take charge of the process through effective coordination to ensure the full participation of all stakeholder groups in the development process. This policy promotes the CCD objectives in that it focuses on capacity building, stakeholder participation, coordination and partnership building which are some of the main principles of the CCD.

### **3.3 Environmental Impact Assessment Policy (EIA)**

The policy objective is to ensure that developers and project proponents undertake an environmental impact assessment in order to document possible negative impacts on the environment and to design a mitigatory programme for the identified negative impacts. The policy also aims at making the conducting of EIA mandatory in Zimbabwe and this issue is being addressed in the proposed Environmental Management Act. The Environmental Management Bill which will provide legislative support to the EIA process is expected to go through Parliament and to be enacted into law before the end of the year.

The successful implementation of the EIA policy has positive effects on the NAP process in that it encourages the integration of environmental as well as socio-economic issues in development planning processes.

### **3.4 National Population Policy**

The policy was formulated using a participatory approach. The consultative process was done over a two-year period (1995-96) mainly in the form of national and provincial workshops.

One of the objectives of the population policy is to balance the rates of population growth and economic growth as well as ensuring that the available natural resources are sustainably utilized to meet the needs of people.

The strategy which is being used to ensure that the goals of the policy are realized is the integration of population issues in the formulation of policies in the other sectors such as agriculture, environment, health, etc.

The policy was adopted and launched in 1997 and currently the modalities of its effective implementation are being formulated.

The environmental Ministry and other groups made contribution in the formulation of the Zimbabwe population policy. Its launching has a positive impact towards the successful implementation of the NAP process since it lays a foundation for addressing the relationship between desertification, drought and human activities.

### **3.5 Land Reform and Redistribution Policy**

Land degradation problems in Zimbabwe are best understood within the context of disparities of income and access to or ownership of resources. The three-tier land tenure system which designate land into communal and commercial farming areas has had a great influence on the genesis of environmental and development problems. The majority of people occupy the marginal lands (the communal areas) while a few commercial farmers occupy fertile land located in high rainfall areas.

To address the land ownership imbalances the Zimbabwe Government formulated and adopted a Land Reform and Land Redistribution Policy soon after independence in 1980.

The objective of the policy is to correct the land ownership imbalance between the black majority and the white minority which is a result of discriminatory policies adopted by the colonial governments.

The strategy used include the purchase of land from the commercial farming sector and then settle people from the crowded communal areas.

Since the early 1980s hundreds of families have been resettled on former commercial farms as part of a land redistribution exercise. Lack of financial resources to purchase land has hindered progress in the implementation of the policy. However since March 2000, the land reform programme took a different dimension with the introduction of the fast track land reform programme. This resulted in large numbers of families being resettled within a two-year period. This has created massive environmental degradation as the new settlers open land for settlement and for agricultural purposes. Indiscriminate wildlife poaching also accompanied the destruction of forests.



The rate at which the fast track land redistribution programme has been implemented created problems for the planning Ministry due to limited human capacity and lack of adequate financial resources. The challenges created by the fast track land redistribution has created new challenges for the NAP programme. There is need to come up with strategies that will contribute to the formulation of policies for the new settled areas and an environmental education awareness programme targeted at the newly settled farmers.

As a general rule the land redistribution policy meets one of the NAP process objectives of promoting land degradation control. The policy facilitates decongestion of communal areas by the reduction of pressure on these crowded and degraded areas through the provision of alternative land to meet farmers' needs. It should be noted that the policy only provides a short-term solution to land shortage and environmental problems and that there is need to find long-term solutions and the NAP process should help in this regard.

### **3.6 Poverty Alleviation Action Plan**

This plan was initiated by the Government of Zimbabwe in 1993. The objective of the plan is to define poverty parameters and put in place strategies for poverty reduction.

The strategies used include:

- ◆ The conducting of a poverty survey
- ◆ Identification of areas of acute poverty
- ◆ Formulation and adoption of a community action programme to address poverty issues in the most needy areas.

The Zimbabwe Poverty Alleviation Action Plan has been formulated. To date twenty-six (26) of the country's poorest districts have been identified and mapped and plans are underway to address poverty issues in these districts through the implementation of community action programmes.

This plan partners well with the NAP process since it addresses issues of poverty which are at the heart of the process. The NAP process has identified poverty as both a cause and a result of environmental degradation. Experiences from this plan are positively benefiting the NAP, creating an environment conducive for partnership building between the two programmes.

### **3.7 National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation**

This policy initiative seeks to address two important issues namely:

- ◆ Provision of clean water among rural communities
- ◆ Provision of adequate sanitation facilities at community level

The initiative is both a drought mitigation strategy as well as a strategy for reducing environmental pollution and for improving the health of people living in rural areas.

The following strategies are used to implement the policy:

- ◆ Borehole drilling and the construction of protected wells
- ◆ Construction of Blair toilets for each family unit

The RDCs have a responsibility of coordinating the programme in their respective areas. Communities are providing labour and building materials as their contributions to the programme.

The programme has been successfully implemented in a number of districts and is ongoing in others. Lack of financial resources makes it difficult to cover all the needy areas.

Experiences from this policy initiative are relevant to the NAP process particularly in developing drought mitigation strategies in dry areas. Where water provision has been made the NAP is finding modalities of utilising the water for income generation projects.

### **3.8 Energy Management Policy**

The development of this policy is of interest to the NAP process since energy has been identified as one of the key programme areas for the process. This policy is currently under formulation. The policy seeks to promote the sustainable utilisation of renewable energy in Zimbabwe, particularly for people in the rural sector.

### **3.9 Forestry Policy**

The forestry policy seeks to promote the sustainable utilization of the forest resources and where necessary to replace the depleted forestry resources through woodlot establishment.

The policy is being implemented through a programme of rural afforestation and reforestation. The programme did, in the beginning, lay emphasis on tree planting but lessons learnt indicate that there is need to consider some broader approaches that encompass the management of standing woody bio-mass.

This policy is relevant to the aspiration of the NAP process in that it addresses issues of prevention of deforestation which is one of the major causes of desertification.

### **3.10 Water Resources Management Strategy**

This is currently under review and reformulation and seeks to fully develop the country's water resources and to ensure the equitable distribution of water to the different users. There is need to draw linkages between this policy and the NAP process.

### **3.11 National Policy on Drought Management**

The National Policy on Drought Management was adopted and launched in 1998. The main objective of the policy is to build capacity of individuals and communities at the household level to enable them to undertake activities that efficiently and effectively utilize household resources. The policy is also aimed at putting in place strategies for drought preparedness and mitigation at national, provincial, district, and community levels. The policy has been developed as an integral part of the national development process.

The policy focuses on the following main strategic issues; promotion of sustainable management of natural resources, rural industrialization, provision of water and irrigation development, food security and nutrition.

The policy addresses issues related to drought mitigation which are central to the NAP and the CCD. The policy linkages with the NAP need to be identified in particular areas of possible joint implementation as the two enter their implementation phases.

## **4.0 INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION**

### **4.1 Established and functional National Taskforce**

The Government of Zimbabwe designated the Department of Natural Resources of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism as the National Focal Point on the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification.

The National Action Programme (NAP) in the Context of the Convention to Combat Desertification began to take shape in November 1996 with the appointment of a National Technical Advisor for the programme, the creation of a National Taskforce to spearhead the implementation of the programme and the setting up of the NAP Secretariat to service the Taskforce and the programme.

The membership of the National Taskforce was drawn from government agencies, NGOs, Association of Rural District Councils, the donor community and the private sector. Judicially, the National Taskforce is a formal entity, legally acting on behalf of the accounting officer (the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism). The Taskforce operates at policy level while at project implementation level, provincial and district structures are utilized.

The major constraint to the participation of the Taskforce members is the non-existence of a formal agreement hence their participation has become erratic of late. In addition, there are no funds available to pay sitting allowances to members when they meet for their deliberations and to support the activities of the lead agencies in some of the key areas of the NAP interventions. On the other hand, some of the organisations which members of the Taskforce represent do not feel that the NAP process adds value to their activities but instead, they view it as a competitor to their key result areas.

Among its functions, the National Taskforce has focused its mandate on:

- ◆ Establishing a National Environmental/Desertification Fund
- ◆ Raising public awareness on the CCD through production of background information papers, seminars, workshops and radio programmes
- ◆ Preparing and holding of national forums on the NAP process
- ◆ Identifying key programme areas for the NAP process in Zimbabwe
- ◆ Producing Umbrella Project Document for the NAP process
- ◆ Helping communities identifying and implementing projects on land degradation control and drought mitigation

Operationally, the Taskforce now has problems. A National Secretariat composed of a Technical Advisor, a Programme Officer, a Project Assistant and a United Nations Volunteer which serviced the taskforce is no longer in place as the NAP catalytic phase came to an end in December 2001. Financially the NAP process is now being supported by the Government of Zimbabwe for its operations. On the other hand while the Taskforce has gone a long way to achieve its mandate, it has had no financial autonomy in the process, because of the unavailability of funds; it has had no operational budget.

The National Taskforce is constituted of representatives from a number of public, social and economic sectors relevant to combating land degradation that includes agriculture, energy, social welfare, water resources, meteorological services, finance, economics, natural resources management among others. In addition, NGOs are represented.

Among Taskforce members and the organisations they represent, information is disseminated through meetings, workshops, mail, reports, minutes and NGOs coordinating body.

To be a member of the Taskforce, one is nominated by his/her respective organization on the request of the accounting officer. The body is composed of twenty-five (25) members. Of these, nine (9) are females and the rest are men, eleven (11) of them represent government departments and institutions (university and research institutions included) with the rest representing NGOs, the private sector, and the donor community. These members meet on a monthly basis and when necessary to chart the way forward for the NAP process and review the progress made on their set work plan and timetable of activities. Periodically, a self-evaluation of achievements and failures is carried out, with an external evaluation carried out annually.

The Taskforce has no information system existing and managed by it specifically for the NAP process in terms of computers and thus has no website etc, but relies on what is available in their respective organisations. A database in form of reports is maintained by the NAP secretariat for use by the Taskforce and other stakeholders. It is hoped that databases such as IRIS, VEGRIS, GIS, meteorological data, which are existent in the country will be made use of once resources such as computers are acquired in future, should financial resources permit. Given the non-existence of electronic equipment, for information dissemination, workshops, reports, forums, the press and media are constantly used as means of information exchange activities both at home and abroad in support of the NAP process in Zimbabwe.

At provincial, district and community levels, the NAP process uses structures that have been established under the Rural DEAP process.

## **4.2 Institutional Framework for Coherent and Functional Desertification Control**

The mechanisms available for coordination and harmonization of actions to combat land degradation at national and local levels have been reviewed and analyzed, leading to new institutional and organizational measures being proposed. The institutional framework for the NAP process is currently being looked into in terms of the NAP Secretariat, the NDF management structure and its co-ordination with other on going programmes. The Department of Natural Resources, as the government's implementing agency, together with the National Taskforce on Desertification have taken lead in the implementation of the NAP process to ensuring that all stakeholders and collaborators are involved in effective implementation of the NAP process at national level, as an interim measure. At provincial level, the Provincial Development Committee (PDC) has the mandate to direct the implementation of the NAP process. At district level, the Rural District Development Committee (RDDC) spearhead the NAP implementation assisted by the District Strategy Teams (DSTs) established through the District Environmental Action Plans (DEAP). Membership of both the PDC and the RDDC was expanded to accommodate NGOs/CBOs and local communities. While this institutional arrangement is in place, there is still a need to effectively streamline the NAP process into the national development process through provision of a coherent legal and regulatory framework and financial mechanisms to effectively implement the NAP at all levels.

The National Taskforce recommended the creation of an *interim desertification fund* as a measure to enable the handling of funding for desertification control, drought mitigation and provision of alternative livelihoods. The recommendations have been approved and effected. An autonomous body is to be established to control and manage these funds on behalf of the National Taskforce (see Section VIII of this report).

Given that the NAP process cannot operate in isolation, it was proposed and agreed that the NAP process be integrated with the DEAP process given that DEAP is a planning process meant to address environmental and poverty eradication issues through participatory development planning and implementation. The marriage has proved to be very effective.

The need for institutional and capacity building has been addressed and promoted. A needs assessment was carried out to that effect, and some of its recommendations are yet to be implemented. A financial mechanism (interim fund) has been put in place while the establishment of the National Environmental Fund is to be legalized. Operational and accounting manuals for the fund have been developed. In addition, funds have been allocated for NGO support in the implementation of the NAP process.

### **4.3 National Action Programme (NAP) as part of the National Economic and Social Development Plan**

An analysis has been made of the existing plans and strategies that are relevant to combating land degradation to ensure complementarity and avoidance of duplication of efforts so as to achieve a coordinated multi-sectoral approach to the problems of land degradation. It has emerged that the NAP process should play a critical catalytic role in building partnerships among the various organisations involved in environmental management at local, national and international levels. Given that there are a number of government departments, NGOs and private sector organisations with vast experience in environmental management, the areas in which the NAP process is intervening should be clearly understood in the following context.

- ◆ NAP recognizes that there are lead organisations in each of the sectors it has to intervene.
- ◆ The NAP process intervention is complementing and value adding to the efforts that are made by the lead organisations and indeed other complementary organisations.
- ◆ The NAP process will in most cases play a facilitating role in its interventions.

In line with the above, a gap analysis process was undertaken in NAP's key priority areas of land, water and energy resources management to determine areas of NAP focus that will not duplicate current efforts by other stakeholders working in these sectors. The gap analysis activities included:

- Documentation of institutions working in each of the NAP sub-sectors outlined above and their programmes.
- Documenting gaps and weaknesses in current interventions
- Defining areas for NAP intervention.

As noted earlier, the NAP interventions are aimed at bridging the gaps and weaknesses in current intervention efforts.

While the Taskforce has gone a long way to identify gaps and weaknesses within lead institutions and organisations involved in environmental management for NAP intervention, the process has not reached the level of being fully considered as a strategic framework for action in the macro development plan. To achieve this, proposals have been made seeking development of synergies and complementary approaches with lead organisations in each of the sectors where NAP will intervene. In the process, various programmes and projects have been identified and the process of linking their activities to the NAP is in progress.

It is important to note that UNCCD principles of partnership building and participatory development approaches are highly acknowledged by the government, the NGOs, the private sector and the affected communities. While this acknowledgement exists, the NAP process has not been clearly and visibly integrated into the process of national economic and social development planning systems especially at national level. The articulation between the NAP and the Sub-regional Action Plan (SRAP) and Regional Action Plan (RAP) are yet to be clearly identified. There are a number of NAP activities that have a sub-regional projection, such as the Kalahari-Namib Rehabilitation Programme, the Zambezi, Save and Limpopo rivers catchment rehabilitation programmes, and regional projection such as Capacity Building Water and Renewable Energy development programmes.

Though the development of the NAP process has reached an advanced stage, the government has not officially adopted the NAP process, thus no priority has been given officially, however, for the first time 2002 National budget has allocated financial resources for the implementation of the National Action Programme. The funds allocated are mainly for supporting community groups anti-desertification and drought mitigation initiatives.

#### **4.4 Coherent and Functional Legal and Regulatory Framework**

The National Taskforce has carried out a study of the existing legislation on environment which like other studies before it has led to the proposals for the need for the nation to have one piece of environmental legislation in place of the current system where several pieces exist and are administered by different government institutions. The government has put in place a decentralization policy aiming at developing and ensuring greater involvement and responsibility of local populations.

To enhance the participation of the local population, the Taskforce has mounted an extensive awareness drive through holding workshops and forums to inform and educate the affected communities on their roles and responsibilities. On the ground the DEAP process has effectively involved the local communities in participatory project identification, planning, implementation and management. As a result the local populations and local authorities are empowered to participate in decision-making, the projects identification and implementation to control land degradation and mitigate effects of drought.

Efforts have been made to ensure that the proposed Environment Management Bill address issues related to the NAP process. This will provide the programme with a legal framework. The NAP will be thus a component within the proposed National Environment Action Plan while the National Desertification Fund (NDF) will be a window within the proposed National Environment Fund.

## **5.0 PARTICIPATORY PROCESS IN SUPPORT OF THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME**

The CCD recognizes participation as an important tool towards the realization of its intended objectives of focusing on the central role that people should play in the design and implementation of the National Action Programme and calls for a bottom up approach in the formulation and implementation of action programmes and strategies.

A first step towards ensuring that all relevant stakeholders actively participate in all activities relating to the CCD implementation in Zimbabwe was the 1997 study on the weaknesses and gaps with respect to effective participatory approaches. The study had the following objectives:

- ◆ To identifying limitations and barriers to people's participation in desertification control and environmental management programmes.
- ◆ To outline measures needed to be put in place to overcome the identified limitations.
- ◆ To develop or identify tools or strategies for promoting different stakeholders participation in the NAP process taking into account tools that have been developed under DEAP and other programmes in Zimbabwe.
- ◆ To suggest practical tools on how participation approaches can be used for partnership building among various stakeholders in the NAP process.

The study identified the following weaknesses to effective stakeholder participation in Zimbabwe.

- ◆ Weak institutional framework for coordination
- ◆ Weak environmental policy
- ◆ Inequity in natural resources access
- ◆ Lack of coherent methodologies to facilitate partnership building
- ◆ Lack of information to ensure full participation

The National Taskforce on the CCD realized the tremendous efforts that would have to be harnessed to address the above weaknesses and decided to tackle the last two weaknesses as a matter of priority.

The tools that were identified by the study for enhancing people's participation include the following:

- ◆ Public policy analysis
- ◆ Stakeholder analysis
- ◆ Partnership building through improved coordination
- ◆ Multi-track communication
- ◆ Capacity building
- ◆ Monitoring and evaluation

The National Taskforce and other stakeholders have applied most of the above-mentioned tools and strategies to varying degrees to ensure comprehensive participation. Much progress has been made in relation to capacity and partnership building. Work is continuing with the other tools especially the multi-track communication, monitoring and evaluation.

Although no written communication and public awareness strategy exist, a number of activities have been undertaken by the National Taskforce and other stakeholders in relation to improving the awareness level on the CCD. The need for a properly articulated communication strategy was recognized early on in the formation of the National Taskforce but due to lack of budgetary support, this has not yet been done. There already exists institutional channels of communications, which the Taskforce has relied upon, these include; the use of networks, associations, and national administrative and political structures at the national, provincial and district levels. These communication channels have not proved very effective due to limited financial resources to photocopy and distribute documents relating to the CCD, hence the need to establish a separately funded CCD information dissemination system.

Upon signing and ratifying the CCD, there has been a number of activities undertaken by the government through the Department of Natural Resources with the assistance from the National Taskforce. These are summarized in Annex 1. It is important to highlight the active role that NGOs have played in this process. Through the participation of some NGOs in the national taskforce, there was recognition of the need for an NGO coordinating body on the CCD. Accordingly a workshop was organized for this purpose. A national NGO focal point is now in place. The NGOs have organized themselves to carry out specific tasks relating to the CCD including the production of a newsletter in vernacular, the documentation of Indigenous knowledge systems aimed at combating desertification and drought and the promotion of community exchange visits. There has not been a systematic assessment of the impacts of the activities depicted in Annex 1. It would be prudent to carry out this evaluation so as to provide pointers on areas of future interventions and improve on past mistakes.

## **5.1 Methods of Participation**

In selecting stakeholders to participate in the NAP process, the most important factor has been the ability of stakeholders to influence others. This would depend on whether the stakeholder belongs to a larger network and would disseminate information to a broad spectrum of players as well as the mandate of these stakeholders to represent others. There has therefore been a deliberate effort to select participants for meetings, seminars, fora on the basis of sectors. For instance as has already been explained in item IV, the selection of some Taskforce members was according to sector association networks, e.g. the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries, the Association of Rural District Councils, the Chamber of Commerce, etc. This mechanism has ensured that information is disseminated and obtained from a broad spectrum of stakeholders. The same mechanism has been used in selecting participants to the two national forums. As to how the associations, networks and fora select individuals to participate in the NAP process, this has been left entirely to their own discretion and procedures.

The dissemination of information has mainly been through the use of the print media with the Secretariat disseminating reports to all relevant stakeholders on their database. The use of e-mail and e-mail networks has been very limited due to the lack of appropriate electronic information system by the Secretariat. This is an issue that will be explored further to ensure rapid and effective dissemination of information. Although no regular meetings have been held with stakeholders, the Secretariat produces CCD related articles which are published in a quarterly newsletter whose readership ranges from national, provincial, district institutions and individuals and conservation committees, communities right down to the ward level.



As noted in Annex 1, there now exist an NGO National Committee on the CCD. This development has been vital in providing a channel through which the concerns of the NGOs have been transmitted to the government. As a result the NGOs are already engaged in a number of NAP related activities such as the organization of community exchange visits, the documentation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) related to desertification control and the publication of a newsletter on the CCD targeted at grassroots communities.

## **5.2 Nature and Scope of Information Education and Communication Action**

The information that has been disseminated to the stakeholders varies according to the target audience. The information kit to schools for example was a very simplified synthesis of the CCD providing practical examples and graphical presentations for the school children to understand issues of desertification and drought. As stated earlier there is a need to evaluate the extent of use of the kit. Some discussions have been held with the Curriculum Development Unit of the Ministry of Education to explore how the kit could be formally integrated into the schools syllabus.

Other information has been provided to solicit comments and input into draft documents and framework of actions, which the National Taskforce would have developed. For example the Second National Forum was convened specifically for soliciting stakeholder input on how the NDF and the NAP would be developed in Zimbabwe. A document was prepared on how gender issues could be integrated into the NAP. This was disseminated and discussed at the second national Forum. Some of the recommendations from the document will be considered at the time of project proposal development in the context of NAP.

At the community level, education and raising awareness has been conducted using the District Environmental Action Plan (DEAP) structures and approaches where communities are exposed to methods of documenting and prioritizing their development problems and the planning framework to address these problems. The impact has been limited because DEAP does not cover all the districts in Zimbabwe but is being implemented on a pilot basis. There is need therefore to expand this process to other districts in Zimbabwe.

Some of the consultative processes helped to gather information that would make the NAP more coherent and harmonized with other development programmes. An example is the gap analysis interviews with key institutions on how the NAP could complement existing initiatives relating to desertification control. The end of September 1999 saw the completion of the gap analysis which helped to finalise the identification of the NAP priority areas as well as areas for NAP intervention. See section 7.1.

## **5.3 Extent of Uptake**

All the consultative processes that the National Taskforce has undertaken have been a genuine attempt to ensure that the concerns from all the relevant actors and stakeholders are taken into account when designing the NDF and the NAP.

The setting up of a National Taskforce was the beginning of such a process which would ensure that the NAP is not government driven but is designed and implemented by a multi-sector and multi-discipline team in a truly participatory manner.

Although the Taskforce is a recognized formal body, it is only acting on behalf of the general public and as such is not mandated to make decisions that have not been endorsed by all the identified stakeholders. The first and second national forums endeavored to get the concerns of the different stakeholders so that they could be addressed in the NAP and NDF. Some of the concerns have been addressed, through a revision of the draft NDF and NAP documents. Attempts have been made to implement some of the institutional recommendations from the forums including the inclusion of some sectors into the National Taskforce and the adoption of the proposed institutional mechanism on the NAP.

In Zimbabwe there is a decentralized system of development planning which includes a hierarchical system of Provincial Development Committees, District Development Committees, Ward Development Committees and Village Development Committees. These structures feed into each other. The NAP process has relied on these structures in disseminating information emanating from the national level and vice versa.

Although it is too early to judge how the national level consultations have impacted on the local level, a number of important recommendations have been made which should improve local level participation in the NAP. These include:

- ◆ Strengthening the role of RDC in natural resource management through the capacity building program coordinated under the Ministry of Local Government Rural and Urban Development.
- ◆ Promote exchange of information between communities and other institutions. Part of this is already being done through community exchange visits.
- ◆ Empower communities on alternative ways to utilizing natural resources. This is being done through a series of provincial workshops conducted by the Zimbabwe Conservation Trust and Regional Environment organization (ZERO).
- ◆ Promote integration of indigenous knowledge on natural resource management
- ◆ Identify the needs and priority requirements of communities through active community participation. Proposals are underway to expand DEAP to all the districts in Zimbabwe.
- ◆ Assist the communities to obtain funding for implementation through NDF, NAP pilot project funds and bilateral donors.
- ◆ Capacity building for community project management, reporting, monitoring and evaluation.

Some of these recommendations are already being implemented through other related programmes. For example, through decentralization programmes, the capacity of RDC to manage rural development was addressed under the capacity building project.

## **6.0 CONSULTATION PROCESS IN SUPPORT FOR THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAP AND THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES AND OTHER INTERESTED ENTITIES**

One of the cornerstones of the CCD is its emphasis on the need to build partnership, both at local and international level. These partnerships can only be built through various consultative processes.

Significant support, both technical and financial, has been received through multilateral and bilateral programmes. In order to facilitate a consultative process with international partners, a meeting, with donor partners resident in Zimbabwe, was hosted by the Zimbabwean government through the Ministry of Mines Environment and Tourism in 1996. It was at this meeting that the local UNDP office was tasked to represent all donor partners in the country on CCD issues. Currently the UNDP sits on the National Taskforce as a representative of its own programmes as well as a representative of other donor agencies in the country.

It was through the local UNDP office that initial support to the NAP process was facilitated. The following initiatives are worth noting. 'Documentation of Zimbabwean Experience in Combating Desertification and Mitigating the Effects of Drought.' This activity was funded through UNSO under the Australian Support Fund by providing technical services to document Zimbabwean experience and suggest possible ways of formulating a national action programme on drought and desertification. The results of the work were used as background material to articulate and initiate activities on the CCD in Zimbabwe.

### **6.1 Partnership Arrangements**

The establishment of the national Taskforce on Desertification marked the first attempt of partnership building. This brought together government, NGOs, communities, CBOs, private sector, local authorities and the donor community to plan together to address issues related to land degradation, drought and poverty. The stakeholder analysis for the NAP process further strengthened partnerships as it identified the roles and responsibilities for each stakeholder group.

In the projects supported by NAP partnerships have been developed in areas of joint project implementation, resources mobilisation and provision of technical expertise – partnership at this level was among some donors, communities, Rural District Councils, women groups, local NGOs and CBOs, DEAP, Africa 2000, Give A Dam and PAAP programmes.

Partnerships were also established among the NAP, SDARMP, Africa 2000 and USAID in the implementation of the Land Care component of the programme. A farmer Land Care Study Tour of Australia was jointly organised by the above programmes/institutions, with special arrangements for cost sharing. Participants for the study tour were from community projects supported by NAP, Africa 2000 and SDARMP. Twenty-six (26) farmers and extension workers took part in the study tour. A second study tour for technocrats and policy makers was also undertaken.

## **6.2 Catalytic support for the formulation of the NAP and the National Environmental/ Desertification Fund (NDF)**

The Government of Zimbabwe has been supporting NAP activities since the coming to an end of the catalytic funding from UNSO/UNDP.

There are also various programmes that are being supported through other institutions with direct bearing on drought and desertification that have not been mentioned. Efforts are currently underway to inventorize these programmes as a way of co-ordinating efforts and maximizing use of resources. Enhancing international partnerships will no doubt move the process of desertification control much closer to the objectives of the CCD.

## **7.0 MEASURES UNDERTAKEN AND PLANNED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NAP**

Since Zimbabwe's ratification of the CCD, there are various measures that the country has undertaken to implement the provisions of the Convention. These measures can generally be viewed in three areas: institutional, technical and financial. Institutionally the Zimbabwe Government has appointed the Department of Natural Resources under the Ministry of Environment and Tourism as the focal point for the CCD. It has also established a National Taskforce, with representatives from various stakeholders. The Taskforce is supported by a Secretariat which is mandated to oversee the day-to-day management of the NAP process.

Subsequent to the NAP formulation process, substantial diagnostic work on past experience in the area of combating desertification was undertaken. This was through the support of UNSO under the Australian Support Fund. This work played a major role in increasing the understanding of the problems the country is facing in the area of drought and desertification.

The study also presented some recommendations on the way forward especially in the possible areas of technical intervention. Six priority programme areas have now been identified. These include water, energy, and land as the key areas of intervention. Issues of poverty eradication (alternative livelihoods), education (public awareness) and capacity building and development of information system for the NAP process are treated as cross cutting issues.

### **7.1 Water Resource Management**

Zimbabwe's water resource management strategy is now in place. The strategy provides new and innovative ways of water provision and management. The provision of water and its catchment management especially in the dry areas of the country forms the basic content of this sub-programme. The national task force has since produced a three year NAP water sub-sector programme proposal which the Government is now flogging for possible funding.

### **7.2 Land Resources Management**

Land degradation mainly in the form of soil erosion, deforestation and river siltation has now become a major environmental problem especially in drier parts of the country. Land rehabilitation and conservation interventions can have a significant impact on the livelihoods of rural communities. Efforts are being made to undertake activities that can result in the restoration of degraded lands and conservation of any that is currently under threat. In line with the above the national taskforce has since developed a three year NAP subsector Programme Proposal. The Government is yet to secure funding for the proposal.

### **7.3 Energy Resources Management**

Energy is one of the major problems facing the rural communities. Strategies and programmes that aim at providing other alternative renewable energies that are compatible with environmental practices are now being vigorously pursued under this sub-programme. Zimbabwe's rural electrification programme is one such programmes making very good progress. The Ministry of Transport and Energy is also pursuing the development of other alternatives like solar energy, mini-hydro power generating and biogas plants. The national taskforce has since developed a

programme proposal for this sub-sector for which Government is now seeking funding partners.

## **7.4 Cross cutting Issues**

Issues related to provision of alternative livelihoods, capacity building , education and public awareness and environmental information systems are teated as cross cutting issues within the above identified NAP areas of focus.

### **7.4.1 Provision of Alternative Livelihoods**

Past experience has now clearly shown the direct relationship that exists between poverty and land degradation. Thus the provision of alternative livelihoods in the form of farm activities is essential in the conservation and sustainable utilisation of natural resources especially in the drier areas of the country. Efforts will be made through this sub-programme to seek ways of assisting communities to identify these alternatives.

### **7.4.2 Education, Public Awareness and Capacity Building**

Education and public awareness are instrumental in conscientising various sections of the population in the dangers associated with desertification and possible consequences. Attempts are being made to educate and raise awareness on these issues for both the policy makers, development workers and resource users. Zimbabwe is now finalising the development of an environmental education and extension policy with the assistance of IUCN NETCAB.

## **7.5 Environmental Information System for the NAP**

Whilst there are organisations that are collecting, analysing and processing information on the state of the environment, the reports produced were not meant for strategic management of the environment and natural resources as part of an integrated approach to sustainable development as promoted by theUNCCD. The indicators mentioned in 9.1 would depend on the development and building of databases on the environment and natural resources. Zimbabwe has therefore realized the need to establish an Environmental Information System for the NAP process. The objective being the development of a common information base and an operational framework that will allow the NAP process to effectively achieve its responsibilities on combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought in Zimbabwe. Lack of capacity and financial resources has hampered progress on this issue.

The selection of the above identified programme areas of focus was undertaken after an intensive consultation process was carried out by the Taskforce to determine current ongoing projects/programmes related to desertification control and possible NAP interventions.

Besides the institutional and technical issues, the Taskforce has finalised the preparation of the financing mechanism for local community programmes. To date a National Desertification Fund proposal document has not yet been approved by Cabinet. The delay has been caused by lack of progress in the enactment of the Environmental Management Bill. The Bill proposes the establishment of an Environmental Fund and it is envisaged that the NDF will be a window within the Fund.

SADC-ELMS has played a leading role in the region in facilitating linkages between national and sub-regional activities through workshops, and conferences.

Although it might be too early to evaluate the impact of the measures undertaken so far especially those related to local capacity building it has become more clear that local communities are now aware of the problems related to desertification and are capable of articulating the possible solutions. The current ongoing programmes on District Environmental Action Plan (DEAP) seem to play an effective role in local capacity building in environmental planning.

Financing some of the identified programmes at the local level now seems to be an obstacle in moving forward in the area of drought mitigation and desertification control. The current lack of a well-articulated and functional monitoring and evaluation system within the NAP process is a major cause for concern.

Although a draft NAP project document has been prepared, the lack of expertise within the country in this area has been obvious. The need to bring in various international technical inputs cannot be over emphasised. It is the view of the Zimbabwe Government that international assistance would be greatly appreciated in further improving the NAP formulation and implementation process.

## **7.6 Project Implementation and Role of Women in the NAP Process**

### **7.6.1 Community Projects Implementation**

Zimbabwe's NAP process has a community project implementation component. The component was initiated firstly to provide valuable lessons for activities that could be undertaken at community level as part of the preparation for the NAP implementation phase. Second, the component was initiated in response to communities' calls for the NAP programme to have practical activities at grassroot level. It was community groups' view that besides addressing drought mitigation and environment protection issues, the NAP process need to undertake projects that should address their immediate socio-economic needs such as food security at household level, provision of alternative livelihoods and poverty reduction. Most of the projects funded are in the dry parts of the country (agro-ecological regions iv and v) where land degradation and drought problems are more pronounced. A total of twenty-five (25) community projects have been implemented and their mix include:

- ostrich farming
- grazing schemes
- horticultural production
- water conservation which include small dams construction, wetland protection, boreholes and deep well sinking.
- small scale irrigation schemes.
- Dam and river catchments protection and rehabilitation.

Details of projects supported areas as outlined in figure 1 below:

**Figure 1.**

<b>District</b>	<b>No. of Projects</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Objective(s)</b>
Buhera	6	Consolidate gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land degradation control</li> <li>• Poverty reduction</li> </ul>
Mutare	2	a) Musabayana land reclamation b) Rubatso water harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• land degradation control</li> <li>• Drought mitigation</li> </ul>
Masvingo	2	a) Musvosvi Veld Management b) Morningside Ostrich Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve soil fertility</li> <li>• Poverty reduction</li> </ul>
Gutu	1	Mutubuki Wetland Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drought mitigation</li> <li>• Improved food security at household level</li> </ul>
Guruve	4	2 schools and 2 community boreholes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drought mitigation and provision of clean water.</li> </ul>
Nkayi	1	Mjena Grazing Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved veld management</li> <li>• Poverty reduction</li> </ul>
Mhondoro	1	Mashayamombe Earth Dam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drought mitigation (provision of water for livestock)</li> </ul>
Hwange	1	Lukunkuni Wetland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wetland rehabilitation and improved veld management</li> </ul>
Mberengwa	2	a) Chimwe Dam Catchment b) Ndadza Greazing Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• River/dam catchment protection and rehabilitation</li> <li>• Improved livestock production</li> <li>• Soil erosion control</li> </ul>
Umzingwane	2	a) Eco-tourism b) community orchards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment protection</li> <li>• Provision of alternative livelihoods</li> </ul>
Gwanda	1	Ntshimbane Integrated project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dam catchment protection</li> <li>• Provision of alternative livelihoods (mini-irrigation)</li> </ul>
Vungu	2	Consolidated gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deforestation and land degradation control</li> <li>• Poverty reduction</li> <li>• Improved food security at household level</li> </ul>
Kwekwe	12	Vertiver nursery establishment at 12 schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational purposes on various uses of vertiver grass</li> <li>• Land reclamation using the vertiver grass</li> <li>• Income generation.</li> </ul>



## **7.6.2 Gender Issues and the NAP Process**

During assessment and action planning resulting in the identification and implementation of the above twenty-five projects both men and women were identified as key stakeholder groups who must play their role to ensure project success.

It was further noted that problems related to land degradation and drought such as fuelwood and water shortages affect women more than men.

## **8.0 FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS FROM NATIONAL BUDGET IN SUPPORT OF IMPLEMENTATION AS WELL AS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION RECEIVED AND NEEDED, IDENTIFYING AND PRIORITISING REQUIREMENTS**

### **8.1 Resource Mobilization for the NAP process**

Whilst Zimbabwe has articulated the likely sources of funds for the NAP process, accessing funds from these sources or sectors is dependent on:

- (a) the development of bankable project proposals for funding
- (b) the design and establishment of an entity separate from central government financial management systems, through which resource providers could channel funds to projects, and
- (c) government commitment to the NAP process

Since the NAP document has yet to be adopted by government, efforts on mobilisation of resources have mainly centred on preparatory work to identify activities to be prioritised in the NAP as well as the design and establishment of one of the effective methods of financing the NAP.

#### **8.1.1 Fiscal Allocations**

Fiscal allocations from government are dependent on identification and adoption of projects by the National Economic Planning Commission based on those projects that are part of the National Development Programme. Although environmental issues are embodied in the ZIMPREST Document, the NAP has not yet been adopted as part of the National Development Programme. Substantial fiscal allocations will only be provided on adoption of the NAP. But as noted earlier the Government of Zimbabwe has allocated financial resources to support NAP activities for the first time in the 2002 national budget. No major changes have taken place on in areas of mobilisation of external resources, identification of possible new areas for the provision of technical and financial support to the NAP since the first national report.

## 9.0 REVIEW OF BENCHMARKS AND INDICATORS UTILISED TO MEASURE PROGRESS AND ASSESSMENT THEREOF

The issue of development of benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in the formulation and implementation of the NAP programme has been a subject of discussion by the national taskforce on desertification at its various meetings. During the production of the first Nation Report it was the view of the majority of the members that the issue be put on hold until there was consensus among members of the Taskforce on what the NAP process is, and issues to be addressed are clearly defined. Consensus on what the NAP is and issues to be addressed has been finalised with the adoption of NAP priority areas of land, water and energy resources management and the cross cutting issues.

The taskforce has since agreed that the NAP process in Zimbabwe has three distinct phases namely:

**Phase One:** which focused on raising awareness, building of institutional framework at national level and identification of national priorities.

The benchmarks for measuring progress in this phase include;

- ◆ Level of awareness on CCD issues at national provincial, district and community levels.
- ◆ Documentation of the country's development and environmental priority issues.
- ◆ Institutional framework in place, these include identification of focal point, national coordinating unit, implementing agency and establishment of a national taskforce.

**Phase Two:** this phase focused on NAP formulation activities with the following indicators;

- ◆ Documentation of key programme areas for the NAP.
- ◆ Draft NAP document in place.
- ◆ Progress made in integrating the NAP process into the country's development plans and programmes.
- ◆ Harmonised institutional and legal framework
- ◆ Improved level of coordination.
- ◆ Number of partnerships put in place.

**Phase Three:** phase three deals with activities for ensuring NAP implementation This phase is viewed as the practical implementation of the objectives and activities outlined in the NAP document. Indicators for measuring progress in this phase include:

- ◆ NAP sub-sector programme documentation.
- ◆ Identification of projects for implementation in the priority areas.
- ◆ Documentation of current activities, weaknesses and gaps.
- ◆ Identification of areas for NAP intervention.
- ◆ Number of community projects identified and implemented.
- ◆ Number of women projects
- ◆ Number and level of joint funding of projects.
- ◆ Level of resource mobilisation to support community initiatives.
- ◆ Number of partnerships among communities and the various resource providers.
- ◆ Number of provincial, district and community level structures to facilitate NAP implementation.

There is still need to perfect the benchmarks and indicators outlined above. More time is required before their effectiveness can be evaluated, this is particularly so for the NAP

implementation phase which is still in its infancy. Benchmarks and indicators which needs development and perfection include:

## ANNEX 1

In addition to the annex 1 of the first NAP national report the following activities and outputs were undertaken.

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>OUTPUT/REMARK</b>
Awareness workshops for Rural District Councils	4 workshops held for executive officers and Chair- persons.
Workshops for media	1 conducted for both print and electronic media personnel
Vertiver nursery establishment	12 established – grass used for educational and land reclamation purposes.
Capacity building sessions	9 held for extension workers and 58 for communities
Community Project Implementation	A total of 25 community projects implemented – aimed at drought mitigation, land degradation control and poverty reduction.
Production of operational and accounting manuals for the NDF	November 1999
Study tours of Australia (land care)	Farmers’ study tour – March 2000 Technocrats and Policy markers – August 2001.
Community Exchange visits	Two conducted (Mberengwa and Chiredzi districts)
Land Care Evaluation report	Produced December 2001
Report on the assessment of local level community initiatives	Produced – August 1999

## LIST OF ANNEXES TO THE NAP REPORT

Please note that the annexes indicated here are provided in electronic form only.

1. Gap Analysis Document
2. NAP Process Catalytic Phase Terminal Evaluation.
3. Land Care Report Back Workshop Reports.
4. Land Care study tour reports
5. Land Care evaluation report
6. NAP implementation phase project proposal
  - Land NAP sub-sector project proposal
  - Water NAP sub-sector project proposal
  - Energy NAP sub-sector project proposal
  - Land and Water integrated project proposal
  - Land Care phase II project proposal.
7. Other Project Proposals produced:
  - Resettled Land owners environmental management and utilisation awareness programme
  - Community driven household food security and alternative livelihoods programme for sustainable rural development
  - Community driven commonly owned resources management programme
  - Support for development of synergies among the three Rio Conventions
  - Development of community based monitoring and evaluation indicators.
  - Community Based Eco-tourism development as a strategy for Land degradation control.
  - Community level land resources management.
  - Integrated community based whole catchment management.
  - Drought mitigation through Water Development, Catchment and Wetland Rehabilitation and Management.
  - Coping with drought and Environment Degradation in Zimbabwe's drylands areas (GEF Concept paper).